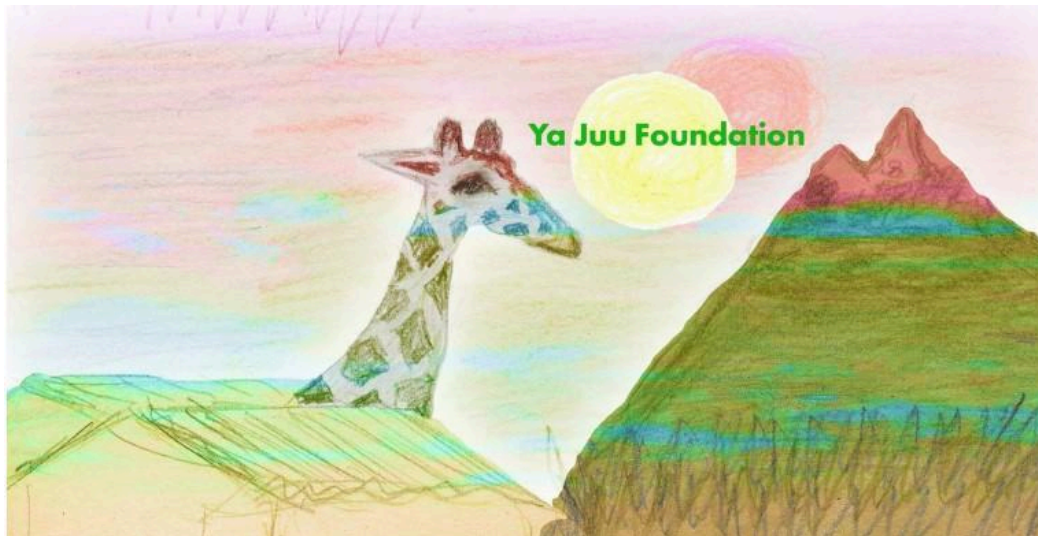


Newsletter Ya Juu Foundation, December 2025



Karibu!

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



On October 25th, we scattered the ashes of Dr. Anja van't Hoog, founder of the Ya Juu Foundation, on Lake Victoria in Kisumu. Anja wanted a part of her to return to the land of her soul. Together with family, friends, and former colleagues, we fulfilled this wish.

Applications

Over the past year, we received a significant number of applications for support in secondary and higher education. Assessing, processing, and following up on these applications is a labor-intensive process. In the coming period, we will consider how best to continue our work.

Secondary Education

In January 2025, 18 applications for secondary education were approved, for 9 girls and 9 boys. In total, we are now supporting 22 young people in their secondary education.

Higher Education

In January, we approved 14 applications for higher education. These applications were submitted by 8 young women and 6 men. In the second round of August 2025, we received over 60 new applications. Of these, we approved 53 applications from 23 young men and 30 women. The students are pursuing a wide variety of programs: from medical, pedagogical,

and technical vocational programs to bachelor's degrees in fields such as IT, journalism, education, tourism, HR management, microbiology, and civil engineering. In total, we support 103 young people—60 girls and 43 boys—with their education.

Student Anthony needed help to finish his final year of study. He has since graduated from Egerton University with a degree in business administration and small business management. His acceptance speech:

"I'm pleased to share that I have successfully completed my final exams. It's been a fulfilling journey, and I'm excited about the next steps ahead. I truly appreciate the support from the Ya Juu Foundation in my academic journey. Your generosity is much appreciated and an inspiration to me (...)."

This year, we are also supporting 15 young people who are training at Ujima. [Ujima](#) is a foundation that gives orphaned young people (who need to support their siblings) the opportunity to pursue training in the hospitality industry through a head-heart-hands approach.

Income-generating activities

This year, we decided to shift the criteria for supporting income-generating activities from individuals to groups. You can find more information about this on our [website](#).

Developments in Education in Kenya and the Implications for Ya Juu

In Kenya, several changes have been implemented in the education system over the past year. To strengthen the education system, the Kenyan government began transitioning in 2017 from the traditional 8:4:4 system (eight years of compulsory primary education from age six; four years of secondary education; and four years of tertiary education) to a competency-based curriculum (CBC), which is intended to become the definitive education system in Kenya by 2028. Investments will be made in the CBC in 2025-2026, and attention will be paid to problems such as poor education quality and overcrowded classrooms. For us, this means that we can no longer use the criterion of a minimum KCPE score of 300 for transition from primary to secondary education. It is not yet clear which criterion we can use instead.

Higher education now offers the option of applying for a government-sponsored scholarship (HEF). Many students are taking advantage of this opportunity. Our criteria stipulate that applicants must always apply for this type of funding to ensure that students have access to as many sources of support as possible.

In recent months, many students in higher education have been affected by strikes. Lecturers are striking because they receive very little or no salary. As a result, students have been unable to attend classes, even though they have sometimes already paid their tuition fees. Sometimes universities provide no information at all about the costs a student would have to pay. As a result, several students were unable to take exams or start their studies, and we were unable to provide them with the necessary support.

We don't just spend money; we also receive donations from various people. Mariska Leeftang deserves a special mention. She asked the guests at her inauguration as professor to donate to the Ya Juu Foundation.

Erwan Pirou donated money to the foundation on his birthday, and in May, many Thesinge residents bought Kenyan items from Anja during the village festival and/or made a donation to the foundation.



We are happy and proud that the Ya Juu Foundation can provide meaningful support to young people in Kenya, in memory of Anja. We want to thank you for your commitment and (financial) support and hope you will continue to join us on this journey.

Board of the Ya Juu Foundation,
Mieke van't Hoog, Frederik Eijkman, Kim Hartog, and Ellen van Puffelen

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