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It is seven months now since we published our last newsletter, so it is high time to inform you among others about:

- The building projects in Dhanka and Karro
- Our financial situation
- Our aim at sustainability through the microcredit programs for mothers of 'our' pupils

You will find more information on our website and soon you will be able to download the 2012 Balance Sheet.

Progress in Dhanka

Filseta Mariam School in the village of Dhanka is a Roman Catholic mission school of 700 pupils, supported by our charity. As you know from our earlier newsletters, the diocese wants the school to be able to offer 8 years schooling instead of 6. At the moment pupils who have finished their year 6 need to go to the city of Dembi Dolla to pursue their schooling in year 7 and 8. This is a journey of 10 km on foot - needless to say not without risk, for the girls. So there is a real chance that their participation in education will be less. No wonder that the local people of Dhanka, represented in a school committee, are very happy with the decision to offer 8 years of education instead of 6, because this means that their children will be able to be educated in their own village.



Filseta Mariam school in Dhanka

In 2012 and in 2013 our charity was involved in the organization of the Lent Action in a few Roman Catholic parishes in Noord-Holland. This brought in the excellent amount of 52.000 euro in 2012 and of 46.000 euro in 2013 (included the contribution by the Cordaid Foundation who added 50% to the total!) This is a big amount of money, even by Dutch standards, but a lot has to be done with it. The school needs 4 more

rooms and it wants to develop certain activities to cover the yearly expenses. With that in mind they bought 5 ha land to breed ox that will provide meat in due course... Also they will grow crops to feed the cattle and coffee. A bigger coffee plantation is planned for the future. The actual building of the extra class rooms has started already, and in September the pupils of year 7 will be able to attend school in their own village!

Houses for the teachers in Karro

The building of teachers' houses in Karro started last February. It took us two years to organize the financing of the project. This has been made possible by the contribution of the Wilde Ganzen Foundation who increased their contribution. Other contributions came from the Kiwanis, Kook, Wees een Kans, the Solidariteitsfonds Keizersgracht Foundations - as well as many individuals.

The houses are meant for the teachers to live in during the week, so they will only be going home at the weekends. Many parents helped us to prepare the building site. The roof has been installed but the masonry of the walls needs to be reinforced. The nuns send us photographs to keep us posted.



Zr. Lourdes watches the building site

Finances

Contributors

Many of you have given a contribution last year as you did previously. Those who haven't done this yet, but intend to do so, might want to pay through Ideal. You can find the link on our website.

Using a PAD makes things a lot easier for us! In case you'd want to give your contribution this way in the future, please let us know by sending a letter or by filling in the form on our website to be found on page 'Doe mee'. It is thanks to all your gifts and thanks to the actions that have and will be organized that we are able to continue our work for the children of Ethiopia. We feel very supported by you and we want to thank you - a lot!

Gifts by Notary Acts

Many of you asked about tax deduction possibilities for donations. This is possible indeed, provided you make your gift during a period of at least five years via a Notary Act. There is no hurdle. The charity will pay the notary costs. So this is a win-win situation: a tax advantage for the donor and a security of income for us. On our website you'll find more information and you can also download the mandate for your gift.

You can be sure that 100% of your donation will be spend on this good cause!

Women Promotion Projects

This is the third and last year of our Woman Promotion Project in Komto. We told you in our last newsletter that the participants have been able to pay back the small investment that was made three years ago. Microcredit on a small scale.



Cattle at home (in Nekemte)

This successful project needs a follow up. That is why we recently started a second Woman Promotion Project in the city of Nekemte. 30 Mothers of our pupils at the Kidane Mihret School were presented with a cow that is either pregnant or is already giving milk. During the nights the cow will stay with its owner and during daytime

it will be pastured outside town. We visited a household like that in Nekemte. Milk and, in due course, meat can be sold in town. The women are following workshops to increase their knowledge and expertise. We are confident that this project will be equally successful as before.

A selection from last month's actions

Zuidermer's choice: sheep!

The pupils from St Michael's School chose their own project for their sponsored run on the 18th April. Out of three possibilities they chose the project 'Sheep for the Mothers of Sakko' (see also below under 'Future'). During a stormy day the children did their run on the island de Woude and they have provided 40 sheep!

Benefit concert in Alkmaar

The Bjerjozka choir performed on the 26th of April 2013 in the Vigilante for a full house. Before they started singing they gave a presentation about the school project and also about the beginnings of Russian music. This very successful evening raised 1000 euro.

Lions Langedijk

On the 7th of April 2013 Lions Langedijk organized a High Tea with concert. The total amount of 1500 euro was donated to our charity.

Future

In Karro and nearby Sakko 30 mothers will be presented with a pregnant sheep. This will allow them to pay the school fees for one child of their family. This year the sheep are donated by the charity.

In the village of Konchi the water pump has been stolen. As a result of this neither the school or the clinic have good drinking water any longer. Luckily a generous donor has made sure that there will be a new pump. However, the masonry of the little house that protects it needs to be reinforced. We will try to raise money for this project.

Youth unemployment is high in Ethiopia, so the future of graduate students remains our concern. We think that young people in search of a job need coaching. We discuss this problem with our partners over there.

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