

# Newsletter

## Claude&Corina

### December 2023



Since 2006 we have been helping children and youth from (South) Sudan and Congo to go to school. These are children without a father and breadwinner; sometimes they no longer have a mother either. It is fantastic to see when young people can rebuild their lives. Especially when they are girls who had little opportunity for education because they are disadvantaged in their culture. This year as many as 20 new youth started school! The total now sits at 33. Including 8 boys and 25 girls; 9 children/youth live in Kampala and are South Sudanese refugees. We are now doing more than before! This is entirely due to loyal donors, new givers and the Bethel Bazar.

### Fair enough, without the Bethel bazar in Barendrecht ....



.... it would have been a different story. This year we were received no less than 6000 euros (last year 5000 euros), as one of the charities. We were in the studio of 'Hart voor Barendrecht' beforehand to explain the work of the Khaki Fund. Claude played live music almost the whole Saturday for an optimal Bazar atmosphere and Corina helped with toy sales. It was all very pleasant, but the best moment was afterwards on the stage with Leen Pot, the organizer. See the picture on the left. We also received many school bags from the bazar which we sent to Kampala and Kinshasa!

### Refugees from South Sudan in Uganda

South Sudan already had a long history of violence and conflict when we were still living in Sudan (between 2005-2009). I (Corina) went to Juba regularly during that period. Even though I had seen bad things in Africa, I found South Sudan to be of a different order. After independence in 2011, it didn't get out of the cycle of violence either. Over 1 mln South Sudanese have since fled to Uganda. In Kampala (capital of Uganda), we have a valuable contact in John Kongi. He was Claude's best friend when we lived in Sudan. John Kongi speaks Arabic and has worked as a church leader among South Sudanese for decades. He has several South Sudanese single mothers in his church community and has a good understanding of who needs help. These women earn their living by braiding hair, unskilled work or small-scale trade, and barely keep their heads above water. Their children were staying at home, unable to attend school without outside help. The UN gives only a little food aid to the refugee families living outside the camps.

Scovia (pictured below right) is the niece of Grace and Nancy who were taken up by the Khaki Fund, late 2022. Scovia lives in their home. She was happy that Grace and Nancy could go to school but was uncomfortable that she herself could not. John Kongi signalled that her aunt did not dare ask for help for Scovia, so we offered it ourselves. Scovia is 20 years old and has yet to finish elementary school. She knows that the kids at school are

much younger than she is, and that she might be laughed at. But she is determined to work hard. She writes her own stories and English is her favourite subject.



Guwo aged 14 (pictured top left, with school bag from the Bethel Bazar) has 3 brothers and is the smartest of the children says her mother Lilian. She had finished elementary school and then stayed at home. She would like to become a dermatologist because she loves helping people get healthy skin. Physics and chemistry are her favourite subjects. The family came from Keji-Keji in South Sudan 7 years ago. Guwo remembers almost nothing about her home country. About her big brother Woja, 17 (pictured top center), she says he is good to her, protects her and helps with school work. At home, he mostly helps his mother fix things and do chores. He would prefer to be a soccer player but fortunately takes his school seriously. He would also like to become a construction engineer and build bridges and viaducts. He had to quit after the 1st year of high school due to poverty, so is also very behind other children. We are happy for them that they and their 2 younger brothers can now go back to school!

### **Exception: Nyageth is now studying medicine in Egypt**

Last year Nyageth from South Sudan joined our list and she turned out to be a brilliant student. She was eager to study medicine, which turned out to be cheaper in Egypt than in Uganda, thanks to Egyptian government support for South Sudanese refugees. Nevertheless, the amount involved was large (about \$4200 for the first year) and far beyond our budget. Still, we wanted to make an exception for her because we see what great potential she has. John Kongi's son made a video and we posted it on GoFundMe, a crowdfunding site, with a call for donations. Over 30 people participated: new ones, not regular Khaki donors, so it really raised additional funds. Nyageth left for Egypt at the end of October and she loves her new life! Below is the link to the video and a photo of Nyageth in front of the medical faculty at the university in Alexandria. Please feel free to forward it as we will continue to recruit for her in the coming years!



[Fundraiser by Corina and Claude Mushikangondo-van der Laan : Nyageth wants to be a doctor \(gofundme.com\)](#)

## Junior also helps: thanks to him 7 young people go to school



Junior was able to do his studies with help from the Khaki Fund and then built his life. Now he passionately tracks down young people with talent who cannot go to school due to poverty. In 2023, he selected 3 families whose children were motivated and smart but had no chance to go to school. He himself now has a good job at the National Pedagogical University in Kinshasa (UPN). Very handy because he looks after practical matters such as registration for many of our students, and verifies information about school fees and exam rules. Thanks to Junior, 6 young girls and 1 boy (aged 14) are back in school or studying since 2023.

Junior introduced us to the family of Ina, Khloe and their big brother (see photo on the left, with Junior in blue shirt). Ten years ago, their father died. Khloe, the youngest, was 8 at the time and remembers him fondly. He spoiled her, regularly buying her toys. Ina and Khloe, now 20 and 18, live with oldest sister Gina and their mother who is chronically ill. Mother used to provide for them in the past, through a small business.



Now it all comes down to Gina, who is a cashier at a party hall complex. She doesn't earn enough for paying for education. She could not provide for her younger brother of 21 either. We also interviewed him at intake. But it turned out that he mostly plays soccer and was not really motivated to fight for a better life. Ina and Khloe, on the other hand, showed a lot of potential and were eager to learn. They had spent a year at home after finishing secondary school. They are now studying business management and computer science. Pictured on the left is Khloe in front of the university building, Ina in front of her aunt's house and Gina (pictured on the right) at work.

There is much more to tell. But most of all we want to thank you very much for all your contributions and faithful support. What a difference you make in the lives of young people and their families! Even though we are a small-scale private initiative, we have an impact that is lasting!

**More info?** [Khakifund.org](http://Khakifund.org) or whatsapp Corina: 0628812666 and Claude: 0623418486

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