



www.schoolprojectethiopia.nl

Secretariat:

Junohof 26
1829 DB Oudorp
tel. 072-5159523

Year 9, number 11

December 2013-12-15

Now that the year is nearly ended we can look back to many good things that have happened, including a financial windfall which has made it possible to achieve more in Ethiopia than expected.

In January 2014 three members of the board will visit the entire area. We are interested to see how the microcredit programmes in Komto and Nekemte are working and will also go to Dhanka to have a look at the recent extension of the school. In Karro we intend to admire the new housing development for teachers and we'll discuss the construction of new water supplies there. We will meet the children of course, and are looking forward to seeing the members of the staff again - who always give us a wonderfully warm welcome.

Water project in Karro

In our last newsletter we told you about the housing development for teachers in Karro. Now that these houses have been built, we need to focus on the supply of clean drinking water. The old tanks have proved to be too small and there is a need of more, and better, water pipes. Together with the nuns who work in Karro we asked for support from the diocese in Nekemte (NCS), the seat of the bishop. With help of the NCS the policy for this request has been re-emphasised. Responsibility to maintain the water supply in a sustainable way will be shared by the local community, the school and the hospital. The water committee, which includes members from all the parties concerned, will be trained to maintain it.

Part of this water project will be the purchase of a new water pump in Konchi and the building of a solid new little house that protects it.



Since the water pump in Konchi was stolen everybody needs to go to the source again in order to get their water

The entire plan will be assessed by a Dutch water engineer with a lot of expertise about this area in Ethiopia.

As you will have noticed, we won't be jumping into action because a big project like this one requires thorough preparation. But the plans are getting shape by now and we are happy to inform you that Cordaid recently decided to help finance the project.



The coffee ceremony is part of the warm welcome

Unexpected help

Recently our Secretary, Henk telephoned ING Bank because of a phishing email. The bank manager thanked him for letting them know about it, but that's not the entire story. The bank manager then asked: 'May I ask you a question, sir? You told me that you are secretary of the School project Ethiopia Trust. I am from Ethiopia myself! Please tell me more about your trust; in which part of the country do you work?'

Henk gave him that information and sent him the web address. During that conversation the bank manager looked at the site and told him that he would give a contribution!

Orphans in the capital

Our visits to Ethiopia always start in Addis Ababa. As soon as our plane has landed we send a text to the nuns of the congregation the Helpers of Mary who have their headquarters in the capital city. Whilst we are busy buying our visa and having our luggage searched, the nuns set out to come and collect us. We always spend our first night in Ethiopia - and our last for that matter - with them.

Up until now we haven't done any projects in the capital; we limited ourselves to the 11 villages in the West of Ethiopia. Now the nuns find themselves confronted with many problems in the capital Addis Ababa as well. Frequently unskilled young men are being exploited; they have to do hard work in unhealthy circumstances and are poorly paid. Many girls are married off at a very young age or end up as prostitutes. That's why the nuns asked our help with a schooling project to make sure that the poorest children who often are orphans or half orphans, get some education. Back in Holland we contacted the director of a company who is willing to adopt 20 children. Our trust made a contribution as well, so now 25 children will be able to receive some schooling.

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

Not enough textbooks

After the government decided to modernise the education programme, textbooks were updated as well. They were printed in India but there were not enough copies. On top of that, our mission schools are being charged four times as much as state schools for the same books. As a result there is a shortage of learning material for our children. At some schools the teachers resolved the problem by designing their own material which subsequently was photocopied.

But in order to do that one needs a photocopier and electricity!

In Komto, a mountain village, both were lacking. The solution of the problem came from Schagen. A project team collected money for a photocopier and our trust financed the generator which provides electricity. When we are there in early February 2014 we hope to see everything working in good order.

IG: Two 'Women Promotion Projects' (WPP)

Following the example of the WPP in Komto, a similar project started in Nekemte with help of our trust. Ten women did a training course in Basic Marketing and Business Skills, run by Father Tesfaye. They also received a credit in the shape of a milking cow, a cow that provides meat or merchandise.

Up until now the WPP in Komto has been successful. Recent reports show that 31 women are well organised; they are able to save money which can be used to send their children to school. A committee of 3-5 women has been formed which is engaged with a *revolving fund* to enable a new group of women to start next year.

We are very happy that this project seems to be working well and that sustainability will be guaranteed in the future.



A very proud mother with a milking cow and its calf (Komto)

Finances

Every year again we wonder whether we will be able to achieve our main objective, namely raise enough money to guarantee education - and a daily meal too- for 'our' 330 children. This year we were successful again. And what is more, thanks to extra donations we have been able to do more than we planned at the beginning of this year.

A big thank you to everybody who supported our charity. We feel encouraged and will continue with lots of enthusiasm!

And further..

We raised enough money to enable 30 children in Ariadjawi to go to school for five years. This is thanks to a donation given to celebrate a 65 years wedding anniversary.

Our aim is to make sure that all 'our' children will be employed in the future, but this won't be easy because of the high youth unemployment. We will discuss this problem in January with our partners in Ethiopia, but also with some Dutch organisations.

Foundation School Project Ethiopia (KvK: 37117202)
Secretariat: Junohof 26, 1829 DB Oudorp
Tel.: 072-5159523 / info@schoolprojectethiopia.nl
Bank: NL30INGB0005167737 t.n.v. St. Schoolproject Ethiopië, De Rijk
Website: www.schoolprojectethiopia.nl

The Board:

Agnes van Straaten, chairman
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