



# KUNE ZUVA NEWSLETTER

2018 / 2019 #20

## The Foundation

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*Kune Zuva means 'the sun shines'. This is also the objective of the foundation: 'Let the sun shine for people in Africa by providing opportunities in life'. The Kune Zuva Foundation creates, runs and finances small-scale projects and each year, we are able to support more people. There are currently projects in South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and South Africa.*

### Funds

Last year Kune Zuva received sponsorship of more than €6,200, in response to the newsletter. In addition to private sponsors, some organisations are involved with our work. It is due to these contributions that we could spend almost €20,000 on meaningful projects in 2018. Thank you!

### Looking back

The year is almost over. It's the perfect moment to look back on the foundation's activities in 2018.

Food availability is the highest priority in South Sudan. We are very happy that 'our' school with its own garden in Thon Aduel makes sure that the children not only get an education but a decent daily meal too.

Four of 'our' orphans in Central Kenya started with a practical vocational training, with jobs varying from hairdresser to IT-specialist. Five other orphans are following a university study with our support. Also in Ethiopia six students recently started their tertiary education.

Graduation followed by finding a job - that's important. In Ethiopia Birtukan started as a secretary almost straight after her graduation, far away from home but close to her university. In Tanzania Esther found a job as assistant HR manager at a Golden Crest hotel. Panashe in South Africa is in the final stage of her studies. Soon she will start working as a caterer on a cruise ship.

Extensive background information about our projects can be found at our website [www.kunezuva.nl](http://www.kunezuva.nl) and with recent updates on Facebook (Dutch only).

## Introducing...

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### Agnes Kamuya, Kasikeu, East Kenya

We met Mother Agnes (65) in Kenya in 2010. Agnes worked for 35 years as a primary school teacher. After her retirement in 2008 she became even more active in supporting orphans and other children from difficult family backgrounds. She gives these children the chance to complete their primary and secondary education.

Agnes' drive to improve the lives of children in need is big, but her funds are limited. Today these activities are organised in the Kasikeu Orphan Care group (see reverse).

Agnes is a mother of two sons (39 & 34) and two daughters (32 & 30) and a grandmother of four. Last year was very tough on her as her eldest son, a police officer, got brutally murdered when fighting for a better life for many. Leaving a wife and two children behind. But nothing can stop mother Agnes. She draws her strength, hope and faith in the struggle to help the poor of the poorest from her immense dedication to the Church.

Agnes also collaborates with local and international non-governmental organisations to get prosthesis (including new limbs) and wheelchairs for people in need.

## Kasikeu Orphan Care Group, East Kenya

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In the rural area of Kasikeu, near the town Sultan Hamud, on the main road from Nairobi to Mombasa, a simple thought has developed into a great initiative. The local community noticed that more and more vulnerable children were not capable of finishing their basic education. They took on the challenge to support these children morally and financially. At first the financial part was collected within the community. Finally in 2010 they decided to put this support into a legal system and the Kasikeu Orphan Care Group was officially established. The group, mainly consisting of elderly women but also a few men, represent 45 different families. They actively produce for example the traditional baskets (Kiondos), but also coasters, jewellery, belts, clay pots and braided rope. They sell these products and use the money for the children in need within their community.

### **The Group:**

Kasikeu means 'Green Grass' but is also the name of the locality in Maukueni County, known for its tasty mangoes. This area with over 35,000 inhabitants is a semi-arid area and the larger community is the poor of the poorest. Every Monday the group comes together to produce products. While working together they evaluate their work and other issues of interest that might be affecting them or the community at large.

The majority in this group are widows who are supporting orphans as well and keeping orphans under their care. At this moment 56 primary, 25 secondary and 5 university children are supported by the group. Mother Agnes invests in all these youngsters not only financially but also personally. She meets them at least twice a year with their guardians to empower them and get updates of their progress. Because she goes that extra mile, the children have better chances to succeed in the future.

As the budgets are very tight, Kune Zuva and other external sponsors are now and again asked to support some of the education projects. When the students do well and are capable of moving into a college or university, sponsors like Kune Zuva are essential.

### **Kune Zuva students:**

Right now, Kune Zuva supports Nzuki and Jane from this group, both studying for their Bachelor's degree. We are also supporting five girls through secondary school. Then there is Jeniffer, the first student who

got her Bachelor's degree. As a medical laboratory technician, she now has a steady job in a national hospital. She is assisting Kune Zuva with empowerment sessions and follows up on specific students in practical training, college or university on request. If information is needed about Kenyan students and the education system in general, she is also the one.

### **New skills:**

The Kasikeu Orphan Care Group is doing a very good job but due to all sorts of reasons the number of orphans and very vulnerable children is still expanding.

Recently we started a project to introduce extra skills to the group. The goal is to upgrade the products they make, so that more income can be generated.

They're learning to build an oven out of local materials, to turn waste glass into glass powder to be shaped and baked into glass beads which are then painted with attractive patterns. These beads will be used to upgrade the local handiworks like the baskets, jewellery and coasters. They will therefore be more appealing and easier to sell with increase in profit.

### **Foundation Kune Zuva**

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## Christmas wish from Kune Zuva

As you can see, Kune Zuva keeps supporting marginalized people in Africa. Kune Zuva works hard to continue the support of the various projects. The focus is on all phases of education, from kindergarten to university, for the less fortunate people in society. Most of these projects will extend into future years. In this respect, your financial support is essential to us and will be gratefully received.

Also this year we are sending our newsletter with our Merry Christmas greetings. We sincerely hope you are willing to support our Foundation with a donation via IBAN NL89 INGB 000 5837915 – Swift/ BIC Code INGBNL2A of Foundation Kune Zuva, Tolsedijk 10, 4681 SV Nieuw Vossemeer, The Netherlands. By supporting our Foundation, you are not just wishing us a happy 2019, 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!

**Loving Christmas and a Sunny 2019!**