

# Mineke Foundation

## Newsletter, 2nd year of publication, no.1, February 2012



A lot has happened since we sent out our last newsletter in November 2011. The young people of Dabwe Town have given their village a good cleaning up in order to show that they also feel a sense of responsibility for the community. The renovation of the Damiefa School has progressed and our programme coordinators have presented a number of exciting new projects for this year. Management and programme coordinators are looking forward with eager anticipation!

In this newsletter, the members of the project team of Mineke Foundation (MF) in Dabwe Town will introduce themselves to you. We will also inform you about our next trip to Liberia, the renovation status of the school and the results of the fundraising activities of the past few months. There is also a message from Tonia Dabwe, founder of Mineke Foundation.

### Message from Tonia



In January we received the first draft work plan for 2012 from our team in Liberia. It included various activities (workshops, work sessions, gatherings) and projects. Not only that, they had already started preliminary activities for some of the projects included in the plan. The young people of Dabwe Town wanted to start a 'Just Say No' club to discuss taboo topics like criminality, drugs, Aids and issues that exist between young people and the elderly in Dabwe town. To show us how serious they are about these things, in early February they organised a massive clean up of one of the four blocks that make up Dabwe Town. What really moved me, was the passion and enthusiasm apparent in the work plan. The team's enthusiasm, as well as that of the young people, was electrifying! All this good news, after a tough 2011, is very motivating and a cause for thankfulness. I will travel to Dabwe Town on the 29<sup>th</sup> of

February, together with two other highly motivated women. We are eagerly looking forward to arriving in Liberia, thanks to the ambitious plans presented. We will keep you informed about our trip via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our [LinkedIn group](#), so please don't forget to check on us from time to time!

### Help us!

*Mineke Foundation is an independent foundation that relies on donations to fund its work. People contribute in various ways, by giving financial support, contributing ideas or giving advice and/or recommendations. Others volunteer their time or pray for the Mineke Foundation. We appreciate all the different kinds of support given to us. Would you like more information about one of the above items? Please send an e-mail to: [e.overreem@minekefoundation.nl](mailto:e.overreem@minekefoundation.nl)*

*Your contributions are welcome through the ING Bank, made payable to account number 481.6154 (IBAN NL60INGB0004816154 and BIC INGBNL2A) in the name of Mineke Foundation in Deventer. Please specify whether it is a general gift or whether you wish to contribute to a specific goal. Contributions are deductible from your income tax statement as Mineke Foundation is a fully licensed charity under Dutch law (ANBI status).*

**Mineke Foundation Deventer**

PO Box 1031, 3840 BA Harderwijk, the Netherlands | [www.minekefoundation.org](http://www.minekefoundation.org) | [info@minekefoundation.org](mailto:info@minekefoundation.org)

### Project team

We already revealed their names in an earlier newsletter, but this time we will present our project team to you in more detail. They work in and for Dabwe Town four days a week. What is their motivation?



Kuluboh Jensen (left) and Mary Leesolee.

### Mary V. Leesolee, programme coordinator

During the war, I worked as a project manager in refugee camps and helped them with new accommodation, water and food distribution, health care and improved hygiene practices. I have found that, no matter how important these primary necessities of life are, psychosocial help is indispensable when it comes to helping people to recover from their war trauma. Only then are they able to get their lives back on track. Once the war was over, I considered it to be my personal challenge to work with people to improve their living conditions. I chose the Mineke Foundation because I see that they also want to improve people's living standards by working with them, especially women and children. Currently, I mainly focus on making people aware that they themselves are responsible for improving their standards. MF offers the helping hand we need.

### Joseph (Joe) Rennie, programme assistant

Children are the motivating force behind my work. I would do anything to have good-quality education organized for them. In recent years, I have gained a lot of experience in the field of drug use and its prevention, and prevention of violence and abuse. As well as my activities for MF, I study sociology at the University of Liberia. I want to work with communities, support them and make a difference to them. I would like to motivate the people in Dabwe Town and show them that the only way to improve their lives is by rolling up their sleeves. I focus my activities particularly on young people, and would like to start a youth club where they can take part in sport or other activities. However, I also want them to share the values of the MF. I want to start a gardening project for unemployed youngsters and teach them how to prevent criminality and violence.

### Kuluboh Jensen, responsible for MF's activities in Liberia

My love of country life originates from my youth. While I was in school, I also worked on the farm. Selling the produce at the weekly market was always a highlight for me. Going on to higher education was not the obvious option for girls, but I was to continue studying. After high school I studied rural development and Agricultural Science. I want to use the experience I have gained in the field of social development and motivate the people in Dabwe Town to decide for themselves what they want to develop within their community. First, they have to feel that they themselves are the owners of the problem. Subsequently, we can help them to realize their plans. It is important for us to appreciate that we need time to restore trust after such a long period of war. Only then we can start building a new future.

*During the past year, the Foundation's management has received emails and reports giving more details of the work and the approach taken by Kuluboh, Mary and Joe. They have had to work under difficult circumstances: huge transport issues (we will raise funds for a structural solution in 2012!), disbelief and mistrust in Dabwe town and setbacks, i.e. projects that they did not get off the ground. The fact that, despite the setbacks and circumstances, they have worked hard to get things done, confirms that we have chosen the right people for the job. We are impressed by their perseverance and will do our utmost to support them further in 2012.*

### Renovation of the school

In the next few months, we will be making huge progress in renovating the auditorium. The work has been contracted out and the contractor will start in early March. The school's auditorium and lavatories will be finished by the end of April. In the meantime, MF is trying hard to raise the funds needed for the solar panels on the roof of the school: EUR 7,500. These panels will generate enough electricity to provide lighting, and to power a number of computers. If we pull this off, we will be able to use the school in the evenings to give lessons in how to work with computers, and teach adults how to read and write. The Deventer department of the VVAO (International Federation of University Women) has decided to (partly) sponsor this project in 2012, as a part of their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



## New projects on the way

MF will soon start two new projects:

**Youth club 'Just Say No'** (March). The goal of this club is to teach young people to defend themselves and say 'no' to criminality and unsafe sex/Aids.

**Vocational training for women and youth** (April/May). We will teach them how to bake and to make soap, and entrepreneurial skills so that they will be able to generate their own income. Unfortunately, many girls and women still regard prostitution as the only alternative way to make money.



## Trip to Liberia

Tonia Dabwe, Marieke Klosters and Elly Overeem will leave for Liberia on the 29th of February. Of course they will visit Tonia's father, but they will also evaluate last year's activities with the project team, and put plans in place for the 2012 projects. Of course we are very interested in the progress made in renovating the school, and we will also attend the opening of the youth club. In addition, we will not arrive empty-handed: the programme team will receive the promised laptop and printer and the school will be pleased to receive the office supplies we'll bring with us.



In order to finance these projects, MF has sent an application for financial aid to the Carla Commijs Fund. We are looking forward to receiving a positive reply.

Both projects will be supervised by our programme team in Liberia.

## Fundraising

Mineke Foundation is grateful for these donations received in the past months:

- The members of the [Stichting Interculturele Vrouwen Organisatie Zwolle \(SIVOZ\)](#) raised 400 euros for Mineke Foundation. [SIVOZ's](#) goal is to bring together women with different cultural backgrounds.
- [CBP](#), a consultancy in [Apeldoorn](#), donated 500 euros to Mineke Foundation
- The yearly Christmas gifting ceremony at the [province of Overijssel](#) resulted in 85 euros being donated to Mineke Foundation

## 2012 projects

To carry out our projects in 2012, we need funds. Among others, for the salaries for our team in Liberia. We would like to find a definitive solution to the transport difficulties facing our team. Our [wishlist](#) of projects includes:

- salaries programme coordination
- repairs to the bridge and road leading to Dabwe Town
- office supplies for our programme team
- generator + fuel or solar panels for our team's office
- secondhand car for our Liberia team

## Keep in touch

There are several ways to stay informed about the activities of the Mineke Foundation:



Find up-to-the-minute reports about the Mineke Foundation through [Facebook](#). [Please like us!](#)



We post questions and discussion topics through our LinkedIn group. [Join us!](#)



Short [Twitter](#) messages keep you informed about our activities