

*We are very happy to be able to say a heartfelt Asanta sana. Over the past year, you've helped us greatly. Thank you all for the support and interest in our Kids to School foundation. Without your contributions, we cannot help our students and the Baobab Home. Therefore we also appreciate your support for the coming year.*

2019 has been a very good year. The great financial support we have received over the past year has made us so excited that we have accepted all six applications and included six new students in our program. The future of the foundation will be an important item on the agenda this year. We will have to look at how big we want to be. For many years, a maximum number of students of 20 have been in our heads. We are now well over it with a total number of 29. We help two students in the Philippines, five students in Tanzania and 22 in Kenya. We expect four students to graduate in Kenya this year, but we still have two applications running. These have to be confirmed by September. A larger organization requires extra work from all volunteers. As Kids to School we give the students included in our program a guarantee that they can follow vocational training when performing well. That means that we need to have the finances in order and that there should be enough mentors to support our students. Both points must get our attention.

No students have graduated in the past year. In this Newsletter, the six new students are briefly introduced. Two students, Rose and Lilian, tell their story in this Newsletter. Of course, you can read about all students on the Kids to School website: [www.kids2school.info](http://www.kids2school.info).

**News from our students**

***The new students***

**Elias** has been sponsored since September 2019. Elias finished high

school at the end of 2018 with very good results. Until then, he has been sponsored by the Foundation Community Organization & Training for Risk Reduction (COTRR).



COTRR is one of the organizations we work with. COTRR sponsors the secondary school, but no vocational training. Alice is a member of the Local Advisory Council (LAC) and one of the founders of COTRR. She nominated Elias, an orphan, who grew up with his grandmother in Muranga county. In September 2019 he started his study: Bachelor in *Science and Civil Engineering* at the Technical University of Mombasa. He started very energetically and finished the first semester with great grades. The study lasts five years.

**Kelvin** joined our program in January 2020. Kelvin finished the primary school at the end of 2019 with a very good test. He lives in Kiambu, north of Nairobi and one of the members of the LAC, Andrew, heard about his good results and the impossibility of going to secondary school. Ans visited the family with Andrew.



His mother is sick and can't earn enough to let her kids go to secondary school. Kelvin's in form one now.

**Maria** has been sponsored since January 2020. During Ans' visit to Kenya in November and December, she visited Maria and her mother with Alice, a member of the LAC. Maria's mother had a reasonable job but unfortunately the job stopped. She

now works as a tea picker, which does not pay well enough to be able to pay the school fees for secondary school. Maria's first year of secondary school was sponsored by COTRR. Kids to School has now included her in the program. She is in form two now.

**Maen** has been sponsored by Kids to School since January 2020. Maen is nominated by Emily, a member of the LAC. Maen lives in Kajiado and her mother cares for a family of six children. She lived with her grandparents while she attended and successfully completed primary school. Because it is impossible for the grandparents to pay secondary school, she went back to her mother. With a loan and help from acquaintances, her mother tried to pay the school fees. That was not possible and so Maen has regularly missed classes when there was a delay in the fee payment. Kids to school sponsors her now. She is in form two.

**Stephen** is nominated by Andrew, a member of the LAC. We encounter children in Stephen's situation more often. Stephen is one of three children of a single mother. Andrew visited the family. The family of four lives in a one



bedroom apartment in Nairobi. In Kenya, a test is carried out at the end of the primary school, based on the grades for this test children are placed in a certain school. Stephen was one of the top performing school students in Kenya last year, he had 417 points out of the maximum achievable 500. Students who score more than 400 points will be placed at a national school. But you have to be able to pay the tuition yourself. In Stephen's case, Kids to School is doing that now. He is in form one.

**Sandra** was admitted at the last minute to the students sponsored by Kids to School. Ans heard about Sandra from



Ruth, one of the receptionists at the Jimlizer hotel, where we held the students day this year. Sandra is the daughter of Ruth's older sister. The mother is sick and depressed and

unable to care for her two children. The mother with the two children live with the grandparents in Kakamega county, Western Kenya. Sandra also had more than 400 points in the end of primary school test but there is no money to pay the school fees. Grandparents and Ruth have tried everything to raise money, but could only succeed in funding a third of the cost



for the first semester. Carole, a member of the LAC, has visited the family and clearly experienced that help is

needed. Kids to School then decided to include her in the program. Sandra is in secondary school form one.

### **Report from two of our students**

We are pleased that this year two students are contributing to our newsletter. This time, Lilian and Rose wrote their stories. We sponsored Lilian for eight years from 2011 to mid-2019. Lilian graduated at the end of 2018 and then did an internship at the Mombasa Central Hospital. Since January 2020 she has been working there.

### **This is what Lilian writes:**

*I met my guardian angels when I had no hopes of proceeding with my education I joined Kids to School in the year 2011 when I was in form two in St . Lucy's Raruawa girls secondary school. I joined Kids to School family through the Carmelites Missionaries, they just came at my hour of need. They took over from a well-wisher who had taken me to school*

but later on started with excuses of his family issues which left me broken and confused about completing my secondary school. At that time my aid or rather guardian angels came.

Kids to School saw me through my secondary school to my completion where I was lucky to get a B- with 53 points (Ans; This a 7,5).

Thereafter Kids to School enrolled me to a computer course which I also did to my completion and I forwarded my certificate to Kids School .

I joined Kenya Methodist University to pursue, clinical medicine, surgery and community health in the September 2014. I did my course for three and a half years and I graduated in the year 2017 October .

I did my clinical officer's council examination and passed. Thereafter I was posted to do my internship at Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital.

In 2018 around December the president of Kids to School foundation madam Ans and my local advisor Mr Andrew paid me a visit at my work place, this was the happiest moment of my



life ever because the president herself had come visiting with my local advisor something that I wasn't expecting. I finished my internship in 2019 around June, upon my completion my local advisor had arranged my immediate employment at St. Josephs Mission Hospital, to which I went and reported and did my interview and passed I worked in St. Josephs Mission Hospital for a month of which I had agreed to be volunteering, I then received a call from my former hospital where I had done my internship to go and be employed there of which I went and it was successful. I currently work at Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital by the grace of God

I would like to take this chance and say thank you so much for the entire team of Kids to School foundation for such a great work that they are doing in helping the needy and restoring back their smile that they had lost in so many different and difficult ways .

My sincere appreciation to madam Ans. If it were not for you many of us would have not reached where we are now not also forgetting the entire team of the advisory council committee for their good work especially my mentor Mr Andrew. Thank you so much.

To the new students or members it requires patience, obedience, discipline and hard work to make it through in Kids to School foundation.

God bless Kids to School foundation

Rose has been sponsored since January 2019. We met her at VAP, one of the organizations we work with. We expect her to graduate in April 2020.

**This writes Rose:**

My name is Rose from SOUTH KINAGOP. I stopped schooling while I was in class three. At that time I was 8 years old. My step mother took me to work as a house keeper to sustain my stepsisters educationally. I worked for six months while my step mother collected all the money I was earning.

**I was tired and decided to run away in search for a job to support myself. I could not afford bus fare so I boarded a lorry transporting cabbage which landed me in Machakos bus station in Nairobi city.**

I became a street girl for almost one year. In 2007 I talked with one of my customers for whom I was carrying goods to the market. Later she employed me as a house keeper and I lived with her for five years without going back to my family.

In 2013 she appreciated my hard work and she sent me back to school. I never went back to class three , where I stopped schooling, but I went straight to class

eight. That same year I sat for Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education. I did my best and I got a grade high enough to join Secondary School in Nyeri but **things went unexpected when I was in form one, third term she was unable to pay my school fees because she lost her job.** She politely asked me to go back to my family but bearing in the mind the humiliation I experienced at my step mothers hand, I was determined with my bright future. In 2015, I went back to BuruBuru, Nairobi, and searched for house help jobs, I got one, where I worked for seven months and saved all the money by God's grace. I took myself back to school where I joined Golden Bridge Secondary School, I schooled while working to maintain my school fees. Later got sponsored by Calvary Temple until I finished my form four in 2017. All this time I was hosted by my friend until I was done with my secondary school. After form four I joined VIJANA AMANI PAMOJA to volunteer as a life skills coach. In 2018 I got a scholarship with Kids to School through the help of my mentors



(Ann Nduku, Nancy Waweru and Caroline Kisato). I couldn't pursue the opportunity with Kids to

School foundation at that moment because my career path needed a different grade from what I got. So I did a short course to enable me to get this opportunity.

In January 2019, I got a full scholarship with Kids to School foundation to pursue a diploma in Interior decoration where I will be done with my college studies at the end April 2020

### Visit to Kenya and Tanzania

Once a year we go to Kenya and in recent years more often also to Tanzania because we now also sponsor students

there. This year Ans went alone but it was very nice that Jopi, a new donor, travelled with her for two weeks. Below you can read a short interview with her.

The purpose of these trip is to visit the family of the new students as much as possible, to speak to the LAC in Kenya, to strengthen the contacts with COTRR and VAP and meet The Baobab home and the students in Tanzania. The focus is always on the students day in Kenya.

Interview with Jopi.

A: why did you decide to sponsor Kids to School?

J: My motivation to support "Kids to School" financially has several reasons. On the one hand, I am for education for everyone. Secondary education is not funded by the government of Kenya. In Tanzania, the government pays the school fees but the parents themselves have to pay the costs of the boarding school and school resources. Children of poor families cannot attend secondary school, a university or vocational training such as nursing or car mechanic. Only the rich families can get their children to study. On the other hand, it is a nice occasion to visit Kenya and Tanzania and the students. As a result, I met poor families whose son or daughter would like to learn further. The Kids to School foundation gives them a chance. I got in touch with their culture, the hospitality and sharing the little bit of food one has.

A: You travelled with me for two weeks. What were your top experiences in those two weeks?

J: There were multiple highlights: The student day, I've met all the students because of this.



*I also found it very interesting to deliver the 100 books that Ans had brought, for a*



*school that Alice, a member of the LAC, had contacts with. These books came from*

*Biblionef, a*

*Foundation in the Netherlands. With Andrew, a member of the LAC, we visited an aspiring student and his poor family, far away from the city, in the countryside. The boy's family wanted to give him the chance of a lifetime to move forward instead of working on the land for a lifetime or becoming a goat herder.*

**A:** What is your impression of Kids to School in Kenya and Tanzania?

**J:** My impression of Kids to School in Kenya and Tanzania.

*What I read on the website is true in practice. The board and all those involved work on a voluntary basis. The organization structure is small scale and transparent and therefore overlooked. Students are accompanied one by one by the mentors. Mentors are members of the LAC. The mentor has contact with the school if necessary and the family and results of the student are looked at. A conversation takes place with those involved once a year during the students day. If the student is no longer motivated and she or he comes on a side track, then there is an extensive discussion and if necessary the sponsorship is*

*discontinued. That has happened twice before.*

*In Tanzania I visited The Baobab Home. In Tanzania, Kids to School sponsors the Baobab Home and five individual students. The Baobab home is 5km from Bagamoyo. This organization is named after the baobab tree. The tree stands in the flag of Tanzania as a symbol of strength and growth.*

*The Baobab Home includes a children's home with eleven children and a primary school, Steven Tito Academy, with 120 pupils. The project tries to be self-sufficient and achieves that through its own farm, a large vegetable garden and since the last year a fishpond.*

*Of the five students in Tanzania, one is at the Steven Tito Academy and four children*



*go to the secondary school. In addition, The Baobab Home also offers assistance to the HIV patients in Bagamoyo. I thought it was very special and I was touched, seeing children and students so happy.*

*Summary*

*This visit to the students and their beautiful country has helped me to continue my sponsorship over the next five years.*

**The annual student day 2019**

*A total of 23 people were present this year. Fourteen students, two alumni's, five people from the LAC, Jopi and I. As every year, we all look back on the past year.*

Special for this year was the 50th birthday of Alice. In the afternoon-program Lilian, alumni, and Faith, a sponsored student talked about their experiences and their lives. Lilian recently started working at General Coast Hospital in Mombasa in the HIV group. She spoke very clearly about the HIV problem in Kenya. Faith talked mostly about her life that has been very difficult. She is incredibly happy that she can now study pharmacy and is fully dedicated to her study.



supply. The herd of cattle is growing, the garden is getting better and the Steven Tito Academy now has 120 pupils. Information about the Baobab Home and the Steven Tito Academy can be found on their website: [www.tzkids.org](http://www.tzkids.org).

**The Foundation Kids to School**

The board of Kids to School is complete since April 2019. In 2019 however, a change was needed in Kenya. Sr. Elizabeth had to return to the Philippines in early September due to illness. It looks that she will stay in the Philippines. In Kenya, Sr. Celia replaced Sr. Elizabeth on the board. Welcome Sr. Celia, we hope to work well with you.

**How to help?**

Both for the students project and *the Baobab Home*, they can be supported through the Kids to School Foundation. The bank account number (Triodosbank) is: NL38 TRIO 0786 8391 04, Kids to School Foundation in Utrecht. Clearly state which project you want to sponsor. The Baobab Home can also be supported directly via the website of The Baobab Home ([www.tzkids.org](http://www.tzkids.org)). Kids to School has an ANBI status. Donations to our foundation can be deducted from the tax as a gift.



Student day 2019 attendees

**Tanzania**

This year our visit was limited to four days in Bagamoyo. Ans spoke to the five students which Kids to School sponsors there. One girl is in the fourth grade of primary school and the other four, three girls and one boy have just finished the first year of the secondary school.

**The Baobab Home**

The Baobab home is growing and becoming more and more self-sufficient.



New this year was an additional classroom and two fish ponds. Important for the coming year is to improve the water

For further information you can contact Ans Groener, [ans.groener@planet.nl](mailto:ans.groener@planet.nl) or José Boerrigter, [joseboerrigter@hotmail.com](mailto:joseboerrigter@hotmail.com).

Many greetings.

On behalf of the board of Kids to School  
 Ans Groener, chairman  
 José Boerrigter, secretary  
 Caroline Houben, treasurer