

NEWSLETTER



Children of Kilimanjaro Foundation

The Children of Kilimanjaro Foundation is ending...

Indeed, big and sad news! After years of hard work, the board of the foundation decided, together with our local project partners, that it's time to say goodbye. We have been talking about this for quite a while now: when is the time to end a foundation, when is support no longer needed, when are activities sustainable? We never had a clear answer and there was always something new to do in Mdawi village. But with the needs assessment of January 2017 and the huge development projects (10 in total!) over the past two years, we noticed the vast improvements in the region. What a difference from when we started in 2003; it's simply amazing to see how the region developed. Also, whilst many children were not able to attend school 15 years ago, as they had to work on the land, now school attendance is the new normal. Of course this is fantastic.

So after much talk about when an appropriate end would be in sight, with Mirna's emigration to Montenegro the decision suddenly seemed logical.

But let's first share the latest information before saying a final goodbye.

Update 10 local projects

The foundation received a huge donation in 2016. We decided to do a needs assessment in order to understand how these large funds could benefit the region most.

Together with the village chiefs, school teachers and dispensary staff, several project proposals were submitted. A selection of 10 projects was approved, ranging from renovating school buildings, adding school toilets (for boys and girls separately), ICT class rooms, and supporting the local health dispensary with medicines.



Photos: toilets and ICT class



In the following two years, all 10 projects were finalized according to plan. It was great to receive photos of the progress every other month. What an improvement and such a wonderful accomplishment when things were finished!



Photo: Kisaseni school renovations (roof, walls, windows, doors, stairs)

May 2019

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Bank account and Chamber of Commerce registration are closed!

IBAN NL36INGB0005132127
Children of Kilimanjaro Foundation

Chamber of Commerce: 34251375
Merwe Donk 38
4207 XB Gorinchem

Our website will continue for now:
www.childrenofkilimanjaro.nl



Photo: medicines for Mdawi dispensary



Photo: new school toilets

Final health projects

The board asked Mdawi village for one remaining project in order to dedicate the last funds in the bank account. The decision was taken to focus on health projects. Marion is currently, together with our local counterparts, implementing these health projects in Mdawi region. Aim of some of these projects is to provide clean water and sufficient electricity to the health dispensary.

With this last donation, the bank account is now empty and closed. For the donors that transferred monthly amounts, please make sure to end these transactions (or they will probably just be returned automatically).

The end...

Of course Tanzania will always have a special place in the hearts of myself, Peter, and our boys Nicholas and Alexander. We will definitely visit Mdawi again soon, but saying goodbye to the foundation after so many great years is still a difficult decision to take.

The foundation is very thankful for the regular donations we received from all our friends that have been supporting us for all these 15 years. We wish to thank the people who made this possible from the bottom of our hearts! Without the continuous support of our sponsors, we could not have done it.

We also want to thank the many people that helped with our numerous activities:

In the Netherlands, all the volunteers that supported the foundation: Annelien, Marion, Gijs, Iris, Maarten, Kristien, Coosje, Annemarie, Martine, Simone, Tiny, Gerard, Agnes, Warren, Lisette, Grieta, Cristina, Wim... There are too many names to mention all of

you... We really appreciated all your advice, sharing experiences, asking critical questions, useful discussions, supporting us if things got tough, and all the fun when travelling to Tanzania together. Such a wonderful time!

Of course, Henk and Reinier, the treasurers: so nice to work with you and thank you for keeping an eye on all the finances for all these years. Between all your other busy activities, you always managed to find time for the foundation. Thank you!

Then of course the local team in Tanzania. A big thank you to Marion and Ben Sumari. Marion, your move from the Netherlands to Tanzania proved so valuable to the foundation. With your Dutch background and Tanzania experience you were the perfect translator of both worlds. I'm sure our paths will cross again soon, being it in science, Mdawi village, or a safari with your and Ben's wonderful travel company Caracal Tours and Safaris!

Then all the school teachers, village chiefs, doctors, nurses, and of course all the children in Mdawi: thank you for the wonderful years!

Of course many thanks to Lekey's wife Agatha. Every time we visited Mdawi she took such great care of us. Agatha forgave our apprehension regarding some food items and was even willing to bake pancakes for us 😊

And last, but definitely not least: Allen Lekey, our knowledgeable "*father*" of the project, always available and able to arrange things, our dear friend. Without Lekey there wouldn't have been a foundation; it's as simple as that.

Thank you and goodbye...



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Foundation