

Hello all members, sponsors, donors and others interested in our cause.

Winter has laid a white blanket over the ground. Christmas displays and advent candles light up our windows, Lucia and Christmas are approaching. At this time of the year in particular I often think how lucky I am being born and living in a country like Sweden. We are daily reminded how unsafe the world is, and how people are forced to flee from homes, families, friends and jobs, trying to find a safer life away from wars and conflicts.

The children in S:t Christine are not victims of war, but they all live in a fragile situation without their biological parents. They are dependant on the benignity of other custodians. We members, donors, sponsors and the school staff are all important participants in creating good conditions for the children and providing good education and development. Our hope is that the children, as they grow up, will be equipped with sufficient knowledge and capabilities to prevent them from ending up in situations like so many orphans in Kenya.

Latest news from S:t Christine School i Kabondo

A new thing in Kenya this year is that from the present school year (2016) the third semester is shorter. This means that all students in Kenya now have vacations during November and December and that the new school year starts in January as before. On January 8th I (Bitte Brask), chairperson of the Kisumu Association, Ulla Sturéus from the school board and Anders Jansson, chairperson of the Foundation, will visit the school. Seven other persons will join us on the trip, some of whom are new members visiting the school for the first time. I, Ulla and Anders will meet with the school staff and representatives from the Foundation in Kenya.

The computers on their way to the school

In our latest letter we pleaded for extra contributions to cover part of the costs for transporting 30 lap-top computers to the school, computers which the Association received as a gift from a business. Following the letter we were contacted by a man, who knew a man, who offered to take our computers with him to Kenya. He lives in Sweden, is married to a Kenyan woman and is engaged in and operating a school project in Kendu Bay in western Kenya. A container was ready to be shipped to this school and he offered to let our computers go in it at a cost of SEK 500 per computer, i.e. half the costs of the offer we got from a transport company we had contacted. He also offered to personally hand over the computers to David, the school's head master. Our call for contributions resulted in gifts covering half of the SEK 15 000, which was the transport cost instead of SEK 30 000 asked by the transport companies. The board wants to express our sincere thanks to all, who in various ways helped us to send the computers. At the time of writing we know that the computers are expected to arrive at Christmas time. I hope that this plan holds, so that the computers will be in place in January, when school starts and the pupils come back.

Flea market in Skarpnäck and Fair Trade Christmas market in Norrköping

On November 30th a flea market was held in Skarpnäck's community center. We booked two tables and brought box-loads of various things. The business was so-and-so, but in a few hours we collected more than SEK 1 800.

On November 26 – 27th we participated for the second consecutive year in the Christmas market at Arbetets Museum (Museum of Work) in Norrköping. This market has a specific profile and the vendors are different non-profit associations and organizations, which are engaged in activities to create better conditions for people in different parts of the world. We offered both Kenyan gems, textiles and traditional Swedish Christmas decorations. A novelty for this year was quilted kettle-holders made from African fabric. The business was good, and at the end we found that the revenues amounted to SEK 5 800, which go in their entirety to the Association, i.e. the school.

Christmas gifts to the children at S:t Christine

Please think of the children at S:t Christine. The best gift for the children can be for instance a school uniform, school lunch, utensils or a contribution to the drama activities, in which the youngest children willingly participate and which were very successful in the last years. There is no room for drama in the school's budget, because we must prioritize teachers' salaries, school uniforms etc. So please give some extra thoughts to the children now in the holiday season. The table gives examples of costs. Please note that they can shift a bit up and down depending on the exchange rates.

Finally we wish you all a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year. We will return later with information and pictures from our journey in January.

The board by Bitte Brask, chairperson

The Association's and Foundation's web page and Facebook

More information about the Association, the Foundation and the school can be found in the Association's web page www.kisumu.se

In the home page are links to additional information of the Foundation/School and the Kisumu Association.

The Association's different accounts

Do you wish to give a birthday gift or a memorial gift? Make a deposit to one of our accounts below and send us a mail at gava@kisumu.se, where you state the purpose, the person to whom we shall send our thanks and the names of the donors. We will then send a thank-you card and specify the donors.

Swish-konto: 1236 072 698

Bankgiro: 5734-8534

Plusgiro: 17 62 64 – 0

For IBAN-number and account number in Handelsbanken, contact our accountant per.kingfors@kisumu.se

- School uniforms, complete SEK 120 per child
- Books and utensils for one year SEK 150 per child
- Food: one month SEK 50 per child
- one school year SEK 600 per child
- The children are served two meals each day. The breakfast consists of millet porrage, the lunch of ugali (corn porrage) together with bean stew or borecole stew called sukumawiki.
- The average total cost for a student is today around SEK 220 per month