

Newsletter Tanzania December 2008

News from the Centres

Malimbe Family

The rainy season has started! We are very pleased that we now have enough water. We had already decided to install roof gutters at the houses, toilets and office building, so that we can collect the rainwater. The grass is growing at the moment and every day the boys cut grass for our six cows and two calves. On a large area of the compound we have planted banana trees, sugar cane, beans and peanuts. The garden is receiving a lot of attention under the guidance of Mr. Kingi.

Seven boys from the Back Home House have moved to Malimbe Family. The situation of boys at home was such a nature that we decided, with the parents and family, to move them to Malimbe. It is good to see how quickly these boys feel at home in Malimbe and how happy they are that they are able to go to school.

The staff went with six boys, who completed the primary school, to their families to discuss the opportunity to continue their studies at home with support from Upendo Daima. This worked out well for four boys but the other two boys cannot go home, and they remain under the supervision of Upendo Daima. We anticipate that next year, approximately 15 boys will leave the primary school.

Important news is that Mathias has been operated on both feet. He had a hereditary defect on his knees, and as a result his legs were completely bent. We found Mathias last year on the streets. He has been operated, with full consent of his parents, and again back in Malimbe. He received a wheelchair from the Rotary Club. After his return in Malimbe, he said: "later on when I am big and have a good job, I'm going to build a house for Marga!"

Back Home House

At the moment, there are 25 children in the Back Home House. Unfortunately, some children run away again, since they are still not able to live in a structured way.

What does a normal day look like? The children wake up, wash themselves and tidy up their rooms. After breakfast, they will receive “capacitar training” in small groups. This consists of concentration and Tai Chi exercises. This is good for their health. Thereafter they follow lessons in mathematics and language, history and geography. Counselling also takes place in the morning. In the afternoon, there is a time for garden, games, and soccer. In the evening there is reading from the children's Bible and sometimes the children watch television. In the weekly meeting a work plan is made and one week later it is checked if the objectives have been reached. The transitional problems of the change from the Day Care Centre to the Back Home House have been overcome and the staff is used to the new set up.

The organisation

Administration. Mama Isabella and I have made a new distribution of tasks. It became apparent that we need an accountant. The job description of the position is ready, and we hope to have a new employee in our midst as of 1 January 2009.

Network. We are already for some time working on a network, in which the organisations in Mwanza, who deal with street children, can work together. We have drawn up a plan which is now with the Head of the Social Service, and are waiting for a response from them. In September Hoja has attended a symposium of ISMO (International Society for Mobile Youth work) in Germany. He learned there a great deal. To share this knowledge, he has set up a workshop for the staff of U.D. and the Streetwise Africa Organisation, who just like us looks after the needs of street children, (See: www.streetwise-africa.org) participated as well.

Finally, we would like to thank you very much for all your support, financial and moral, which we received last year. Wilma and Maria, committee members, visited in Mwanza. My two sisters Wilma and Cissy were here for a month. We had an unforgettable time with them. Next year Hoja and I will visit the Netherlands. We have been invited again to come to Wurzburg in October. If

someone knows a home for us or has a car we may use, we are very interested.

On behalf of the children and the staff I would like to wish you a happy Christmas and a healthy 2009, full of love.

Marga.

Message of the Treasurer

Tax free donation. Just do it! More and more people are asking us, if we can arrange that you as a donor can make tax free donations. This could mean that the tax authorities pay between 16-52 % of your donation, depending on your personal situation. We will organise this if there is sufficient interest. If you are interested, please contact Jan van Bergen and mail to info@upendodaima.nl .

Newsletter the Netherlands December 2008

After a busy spring with many activities followed by a quiet summer. This was the case for the Netherlands, but it was 'all hands on deck' in Tanzania. Both Wilma van Hienen as Maria van Strijp, (as chairman and committee member respectively) visited our project this summer. You can read the reports here below.

Visit of Wilma van Hienen.

In July/August 2008 I visited the project together with my son Christiaan. At first sight the city of Mwanza looks a lot more modern than a few years ago and there is now a parking garage. However, for a large proportion of the inhabitants of Mwanza, everyday life remains a matter of survival. There are still a lot of street children, who sleep under bridges or in the vicinity of bus stations. I followed Marga in all her activities and, where possible I have helped her. In the Back Home House, I participated in Tai Chi, and the Mathematics and English lessons, joined the lunch meal, and played football with the boys on a small field further down the street. It was fun to see how the boys spend their free time in Malimbe Family. In fact, just like our children with games (in

the sand), strip books, a small radio or homework. And above all football, in which they are rather fanatical. It was very pleasing to see how involved Hoja and Isabella (works in the Office) are in the Upendo Daima work. Together with Marga they are the core of the organisation.

Visit of Maria van Strijp.

In September I visited Mwanza for the 11th time in 6 years. Each visit is a new experience; Africa is full of surprises. I was very interested in the Back Home House, which I had seen when it was just purchased. It is now a completely different house, with plastered walls, and everything has been painted. An outdoor kitchen and a wonderful classroom have been added as well as a separate toilet. Now is a house full of life and happiness. The boys are very disciplined, no screaming during the meal and they do the dishes very neatly. In a subsequent visit, I hope to be able to admire the new dormitory.

Visit Bert Steinman.

Bert is of oboists of 'Holland Symfonia' and founder of the Foundation. 'Spelenderwijs naar Tanzania' (To Tanzania in a playful way) . At the beginning of July Bert went to Tanzania together with his two daughters. In addition to his own instruments, he brought a number of instruments donated by Muziekhandel Terpstra. Together with his daughters, Bert has given music lessons to the children of Malimbe Family. At his farewell, he walked in a parade on the compound, whilst the children were making music. The children still have weekly music lesson using his instruments.

Activities

In September, we took part in the elections for the Millennium Target Award 2008. This was organised by, inter alia, Cos Utrecht. For more information, see www.cosutrecht.nl

Results of our applications from donor organisations.

From the **Ziekenfondsboede** , part of AGIS insurance scheme, we received a substantial contribution of 8412 Euro, for the dormitory of the Back Home House. The Dutch

Albert Schweitzer Fund donated 7500 Euro for medical facilities in Malimbe Family. These facilities comprise a First Aid house and the weekly visits of a medical practitioner.

Stichting Pelgrimshoeve in Zoetermeer supported us with an amount of 1750 Euro. The Pelgrimshoeve is a second-hand market, and all income is used for projects of social importance.

Progmatic, a company for industrial automation in Steenberg, made us happy with 1000 Euro. This company donates annually 2% of their net profits to two charities. A good example for other companies! (www.progmatic.nl)

We wish to thank everyone for their support. In particular we would like to thank our regular donors . Without their help, we would not be able to pay all of the daily cost for the children in Tanzania. There wouldn't even be a project without you! We sincerely hope that you will continue to support the street children by transferring your donations to account no. 10.22.27.365 from "Stichting Upendo Daima Nederland" in Maarssen. It is now also possible to make a donation digitally, using the Web site (up to 100 Euro): (www.upendodaima.nl). Do you think of the children of Upendo Daima at Christmas? Thank you in advance. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2009.