

This newsletter will be slightly different than you are used to from us. This has everything to do with the coronavirus. This virus made travelling impossible. You will not find any visit reports in this newsletter. Instead, it includes reports from the people with whom we work in Kenya and Tanzania.

First of all we like to thank you very much. You have helped us tremendously over the past year. The Christmas campaign, specially organized to support the families of our students and volunteers, was a success. In total we received almost 2000 Euro extra. This allowed us to give all our families and volunteers a gift of approximately 25 euros. Thank you very much, ASANTA SANA, for this. Of course we also like to thank you for the annual support and interest in our Kids to School foundation. You know, without your help we cannot help our students and the Baobab Home. That is why we would like to receive your support again this year.

The coronavirus is having a major impact on the lives of children worldwide, especially the poorest. As in many other countries, the entire education system has been disrupted in Kenya and the Philippines. In both countries, all schools were closed in March 2020. Schools were expected to implement distance learning over the internet. However, internet access is not available in many areas and the same applies to laptops, computers or smartphones. Phased reopening of schools was introduced in Kenya in October 2020 with the reopening of grade 8 of primary school and grade 4 of secondary school. All schools reopened in January 2021. It is not clear what effect this has had on our children in Kenya, this should become clear in the coming years. The effects are different for students who follow vocational training. Some were able to pursue online studies and now have to make up for missed internships or practical lessons from their education. Others have done as much as possible with conventional study material and will

continue at a rapid pace in the coming years as the vacations are reduced. Because of this, they may not be delayed by very much. Fortunately, they are all going back to school now. We will continue to monitor them to minimize the impact. The two university students from the Philippines have been able to continue their studies online and things are going well.

Tanzania has dealt with corona completely differently. There was a short lockdown but schools reopened quickly and the students' education has not been delayed. In Tanzania we sponsor one primary school student and four secondary students.

We all know that the virus is not gone yet and that new measures could have consequences for education. In general, you can say that the effects of corona affect people more severely in these countries than in the Netherlands. There is little or no help from the government and that often means: no work today, no food tomorrow. Because we have poignant cases within our group, the Christmas campaign has been organized.

News from our students

In Kenya, three students were supposed to graduate in 2020, unfortunately that didn't work out. Two students have one more semester to do and one, Josephine, is waiting for graduation. Josephine is our student who tells her story in this newsletter. This year, John Louie is reporting from the Philippines. In the past year we have included four new students in our program. These four are introduced below. You can of course read about all students on the Kids to School website: www.kids2school.info.

The new students



Ans met **Monicah** in Loitokitok in 2018. She was then 17 years old and in the third year of the secondary school. Paying the school fee

was a struggle every year. With the help of many people she finished form 4 in November 2019 and in November 2020 she started her study Community Development and Environment at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Environment. Monicah came to our attention through Sr. Elizabeth, our former treasurer in Kenya.



Patrick joined our program in January 2021. With the help of family and friends he was able to start high school in 2019.

((Scraping the money together for the first semester of the second year was very difficult but this became impossible for the second year. Corona has of course worsened the situation and has made it even more difficult for the mother to earn money. This meant that Patrick would have to leave school. Patrick dreams of becoming an engineer. He came to our attention through Ann Nduku, who has been a member of the Local Advisory Council (LAC) since December 2020.



Pauline also came to our attention through Ann Nduku. Pauline lives with her parents, a brother and 2 sisters in Nairobi. She finished high school at

the end of 2019 and passed with good grades. Her parents earn far too little to be able to pay school fees. Through the help of Kids to School she was able to start her Bachelor of Commerce studies at the School of Business at Kenyatta University.



Maclean joined our program in April 2021. In 2017, due to insufficient money to pay the fees, Maclean had to stop her study of Nutrition and Dietetics at the Kenyan

Medical Training Center. Kids to School is now giving her the opportunity to finish her study. Maclean came to our attention through Carole Kisato, member of the Local Advisory Council.

Reports from two students

Josephine's report. Josephine has been in our program since 2013. She is one of the students who was unable to complete her studies in 2020 due to corona. She hopes to graduate this year. She currently works in a Mpesa store in Eldoret. This is what Josephine writes:



Life has been hard since birth and I had already known how it felt to lack most of the essentials as a lady. I thought my road had an end at

that time when I was in form two at Asumbi Girls High School in 2013 when my uncle, who was taking care of me became ill and had to undergo surgery abroad without my knowledge. I just realized things weren't right the first time I had fee arrears which had not happened when he was around. I gave up after several road trips between home and school with no success in getting fees. The last time I returned to school, I told my principal I can never go back home. I wanted to finish school then I would pay my fees later. That was very ironical and irrelevant at that age. I decided to ask for an accommodation in school to escape my dad's abuse for being disobedient to him by not getting married at that time. Luckily, the principal was kind enough to keep me in school during holidays and offered all the basics I would need to be at peace of mind.

In the second term of that year I saw the brightest light. I met Kids to School through a Carmelite Missionary, Sr. Milla. Till today, I can't comprehend how I came to be in such an amazing and great family. I had lost everything, standing in the middle of nowhere surrounded by nothing. KtS saw me through my ups and downs in

high school till 2015 when I did my form four and where I was able to achieve an A- of 76 points. I was then accepted for a computer course in Nakuru county in January 2016 while I waited to join university. As if that wasn't enough, they did not hold back their helping open hands towards my studies in college. In September 2016, I joined Moi University in Eldoret, to pursue Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management. I did my attachment at St. Joseph's Mission Hospital in Migori county in 2019 which marked the end of my third year of the course. My course was supposed to end in April 2020 but due to the worldwide pandemic, Corona Virus Disease (covid-19), I am at the waiting bay. Hopefully, I'll graduate next year July, 2021.

My local advisor was Sr. Mila until 2018 when she officially handed over to my mother Carole Kisato who later trusted her confidence in me to Miss Ann Nduku. They all changed my perceptions about life and future. They have never slipped out of my rescue. I am so grateful to KtS for their unconditional love, care and support. Madam Ans, the mother of the great family, her selfless heart has restored the brightness of my face in this dark world. The entire team of the advisory council committee, mentors, friends and all the students from different ethnicities, less vocabulary can describe my gratitude to you all. I can't forget to recognize my family in Holland, Bert and the late Janneke, may her soul rest in eternal peace. They made me so happy with a sense of belonging. Thank you so much. In Kids to School Foundation, equal opportunity is given to all. Respect and trust are paramount in whatever determination of your line. My Father in Heaven bless you all. Shalom.

Report from John Louie. John Louie is one of our students from the Philippines. He started his study in 2018 and this is his story.

The year 2018, was when I was chosen by the Foundation as their scholar. I still remember how happy and grateful I was



when I got the message that I was one of the selected students to be sponsored by them. I cried because of the immense joy that I

felt. I am grateful because I can study college and pursue my dreams which I thought would remain a dream since my family was unable to support me financially. Because of Kids to School, I no longer had to work to enrol in college, and that I can focus on my study. The Kids to School Foundation made my dream to study at college a reality and the hope to be of help to my parents and siblings is soon to be realized.

The first year of my college was tough and challenging. I needed to adapt to the new environment and deal with academic pressures, which I believe all students have to experience. But I have overcome these challenges and, with humility, I finished my first year as Dean's Lister of the class. I also finished my second year as Dean's Lister of the class.

My second year in college was about to finish when the lockdown came in because of the coronavirus pandemic. With this, to ensure the health and safety among students and teachers, face-to-face classes are prohibited. Coronavirus has continuously brought challenges to the education sector and to our lives. It has shifted the new normal in the teaching and learning process- face-to-face to virtual classes. It brings problems to students who have no resources for an online study.

As of the moment, I am in my third year in college. Our class is online or virtual because face-to-face classes are still prohibited here in the Philippines. One year to go and I will have my Bachelor's Degree.

Overcoming problems in the new normal of education such as internet connectivity, academic pressures, and the like, was possible because I was financially supported by the generous people of Kids to School. The foundation has been

continually lighting my journey towards the path of success. I note to myself that I should do well in my studies as this is my way of thanking you all for the support you have been giving to me.

In line with this, I would like to use this opportunity to thank Ma'am Ans, Sr. Gemma, Sr. Mila, the people behind Kids to School, and especially its donors.

Thank you for lighting my path towards success. I will not waste this opportunity that you have given to me.

Again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you so much!

God bless you all!

Contact persons in Kenya.

Ann Nduku is a member of the Local Advisory Council since December 2020. She is the intermediate between Kids to School and *Vijana Amani Pamoja (VAP)*, this is Swahili for Youth, Peace, Together.



My name is Ann Nduku. I am a Kenyan Socioeconomic development practitioner who is passionate about community empowerment with a special interest for

girls and young women. VAP is a non-profit organization based in Nairobi, Kenya whose mission is to integrate social and economic values through football by creating a pro-active health environment. In VAP we harness the power and influence of soccer to bring youth from less privileged communities together in a safe and fun learning space. Our participants take part in interactive curriculum based activities that help them explore and gain knowledge on issues related to HIV/AIDS, adolescent sexual reproductive health & rights as well as creating livelihood opportunities and pathways to income generation for them to be self-reliant. For the many years I have worked with VAP, I understands too well the issues faced by the less fortunate in the community and I believe that everyone can reach their full potential in

life if presented with the right opportunities and mentorship.

I met Ans in the year 2017 through Carole Kisato, one the members of the LAC of KtS in Kenya. At that time I was mentoring Rose Maina, who was therefore accepted to join Kids to School. I was very curious about KtS and I continued to mentor Rose and participating in KtS activities. I saw it as great opportunity to impact more students and make a positive impact. I find immense fulfillment in helping others grow.

My contribution to KtS has been notable which led to my appointment to join the Kenyan LAC in 2020. I was excited and incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve in the LAC. KtS offers them support both in their studies as well as their personal life to become better aware, make better choices and achieve better results. I will use this platform to continue improve and inspire others.

We are glad that we can introduce also to you **Alice Waringa**, program director of COTRR (Community Organisation & Training for Risk Reduction). We have been working with COTRR since 2015. Alice is a member of the LAC.

This is the Alice's report:

COTRR/ Kids to School Partnership



COTRR is a women-founded, women-led grassroots Non-Government Organisation registered in Kenya in 2007. The organisation works directly with communities and families, and is committed to bridging community development gaps through its integrated approach by supporting household activities for resilience building, resource and livelihood enhancement for families of the last mile. Education sponsorship and Advocacy is one of our main programs in

the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. (www.cotrr-africa.org).

In 2015, a bright young girl, Joyce Wanjiru, with a primary grade A, was admitted to Mary Hill Girls High School one of the prestigious National schools in Kenya but her mother could not afford to pay the school fees. Despite the community efforts that enabled her to join her dream secondary school, the education journey was bleak right from the second term of her 1st year in school. As the saying goes, hard work pays, Andrew Njenga, a founding member of KtS Local Advisory Council (LAC), heard about the young girl and soon the foundation came to her rescue, enrolling Joyce in the KtS education sponsorship program. Joyce hails from one of COTRR's program areas, Nyanduma in Kiambu County. In this region, COTRR actively educates the community on disability, support children with special needs and assists bright children from poor backgrounds to access education through Acts of Random Kindness concept. Through Andrew's request, COTRR volunteered to mentor Joyce who easily fitted in both the COTRR and the KtS students' education sponsorship programs. This was the beginning of a treasured partnership and friendship between COTRR and KtS. Alice, a founder member of COTRR, joined Andrew, Nicholas and Sr. Mila in the Kenyan LAC of KtS to continue mentoring the students as a team.

Memorable moments

- Meeting the Dutch Board representatives Ans and José. We shared experiences, did safaris to the COTRR project areas, visited students and their families and of course enjoyed the Kenyan food.
- The KtS president's visit to COTRR Offices
- A field visit with Ans and KtS sponsor Jopi in 2019
- The annual students' mentorship and get-togethers on the student's day.

Currently, COTRR is supporting six students in partnership with KtS. Among the students, two students in secondary school and four university students: Beatrice taking a Degree Course in Public Administration, Faith a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy, Elias a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, and Joyce who is now at the university pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. We are most grateful to the foundation for giving the students an opportunity to thrive. Through this partnership, KtS continues to support COTRR in achieving her education program goal, while COTRR through LAC supports KtS in identifying the needy students and mentoring them in their education journey.

Partnership Highlights:

- Support for college/University Students. COTRR had limited capacity to support students graduating from Secondary to professional education. KtS has bridged this gap allowing for a smooth transition for the students.
- Students upkeep – KtS facilitates all students in colleges with upkeep. This enables the students to easily settle in and focus on their studies
- The KtS president hands on approach that includes visits to the students' homes and schools/colleges adding a personal touch to the program.
- The LAC introduces a volunteer approach to mentorship and the program ownership by the local Kenyan community.

COTRR takes pride in having a very dependable partner in the Netherlands and a shared passion in education for the future generation.

Alice Waringa

Program Director – COTRR

Kids to School LAC member, Kenya.

The Baobab Home

News from the Baobab Home and from the Tanzanian students is written by the director **Terri Place**.

Greetings from Tanzania to all Kids to School Supporters!



We hope that this finds you and your loved ones safe and well. KtS is a sponsor for the children of the

Baobab Home, the Steven Tito Academy (STA), the primary school that has been set up within the Baobab Home, for one pupil of STA and since 2019 KtS is the sponsor for four secondary school students all ex-STA children. The annual donation for the Baobab Home bought STA primary school hundreds of text books this year. Here is some news from us!

As the world passes one year since the arrival of Covid-19, Tanzania last gave case figures in April 2020, reporting 509 infections with 21 deaths. We spent many months in relative calm and ease compared to the rest of the world, but a recent spate of deaths attributed to pneumonia has struck both members of the public and government officials, including the vice president of semi-autonomous Zanzibar.

In the past days, the WHO has urged Tanzania's authorities to take "robust action" against the coronavirus pandemic. President Magufuli appeared to admit that the coronavirus was circulating in the country and offered some support for the use of masks, but said there will be no lockdown and asked Tanzanians to pray for three days. In general the schools are not closed in Tanzania. At The Baobab Home and Steven Tito Academy we are taking precautions like washing hands, keeping distance, and teaching outside whenever we can. The staff who are not resident at the farm, keep a greater distance from those resident at the farm.



The four secondary school students are safe at school in Kiwangwa in the Bagamoyo area. Here they are on the picture with a classmate. They passed their exams and are in form 3 now.

As always, thank you so much for your support of our work. If you have further questions, please feel free to email Terri directly at info@tzkids.org.

The Foundation Kids to School

The board of Kids to School is glad to present to you a new member of the Local Advisory Council. Ann Nduku is attached to Vijana Amani Pamoja (VAP). We welcome Ann and hope for a fruitful collaboration with Ann and VAP. Ann, we are glad that you will strengthen the LAC with your knowledge and enthusiasm and wish you a lot of success. Ann presented herself earlier in this newsletter.

How to help?

Both the students project and *the Baobab Home*, 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). Kids to School has an ANBI status. Donations to our foundation can be deducted from the tax as a gift.

For further information you can contact Ans Groener, ans.groener@planet.nl or José Boerrigter, joseboerrigter@hotmail.com.

Many greetings.

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