

Word from the Chairman

Dear friends of the foundation,

This year has once again shown us how events in the world influence our daily lives. From the effects of climate change to economic uncertainty, these challenges remind us of the importance of continuing to work together towards a better future.

Despite these turbulent times, as a foundation, we have made great strides that have further strengthened our mission and impact.

In addition, we successfully gained new donors, which has made an important contribution to the continuity of our projects. The foundation is becoming increasingly embedded in our daily routines. This focus and dedication are something we, as the new board, are particularly proud of.

A significant milestone this year, was the handover lunch between the outgoing and incoming board members. This moment not only marked a smooth transition but also provided a wonderful opportunity to share existing knowledge and experience. Many new ideas emerged from this gathering.

*Marcel
van den Brink*

At present, we aim to set up a fundraising initiative among employees of our partner firms and sponsors to collect toys and books. On the one hand, we want to increase local involvement. On the other, we primarily wish to bring smiles to the many children in Kenya and provide them with access to play and education.

Looking ahead to 2025, we face major challenges once again. One of our priorities is increasing our monthly income, as we still face shortages.

Concrete steps toward constructing the long-awaited water well and expanding the existing buildings are also high on the agenda.

These are ambitious goals, but with the support of our donors and partners, I am confident that we can turn them into reality.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who holds our foundation dear. Thanks to your contributions, we are making a difference in the lives of children in Kenya.

Let us continue to build equal opportunities for everyone in 2025.

Colofon

This newsletter is a publication of Kenia Stichting Gelijke Kansen.

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Please send in copy via email:
info@gelijkekansen.org

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With your support, we are building a better future together for underprivileged children.



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The location in Nairobi is now officially a new safe haven, gradually expanding and offering better opportunities for independence.



Call for new donors and sponsors

Contribute to ongoing and future projects, either personally or as a business. Fundraising remains an important point of focus.

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Exam season

At the schools St. Dorcas Nairobi and Child Support Mombasa, the end of the year is a busy time with all the exams just before the summer break. In Mombasa, students advance to the next grade, and some of the oldest students at St. Dorcas are moving on to university.



Fifteen years of dedication in Mombasa

This year, we celebrate a remarkable milestone: the Mombasa School Centre – Child Support School officially marks its fifteenth anniversary! Over these years, we, as Kenia Stichting Gelijke Kansen, together with the local community, have achieved so much for the children of Mtopanga, located along the northern coast of Mombasa.

What began as a small initiative to provide street children with a safe place offering 'bread and books' has now grown into a solid primary school for the youngest students. The centre currently provides primary education to more than seventy children. Thanks to our joint efforts and support, we have created a place of hope and growth for these children.

One of the most recent successes we have accomplished is the completion of the new kitchen and new furniture. Thanks to a contribution of KES 240,000 (approximately €1,600) from the foundation, we were able to build a safe and hygienic space where meals are now prepared daily. The difference is immense: where meals were once cooked on bare ground in a corrugated iron shed, there is now a sturdy stone kitchen with proper facilities.

This improvement not only means more hygiene and better working conditions for the cooks, but also more nutritious meals for the children. Thanks to an additional contribution of €800, we were also able to purchase new chairs and cabinets.

There are still plenty of dreams to fulfill. "According to government guidelines, additional classrooms are needed so the school can become a full primary school," says school principal Lilian Lisanza. "An extra floor would help meet these guidelines. For this, we aim to raise €19,000. Additionally, the need to better compensate teachers remains pressing." Currently, teachers only receive a small stipend of €70 per month, far below the government standard, which emphasises the need for better compensation.

With the rising cost of living, it is urgent to improve compensation so that we can relieve our dedicated teachers—many of whom have worked voluntarily for years. Better compensation would also make it easier to attract the two additional teachers needed.

One of these incredible teachers is Ms. Sheilah, who has been volunteering at the school for ten years. She dreams of completing her studies and becoming a certified teacher for higher grades. We are currently looking for sponsors to help her achieve this. The cost of the program is €2,000. We believe that investing in her development is also an investment in the future of the children.

The foundation's core remains food and education. For this, all help is welcome to face the challenges ahead. Due to rising food prices, unfortunately, less food can be distributed to the children. The support of our donors makes a world of difference for these children and their future. Together, we can ensure that they receive the opportunities they deserve.



You may wonder what is on the children's menu. School principal Lilian Lisanza explains:
"In the kitchen, we prepare beans, rice, ugali (maize porridge), mung beans, green vegetables, and porridge. It is my wish that the children can have meat at least once a week and also fruit. Most of them come from underprivileged families and cannot afford meat or fruit."



New sponsors

Thank you to JC Rijfers Beheer BV and Neko Ship Supply BV for their support. Your contribution helps us provide equal opportunities for children in Kenya and strengthens our commitment to continue our mission. Together, we make a difference!



St. Dorcas: A safe haven in Nairobi

Tanks to the support of the Dutch foundation, the St. Dorcas centre has successfully moved to its new location. This is a significant step forward after years of construction and planning. This move marks a new chapter for the centre, and your support has had a direct and visible impact.

With the help of the Dutch foundation, the first new building block was completed, enabling the move to the new location. After the move, the Ministry of Child Protection conducted an inspection and was pleased with the progress, especially since temporary structures such as corrugated iron sheds have been replaced with permanent buildings. New government regulations, introduced after incidents in Kenya, now require that all structures be permanent. As a result, the old semi-permanent buildings had to be replaced with sturdy, durable constructions.

Other requirements include separate dormitories for boys and girls, a separate kitchen, and facilities such as a hall, library, laboratory, and changing rooms. To meet these standards, the temporary structures at the new location have been removed and replaced with a solid stone construction. This second block is now complete, with a foundation that can accommodate an additional two floors.

Although there is still work to be done to fully meet the requirements, St. Dorcas has received the go-ahead to provide children with education, food, and shelter. This brings an end to the use of the old rented location and ushers in a new era on its own premises, moving toward full self-sufficiency.

Thanks to the support of the Dutch Equal Opportunities Foundation, the new building now has sufficient desks and chairs. A portion of the beds has also been provided, although additional funding is still needed. The new location is now operational, and national exams, such as the KIPSEA and KCSE for 2024, have already been successfully conducted there.

The lack of water remains a major challenge for the centre. Currently, more than KES 3,800 is spent on water each week, amounting to over KES 15,000 per month—a significant burden for St. Dorcas. A portion of the funds has already been raised for the construction of a water well, but more resources are needed to begin the project.

St. Dorcas is deeply grateful for the support of the Equal Opportunities Foundation, which helps provide a safe foundation and equal opportunities for the children. Together, we are

working toward a future where they can grow up in a safe, stable environment with ample opportunities for growth and development. There is still work to be done, but the progress is visible, and this is thanks to your involvement.



Passing the gavel

Last November, a handover lunch took place in Eemnes between the new board and the outgoing members. During the lunch, we had the opportunity to thank the departing board members for their dedication. Former chairman Daniel Stolk ceremoniously handed over the chairmanship to his successor, Marcel van den Brink, by presenting him with a gavel.

Special attention was given to Elly van Maurik-Oosterling, who was thanked with a

heartfelt message and flowers for her years of commitment. Board members who were unable to attend were thanked in other appropriate ways.

Through this newsletter, we would once again like to express our gratitude on behalf of the foundation for all the years of dedication and the fantastic contributions they have made to the lives of children in Kenya.

Call for new donors and sponsors

The daily costs for education and meals are currently posing a challenge, partly due to rising food prices and unfavourable exchange rates. Perhaps you are considering making an additional donation yourself or on behalf of your company.

Please know that we are eager to collaborate with companies on how to make their support visible. If you have any questions about this, please send an email to:

info@gelijkekansen.org

Further fundraising contributes to the following current and future projects:

- a borehole at the new location of St. Dorcas;
- continuing education for students of St. Dorcas, transitioning to university;
- an additional floor for grades 5 and 6 at the existing location in Mombasa;
- teachers at the Mombasa location who can eventually teach grades 5 and 6;
- a higher expense allowance for volunteers in Mombasa.

Education



Amount required
€ 2,500

Additional floor



Amount required
€ 19,000

Bedding



Amount required
€ 2,500



Thanks to all our loyal donors and well-wishers!