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St. Clare Children's Home

Produce of the garden at St. Clare has been minimal. Sister Lucy has planted corn twice but due to extreme drought there was no harvest.

Re-integration, school placements

This year we have received a donation for the re-integration project from several sponsors. The policy of sister Lucy and her staff is, where possible, to place children back with their relatives and to support the family financially, e.g. by paying the school fees.

The coming year Amara Foundation is going to pay for the boarding school for 13 children. This means that the children will stay with relatives during the months of April, August, November and December. The other months they will be receive education at a boarding school close to where the relatives live. Once a month there is a visiting day for relatives.

St. Francis Primary School Hambale

After equipping the computer room in 2015, finishing the library project in 2016 it is time to realise project 3: renovation of the dining room / multifunctional room. The floor was very unhygienic, dusty and full of holes.

In cooperation with 'Wilde Ganzen' we have been able to realise the means for this project within a short time: 'Wilde Ganzen' doubles the contributions of sponsors. We want to thank all the sponsors but especially the Jan Vink Foundation and Enexis who have accounted for a considerable amount. The contractor hopes to be able to finish the job in December, during the holidays. We will show the results as soon as possible.

Football club Urusi

After a very successful year Urusi became champion in the Provincial League, a well-earned result for an enthusiastic club: players, trainers and board. Perhaps also a bit thanks to all clothing from SES Langenboom, all donated football boots and the footballs sponsored by Dutz and Werner Smits sports in Cuijk? Carmen and Lisanne surprised the team with an Amara cake after their last match!

The coming two months mini leagues will be played to find out if Urusi will be promoted and will play nationally. For Urusi this means they will have to find a second sponsor.

Amara cannot do more than we do now. The Urusi board is very active in that field but without positive result so far. We wish Urusi good luck during these play-offs and with finding a second sponsor!

Travel report Kisumu: Lisanne and Carmen.

From November 3 to 22 Carmen and Lisanne visited projects in Kisumu. Of course we left with lots of luggage: materials for therapy, football boots, frames, playing and learning materials and thanks to an extra Facebook action by Carmen: lots of waka-wakas. For those who have missed this action: a waka waka is a very sustainable lamp that works on solar energy.

When we arrived in Kenya the Christmas holidays had already started, so many St. Clare children had already joined their relatives. For a small group of 13 children no addresses could be found, but we have spent time playing with them using the materials we had brought: colouring, making jigsaws, ball games, language games, everything quite enjoyable. During our stay Urusi played the last three matches of the competition and..... became champion! To celebrate it we had a special cake made. What a treat for everyone! For the therapy children a lot had to be organised. At the moment there are 16 children in the project. Eleven children have made good progress and can attend a special school, which entails lots of organisation AND costs. The parents are unable to pay for the special school / care. We have had interviews with the parents to assess the costs, what the parents can contribute and what Amara can do.

Apart from school fees placing a child on a special school entails other costs: special chairs, wheelchairs, nappies and, in the case of a boarding school a mattress, sheets, blankets, a tub etc. Of course for children that cannot walk wheelchairs are needed. It was a good thing there were two of us so we could make decisions. For Carmen it was great to see how the children had progressed in 2 ½ years. Also the computer room and the library were a pleasant surprise for her. The school is very proud of these facilities!

Finally we visited several families at home whom we support with the re re-integration project. It remains impressive. The families have received an amount of money from Sister Lucy to improve their living conditions. It is wonderful to see how a (grand) mother uses the money to look after her (grand) children. They were proudly showing us around, including the fat pig, telling us about their hopes for a good harvest and demonstrating the well that has been constructed. They make the most of their chances!

Carmen distributed her waka waka lamps everywhere. What a luxury for people who do not have electricity, or places where there is electricity but very unreliably so.

Altogether unforgettable weeks.....!

Carmen and Lisanne

Activities in the past period

Birthday

Lieke and Cees, acquaintances of Maria's, celebrated their birthday and we received a wonderful donation. Congratulations and thank you!

Jumble sales

Maria was at a jumble sale in Uden with good results.

In Schijndel Lisanne was absent (she was in Kenya) but the family took over. Thank you Ronelle, Donna, Estée and Sjaan! Everyone who provided is with things to sell: thanks!

Sponsored run Jeanne d'Arc school in Tilburg.

For the 4th time the children did their run on the playground for Amara Foundation, raising a wonderful amount. Thank you, team, children and all families.

Upcoming activities

Donation Protestant Congregation St. Michielsgestel.

Lisanne was present at the service of October 9 and could tell about Amara Foundation. The collection was for Amara.

Four-day walking event Nijmegen

Lisanne and a friend joined the event and sponsors made it a double festive activity. Lots of fun to walk while raising money for Amara.

Talent scouting Uden

On November 13 there was a talent scouting event in the Pul in Uden. Amara Foundation was one of the charities that received a donation from the proceeds. It was quite nice with a large audience. Thanks for all the effort that was put in organising this event! Board member Maria helped the organisation on behalf of Amara Foundation.

Donation UWW

The proceeds of splitting up textiles and shoes in Uden is annually donated to charities working in the developing world. This year they supported 23 projects one of which was Amara Foundation.

Donation Thanksgiving ZLTO, region Helmond. At a meeting with the theme "food is not obvious" Lisanne was allowed to tell about her work for Amara Foundation. The proceeds of the collection went to Amara.

Waka waka

Wiljan and Carmen's Facebook action raised a fine amount. We have made many families, St. Clare Children's Home and St. Francis boarding school happy with the lamps. (Sun) light in the darkness!

Carnival 2017

St. Michielsgestel, or Bokkendonk, always has a 'Bokkendonk's charity'. This charity can present itself in the carnival paper which is distributed door-to-door. The proceeds of the collection during the carnival celebration in church on Saturday evening are meant for this charity. Bokkendonk Alaaf!

Book fair Vincentius Society Den Bosch.

The past year we were the main charity during this wonderful event. This means that we cannot ask for a donation in the years to come. However, board members and friends of Amara's will certainly help setting up all the stalls and selling books in the last weekend of January. Location: Brabanthallen in Den Bosch.

Jumble sale

The second Sunday of March there will be a jumble sale in Schijndel again. This time Lisanne will be in a stall. We will remind you later!

Early this year Maria will go to Kisumu again. Maria, have a good time and good luck with all you have to do there!

Deposit box

This still has to be arranged but we hope some supermarkets will allow us to place them again.

Communion project Someren Heide.

Amara Foundation has received an invitation to come and tell about our work on Wednesday afternoon March 29, during the preparatory meetings for children that will make their communion. The communicants will then do a sponsored run for the children in Kenya. During the communion celebration on June 11 we were asked to come and collect the proceeds. Good luck and thank you for thinking of us again!

CBF recognition for Amara Foundation

In December we received the official CBF registration. As from January 1, 2017, we will be officially recognised. We are proud of it!

What it means is this: “the CBG logo Recognised Charity shows that this organisation complies with the regulations of the Central Agency for Fundraising. Recognised charities have set goals, are well-organised and transparent. Once every three years the CBF tests the charities again. There can also be interim checks.

For questions, complaints and an up-to-date list of charities: Centraal Bureau Fondswerving (Central Agency for Fundraising), telephone 020-4170003, or www.cbf.nl .

Review 2016

This year we, the board, have often talked about 2006, the year when it all started...

It was the year Maria volunteered to do work (June, July, August) for an unknown foundation in Kisumu and where Lisanne joined her the last six weeks.

Carmen left for Kisumu as a volunteer in 2006 to work there for 9 months. In the Netherlands Martine was involved with a foundation which we did volunteer work for. Afterwards we met. Amara Foundation didn't exist yet but here the foundation was laid.

A year later Amara Foundation was founded by Martine, Carmen and Maria. Later Lisanne and Evelien joined us. We wanted to provide structural aid to and offer support for these wonderful people on this wonderful spot.

Much has happened during these years, we have learned a lot, we have had special moments with ‘our people’ in Kisumu.

What we cherish as the board is that various people whom we have given a better chance to make a living now do the same for other people, for instance by paying for the education of an orphan, or paying the school fees for a younger brother or sister.

This year we have finished a big project, the library is really great. But also the micro-credits serve their purpose, the development of handicapped children, the impact on children of being a member of a football club and having training sessions, the children that have been placed with relatives thanks to the re-integration project, the care

children are given at St. Clare's: we are proud of all this! Proud of all the people that do the work there!

In the coming year we hope to count on you again. All sponsors big and small: you make our projects possible. We keep explaining to the people in Kisumu: "it is the large group behind us that enables us to offer help and support".

THANK YOU.

All board members wish you a pleasant Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Are you looking for a nice card or present for under the tree? Have a look at our website or contact one of the board members!