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NIUWS BRIEF

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The Foundation

Kune Zuva

The Foundation Kune Zuva is supporting more people every day. Kune Zuva means "the sun is shining". This is also the goal of the foundation 'letting the sun shine by giving people chances in life'. We focus on people living in Africa who, due to various circumstances, find themselves in difficult situations. However, with our support they can overcome some of these difficulties. Kune Zuva is supporting the Foundation's goal by creating, running and (partly) financing small-scale projects. Currently we have 25 projects running in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Namibia.

You can find more detailed background information on our projects at www.kunezuva.nl. You can also find information on our development at the site. (Sorry, it is in Dutch only!)

Funds

Last year Kune Zuva received over €5.000 in sponsorship in response to our last newsletter. In addition to private individuals, there are increasing numbers of organizations becoming involved with our work. To everybody who has given support: THANK YOU!

Retrospect

The year is drawing to a close. It has been a great year for Kune Zuva as regards revenue, and we have been thrilled to invest in some larger projects than have previously been possible. The main highlights of this year included :

Building a campsite in Namibia of traditional huts equipped with basic facilities. The project will provide a vital source of income for the local Bushmen. Challenging the local bureaucracy to allow this project was, in fact, a job in it's own right, but eventually the dream becomes reality.

The student fund has been very successful. This has given the opportunity to increase the numbers of young people (mainly Ethiopian females) continuing their education, - with an allowance of just € 14 a month. This allowance makes it possible to return to their home once a year, and provides their educational and domestic needs (e.g. stationery, cleaning equipment).

Hiwot is typical of the students we are helping. Hiwot is following a 4-year evening course in English at University. Her brother also attends University but has serious food allergies, which necessitates a cost-ly special diet. This means the family has insufficient funds to support Hiwot through her studies. However, Kune Zuva has been able to provide the necessary support to help Hiwot continue her course.

Introduce...

The story of Sentayeh, a student

Sentayeh, now a girl of 16, was born as a so-called 'Mingi'. 'Mingis' are children whose upper milk teeth come through before the lower teeth. Sentayeh's tribe (the Hamar) in South-West Ethiopia, hold the superstition that 'Mingis' bring misfortune. Therefore these children must be killed, either by suffocation, or by being thrown into a deep hole. The mothers try to avoid this by abandoning the child on the side of the road, in the hope that someone from another tribe will find the child and care for it.

Fortunately Sentayeh was found, and raised by foster parents in the village of Dimeka. However, the education in Dimeka is poor, and students progress to secondary school only if their results are very good, and they have financial sponsorship. Secondary education is in a boarding school, and very few children succeed.

Kune Zuva was able to help in this particular case. Sentayeh, and two other local girls progressed last September to Arba Minch for their secondary education with our help. We are happy to report they are making good progress in their studies.

Children are the future: kindergarten-education for the Hamar in South-West Ethiopia

To provide food for themselves, the Hamar tribe herd cattle on the very dry lands of their region. Their lifestyle is that of the stone age. However, even here, things have changed over the last 10 years. Influences from the outside world, such as progress in technology, are slowly beginning to arrive in this desolate region. Also legislation is being introduced by the Ethiopian Government, which is implementing change without consulting with the local tribes. Such tribes often speak only a local language and are seldom able to read. In some cases the language does not even exist in a written format. To survive in the near future, the education of these tribal members is of increasing importance.

In the far south of Ethiopia, in the land of the Hamar, two kindergartens were established several years ago in the villages of Dimeka and Turmi. These kindergartens provide a foundation for further education by facilitating the learning of Amharic - the official language of Ethiopia, - essential for a good start in elementary school.

Kindergartens are still not provided by the government. The schools that exist are private, and have been built, and the teachers trained and qualified, with money from Europe. The local tribes are too poor to afford this education.

When even this basic financial support ceased, the teachers have tried desperately to keep the schools open, with their great enthusiasm. However, without a fair transition period this became impossible.

Now Kune Zuva is involved, not only paying the salary of the teachers, but also providing extra teaching materials. The buildings have been renovated, and the outdoor play equipment has been repaired. Day-to-day costs are covered by the school fees from those who can afford to pay. The numbers of pupils on role is increasing - especially the numbers of Hamar children. Each school has about 50 children of whom 10 are from the local Hamar tribe. The school fee of € 1 per month is beyond the means of the Hamar but, with our support, the Hamar children are able to attend and receive the education they need.

We are happy to report that, due to various discussions, the local Government has now taken responsibility for the maintenance of the school, in return for our promise to pay the salaries for the main teachers for the next three school years (€ 60 per month!).

Equal chances for girls? Education in Borana, South Ethiopia

The Boranas are pastoral nomads. They move their cattle, camels, goats and sheep across the land to find good feeding pasture for their animals. Recurrent drought and famine are major and frequent phenomena in Borana land. The rainfall, and its distribution, is very erratic. Students have to leave their schools during the long dry season in search of food. Therefore, the need to provide food for students to keep them at school during these drought and famine periods is a high priority.

The attendance of girls at school is very poor. The schools are very far from home and there is a very real risk of rape, or abduction for girls living away from their home. Experience shows that parents are willing to let their daughters attend school, as long as they are provided with care and shelter.

With a support of only € 10 per month the girls can stay in a girls' hostel, which allows them to continue their elementary and secondary education.

Currently we are seeking to support 15 girls from this area.

Christmas wish from Kune Zuva

As you can see, Kune Zuva is expanding to support more and more deserving initiatives. Kune Zuva works hard to continue to support these different projects. This year we concentrated increasingly on education, from kindergarten to professional training, and provided supplementary scholarships to female students. Most of these projects will extend into future years. In this respect your (financial) support is essential for us and will be gratefully received.

This year we send our newsletter with our Merry Christmas greetings. We sincerely hope you are willing to support our foundation with a donation to giro 5837915 of Foundation Kune Zuva, Tolsedijk 10, NL-4681 SV Nieuw Vossemeer, The Netherlands (international transfers via IBAN NR. NL 41 PSTB 000 5837915 - Swift Code PSTB NL 21). By supporting our foundation you are not just wishing us a happy 2005, but you will let the sun shine for a few people in Africa, and provide them with the key to a successful future. Thank you in advance and thank you also from our friends in Africa!



A Loving Christmas and a Sunny 2005!

