

KUNE ZUVA



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NIJUEWS BRIEF

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The Foundation

Kune Zuva

The Kune Zuva Foundation supports 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 40 projects running in Ethiopia, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania.

You can find more detailed background information on our projects at www.kunezuva.nl. (Dutch only)

Funds

Last year Kune Zuva received over €7.000 in sponsorship, in response to the Christmas newsletter. In addition to private individuals, an increasing numbers of organizations are becoming involved with our work. Therefore we were able to spend over €30.000 on worthwhile projects in 2007. A great result, Thank you!

Introducing...

Assefa, student and Kune Zuva volunteer, Ethiopia

Kune Zuva has supported Assefa since July 2005 in his studies of "Hydraulic Engineering" at Arba Minch University. Assefa lost his mother at an early age. He was raised by his aunt, a local priest and his father. A few years ago his father died, and his aunt remarried. From this time Kune Zuva started the support. Assefa is very grateful for this, and now wants to give something back to "his people".

Therefore he is actively involved in our project proposals. For example, he coordinates the

Retrospect

The year is drawing to a close. This year we planned to build a kindergarten. The project was described in the last newsletter. Sadly though we were unsuccessful. Due to legal issues, not lack of funds, we decided not to proceed with the new building process. At this moment we are busy renovating the existing building.

The beads project in Namibia is up and running. The production process, in which old bottles are converted into beautiful glass beads and painted with different figures and colors, is running smoothly. Tourists are keen on buying the necklaces and bracelets from the Cultural Centre, which was completed last year. The glass bead souvenirs and other local arts and crafts are sold there.

What if your salary is lower than public transport costs to-and-from work? For most Zimbabweans this is a harsh reality, due to hyper-inflation. Kune Zuva helps some students to complete their studies and uses their networks to create possibilities in neighboring countries.

production of school furniture for the Cotton School. He is also the contact person for renovating a local kindergarten. Also he is giving extra classes to some marginalized female students.

Assefa's dream is to establish an orphanage centre. He wants to guide the children in their development to adulthood. In this way they can support and teach other people with their growth. However, first he will finalise his studies and proceed successfully with local Kune Zuva projects.

Furniture for Cotton School in Arba Minch, South Ethiopia

Three years ago, two of the board members of Kune Zuva visited the Cotton School, a primary school in south Ethiopia. This school is housed in dilapidated buildings, with a lack of facilities and development material. In the overcrowded classrooms children sit on stones, or on the ground. Most children either come from very poor families, or are orphans. To us it was clear: help is necessary and this year we are ready for it. Kune Zuva is providing 540 sets of furniture, to ensure all children have a place to sit while in class. Also the charity Cordaid the local Rotarians, and some private people have announced their support. Who will follow them?

The name Cotton School is a nickname: the school was built in the sixties in cooperation with the neighboring cotton factory, the main employer in this area. At the end of the 90's the factory was closed down, and with this most families lost their regular income. The maintenance of the school is the responsibility of the local community. However the closing down of the factory started the decline at the school. There are 18 classrooms, some annexes like a library, two offices and two (!) toilets for almost 3000 students. Most buildings are built out of traditional materials (wood and mud) which need annual maintenance. The main building is made out of stone and 40 years old. One wall is missing completely; and two of the classrooms are close to collapse.

Many children miss school, due to poverty, for variable lengths of time. Children are needed at home for either domestic chores, or to work. This regular absence is shown by the age differentiation in the different grades. In the first grade the children are between 7 and 10 years old, while in the highest level, grade 8, the age varies between 14 and 20 years old. The class sizes are from 55 to 82 pupils per classroom. 9% of the pupils drop out annually.

To make optimal use of the classrooms, lower grades have classes in the morning, while the higher grades come in the afternoon.

The government supplies the teachers for the school.

The school is giving support to 120 orphans, all of whom attend the school. Most orphans are accommodated with families, but for some the school rents out accommodation. Here up to ten children share a room. The rental costs are paid by the children themselves. They earn money by gathering firewood, this way they learn from a young age, to be self supporting. Next to the school there is some land which is used to grow vegetables. The profit of this agriculture is also used to pay for the orphans' living costs.

For learning to write a good posture is essential. A chair and table are not only more comfortable, but also the child can pay better attention to the teacher. In the beginning of 2007 Kune Zuva has, with the help of Assefa (see front of newsletter) collected information from several carpenters. As a result the best company delivered, on a test basis, 19 benches and desks. These are now in full use. Two or three children fit on each bench. The carpenter is now busy producing the other benches and desks. The maintenance of the complete 540 furniture sets will be organized by the students and their parents in co-operation with the school.

We hope to fulfill this project together with you, and hopefully, in the future, we will have the possibility of supporting some renovation, for example fixing up toilets; or supporting the orphans. These options are investigated with the help of Assefa.

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 marginalized people in society. 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 2007, 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 2008!



