

# Lwengo Kids Foundation

Newsletter no. 22 – June 2025



## From the board

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank all sponsors who have given a note or card for their sponsor children. This time we took 230 letters with us, a record so far!



In May we gave a presentation to a group of sponsors who would like to join us. It was a pleasant morning and in October we will travel to Uganda with 7 sponsors. Two sponsors will

join us later. We are fully booked for this year, but if you want to join us next year, that possibility will be there again in October 2026!

### *Board decisions*

Because many sponsor children go to Secondary School, the number of children at Primary School is getting smaller. If we don't do anything about it, it means that there will be less income for LWERUDES0 and that the quality of education will deteriorate. We can prevent this by taking on children again at the bottom. We do, but in doing so we have exceeded the magic limit of 250. It has therefore been decided to increase that limit to 300 children in phases, so that we retain our core value of "small-scale".

Then: the school and the dormitories are bursting at the seams and that is because of Anthony's big heart who wants to give the poorest children and disabled children a place at his school.

In good consultation, it has been decided that no more than 700 children will be accepted at school. There are now 650 children at school.

There are also children at school whose parents cannot pay the school fee. In exchange for some chores that parents want to do at school, Anthony turns a blind eye to these children with his big heart. In the meantime I have received a list of these children and while talking we have decided in good consultation that we will only sponsor the children who are on this list and are therefore already at school but do not pay a school fee. There are more than 100 children on this list. In this way, we hope to improve LWERUDES0's finances together.

In line with this, we are considering in the board to slightly increase the sponsor contribution. Prices are also still rising in Uganda. For example, the prices of eggs have risen enormously. Costs that are immediately noticeable to us through, for example, the extra food that the children receive in the form of a weekly egg and supplementation of the food with fish.

But the salaries of the staff, the prices of books, notebooks, etc. are also rising steadily. When and if the increase will be implemented we will work out further this year. It is expected that LWERUDES0 will also have to pass on inflation in its school fees.

To be continued.

## Visiting Joseph at home

During our work trips we visit new sponsor children at home to get to know the parents / guardians and then we immediately see where the children live. And so we sometimes end up somewhere we don't know what to do with.

I will take you on a home visit to Joseph. Of course Joseph is at school, but there we pick him up and drive to his house. Riding in the car is a party in itself for this little man!



In front of the house it looks neat. In the middle of the small yard a beautiful purple plant is blooming.

Father opens the door and we "climb" up the high sidewalk inside. It is super small. There are two mats in a corner and there

are 2 small, wooden benches. There is no more space either. The two children sleep on the mats. Around the corner is another tiny room, where there is an old, worn-out mattress and there father and mother sleep.

Then there are 2 toothbrushes sticking out of the wall.. Mother now also comes in and then the family is complete. These people are so poor that it is a struggle every day to feed the family. Mother sighs and says that they are doing well, but that there is a shortage of everything. She is closer to crying than laughing.



The parents are very happy that Joseph can now also go to school, because he also gets food there.

It is again a matter of swallowing and thinking about how we can offer help here. I take some notes and then we leave, but the family gets stuck in my head, because help has to come here.

I report the visit to the sponsor and we agree that we have to help here. I ask Anthony to make an inventory of what is needed and together with the sponsor we are going to make this family happy with good mattresses and blankets, jerry cans so that they can get clean drinking water from the neighbor's tank and some other things that will help the family directly.

Very happy with it! I wonder: what if we didn't monitor the families....

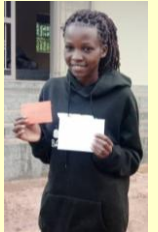
## But also successes

Small children grow up and so a number of our sponsor children have graduated and now have a job.



We have had Jesca in sponsorship. She is now a teacher at LWERUDES School and with the help of her sponsor she has a small shop, where she sells all kinds of office and school supplies. She also always takes care of the small gifts for the sponsor children.

Racheal was able to follow a course at the Petroleum Institute Kigumba. She has now been able to get a job in this industry.



I think of Sylvia, she wanted to become a midwife, but unfortunately that was a level too high for her. Then she chose to be a kindergarten teacher and she succeeded! She also has a job in education.

And what do you think of Brian! It wasn't easy for him. He had major problems at the Secondary School and it was decided to take him out of there. He has started training in woodworking and now has a job at the local carpentry workshop and is a happy, cheerful boy.



When we speak to these young people and hear how happy they are with the opportunities they have been given... then, yes then we know what we are doing it for! Great, right?!

## Michael would like to become a doctor:

We have had Michael in sponsorship from the beginning and he is a very good student. He is now in Secondary 6 and is working hard to achieve that.

In April we spoke to him and asked him: "and then?" His greatest wish is to study to become a doctor. Then he has to go to university next year.

Unfortunately, his sponsorship has been canceled and it is not possible for him to follow this dream study....

Provided that a new sponsor is found who wants to pay his study costs. And that's quite a lot. The study lasts 5 years and costs € 2,500 per year. A lot of money, but maybe with family, friends or colleagues?

How great it would be if we could tell him in October that he can follow his dream study, so that he can then help his family, his Lwengo.

You can contact me via email or app!

## Donation to Lwengo Kids Foundation

In recent years, sponsors have regularly decided not to ask for gifts at a party but to suggest a donation for the Lwengo Kids Foundation. Recently, a sponsor turned 70 years old. She threw a big party and discussed with us if there was a specific cause in Lwengo to which her guests could make a donation. That goal was there: the renovation of the playground for the smallest children. Her guests gave generously for this purpose and she supplemented it herself to € 3,500. How nice is that? Maybe also an idea for your party?

Recently, a sponsor asked us what the estimated total costs for the sponsorship of their sponsor child are. He included a reservation in his will for the education costs until his child graduated. You just have to think about it, which is why we are happy to pass this idea on to you.

Of course, you can also include a donation for our foundation in your will. This bequest clearly describes the amount you want to leave to the Lwengo Kids Foundation. The bequest is paid from the total inheritance, before the rest is divided among the heirs.

### A first impression

During our work trip in April, our new board member Sandra (and her partner) traveled with us. Below is a short report from her.

*"Anthony, our partner in Uganda, asked on the last day of our trip: 'What title would your book have when you are at home in the Netherlands and you are going to write about your trip?' Almost immediately I came up with the title; 'The suffering behind the beauty!' (The suffering behind the beauty!). And why? Because during our trip we have seen a beautiful country when it comes to the nature and hospitality of the Ugandans, and when it comes to the gratitude to take steps forward together for a better future.*

*Unfortunately, behind this 'beauty' there is also sadness and poverty, but also the powerlessness of the local population in the face of the power of the government.*

*What have we been able to see and experience; The class with disabled children deserves extra attention because the resources are limited for this target group. The mats, which we purchased locally (to be able to sit and play more comfortably on the floor), were immediately put into use with great pleasure.*

*In the Health Center we were given an extensive tour. With pride and passion, the employees talk about their possibilities for the community when it comes to health compared to a few years ago.*

*We were able to give the doctor in charge a mobile phone so that he and the Health Center are finally accessible to the entire community. Thanks to the (anonymous) giver.*

*We have been to the construction site of the new teacher houses to be built. Because accommodating teachers in a house close to work binds the teachers to the school.*

*Where we use all kinds of devices and machines to build houses, here the heavy stones are thrown into the air like feathers and smoothly caught on top of the new house to be built. We are breathless!*

*We are aware that we cannot solve all the problems here. What we can do (together with the sponsors) of Lwengo Kids Foundation is make a difference for a child, a family!"*

Sandra Timmer

### Pub quiz



It was another pleasant evening in March in the auditorium of Groevenbeek! Besides the fact that it was fun, we also raised a nice amount. We spent this money on a new bodaboda that was

really needed. It is used for home visits, to get sick children home or to the Health Center quickly, but also to bring children home after school.

Our next Pub quiz is on November 21st. You can sign up by sending a Whatsapp to Peter Sennema, 06 3741 7783. Very welcome alone or with a team of up to 6 people.

### Summer

Time to take it easy for a while. To enjoy holidays and some more free time. Just (almost) nothing, just recover from all the hustle and bustle to get inspiration for the new season.

On behalf of the board of the Lwengo Kids Foundation, I wish you a good summer!

Marga Streefkerk