

Newsletter April 2017

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St. Clare Children's Home

Since January 1 several children have left to live with relatives. All children have made a positive start and were excited to find a place to live.

St. Francis Primary School Hambale

With reference to the last newsletter: renovation of the dining hall was finished in January. You can see it in the picture: a wonderful, even shining floor and freshly painted walls. This is a word of thanks from sister Linet, head of the school:

"Please let the sponsors know that we are very thankful for the support they accorded the school. The managing board of St. Francis, teachers, parents and pupils are very happy and grateful for the new face of the dining and social hall. In unison we all say; THANK YOU!!!!"

Football club Urusi

In the last newsletter you could read that Urusi had come first in the Provincial League and were going to play mini leagues. They ended second which means that they are promoted and are going to play in 'Division 2 League Central Zone' in the year to come. At this moment talks are going on with a sponsor. This is important because travelling costs will be higher because they will be playing in a higher division. Next year three youth teams will play a competition in Kisumu. Many compliments for the enthusiastic and hard-working board, and all players: good luck in the various competitions! Football boots, especially the larger sizes, remain more than welcome!

Therapy project

As from January 11 children in the therapy project attend a day school or are at a boarding school. Years of dedication, especially the mothers, to come to the therapy with their children have been rewarded. None of them had ever thought that their child could go to school. Amara finances these placements. Due to these school placements fewer children come to the weekly therapy. Once a week we give therapy at one of the boarding schools with multiple handicapped children. We are also discussing possibilities with another school. The therapist who works at the school could help at the therapy during the school holidays when all children go to therapy. Amara Foundation could pay the salary of this therapist during the four holiday months. In the interest of all the therapy children we hope to get this organised. We will let you know...

Travel report Maria Vermeer

Last January and February I visited the Amara Foundation projects. It was the warm and dry period, with temperatures rising to 38 degrees which also meant that little or nothing was growing. Water was running out so people had to walk for hours for a bucket of water. At St. Clare Children's Home water was brought with a tanker because water was scarce there as well. The children at St. Clare are always happy to see you. The 5 new specially adapted wheelchairs which had been ordered in November were delivered in January. Wonderful to see how happy the children are, and how grateful the mothers are for all the help they get, thanks to our donors. For the year to come I have made various payments: school fees for several children, the milkman has been paid for six months and a few therapy bills. Altogether a useful visit.

Activities in the past period

Christmas charity 't Stekske

Board member Carmen is in contact with primary school 't Stekske in Langenboom via her children. Amara Foundation was chosen as Christmas charity 2016. Carmen and her partner told all classes about Amara Foundation resulting in many wonderful reactions, nice initiatives to raise money and great contributions. On Christmas Eve Carmen sold much of all that we had brought from Kenya. Altogether a great success! Thank you team for thinking of us.

Jumble sale Schijndel

On the second Sunday in March there was the usual jumble sale in Schijndel. Lisanne and friend Nel had much to sell and sold a lot! It remains a pleasant place to sell with many 'regular customers'. Because we get much from very various friends there is a great variety in what we can offer for sale, which makes it interesting for many people.

Bottle boxes

Bottle boxes for deposit receipts have been placed at the EMTE in St. Michielgestel and Uden. There will be one at the Jumbo in Uden shortly. They will be there for a while so return your bottles and put the receipts in the box.

Sale through 'marktplaats' (ebay).

When we think that materials we get offered have a higher value we try to sell it through 'marktplaats', thus raising extra money.

Activities for the coming period

Communion project Someren Heide

On March 29 Lisanne is going to tell the communicants something about Amara Foundation by means of a power point. After that the communicants will do a sponsored walk for the children in Kenya. During the Communion celebration on June 11 we will be handed the money that was raised. Good luck, and thank you for thinking of us!

Carnival in Bokkendonk

Every year St. Michielsgestel or Bokkendonk chooses a charity. This year Amara was chosen. We were in a local paper (the 'Bokkendonker') with a wonderful picture. The proceeds of the collection on the Saturday night before carnival were for Amara. A fine result from all those who celebrate carnival in St. Michielsgestel.

Trap –in (cycling tour)

Two weeks ago we received a message that we had been chosen again as one of the charities of the Trap-in. They organise an annual cycling tour on Whit Monday in Uden and surroundings. The proceeds are for charities in Third world countries. This year 14 projects have been selected one of which is Amara. Support the Trap-in and come and join the tour on June 5th in Uden!

Last year Lianne and friend Nel, as “hero of the VGZ “, joined the four-day walking event in Nijmegen, raising a fair amount. This year FOUR people have been selected by VGZ to join the sponsored walk. Paula and Lianne will walk 30 km a day, Albert 40 km and hero Piet even 50 km a day. We are definitely going to enjoy it and you will hear from them with regard to the sponsor activity.

Jumble sale

On May 7th Maria will be present again at the jumble sale around the ‘Witte Boerderij’ in Uden with lots of stuff. We are hoping for good weather and good sales.

Trap-in cycling tour

For your agenda: June 5th 2017! We will remind you.

Festivity in Langenboom.

The day before, on Whitsuntide, you are invited to come to ‘Langenboom pakt uut’, an entertaining event where Carmen will be present with a stall.

A look at Amara’s wallet

In last month’s board meeting it was decided that we would write something about our finances in every newsletter. This newsletter a survey of the expenses with regard to St. Clare Children’s Home.

During the board meeting in September we decide what we can spend on the various projects in the year to come. Especially projects that receive a set amount cannot be confronted with sudden changes.

For St. Clare Children’s Home we have a few ‘regular’ costs

1. Sister Lucy receives a monthly amount for the Children’s Home. For food (€ 200), contribution to the costs of the staff (€ 700), contribution to the costs of wood, electricity and water (€ 175). Every six months we transfer this amount via our bank.
2. When board members are in Kisumu they pay the local milkman cash for the weekly delivery of milk at St.Clare, 27 liters a week. One litre of fresh milk costs € 1 in Kisumu which is a lot of money there. The milk is boiled right away and put in a freezer in seven parts. Each day the children have tea and milk, which costs a bit more than € 100 a month. We always pay in advance for about half a year. We trust the milkman but sister Lucy sees to the weekly delivery.
3. Also when we are in Kisumu we pay around € 350 to a Kisumu-based company. They sell so-called Udji, cornflower with added vitamins and minerals. Every month sister Lucy can pick up 40 cartons of 500 grams each, which she uses to make porridge for the children every day.

Apart from that we contribute annually to the costs of re-integration where children are placed with relatives. The amount depends on donations from sponsors. We keep organising activities for this project and if possible make a contribution from our own means.

Last year various sponsors have supported this project. We paid € 6500 for re-integration with relatives. With that amount sister Lucy could place 13 children at a boarding school and school necessities for a number of children (shoes, uniform, mattress, mosquito net etc.).

Finally there are some special costs due to special demands. Sister Lucy sometimes contacts us by email but mostly she waits till one of us is in Kisumu. It can be about money for school necessities, shoes, to help a family with a specific problem. In our board we decide what to do with such appeals.

Payment 'in kind'.

Often we also bring various seeds from Holland. Sister Lucy has much land. If it is not too dry they can have fresh fruit and vegetables from their own garden!

We also bring educative toys, school materials and children's clothes from Holland as much as possible. Transport to Kisumu remains a problem. The trunks we are allowed to bring are packed full, all too soon.

That's it for the payments to St. Clare's. Fortunately we are not the only sponsor that supports St. Clare's. Altogether it looks like a large amount but it is not enough to support 60 to 70 children. A sponsor from England has supported St. Clare's for a number of years now. Sister Lucy is very transparent about her income and expenses, we both know 'who does what', which works well!

We can all do our bit thanks to the sponsors, all activities and special actions.

THANK YOU!

In our next newsletter we will inform you about our payments for therapy.