## Newsletter Ya Juu Foundation, November 2024



## Karibu!

In this first newsletter from Ya Juu Foundation, we will take you through the activities of Ya Juu Foundation in the past year.

Dr. Anja van't Hoog founded Ya Juu Foundation to support young people in Kenya to advance their secondary or higher education and obtain opportunities for income generation. After her death in August 2023, the board further prepared Ya Juu Foundation to process and award the applications for support. Our website (<u>www.yajuufoundation.org</u>) plays an important role in this process. It was built by <u>Grace Otuya Nyangayi</u> who herself is from West Kenya, and went online in December 2023. Grace will continue to support us to keep the website up to date.

At the same time we informed Anja van't Hoog's network that applications could be submitted. And they came! In January, we approved five applications for secondary education for three girls and two boys between the ages 14 and 17. One of the girls later withdrew because she received a scholarship to pay her tuition.

In the months that followed, we approved twenty-one applications for higher education of 14 young women and 7 men between 18 and 27 years old. Two women are doing vocational training, one in Automotives and one in Science Technology and Laboratory. Nineteen applicants are following various courses and/or programs at the university, including Business Management, Clinical Medicine, Criminology and Accountancy.

We pay full or partial tuition fees for these beneficiaries; some of them managed to successfully apply with bursary and loan schemes of the government as well. Other costs, such as accommodation and books are paid by the family or the student/pupil themselves.

Every young student we support we motivate with a motto:

Take this opportunity with both hands. Act persistent and wise, like the giraffe. So to reach the next level toward independence.

Fidel Ochieng, a medical student of 18 years, tells us personally what the support of the Ya Juu Foundation means to him:



Ya Juu Foundation has greatly impacted my studies, social life and even my mental positivity. The lift from Ya Juu Foundation has adversely enabled me to pursue further studies at the university. Heights which I never imagined I could achieve. For all credits in further studies, I willingly give to the foundation. Chance creation from the foundation to me as a student pursuing a medical course will enable me to gain recognition of myself and impact positively even other people's lives. The foundation has also enabled me to maintain positive social trend in my life as the mental torture from lack of school fees to undertake a life changing opportunity is gone. Personally, Ya Juu Foundation cannot be replaced. Thank you Ya Juu Foundation.

Our experiences with assessing and processing the applications in the past year have made us reflect on a few adjustments and we are in the midst of evaluation. For example, supporting Income Generating Activities proves more difficult than expected and we will reconsider how to do this. Furthermore, we realise that the evaluation and organisation around applications requires considerable time and we are discussing how to organise this better. Finally, next year we want to achieve a more balanced distribution between secondary education and higher education.

We are happy and proud that Ya Juu Foundation was able to kick start meaningful support to young people in Kenya, in the memory of Anja. 2024 was a year of learning, which will inform the years to come. We would like to thank you for your commitment and (financial) support and we hope that you will continue to join us on this journey.

Ya Juu Foundation Board

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