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Chamber of Commerce no. 68254237 Account NL90 RABO 031 729
3001 in the name of Lwengo Kids Foundation - Putten

Putten, December 2017

Journey October 2017

We start with our trip last October. For us (Pieter and Marga) also the first time that sponsor parents went along and also the first time that we went to see all the children. Quite exciting, but with a lot of enthusiasm we went on our way and indeed we saw and talked to all the children. First at school, later at their home. We have done our best to inform you in a personal email of the ups and downs of your sponsor child. We hope that this has worked out a bit. A number of children who seem to need a little more care are in my "blue book" and Anthony has promised me to keep a close eye on these children by visiting the Community and more often. The relevant sponsor parents are informed.

Nicole van Laarhoven, Max van Maanen and Peter Sennema went on a trip and give some of their impressions below.

Lwengo in Uganda, an impression.....

"Africa, a long-cherished wish fulfilled, that this would be to visit my sponsor child in Uganda, I never thought! Excited by the Lwengo stories that Marga & Pieter told me and can now see everything with their own eyes. A super team, which, with contact people such as Anthony and Jjingoo, is committed to doing everything in their power for the children and the school.



The highlight was of course the visit to the sponsor children at school and at home and to rejoice them with all the gifts that the sponsor parents had given. How enthusiastic and happy they all were.... Dear sponsor parents, Lwengo Kids Foundation desperately needs us... so spread the word!!"
Nicole

And Max says:

Of course we wanted to participate as sponsors when Pieter and Marga talked about the foundation a year ago.

"Lwengo Kids" heard. We then received information about our sponsor male 'Owen', a 5-year-old boy. But there were also questions: can his parents take care of him? What does his school look like? What exactly does the foundation do in Lwengo?

Reasons enough to take a look with other sponsor parents in October. The bumpy roads, the stomach problems and other inconveniences during the stay there, I leave out. I have seen with amazement and admiration how the people of Lwengo live: the houses are poor, most families are incomplete, unemployment is enormous; There is almost no income and the school has to make ends meet with far too few resources. But the gratitude and enthusiasm with which we were welcomed was overwhelming! What a commitment and optimism from the school staff and what a cheerfulness and zest for life from the 500 schoolchildren I have seen! The radiant smile of the children and their enormous joy will always stay with me. Will Owen make it? I don't know, but he gets a chance at a future through the great work of the Lwengo Kids Foundation

God bless you!

For us, most things are already normal, while others, who are coming into a developing area for the first time, become silent about what they see and experience.



But despite all the impressions, we also had a lot of fun together. We will certainly look at various learning points and possibly change them. On the last page of this newsletter, you will find the extensive report of sponsor parent Peter Sennema. He had trouble giving a small impression in the 125 words I requested. However, I found his story so striking that I don't want to withhold it from you and have included it in its entirety... for under the Christmas tree...

Change of board

As you may have seen on the website, a number of things have changed within the board. Bert and Judith Beld could not combine work with their job and young family and have therefore decided to transfer their tasks within the board to people who have more time for this. Pieter has assumed the chairmanship and Marga has taken over the secretariat. We have found Wim Bos willing to manage both the Dutch euros and the Ugandan shillings. Hetty Kuipers is board member General Affairs and Publicity and in this formation we are working to make Lwengo Kids Foundation a solid organization.

We will continue to look for younger people who want to join us, so that we become less vulnerable. If you/you feel addressed or know someone who would be eligible for this, please let us know.

Facebook action boda-boda



Anthony occasionally posts something on facebook. So is a picture of Augustine taking the children who live far away to school with the boda-boda every

morning and back home in the evening. This boda-boda is old and in need of replacement. Sanne Streefkerk has spontaneously started an action and in the meantime almost 500 euros have already been received. A new boda-boda costs more than 900 euros and actually two are needed. If you have a few euros left this month..... You can deposit it on the well-known bank account number (page 1) stating "boda-boda", for which we thank you in advance.

Email address

We have some problems with our email address. We simply receive mail and can also send with info@lwengokids.nl. However, the problem is that the sent messages disappear into thin air and that is less pleasant. That is why you will receive an e-mail from us via Marga's g-mail address. We hope to be able to solve this in the future.

In the meantime, you have all also received the large envelope with, among other things, the *on-the-growth booklet*. We are going to expand the booklet. You have been able to see on the question cards what the children (want to) eat. Sometimes these are things we don't know about. Together with Dick (son of Anthony) I am writing a story about this food that is so common for the children. He knows better than anyone how things are arranged and this gives us a nice, realistic picture of what the children eat. There will be more "attachments". If you have a subject that you would like to know more about, please let me know and I will work on it.

Structural support of Lwengo

Hanno Kiezebrink and Kuma Kabare have been active in Congo for several years (Etike Foundation). In June 2017 I travelled with them to Congo to see how they shape their activity, the realization of mortuaries. I was (and am) impressed. Under very difficult circumstances, they have been able to set up a source of income in Congo, so that their projects are no longer completely dependent on donations from the Netherlands and can largely support themselves. A mega achievement.

With this experience, the three of us arrived last August. went to Uganda to make first contacts and drop our Congolese ideas. Great enthusiasm and a fantastic cooperation with our (well-known) Ugandan partners made it necessary that we in November last. had to go to Uganda again.

In the meantime, we have been able to give various presentations of our plans and all signals seem to be green. Also in Uganda we will start setting up mortuaries, probably in 3 places at the same time. The need for refrigerated morgues (there are none at all) is enormous. The knowledge and experience with mortuaries is also not there. Hanno and Kuma would like to share their knowledge and experience and set up this business with me in Uganda.

For the record. It is not about making money for ourselves. No, we want to generate money with this activity for the poorest families in Lwengo. By running mortuaries, we also create employment, which can also bring this district to a higher level.

Of course, there is much more to tell about this. I would like to do that later when we are a little further along with the plans. For the record; We aim to have three mortuaria operational in the 3rd quarter of 2018.



In the photo a mortuary as it is now used in Masaka. The deceased people just lie there on the ground, of which we will spare you the photos

Kind regards, Pieter Streefkerk

For more information about Stichting Etike, please visit www.stichting-etike.nl

New Year's sponsor meeting

On January 20th we will organize a New Year's sponsor meeting together with the Etike Foundation.

Location op-Eest, Landgoed Schovenhorst, Garderenseweg 93b in Putten

The time and how we will further shape this is not yet known. You will receive further information about this.



In any case, there is then every opportunity to get acquainted with the board and obtain information about both foundations.

Shop



The ladies in Masaka have been working hard again with Joseph on the terrace to manufacture the necessary items for our webshop. Nice hoarse and potholders with our

figurehead Lwengie, but also nice little bags and much more.

Sponsor children

We now have 56 children (Tonny, *Phoebe, Isma, Joyce, Jamadah, Tonny K, Catherine, Moreen Molly, Michael, Rose, Firidausi, Ronald, Daniel, Lawrence, Hope, Atanansi, Racheal, Owen, Erone, Brenda, Viola, Dalilah, Robert, Joseph, Tendo, Andrew, Shirat, Andrew M., Ashurah, Moreen, Gerald, Brenda K., Grace, Robert K., Rodgers, Shakibuh, Justus, Hudson, Benard, Gerald K., Atinah, Brian, Suzan, Prisca, Moriss, Martha, Eseza, Irene, Shukurat, Ronald, Muniru, Jane, Judith, Calvin, Allan and Martin*) in sponsorship. Most children are doing very well since they can go to school, but some children are listed in my "blue book" as being "very vulnerable" and therefore need extra attention. The result of our visit in October. How valuable it is to see face-to-face how the children are doing, to have a conversation with them and with their caregivers. This will definitely be followed up and if everything goes as planned, Pieter and I will visit the children together again in April. We want to spend a little more time on it, but we will have to work in a different way.

We will then meet the first 50 children at school and talk to them in person. We will visit the new group of children at home to get a good idea of what it is like at home.

We conclude this long newsletter with wishes for Lwengo that;

- Sanne's Facebook action leads to two boda-bodas;
- the children at school get new school uniforms
- there are enough sponsors to be able to pay the teachers every month
- many new sponsor parents are found
- One-time donations allow us to further support the community

Good holidays and a
healthy 2018

and to draw your attention to a beautiful impression of the trip to Uganda, written by Peter Sennema on the following page.



Wim Bos, Hetty Kuipers, Pieter and Marga Streefkerk



October 12th is finally the day; the trip to Uganda. Exciting, I don't know what to expect. But, I go for it, curious about what my closest neighbors have been so touched by, but also about an African country that I only know from the news and from the atlas. The journey goes well, the arrival late at night in Entebbe where Andrew is waiting for us. Confrontation with Africa: the power goes out when the suitcases have to be tied on top of the van. Luckily, I have a flashlight on my phone. The 1st night in a hotel in the middle of Kampala, a boy with a gun keeps watch at the entrance. Warm, stuffy and smoky. The next day Kampala with all its hustle and bustle and then via the equator to Masaka Backpackers where we are welcomed by Joseph and his ladies. Nice place on a hill with a view. On the way Pieter showed us the place where the morgue should be. I am touched by a couple of small children who come to us, barefoot, in torn clothes. Mother is chopping on the land with a hoe to loosen the ground. Marga comes with balloons, the children are so happy.

But the goal of our trip is Lwengo and on Monday we go cheerfully on our way. The last part is a dirt road with many potholes and bumps. The bus has way too high a speed, is that okay? But then we arrive in Lwengo, a village from a record book about Africa from the past. Shabby houses, many people lighting fires outside to prepare food, everyone is pretty much hanging on the side of the road. What a different world. And then we arrive at the school. Hundreds of children in orange-dark blue uniforms form a hedge of honour and sing our welcome. What a warm welcome, but I feel embarrassed. I pay a little bit of money to get a child to go to school,



that's the least I can do. This tribute doesn't fit in with that. I'm left behind, don't know what to do. But then a kid comes up to me and takes my hand. I see that he is

disabled, but he looks at me with such wide eyes. There will be more children, they want to touch me because I have white skin. How would that feel?

The teachers all introduce themselves to us and we introduce ourselves to them. And then we go to the classes. There's a big barrel in the middle of the class, there's some kind of porridge in there. The children come with a mug and are allowed to scoop it out and drink it. A teacher asks me if I want to taste this, I thank them, but notice that it is not well received. Then we enter the classroom where the sponsor children sit together. I'm looking for Lawrence, our sponsor child, but it's hard for me to tell them apart. I show the picture to one of the children: he points to a child who immediately comes to me. Yes, that's Lawrence. He's shy, so am I. Marga asked all the children

fill out a questionnaire for the sponsor parents and Lawrence does the same and I help him with that. That breaks the tension. I also help another kid who is a bit freer. He tells me he's been at school for 3 months and then goes home for a vacation. But he prefers to be at school, that's saying something. I ask him what he likes to eat. He doesn't have to think about that: rice! But unfortunately he rarely gets that, it is a certain corn porridge and beans every day. Later that day I come



to Lawrence's house, with his mother, a divorced woman who raises only 4 children, 2 children of her own and 2 orphans. They are happy with the presents, I respect the way they handle their

situation. Lawrence also has a gift for me: he made a small ball out of waste sheet and plastic, tied together with rope. I am moved because I see how happy he is that he can give me something. I promise to take this gift with him and keep it with me. We also visit the other sponsor children, sometimes at the back of the boda boda and we race through fields with corn plants, bean plants, banana trees and coffee bushes. What I see in what circumstances people sometimes live and children have to grow up is impossible to imagine if you come from the rich west. It gives a lot of impressions. Lawrence is already becoming very much his own, the next day when we go back to school and have a sports day with the children, we always walk hand in hand. At the end of the 2nd day I am happy that we are going back to Masaka. All the impressions I have gained are equally enough. If we get the chance to see another side of Uganda later, I'll gladly take that chance. But wherever we go, we see that poverty prevails. Tea plantations where so many people are hunched over all day in the scorching sun, sometimes with babies on their backs, picking tea leaves. I sometimes think about it when I drink a cup of tea at home.

It was an impressive journey. When I come home on Sunday, I have a lot to say, but what you have experienced is not easy to put into words. The next day I'm back at work; a huge changeover. Our lives go on again but the memory remains.

All due respect to people like Pieter and Marga who are actually trying to do something right there, because every little bit helps...

according to Peter Sennema