

# KACEMA MUSUMA Foundation

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## Newsletter September 2021

Dear valued reader(s),

With last newsletter being published over a year ago, it's time for a 'shout out' from New Kacema Musuma Children's Home and the foundation boards.

Zambia is, like the rest of the world, extensively dealing with Covid-19 problems. It is currently a high risk area. This makes traveling to Zambia almost impossible.



We depend on the information we receive from New Kacema Children's Home. The communication with Sr. Maria, "Mother in charge" is excellent and very frequent. We keep each other very well informed about what is going on via WhatsApp, email, telephone conversations, even a Zoom meeting and photos. The Kacema Musuma Fund as well as the Kacema Study Fund board would like to inform you about Dutch activities.

In the previous newsletter you could have read that board changes were imminent. In Corry Zimmer we have found an enthusiastic new chairman for the St. Kacema. Much to her regret, she has not yet had the opportunity (because of Covid) to visit the children's home, but she certainly will. Maaike Snoep has taken over the secretariat from her mother. Joost Snoep is the treasurer. Nicole Lige-de Bone has taken over the management of the website. Conny Snoep, the founder of both non-profits, is always with us in the background.



In terms of finances, the foundation is reasonably positively stable, thanks to our loyal donors. Thank you for that! However, new donors are more than welcome!

The board continues to work hard to maintain revenues. We are happy to organize an informative meeting for your friends, service clubs or other groups. If you are interested, please let us know by contacting us on tel. +1 (213) 304-6793 or via [info@kacema.nl](mailto:info@kacema.nl) or [info@kacemastudy.nl](mailto:info@kacemastudy.nl)

### ***What has happened since the last newsletter?***

In more or less chronological order we would like to inform you about what happened in the children's home. "Our" students are discussed in the second part of this newsletter "Kacema Study Fund".

### ***Corona situation.***

In April 2020, all schools in Zambia were closed for several weeks due to Covid-19, including the nursery and primary school that are annex to the children's home.

At the beginning of 2021 there was also a major Covid outbreak in Kawambwa.

The local bank was the source of the contamination and also Sr. Maria became infected and went into isolation in her room for 14 days. No further infections were found within the orphanage. In July last, following an outbreak of the Delta variant, all schools in Zambia were closed again, including the training institutes of “our” students in Lusaka. This meant that all the children, including the students, returned to the children's home to live till further notice. Tough times for the sisters and the rest of the staff. The schools reopened on August 23.



### ***Rising prices.***

The Covid-19 pandemic is also impacting the cost of daily living in Zambia. Living costs have risen sharply. Simultaneously with the outbreak of the Covid pandemic, the Kwacha, the local currency, has been strongly devalued and inflation is the result. This forced us to significantly increase the monthly fixed allowance that we transfer to the children's home from our Foundation donations.

Zambia's financial position as a country is not rosy, but it is hoped that things will improve with the new president who was democratically elected last August.

### ***Lightning strike.***

In November last year, Sr. Maria notified us via WhatsApp of a severe storm and to everyone's shock, lightning struck the children's home and surroundings.

The solar-powered pump that pumps the drinking water for the children's home was destroyed. An installer had to come from Lusaka (1000 km!) with a new pump and that took several weeks. Fortunately, the drinking water supply was not endangered, because in the past a second borehole with a solar pump was built to supply the large vegetable garden and fruit trees with water. Fortunately, that pump was spared and water for the garden was not necessary during the rainy season. This borehole also produces excellent drinking water. The water supply in the house has been provisionally restored with temporary pipes.



The internet modem, necessary for email traffic, did not survive the lightning strike and had to be replaced. A new modem had to come from South Africa, but due to, among other things, a serious delay in the delivery of postal parcels (Covid) and also a wrong modem in the first instance and an installer who took a while, it took all in all 5 months for the internet to work again!

The television was also struck by lightning but was fortunately able to be repaired.



Rose and Patricia

### ***News about children.***

The children in the orphanage are doing well. Of course, as to be expected, there are also ‘hick-ups’. Such as children who become ill as a result of malaria, but that is adequately solved.

The children are healthy, growing and developing as desired.

There are two children who are lagging behind in intellectual capacity. One boy with Down syndrome. We are going to try to find adapted education for that. In addition, there are twins who are born as conjoined twins. They have been successfully separated from each other surgically. The parents neglected these, in their eyes abnormal children, so that they were finally admitted to the children's home a few years ago. One of these twins also remains mentally retarded compared to peers.

In September 2020, Reuben, the cheerful little man who can run and climb again thanks to good medical supervision (see newsletter 2020) passed his annual medical check with flying colors.



Patrick (L) Seraphim (M)  
Patricia (R)

Seraphim Malama, the deaf-mute girl from the orphanage, turned 6 in January and was accompanied from the orphanage to a special school “St. Joseph’s school for the hearing impaired” (800 km from Kawambwa!). She could cope very well in the children’s home with her self-learned sign language. But learning the official sign language is a logical step in reaching school age. It’s a boarding school, after three months of school she comes home for one month! The people left behind in the orphanage missed this cheerful and bright girl and Seraphim also had some difficult days, being so far away from her “Family”. But she is doing well, she has learned to sing!



Gift Mwenda

A new boy, three months old, was admitted to the children’s home in April. Gift Mwenda is his name. His mother died and his financially poor father could not take care of him and his close relatives were unable to do so either. Sr. Maria is busy preparing the documents to officially include him in the Kacema Musuma family!



Sr. Matilde and Gift

For 45 children, New Kacema Children’s Home is “home”. This number includes students and recent graduates. Only in holidays, and now due to the current Covid situation, they are all “at home”, but most of the time the older children and the students are at “boarding schools”.

### **Change of “Mommies”.**

In addition to Sr. Maria, the fantastic “Mammie number one”, there are always 2 other sisters. Sr. Mable and Sr. Gorret.

Sr. Mable was responsible for the nursery and primary school. However, the leadership of the congregation has transferred her to another place to run a school there. Everyone (including us!) is very saddened by her departure. She had such a good relationship with the children in the orphanage and was a fantastic football player (barefoot!) with the teenage boys and girls! Her place is now taken by Sr. Matilda. Of course we hope that she will also feel at home in the children’s home as “Mommy” for the children and that she can also lead the school well.



Sr. Gorret,,Sr. Maria Sr. Matilda

### **Necessary innovations**

In April 2020, a number of approximately 14-year-old (leaking) solar water heaters were replaced by new, more efficient ones. The hot water supply is now back in order throughout the house. A new, professional washing machine has also been purchased, because after years of intensive use with all those mountains of laundry, it is not surprising that it had to be replaced. The two septic tanks that collect the sewage from the children’s home also need to be renovated after 14 years. Sr. Maria has found a contractor who will do this job.



We have asked Sr. Maria to make a list of things in and around the

children’s home that need to be refurbished. We strive to maintain the home well so that it is safe and comfortable for all residents and employees.

If the covid situation will improve, one or more people from the Netherlands will visit the children’s home next year. Sr. Maria knows (and she knows this as a joke for a very long time) that “Dutch Eyes” have a more critical view on a number of things compared to Zambians!

She always has to laugh about this but understands very well what the underlying idea is!



# KACEMA STUDY FUND

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There has been a change in the board of the Study Fund. Ilse Heining-Janss remains chairman. Maaïke Snoep has also taken on the secretariat here and Joost Snoep has become the treasurer.

## Students.

In 2020 Brian Musonda and Monica Musonda (no relatives!) passed the teacher exam. Brian, himself visually impaired, has a temporary job at the school for the visually impaired in Kawambwa. Monica is still waiting for her official registration as a teacher, but is busy finding a job.

Diamond Chanda has followed a pharmacy training for 2 years. Unfortunately, this study turned out to be too ambitious. In close consultation with Sr. Maria and Diamond we decided to give him a second chance. He is now following a 3 year course for "Clinical Health Officer".

Claudina Chola started a 3-year course in Environmental Health at the Lusaka School of Health Sciences in January. A broad education that focuses on safeguarding and monitoring the many health aspects of humans and animals in relation to the environment. Hellen Mwenya also started this training in April. Josephine Kapya would also start this training in July, but the Covid situation unfortunately threw a spanner in the works. But all schools and courses in Zambia have reopened 23 August.

Fortunately, online education for students has taken off. The Study Fund ensured that the students could purchase a suitable laptop.

The Dutch Badeloch Fund has previously helped us. This fund contributes to the financing of the study costs of students in developing countries. We are again pleased with the commitment of this fund; they are willing to finance the study costs for Hellen and Josephine for a period of three years!

The Study Fund bears the other costs such as boarding (accommodation, food, etc.) and transport.

Of course we hope that the students study smoothly, but to be honest the exam results of the first semester were a bit disappointing. Together with Sr. Maria and the teachers, we look at how we can help and motivate the students and what could be the reason for the less optimal results.

To optimize the mutual bond between the (former) students and the "Mommies", we have decided to give them a whatsapp mobile phone. Phone calls are expensive, but WhatsApp is easy and cheap. It is important that students keep up with the digital age. We (the board) are also part of the "Kacema Children WhatsApp" group. It is very heartwarming and valuable to see the messages and photos and it gives us the opportunity to have individual contact with the students as well.

*We hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter and that you have the feeling that you are a little bit aware of the ins and outs of New Kacema Musuma Children's Home again and the activities of the Study Fund. If you have any questions, you can always reach us by phone (+31 (6) 53 33 75 60) or via [info@kacema.nl](mailto:info@kacema.nl) or [info@kacemastudy.nl](mailto:info@kacemastudy.nl)*



Monica



Brian loves to make music!



Diamond Chanda



Hellen, Loveness, Josephine

