

NEWSLETTER OKTOBER 2023

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On behalf of all board members of the “Friends of the Sisters in Rwanda” foundation, we thank you for your support compassion and your prayers.

Kind regards and God's blessings!

Zr. Dorien Peet, board member Alice van Barneveld, secretary

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 (Rwandan Sisters' Annual Theme).

GROUP TRIP:

With a group of 14 people church from the community Amerongen, we were able to visit Rwanda last summer, where we experienced the warmth and hospitality of the Sisters community. We visited various projects and got an impression of the important work of the sisters, in the capital Kigali and also in the Rubengera region. It's a great joy to go to church with the sisters. Despite all the poverty in the population, the joy and the trust in God's guidance was passed on to us through the singing people.

We are grateful that we could hand over a financial support from the Netherlands to the Sisters. For example, to alleviate acute hardship that arose after the floods in the spring and the resulting enormous inflation, which made basic foodstuffs unaffordable for many people.

We were also able to donate an amount for the school Agriculture project and some small projects like building a water pipe for a family and the lease of a property to cover the donate basic necessities. All of this leads us to gratitude for our own existence – it humbles us. Take the impressions you gain with you into the rest of our lives. But it is clear that help and support for a dignified life continues to be necessary for the existence of the people of Rwanda.



SISTERS COMMUNITY Staying with the sisters was a celebration. They did everything to make us feel comfortable and they prepared especially delicious food! In September, two sisters left for Europe for study.

Father Vincent and Sr. Joan of Arc took part in a conference in Germany, where three sisters from Amerongen were also present. Afterwards they both traveled to Amerongen, where they stayed for a week and made many visits.

The sisters are already busy preparing for the community's 40th anniversary, which will be celebrated at the end of 2024.

Plans for the Kigali project (mental health care) are being further developed.

At the beginning of December, a young woman is scheduled to begin her probationary year in the community.



INDATWA SCHOOL The group also visited Indatwa School. It was holiday time, but two children's play afternoons could be organized for the poorest children in the school. What a success! After the teeth brushing course, we played football, bag running and much more with the children.

The running of the school still requires our attention; as a foundation, we are looking for funds to set up additional rooms. Donations are also urgently needed to support the poorest children at school!



TECHNICAL SCHOOL The school's 10th anniversary will be celebrated in October - a good time to reflect on all the blessings: Many young people have received a good education and found a job. 14 students started the new school year. This number is lower than in previous years, perhaps due to the increased costs? Many families have great difficulty making ends meet! The sisters hope to have a few more students later in October. It is very nice to see large orders being placed for the workshop – they are currently working on an order for a hotel that needs new furniture.

During the holiday season, teachers and students from other schools received further training to expand their professional knowledge. This is also a source of income for the school.



WATER PROJECT

Much has been done to improve the water supply: The well drilled near the river does not seem to provide enough water to supply all the buildings. Now an abandoned water tap has been discovered near the community. The local government has given permission to put this pump back into operation. This will happen in the near future. In addition, pipes were laid from the rainwater basins to the toilets, so that “clean” water no longer gets there.



AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

For several months now, Sr. Pauline, who is responsible for the agricultural project, has been traveling regularly to an area where there is great poverty. She works with the local health center and local government on a project to combat malnutrition in children between 0 and 5 years old. The parents of these children receive training in, among other things, agriculture and food preparation. This project is supported by the church in the Netherlands. Next year, 150 women and men will again have the opportunity to join the training at the sisters.

AFTER CARE OF ORPHANS It's good to see that more and more children from the former orphan village are finding their way into life. Sr. Emillienne maintains contact with those who still have sponsors. The bond is close and that is something to be grateful for. We were able to visit some of them during our trip. We were particularly concerned by the living conditions and the great poverty in which families live. For these families with children only one meal per day can be provided. In short, the adoption project is still urgently needed in times of poverty and there is far too little food.



DIACONAL Projects: Baby Project: The Baby Project is a wonderful project. A number of mothers come to the sister community with their babies (twins) and receive money for milk for their babies and clothing. A project of crucial importance. They are supported by the sisters with word and prayer. Recently, some mothers visited the sisters to thank them for the help they received for their babies four years ago. They wanted to show how well their children are doing.



STUDENT PROJECT: This year, 50 high school students were admitted in the project. They will receive help with paying school fees. The sisters received many more applications, but unfortunately the fund is not sufficient for a larger number. With the support, the young people have the opportunity to complete their training and look for a job. Many of these students are (half) orphans and come from poor families. A major problem is the number of girls who become pregnant while at school. Some of the former orphanage girls have also given birth. Sr. Emilienne does everything she can to help these girls so they can continue their education.

Small projects: The money from this fund is used to help young people who cannot find work and therefore want to receive practical training or start a project. If they have a good plan that has a chance of success, they can apply to the sisters. Two young people recently started a project. One started with a grocery store in Kigali and another, also with a grocery store, in Rubengera. They do their best to make something of it! You will understand that all projects require a lot of money; We are therefore grateful for all the donations we have received in the past! It is particularly helpful if the donations are structural and if it is stated for what purpose the donations are intended.

Card project: The sisters are also developing their own activities in order to generate income. For example the postcard project. They're back in stock and we hope to sell them. The Christmas cards are really beautiful. Some examples can be seen here. They are €1.50 each and can be ordered by email:

zr.dorien@zdh.nl or

info@zustersinrwanda.nl



Rwanda: With the group we saw a lot of Rwanda under the inspiring leadership of Sr. Dorien. We are grateful for her tireless energy in guiding our group through Rwanda. A beautiful country with beautiful nature, where the contrasts between rich and poor are very great. We drove along the volcanoes, on safari in Akagera Park, through the rainforest and took part in a wonderful boat trip on Lake Kivu. The visit to the hospital clearly showed that medical care is developing, but is not yet comparable with the Western world. However, they have a big advantage in using drones to deliver medicines and more to the health posts. In short, a beautiful country where the extremes are great and help is still needed.

POINTS TO THANK for:

- the preservation and blessing that the participants experienced on the group trip
- that the house in Kigali is ready to move into
- the visit of Rev. Vincent and Sr. Joan of Arc in Amerongen
- 10th anniversary of the technical school
- for the young woman who came to the school in December Starts probationary year

Prayers for: - the next steps in the mental health care project in Kigali: training of sisters, raising funds for the construction of a center

- Donors for the sponsorship of children at the Indatwa School and the other projects
- Wisdom and grace of God for Community leadership
- for unmarried mothers to find help, which they need. On behalf of all board members of the "Friends of the Sisters in Rwanda" foundation, we thank you for your support compassion and your prayers. Kind regards and God's blessings!

Zr. Dorien Peet, Board member

Alice van Barneveld, Secretary