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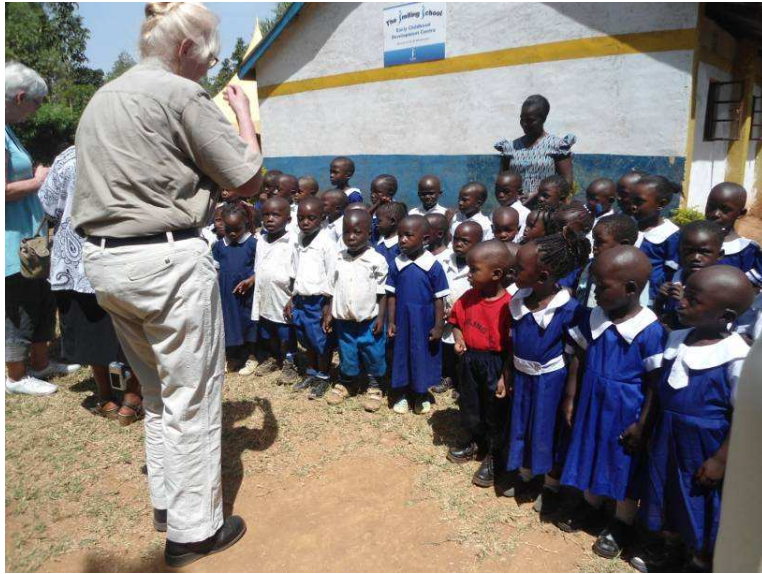
**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND SLEEPING MATS FOR PUPILS  
AT THE SMILING SCHOOL, LUANDA**

**A REPORT TO SI, AARHUS CLUB  
DANISH UNION  
JULY 2015**

**COMPILED BY  
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## Background



On 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2015 SI, Aarhus Club members, Hanne Jensbo (Past SIE President 2009-2011) and Kirsten Lundby visited The Smiling School in Luanda. Kirsten was accompanied by her husband Andreas Lundby.

The guests were in the company of four members of the SI, Kisumu Club as follows:

- Dorothy Shiroya (President Elect, SI, Union of Kenya, SIUK)
- Mary Adada (Secretary, SI, Kisumu Club)
- Dolphine Anyango (PD, SI, Kisumu Club)
- Monica Omulo (Assistant PD, SI, Kisumu Club)

The Smiling School has enjoyed immense support from SI, Winchester Club, UK whose members have supported the construction of classrooms. However, the school still faces a myriad of challenges such as lack of desks and inadequate teaching and learning materials. The three teachers and one support staff are doing a great job to provide Early Childhood Education in the poor rural community against all odds.





In 2012, SI, Aarhus Club supported the construction of three toilets in the school compound and the installation of a water tank for Rain Water Harvesting (RWH). On this particular visit, the guests were able to inspect the projects and talk to some of the beneficiaries.



Following discussions with the Director of The Smiling School on 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2015, the guests gave personal donations amounting to Ksh. 17,700 for the purchase of musical instruments and sleeping mats for the pupils.

**“Thank you visitors for the musical instruments and sleeping mats!”**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, The School Director, Jeremiah Ochieng braved the scorching heat in Kisumu City to accompany the PD, SI, Kisumu Club on a shopping spree. The items purchased were:

- Two large sleeping mats
- 1 large guitar
- 1 small guitar
- Musical keyboard
- 3 drums
- 4 shakers
- 2 flywhisks and
- 5 flutes

The Director ensured the safe delivery of the items to the school.



**Official handing over of the musical instruments and sleeping mats**

This ceremony was conducted at The Smiling School on 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2015. SI, Kisumu Club was represented by the Secretary, Mary Adada, the PD, Dolphine Anyango and our latest member, Janet Adhiambo.

The school band presented a short piece of instrumental music under the able guidance of the school Director, Jeremiah Ochieng. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards Hanne, Kirsten and Andreas for their generous support towards nurturing the young musical talents in the Kenyan children.

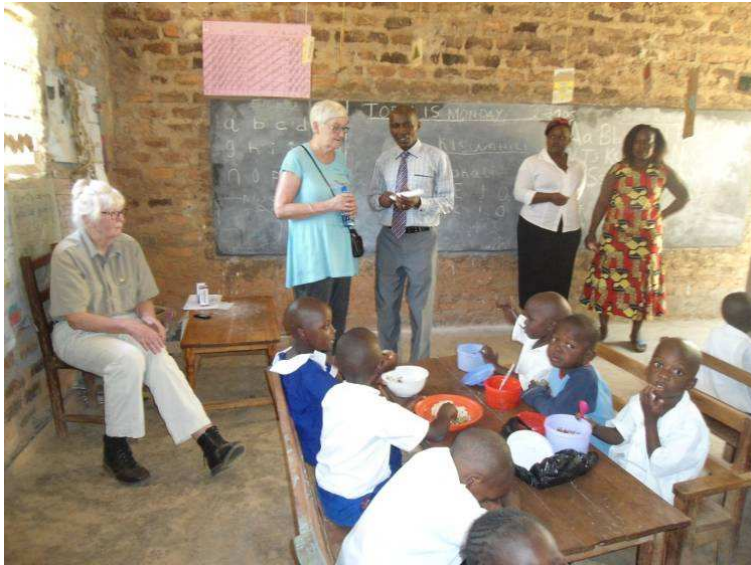




Jeremiah intends to train the school band to a level where they can participate in the Kenya Schools Music Festivals. Best of luck to The Smiling School Band!

**THANK YOU  
SI, AARHUS  
CLUB!**





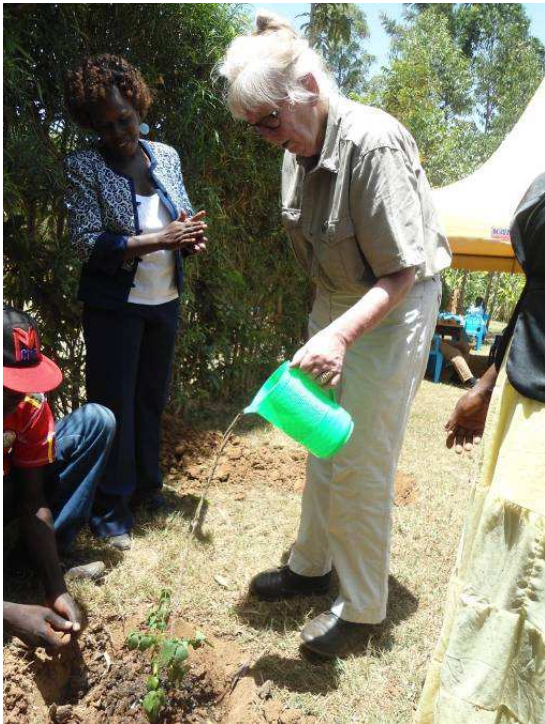
The children would rest their poor heads on the desk when tired... not anymore! They now have a place to lay their tiny bodies when fatigue comes knocking in the afternoons! Thank you Hanne, Kirsten and Andreas for the comfortable sleeping mats!



"We can now concentrate better Hanne, Kirsten and Andreas," they seem to be saying!

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

Hanne and Kirsten, the trees you planted are really thriving. Have a look at them now!





In January 2015, the school had the first group of 10 primary school pupils being ushered into class one. Due to lack of rooms, the school office was converted into a classroom.

During your visit in March, the school has no office. Jeremiah took the initiative to build a small room next to the classrooms using corrugated iron sheets. The room now acts as an office....though it gets really hot sometimes! We had the privilege to be hosted in the "new office!"





## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to acknowledge the following people:

- SI, Aarhus Club members, Hanne Jensbo and Kirsten Lundburg and Andreas Lundburg for their generous donation. Thank you for visiting The Smiling School.
- All the SI, Kisumu Club members for giving back to society. Your individual and cooperate contributions both in cash and kind is just amazing! Special thanks to President Mary Akunja and President Elect Edna Tado for their able leadership.
- Club Secretary Mary Adada and the latest Club Member, Janet Adhiambo for creating time to grace the handing over ceremony of the musical instruments and sleeping mats at The Smiling School.
- The School Director, Jeremiah Ochieng for creating time to shop around for the instruments and mats in the company of the Programme Director in the scorching Kisumu heat. Thank you for the safe delivery of the materials to the school.
- All the teachers at the Smiling School for their cooperation and dedication to duty.
- All The Smiling School pupils. Kudos to the members of The Smiling School Band!