



KUNE ZUVA NEWSLETTER

2019 / 2020 #21

The Foundation

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, Malawi and Tanzania.

Funds

Last year Kune Zuva received sponsorship of €8,000, in response to the Christmas newsletter. In addition to private sponsors, some organisations and schools are involved with our work. It is due to these contributions that we could spend almost €40,000 on meaningful projects in 2019. Thank you!

Looking back

In South Sudan, the next classroom of 'our' school is being built right now. Malaria has been a major problem in recent months; some students have already died. Unfortunately, medicines are only available to a limited extent. For the future, work has to be done both on prevention and on making medication available.

In Kenya we met Stacy (9), an orphan girl who has been living with her uncle and grandmother in the slum since her parents' accident. Her school sent her home several times because the school fees had not been paid. As young as she is, she takes action herself. She was referred to us after presenting her case to a local religious organisation. Very special!

As per previous years, we have received many new applications from which a choice will be made in the coming months. In addition, every year we say goodbye to various students that we have supervised and supported for years. Fortunately, most find a job fast. As well as working, some continue to study to a higher level, but on their own expense. This year, for example, we are saying goodbye to the Ethiopian Abenezzer who has recently become a radiologist.

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

Introducing...

James Mangeni, contact person, Benga, Malawi

James is the fifth child of six, born in western Kenya but raised in the capital Nairobi. After high school, he started working as a cook in a small restaurant in the city. There he became inspired by a seminarian from Uganda. Searching for his vocation, he ended up with a group of priests who have missions in Turkana (Kenya). Seven years ago James decided to quit his job and fully focus on an active life as a missionary-to-be.

In recent years he studied philosophy at the Open University in South Africa while building a new mission in Malawi. He plays an important role in shaping and organizing the albinism project (see overleaf). Therefore he is an important contact for us for the current status, the challenges they face and booked progress of the albinos. Eventually he will continue his studies at the seminary in Philippines for another four years.

African Albinism - 'White' people in Malawi

In Benga, not far from Lake Malawi, James and Father Steven work together to create a better life for people with albinism. Between 7,000 and 10,000 people with this genetic disorder live in Malawi. Because of this gene, the pigment in the skin is absent, which makes their skin white. And because their eyes do not contain melanin, they cannot see well. Sixty albinos live in the working area of our contacts.

Threats:

The biggest threat is the sun, which shines here often and intensely. The unpigmented skin is very sensitive to skin cancer due to sunburn. Working on the land in the sun is dangerous without the proper protection given by clothing and sunscreen. Outdoors, eye protection with sunglasses is necessary.

Perhaps superstition is a much greater danger. The environment is convinced that albino bones bring good luck. Degrading is the danger of kidnapping and slaughter that is constantly lurking for albinos. Their body parts are chopped off, sometimes dead, sometimes alive. Bones, hair and meat are ground and sold for a lot of money as magic potions for luck by medicine men. Working outdoors or traveling alone is not possible. A guardian is always needed to protect them. Some albinos even have to fear for their family members. Babies and children are regularly murdered and then sold. The national organization for people with albinism is working hard to stop this kind of practice. They do this through information and with help from the government. Unfortunately, this threat to albinos has only increased in recent years, particularly around election time.

Education:

For albino children it is important to be able to go to school in a safe environment: safe from the sun and for people who want to harm them. If children in Europe can already be the target of bullying behavior at school, it is easy to imagine how an albino child can become traumatized at a young age. This is something that we, as Kune Zuva, can and want to support; a safe place with good guidance for these children.

Program:

In the past year the albinos and their supervisors have been invited to come to the mission monthly. During these sessions, different aspects of albinism are discussed and they receive protective clothing and sunscreen. Specialists also visit, such as a dermatologist to check the skin, and an optician to check the eyes.

Particular attention is paid to issues that can bring something positive. For example taking care of the skin, but also daring to talk about fears and problems. The trauma that most of these people have is big. Singing, dancing, making music and playing together becomes a little easier every meeting. Albino photo models and success stories are also shown, to give these people more confidence and self-respect.

Kune Zuva supports, among other things, the search for opportunities to provide for their livelihood while still being safe from the sun and the environment. We are also looking at how current living conditions can be improved, such as learning skills or making tools and protective equipment available. Help us to help the albinos in Malawi, so that they too can have a decent life.

Foundation Kune Zuva

Toisedijk 10 NL4681 SV Nieuw-Vossemeer

Phone +31-167 503186 e-mail info@kunezuva.nl

www.kunezuva.nl NL89 INGB 000 5837915

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, Toisedijk 10, 4681 SV Nieuw Vossemeer, The Netherlands. By supporting our Foundation, you are not just wishing us a happy 2020, but you will let the sun shine for 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 2020!