



Newsletter September 2025

Dear valued donors, dear readers,

Thank you so much for your support of our Kacema Musuma Children's Home. Much has happened in the past year, and we'd like to keep you updated. First of all, things are going well. The children are healthy, the students are achieving their goals, sometimes with a little help, and the atmosphere at home is like that of a warm family.



As many of you know, we had to say goodbye to Conny Snoep. This was accompanied by great sadness, tears, and a sense of loss. All of this was shared with the residents of Kacema Musuma, who expressed their condolences through loving words at the farewell itself as well as numerous messages through apps. Sr. Maria would have loved to be there, but unfortunately, it was impossible for her to obtain a Dutch visa in time.

Thanks to Conny's inexhaustible love and perseverance, this home was built and has become a warm home for many amazing children. The opportunities she manifested for them to build a bright future, are so wonderful. This warmth Conny has shared with us and the children is the inspiration to keep going.



Esther van den Hoeven has joined the Dutch Kacema board! Esther lived in Kawambwa as a volunteer for a full year in 2007 and actively helped build the orphanage. She is very close to the kids and Sr Maria.

Ilse Heining-Janss and Esther (with her daughter Zonne!) visited the orphanage again last fall on behalf of the St. Kacema Study Fund and St. Kacema, as you can read.

Trip to Zambia – november 2024

Our journey to Zambia actually began many years ago, in 2007. Esther left for Kawambwa for a year to help establish the Kacema orphanage. During that same period, Ilse was also involved in raising money for this wonderful project Kacema Musuma. Later, she visited Esther and the newly built house herself.

After that experience, Ilse decided to focus on the scholarship fund when the first children finished secondary school. Esther traveled to Kacema several times to visit the children and Sr. Maria. She has always maintained close contact. All the Kacema children and Sr. Maria feel like family.



That's precisely why this trip was so special for us: going back together and joining forces. Our goal was to speak with as many children as possible and gather information, particularly about the boarding schools (secondary schools) and the study options after high school.

We were able to visit five of the six boarding schools where "our" children live and attend school. This meant long drives, as the schools are far apart and often remote. It was incredibly valuable for us to see how the children live there: small rooms full of bunk beds, the school building on the same grounds, far from civilization.

The children were thrilled to see their "mummy" Sr. Maria – who traveled with us – at their campus. We were able to talk with them about their likes and dislikes about school and encourage them to start thinking about their future



after high school. The choices are limited there. Studies are often only possible in the big city and entail high costs, especially for housing.

That's why it's important for children to make well-considered decisions, especially since we, as a foundation, only have a limited budget available per child. Constantly switching courses isn't an option.

Furthermore, during discussions—including with the municipality—we realised that it's often difficult to find work after completing the study course. Sometimes it takes up to two years for someone to get a job. This makes us wonder: is studying really the best choice for every child? A course in



seamstress, carpentry, or cooking would also be a good option and offer better job security. Or would it be wiser to offer a small start-up capital to set up their own business? For some children, that might be a better investment in their future.

Besides all these serious topics, we once again experienced how cheerful the children are, how much they laugh, and how much fun they have together. Sr. Maria, with her sense of humor, also made the long journeys easy to bear. We miss them all now that we're back in the Netherlands!

We also had a very pleasant and helpful conversation with the newly appointed Mother Superior of the order to which our sisters belong. During this meeting, she emphasised that, in addition to Sr. Maria, there also needs to be a second sister with a permanent position within Kacema Musuma, who will take on the role of Mommy 2. She will assist Sr. Maria, who is thus Mommy 1, with the daily tasks, and we hope that she will become so involved with the children and the children's home, that she can succeed Sr. Maria in the (hopefully distant) future.

There has quite some changes taken place in Kawambwa. The primary school, which some of our children attend, has a new principal: Sr. Hillary. She also lives in the children's home, as the third sister. We have nice contact with her as well, and more importantly, she is best buddies with Sr. Maria.

More good news: we've received a grant from a foundation for €10,000 for 2025! A fantastic donation! In consultation with Sr. Maria, plans have been drawn up to spend that money wisely and responsibly. And...if everything goes according to plan for both parties, we can also count on €10,000 per year for the upcoming two years!



Some of the plans have already been implemented. The internet connection is now completely perfect thanks to a Starlink subscription.

An older, leaking water tank on a high gantry has been replaced with a new 5,000-liter tank, which also includes a replacement of the wooden floor. A contractor has prepared estimates for, among other things, furnishing the library and replacing the tiles in the play area for the children.

Construction of a proper outdoor toilet with a shower facility for the gardeners and the maize

mill worker will begin shortly. A parking area for cars is also being created at the front of the house. Work will soon begin on a significant expansion of the solar panels to compensate for power outages. Daytime power outages are a growing and far-from-solved problem in Zambia, meaning, among other things, that the washing machine in the orphanage can't run. But that's about to change thanks to the expansion of the solar panels!



A renovation has taken place at the congregation's expense. A covered play area has been converted into a slightly larger chapel. The space that previously served as the chapel will now be used as a

library/media center. Lockable shelving will be installed there for books, various games, and creative supplies.

We received a large box of books from the Dutch organisation Biblionef, which arrived in Kacema Musuma at the end of December via container ship, truck, and passenger car. The children are thrilled with them. With this substantial donation, we can have bookcases built in the new space, creating a true library. We dream of a media center...



At the same time, a box of brand-new sportswear in various sizes arrived. A Dutch sports club merged with another, making the old sports uniform redundant.

As in previous years, money was transferred to the children's home to celebrate a wonderful and merry Christmas. Everyone received a small gift, and there was a festive meal. An American student who

was visiting the children's home completed the celebration with games and ice cream for everyone! Kennedy, who is studying in Lusaka, dressed up as "Father Christmas"!



We are grateful that the children are in good general health. This also applies to the staff who care for the children, the household, and the garden. Of course, there are occasional problems, but these are generally temporary. Brian Chileshe had previously undergone a less successful surgery for a bilateral inguinal hernia, but fortunately, a doctor from the Zambia Flying Doctor Service permanently cured the condition, free of charge (!), at a clinic near Kawambwa.



Jonathan, along with Sr. Maria, went to Lusaka for further examination and was given medication for his stomach and is doing much better now.

Bupe, one of a conjoined twin, remains a child with special needs; her physical and emotional development is severely underdeveloped. One of her legs is deformed, which means she cannot walk properly, and she has spent too much time indoors (out of the sun!), resulting in a vitamin D deficiency. She is undergoing periodic medical checkups in Lusaka. Let's hope she improves someday.

We have also adjusted the wages of the workers, 11 in total, divided between kitchen, cleaning, garden, laundry, and childcare, to the legal standard for 2024/2025, taking into account the high Zambian inflation. We also pay for workers disability compensation.

Sometimes, the Kacema Musuma Foundation is saddened by the passing of donors. However, it is very gratifying to note that several loyal donors have also included St. Kacema Musuma in their wills. As a result, we have been fortunate enough to receive several legacies, often unexpectedly. This is, of course, wonderful, and we are very grateful. These allow us to make several improvements, not only to the building but also to the opportunities we offer the children to gain a solid foothold in society.

We have many reasons to be grateful, but our gratitude goes first and foremost to you, all the loyal donors who provide the financial backbone of our foundation. We are pleased to once again inform you of all the positive developments and thank you sincerely for your commitment. Thank you.



STICHTING KACEMA STUDY FUND

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Since the last Newsletter (September 2024), the three girls who completed their studies (Health Science) in 2024, but still had to spend two months in Lusaka to obtain their Professional License, have now obtained all their diplomas. Claudina has also successfully completed her math exam.



Josephine (pictured right) has even found a job at a large meat processing plant in Solwezi, in the Copperbelt region. But finding a job after any degree is generally a major challenge! It's not unusual for this to take a year or two! Fortunately, they're not sitting idle and are trying to set up some businesses and generate income. And it seems to be working, as can be seen in Claudina's shop! (pictured left)



Moses and Kennedy are both studying in Lusaka. Kennedy Chibwe is studying Social Sciences, a trimester program. He showed interest in this field back in secondary school.

Moses Lukwesa is studying Computer Science and is taking a semester program. Both men started their training in early 2024, and initially, things seemed to be going reasonably well. We received no indication that things weren't going as well as we thought, or as they had led us to believe.



Unfortunately, the exams they had to take in November/December proved to be a bit too demanding. So, they restarted their training in early 2025. This time, we provided both students with very close supervision, with excellent tutoring (twice a day!) and Sr. Maria's cousin in Lusaka, Fred Kalungu, providing social interaction, such as enjoying meals together and participating in activities.

Fred also arranged excellent short-term practical courses for the students at the Industrial Training Centre. The practical skills they acquired there may well prove useful later on. Moses obtained his forklift operator diploma. Kennedy's course, a beginner's truck driver course, wasn't currently compatible with his studies, but will be picked up later.

Kennedy is ready to start his second year of study, so things are looking promising. Moses' progress will only be known after he completes his exams in November/December, but unfortunately, exam results are always released very late afterwards

The 12th-grade students, final year of secondary school, have written their rough plans, outlining what they might want to study or do, including their motivation and ambitions.

In early 2026, four students will begin: Helen, Theresa, Gift, and Jonathan.



We hope you've enjoyed reaching the end of this newsletter.
Have a wonderful day from everyone at New Kacema Musuma Children's Home!
Thank you for reading!