Newsletter Friends of Kibera Foundation (10)

December 2024

Dear reader,



We send this newsletter from the Friends of Kibera Foundation (www.vriendenvankibera.nl) at the end of 2024. The Foundation is established in 2019 with the aim to support 'Oloo Education Center' in Kibera, Nairobi (Kenya). With financial support, we make it possible for children from this slum to receive education. Oloo Education Center, an elementary school, was founded fifteen years ago by Judy Oloo. Together with a team of (voluntary) teachers and support staff, she is committed to getting the children of Kibera out of the poverty spiral through education. Judy and her team depend to a large extent on the support of private individuals. Parents pay a contribution that is feasible for them.

As a Foundation, we support the school structurally with an amount that is feasible for our budget. If possible, we help pay for extra and unexpected costs such as renewal of method books, a little extra for children and teachers at Christmas. We discuss te spending of the money with the school itself through one of the board members who lives in Nairobi and with Judy Oloo. At the moment we are committed to two additional projects: the start of a Junior High School department and sponsorship of school fees for further education. Our fund is filled by structural and/or incidental donations from people who are willing and able to contribute to this way of developing opportunities for disadvantaged groups in Kenya.

Project expansion with a department 'Junior Highschool'



In the last newsletter we have written about the adjusted education policy in Kenya that makes that Oloo Education Center wants to expand with a department 'Junior High School'. This three-year secondary education is on paper compulsory for all Kenyan children, but not realized in reality because the gigantic slum of Kibera has only nine schools for secondary education, while three hundred schools for primary education have been counted. To prevent too many children from dropping out of school at the age of twelve, the team of Oloo's school wants to start its own department Junior High School. In December 2024, 32 children successfully completed the final exam in primary education and they should be able to continue with Junior High School. For the time being, the education inspectorate has not given permission. Required facilities such as a Science room, computer room, lockers, books and subject teachers are missing. Nevertheless they can start, but they are not allowed to take final exams and that is required for further education.

As a Foundation, we are committed to obtain money that is needed for the necessary equipment's. We have appealed to the Dutch Jan Amos Comenius Foundation for this with positive results. That has yielded a nice amount. At the moment we are still in consultation with Wilde Ganzen, a Dutch NGO. Their policy is to support schools that are funded by the government only because these schools seem less vulnerable. We were able to convince them that Oloo's Education Center is a reliable and solid school and reaches children who cannot go to a government school because of the costs and distance. The consultation with Wilde Ganzen continues. It will become clear at the beginning of 2025 whether we are eligible for their support.

For the first time, we have now also written to two companies and a few organizations and have asked them to become sponsors of Oloo Education Center in exchange for being listed on our website. Without any results till now but we will wait, hope and see.

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Project sponsoring school fees for secondary education

Thanks to enthusiastic and benevolent friends and family, 23 students were able to start further education in January 2024 (always boarding schools). This will take (still the old school system) four years and we have also entered into the payment obligation for four years. For another three children, we could not guarantee that a year ago. Their first year was paid for with a loan taken out by parents. A new round of begging has made that we now have almost enough to allow these children to start the second year in February 2025. We now know that all children also want and are allowed to continue with the second year.

The actual payment goes through the parents in three terms per school year. At the end of each term, parents receive an invoice (see picture) on which the costs for the coming term are calculated. The school fees requested vary slightly per term. Parents forward these bills to Judy Oloo, who in turn forwards them to our treasurer. The payment goes the other way around: from treasurer to Judy Oloo to parents to school. It is a somewhat cumbersome road but seems to be the most reliable for now.

Death of Billy Wasonga

Billy Wasonga was a headteacher and a valuable and beloved colleague. He died in August due to a horrible accident — a fire at the market where his mother had a stall. The loss is great. His commitment to the school became especially clear when Judy was unable to work for a while in 2023 due to birth giving by a caesarean section. As a Foundation, we felt that we had to do something extra. We set up a kind of crowdfunding so that we could support Billy's mother, his son who stayed behind and the school for the mourning ceremonies. The almost thousand euros we received was spent on that.

The Friends of Kibera Foundation

There is little news about the Foundation itself this time. The two new projects are presented on the website. The two points of attention have led to many new contacts and new donations; sometimes once, sometimes structurally. Together with the donors, we remain committed to this beautiful project. If there is a reason, we post on LinkedIn. Posting at the right time with the right message seems to be an incentive for some people to donate. We will therefore continue to do so.

If there are any questions or suggestions regarding this Newsletter, please let us know. We send a newsletter to everyone who has donated and/or is interested in our school. If you do not want to receive it in the future, you can report this to Gerda Geerdink: secretaris@vriendenvankibera.nl. You can always forward it to other interested parties and register new interested parties. Thank you for your support and/or interest!

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RSIN/Tax number: 859738917. Friends of Kibera has been designated by the Dutch tax authorities as an ANBI (Public Benefit Institution). This means that all donations are deductible from income or corporation tax under certain conditions. More favorable conditions apply to periodic donations (minimum 5 years). We can always make an adapted proof of payment for non-Dutch donors.