

Asante sana. Thank you all for the support and interest in our foundation Kids to School. Without your help we cannot help our students. Therefore we also appreciate your help for the coming year

We have good news. Two of our students have graduated this year. Marvin Pecto, Philippines, has a bachelor degree in Marine Engineering and is now looking for a job. In December Emily Muriel graduated in hospitality and tourism management. She is also looking for a job. We wish both students success.

In 2015, we have taken two new students into our program. Nashra Saidi lives in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, is 7 years old and is in the first class of the Steven Tito Academy and Joyce Wanjiri, who lives in Kiambu County, Kenya, is 13 years old and is in the 2nd class of the Mary Hills Girls School.

As you know, the website is online, and throughout the year I will publish the latest news on the site:

[www.kids2school.info](http://www.kids2school.info)

I want to summarize the news of 2015 in this Newsletter.

During 2015 we made two trips to Kenya. In May, Ruud and I travelled to Nairobi, accompanied by Sotiria, a friend of Ruud from Greece. Later in this newsletter Sotiria describes her impression of this trip. In December, Jose and I traveled together to Kenya. Also José will write about experience later in the newsletter. During both trips we met all the students and all the other people in Kenya who are actively involved in our foundation.

The trip in May.

In May the student's day began with a memorial service for Sr. Jocelyn Pecto. Most students were there and it was heartening to see how all participated in the service. The students did the readings and performed the music and the singing.



Esther and Lilian



Students playing music

During the student's day we always have a so-called round. In this round the students can share their progress in their study and they can ask questions. It is special to see how the girls have changed. Girls who lived in the strict environment of the boarding school somewhere in the countryside live now in cities and have to take care of themselves. They have become young women who are now enthusiastically pursuing studies in a city. That process was voiced by Esther "It's really different now since you are responsible for yourself and can decide for yourself whether you study or not." With some students, we have an additional conversation. This time we talked to Josephine. She was at the student's day for the first time. She lives in Western Kenya and was now in Nairobi for the first time. In November, she did her final exams. As soon as she has her results she has to start to organize her future



study. She is interested in business economics.



Josephine Students, members of the LAC, Ruud and I

We also had an additional discussion with Morine, she told us that she has been accepted for a nursing study to the Cecile McDonald Nursing School and hopes she can start in September. We also discussed with Levis about her new course. She started with Information Technology in September. The day ended as usual with a photo session.



Students, members of the LAC, Ruud and I

During this trip we also visited Lenkitem. Lenkitem is a small Maasai village where some of our girls come from. Here we visited the family of Bernadette Masento Tipape. Masento is a former student of Kids to School. She now works as a secretary of the senator of Kaijado County and is a member of the Local Advisory Counsel.

In Lenkitem we also visited Elizabeth's

family. Elizabeth studies human resource management. In 2014 Elizabeth married and she has a daughter. In 2016 she hopes to take up her studies again. Unfortunately we could not visit Claire's family. Due to the drought the family had moved to a place where there was some food for their livestock. Here we were faced with what drought can mean for this Maasai family.



Members of the family of Masento



Masento with her mother and grandmother



Visit of the family of Elisabeth

Below Sotiria writes about her first trip to Kenya and her acquaintance with Kids to School



Sotiria and Masento

Ruud, who has been in Kids to School since the beginning, introduced me to this, and one evening invited me to join him on a visit. And a few weeks later, we landed at Nairobi airport. There is no doubt that the experience of my visit went beyond my initial expectations. What was striking to me from the very beginning was the openness of all the people involved. As far as Kenyan women are concerned what caught my attention was their cultural heritage along with the will to have a better life. What I appreciated the most was the fact that all the people involved were understanding towards the individuality of each girl, respecting their roots and their need to move on. The girls on the other hand seemed determined to overcome the obstacles and follow their own path. It is undoubtedly difficult to find this fine balance between the search for a better life and the maintenance of one's identity. However, all the girls that I came across made me feel that they are determined to find their own voice. There are precious moments that have stayed with me. Moments like the warm welcoming of the Maasai families, the inspiring speech of the sisters who support the girls, the willingness of Ans and Ruud to attune to the individual

needs, the support provided on behalf of Sr. Milaluna and the Local Advisory Council but most of all the privilege to have listened to the girls' own ideas and witness their enthusiasm during the annual student's day.

There is no doubt that this is an inspiring project. So, I am looking forward to the next time. For the time being I would like to thank all the people I came across during this visit for their warm welcoming. Sotiria Kyriakopoulou is a psychologist, currently working with homeless people in Athens.

After visiting Lenkischem Ruud and Sotiria left for the Netherlands and I traveled to Western Kenya to visit Mary's school in Kisumu and Josephine's school in Asumbi.

Mary's school is the African Institute of Research and Developmental Studies. I was given a tour of the school, and I was able to discuss Mary's progress with the principal of the school, Ms. Orege. Mary is a good student. She does her best and is clearly more practically than theoretically orientated.



Mary( left) and Ms. Orege (principal of the school)





Mary in her class with class mates

After Kisumu I traveled to Asumbi, to visit the Asumbi Girls High School where Josephine is in her final year. The head of the school was not present but I met Mr. Benson, Josephine's class teacher. Josephine is an excellent student in all her subjects (Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Physics, Religion, Kiswahili and English). According to Mr. Benson, she will certainly pass her exam with good grades.



Motto van de Asumbi Girls High School



Josephine



Josephine (right) in her class

The trip in December.

In December José made her first trip to Kenya. During this trip she met all the students and we visited the Masaai Girls Education Fund (MGEF) in Kajiado.

José writes about this trip.

I have been involved in Kids to School as a board member since 2012. December 2015 was the day! I was going to meet everyone involved in Kids to School in Kenya.

Together with Ans, I flew to Nairobi where we were warmly welcomed. It was remarkable to see how the foundation has developed since 2008. Nicholas, Andrew, members of the Local Advisory Council, and I met in Nairobi. Both men are strongly involved in the foundation, and were very welcoming.

We visited the family of our new student Joyce, a very passionate girl who hopes to become a medical doctor.



Joyce and her family



We also visited the McDonald Nursing School where Morine has started her training. This was extra special for me because I've also trained as a nurse. With a beaming smile and sparkling eyes she told about what she has already learned. It touched me that Morine has a chance to get a better life and she takes this chance with so much passion.



José and Morine (right). In the middle Sr. Irene, an old teacher of Morine who also studies nursing

At the student's day I met the other students. The day emits so much positivity and energy for all students. Driven, motivated and above all strong young women are given the opportunity by the foundation to build a good life. They all really want one thing in the future: To lead a normal life with work so they can support their families and the rest of the community. In supporting the girls you really help a whole community.



The student's day picture



Esther, Levis, Mary, and Joyce

We also visited MGEF in Kajiado. Kids to School cooperates with this organization. We were warmly welcomed and had a conversation about the cooperation, the state of affairs and the progress of the students. During our stay we were allowed to attend the workshops organized for all students who are sponsored by MGEF. These workshops gave information on how to choose the best study, but also more serious issues such as female circumcision which still occur in Kenya were discussed. This difficult subject was brought very professional by the teachers. During the workshop there was room for singing and acting.

It was a very special trip and since I now have met all students and people involved in Kids to School in Kenya I'm more aware and convinced now how important the work is that the foundation does. The foundation gives a lot of personal attention to each student and approaches each student as an individual.

José Boerrigter is a nurse and works at the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam.

## The Baobab Home

Every year I give a brief update on the progress of the Baobab home in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. Important news is that the school, the Steven Tito Academy, has expanded again with a library and a new classroom. The school now has more than 75 students. Two of them, Salama and Nashra, are sponsored by Kids to

School. This year, the Kids to School donation has been used for the construction of the library, the construction of a toilet in the teacher's house, and for the general expenses of the orphanage. Further information can be found on The Baobab Home website: [www.tzkids.org](http://www.tzkids.org)

### **The foundation Kids to School**

At the end of 2015 Liesbeth van Egten decided to resign as treasurer. We thank her for all she has done for our foundation. We are now looking for a new treasurer.

### **How to help?**

Both the student's project and the project of Terri Place, director of the Baobab Home can be supported through the Foundation Kids to School.

The bank account (Triodos Bank) of the foundation is NL38 TRIO 0786 8391 04 in the name of Foundation for Kids to School in Tull en 't Waal. Clearly state what project you want to sponsor. The Baobab Home can also be supported directly through the website of The Baobab Home ([www.tzkids.org](http://www.tzkids.org)). Kids to School has the ANBI status. Donations to the foundation can be deducted as a gift tax.

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 Kids to School  
Ans Groener