



# SPONSOR AN ORPHAN PROJECT DECEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

## Newbe

The beginning of September, the start of the new school year, was not only a new start to the kids in the program. Beruda said goodbye to Leanne as Project Supervisor, and welcomed me in the big Beruda-family. Luckily, before Leanne left, she introduced me to my new task. I could not have wished for a better preparation to this job; which is quite different from my job as English teacher back in Belgium.

I enjoy the contact with you, the sponsors and friends of the project, and always look forwards to e-mails! I'm happy when I see that the finances and numbers are correct. I always look forward to kids passing by the office to say hi or ask one of many questions. A lot of these tasks involve office-work, and I like to interrupt them by joining our staff on the field. Visiting kids in their house, going to the hospital, passing by schools,... those are the activities that most confront me with African culture, and they make this experience unique.



## A new audience for our After School Education Program

Part of the project, as you know, is the After School Education Program. In September and October, we noticed that we didn't reach as many kids as we wanted. We felt more kids could benefit from our classes, even though they were not in the program. That's why we visited the secondary school where most of our orphans go. We talked to all the pupils of forms 1 to 4 to tell them about the free lessons in math and English, and the help we can offer if they have troubles with their homework.

Whereas usually, we didn't even reach 5 kids, after our visit to the school, we now have at least 20 kids who regularly join our classes.

## International Children's Day



For those kids who came the same day as our visit in their school, we had a surprise. The 20<sup>th</sup> of November happened to be International Children's Day, which was reason enough for a celebration. Games, sweet drinks and some biscuits was all it took!

It was a nice opportunity for the new kids to get to know each other and feel at ease with all the new faces.

## New faces in the office

Not only in our ASEP-classes did we welcome some new faces!

John-Paul, one of the fieldworkers, decided to leave the project to try his luck in Thailand. That meant we had to start looking for a new dedicated staff member! In agreement with the director, Simon, we put up job adverts around Belo and e-mailed them to some volunteers working in Bamenda, to spread them amongst the people they knew.

One week later, we had several letters of application, out of which we selected 5 people for an interview.



We were very happy to welcome Marcel on his first day of work on the 3d of December. He has experience working in another organization like ours, has coordinated several initiatives, and we are confident he will give our project a serious boost! Here's what he says:

"I'm very thrilled to have been given the opportunity to serve as a field staff for the SAOP with a very impact-oriented organization as BERUDA. I'm passionate working with children and I've been doing so with three other organizations I've worked for. So, I look forward to offering my personal best while working with the other team members of SAOP and I strongly believe I will succeed. Merry X-mas and a Prosperous New Year!"

Apart from new staff, we also got the company from some other volunteers. Merle (Germany) worked for Beruda in October and November. Shortly after that, Alick (UK) arrived. He's developing an environmental awareness program for Beruda, and we are happy that he also teaches in our ASEP-classes! Soon, Christina (Germany) will join Alick to work on the same project.

And last but not least, we want to welcome another new face, not just in our office, also new to the world. Chanceline, our ASEP-teacher for primary school, gave birth to a beautiful son, Ellion. He came a little too early, but he and his mum are doing excellent!



## New Sponsors

Apart from the new faces in school and in the office, we are very pleased to welcome some new sponsor in the project.

Karen Swenson started sponsoring Blessing and Bertrand. Both have lost their sponsor a few months ago and are very happy that they don't have to worry anymore about going to school and building their future.

The youngest of our kids, Godwill, is sponsored by Anneke en Anouk from Belgium. He is not going to school yet, and even though he has not learned to talk, his family notices progress in his development. Over the past year, he learned how to walk very well, which was something they feared would never happen!

We would once again like to express our gratefulness to Karen, Anneke en Anouk for the difference they make in these kids' lives!

Other donations to help sustain the program came from Leanne and some of her friends and family back in Canada and should not be forgotten! Thanks guys!

## Wanted – new sponsors

Even though Blessing, Bertrand and Godwill can now sleep sound, there are still a lot of other kids waiting for a sponsor so they can ensure a bright future by building their education!



**David** is 9 years old. His mum died in 2003 and his dad in 2005. He currently lives with his aunt. David struggles with his health and frequently falls ill. David is in urgent need of a sponsor!

**Benedicta** too lost both her parents. Her mum died in 2010 and her dad in 2011. She lives with her grandmother, who is struggling to take care of her and her younger brother Emmanuel. Benedicta is a bright student, but needs a sponsor to be able to continue her education.

**Randy and Ransom** have been in our program for a while, but recently lost their sponsor. Both kids started going to primary school in September. To ensure the continuation of their school career, it is very important we find them a new sponsor!



*Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!*

