

Zuluwe Foundation



ZULUWE foundation offers personal help to children on a small scale in South Africa

This is the sixth newsletter of the Zuluwe foundation. Firstly we would like to apologize for the delay of this newsletter. Because of our busy schedules we didn't manage to finish the newsletter earlier. The benefit is that there is now a lot of news. The first step of the project: giving the three children of the Mkhwanazi family a good education is well on its way. The first two children found their place at school and make very good progress. Nzuzo will join them next year when she goes to the pre-primary school. We hoped for a project that wouldn't only affect the children but would spread through the community and we now start to see that happening. The mother of the children quit her job at the supermarket and went back to study to become a primary school teacher and their father has taken extra classes after work to finish his high school education. We motivated a young uncle that lives with the family (Mbon-giseni) to go to university and with Sakhile's help we got his application completed. We will tell you more about this later in the newsletter. We also restyled our newsletter, we hope you like it!

Cebisile excels in athletics again!

This year Cebisile is doing very well at school sports. At the regional championship she was first in the javelin for girls under 14. She broke the regional record with a throw of 17 meters and qualified for the provincial competition in Durban. This is a three hour trip which she really enjoyed, especially since they had showers and a bath there. She ended in the fourth place (due to a bad javelin, she told us). Just outside the medals but enough to qualify for the next round: the championship of all northern provinces in Johannesburg. Johannesburg is a 9 to 10 hour journey, which was further than she had ever been from home. Above all expectations she was second, earning a silver medal and qualification for the national championship in Cape Town!

Good luck Cebisile!



In Memorial

After being ill for almost three years the grandfather of the children passed away in his sleep on march 2010. He suffered multiple strokes after which he slowly recovered time after time. But he lost the ability to walk, and to speak, and also his memory. We visited him during our last trip in January. It seemed that he re-

cognized us, possible because we are the only white people who visit him. The children miss their grandfather very much. Umkhulu Mkhwanazi (Grandfather Mkhwanazi) rest in peace. If someone in the family dies Zulu Culture dictates that all the unmarried boys and girls shave their heads. So now all three children

have short hair again. This is a pity as it took so long to grow Nzuzo's hair and now she must start all over again. Their father also shaved his head and beard which, according to the rest of the family, looks really funny now.



Visit to South Africa

This last Christmas break we visited the family. The children had their summer holiday so they didn't need to go to school and had time to do nice things together. We also celebrated Christmas and new year with the family. It is strange to celebrate Christmas when temperatures are around 30 degrees Celsius outside. We had a braai on an improvised barbecue with good pieces of meat and the children's favourite, hamburgers. We were curious if we feel the same atmosphere as we have in Europe around Christmas time. That wasn't the case, there you hardly notice it is Christmas.

We celebrated new year together with the family and parents of Mbali (the children's mother). We asked Vincent (their father) what the usual traditions were. He told us everyone would prepare meat, would drink and dance. With this in mind we brought some hamburgers to put on the grill. However, when we got there we were the only ones that brought meat. Luckily we had enough to share everybody. Most people have very little money but still everyone managed to buy a firecracker for 5 rand. This is a long stick that shoots around 50 coloured fire balls. Snotthiso found it especially

enjoyable to help with lighting the fireworks. It was nice to see them in the sky. Because there are no high buildings in the area and hardly any light pollution you could see all the fireworks very well. After twelve o'clock the people performed traditional Zulu dancing. It was nice to see the differences and the similarities between the Dutch and Zulu way of celebrating.



New home situation of the children

Vincent (the children's father) is working in the Ithala Game Reserve, four hours drive from home. Therefore, he is only home once a month. Mbali (the children's mother) started studying at Zululand university to become a teacher. Therefore, she is also away during the week and because of a lack of money for transport she is also away most weekends. The younger children are taken care of by Mbongiseni (the younger brother of Mbali) and other family members. Cebisile, the oldest, stays with her grandmother when her parents are away from home.



Mbongiseni on his new bike ▲

Mbongiseni

Of great value to the children is Mbongiseni (17 years old), the younger brother of Mbali (the children's mother). Mbali asked him to come to live with them for safety reasons and to help with the family. Mbongiseni is truly amazing. He works hard doing things like mowing the grass and making concrete bricks for the extension to the house. He also does some "typical women tasks" like fetching water (not on his head but 50 litres in a wheelbarrow!), bathing the children and even cooking. We quickly saw that he fulfils a crucial role in the family. He is in his last year of high school and had to start at school again in January. In previous year he could get a lift with one of the teachers but that car has broken down. This meant he had to go back to his parents house otherwise he could travel the large distance to school. We thought hard to find a solution. We bought a nice bike in town (outside the Zuluwe budget!) and gave it to him. Now he can stay at home with the children and cycle to school. This is a nice result, especially since the children's parents are now so often away from home! Mbongiseni is doing very well at school and with Sakhile's* help we managed to sign him up for a place at the University of KwaZulu Natal. We now have to wait for his final exam results to see if he will be accepted.

** Read more about Sakhile further on in this newsletter*



Sakhile

We got to know Sakhile through our friends Jan & Cleo. They met Sakhile while they were working at the research station in Hluhluwe iMfolozi game reserve. Sakhile was still in high school at that time but already had a great interest in nature. He volunteered at the research station and even founded a small group of students that had the same interest in nature. Sakhile kept showing initiative and after excellent results for his final high school exams in he got a small scholarship to go to the University of KwaZulu Natal (a good, internationally recognised university). Sakhile comes from a poor community and finds himself privileged to be able to study. He sees it as his duty to give something back to his community. Therefore, he joined "Student Dynamics", a group of students that educate children of poor, rural, schools about the opportunities to get a bursary/scholarship to attend university. Sakhile also helped Mbongiseni with his application for University of KwaZulu Natal and made sure that the necessary documents and papers were there on time. He even paid Mbongiseni's application fee in advance.

Bad news

A couple of weeks ago we heard the terrible news that Sakhile's had passed away, even worse his other sister passed away only a few days later. Sakhile has lost both parents and grandparents and therefore now has the full responsibility for his sisters children. In total there are 5 children, 3 children of one recently deceased sister and 2 children of another sister who passed away earlier.

Sakhile has been doing so well and in university and has come so far but now feels he must give everything to take care of the children. The children now live with his aunt

but financially he has to be fully responsible for them. We would regret it very VERY much if he had to give up his study. He has worked hard for his opportunity to study, he pushed himself through school and has shown determination, initiative and so much promise. He will be such a great asset to his family and his community if he is allowed to finish his studies.

For some time we have had plans to extend the number of children supported by Zuluwe. But we have been working on raising the finances to allow it. Now, we want to contribute towards the education of the children so that Sakhile can finish his studies.

The children concerned are two boys of 9 and 6 years old and three girls of 7, 5 and 3 years old. At the moment only the oldest two children are attending school but this will soon change. For now we don't have enough money to send all the children to a good private school. Sakhile however told us that they are at the best "rural school" in the region. We would like to support the children by paying the school fees, school uniforms and transport to this school. However, everything depends on the number and generosity of our contributors!

We would like to ask everyone to try to find one new contributor for Zuluwe. We have already asked all our family, friends and colleagues. Through you we can reach new contributors and together we will be able to give these children a chance at a bright future and keep Sakhile studying so he can also continue his good work educating underprivileged children.

About ZULUWE

ZULUWE is an official foundation, registered by the Dutch Chamber of Commerce and the Dutch tax and customs administration. The focus is on providing sustainable help to build a brighter future through education for children of disadvantaged families in South Africa

At present we support 3 children from one family. Two of these children are attending school, the third is too young but we intent to offer her a the chance for a good education in the future.

In addition to paying school fees, we also collect clothes for these and other children. With more support we can begin to help many of the other deserving families in the area by also giving their children the opportunity to get a decent education. In the future we also hope to support local rural schools. The founders of the foundation keep close contact with the family and schools in South Africa and visit them on a regular basis. To be clear: this happens on their own costs! Donations to Zuluwe will be spend for 100% on the children.



Join us!

We are still in need of more people who are willing to help in funding the educational future of these and other children. To make sure they get the education they deserve join us by giving a monthly donation.

You can send your monthly donation to:
IBAN NL09 INGB 005206721 t.a.o Stichting ZULUWE te Nijmegen (Netherlands). SWIFT/BIC - INGBNL2A

Even a small monthly donation, makes a big difference for these children!

Colofon

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