

Stichting De Mangoboom

Oeverzwaluw 17

4411 GD RILLAND

NL33 SNSB 0871 6581 51

info@demangoboom.nl

www.demangoboom.nl

facebook.com/demangoboom



The Mango Tree (De Mangoboom)

NEWSLETTER 22 – AUGUST 2017

Dear friends of the Mango Tree,

This newsletter brings up-to-date news from Burkina Faso, focusing this time on children that have *left* the orphanage. How are they doing? Read on and find out.

FAMILIES AND HOSTS

The summer of 2016 marked our first efforts in returning children to their families. Joining up with *Action Sociale* (the children's care agency), we were able to trace several relatives and place some of the children back to their close ones. This summer we have continued this process.

The observant reader might wonder why the replacements take place during the summer. The reason is very simple: no one wants to make the children change school during the educational year. Enrolling into a new school can only take place in October, so any premature house-moving means that a child would have to stay home and miss out on school.

The number of children involved in the back-placements has now risen to 23. A careful process takes place before children leave the orphanage. We first of all visit the potential new home, so that we can see whether a child could fit in. We were, for example, looking into a new home for one of the girls who really likes school. The relatives, however, were living at a remote farm, far away from any school. We try to find other relatives in a situation like this. Perhaps grandparents, uncles, aunts, or older siblings.

SAFIATA

Safiata is a five-year-old girl. We reported on her in the previous newsletter. Her mother got killed before her eyes. But here's some good news: we found her father.

He lives in the suburbs of the capital Ouagadougou. Safiata's mother left him not long after giving birth. Her father hadn't seen his daughter since. We took Safiata and paid him a visit. He isn't able to take care of his daughter himself, unfortunately, but Safiata is welcome

to go and live with her uncle and aunt. They happen to live around the corner. Safiata should be returning to her family by the time this letter reaches your doorstep.



Wouldn't you agree that Safiata takes after her father? The relatives we visit, by the way, are often quite thankful. What better way (in this country) is there to present us with the one and only appropriate gift: a chicken? That's what Safiata's family did too, and the chicken happily strolls about the orphanage premises.



One final note: processing what has happened is hard for Safiata. She often is sad. She will have to say goodbye to her brother soon, since he has a different father. We will



continue to pay visits to her, and monitor how she is doing.

ALI (FOLLOW-UP)

One of the children who ended up in a foster family (since we were not able to trace any of his blood relatives) is Ali. We mentioned him in the previous newsletter.

We paid a visit to Ali in his new environment, and we're happy to report that he is doing well. He feels at home in his new situation, even addressing his foster mother as 'mum'. We presented him with a bicycle, since school is far away.



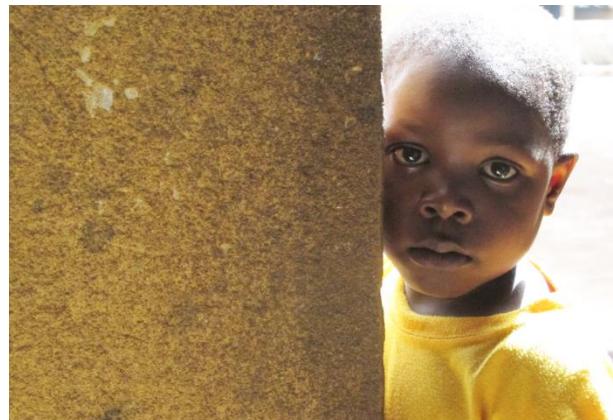
SCHOOL

Returning to the topic of school: October has seen the start of the new school year. Like last year, we provide additional homework help to the children.



POVERTY AND HUNGER

The dry summer means that the harvest is disappointing. This is a problem for most of the people in Burkina Faso. They are poor, so they depend on their own crops. This year many people will face lack of food and hunger.



How does this affect the children that have returned to their families? Well, we try to help them in several ways. We regularly pay them a visit, and, where needed, we offer other support: paying their school fees and their medical costs. But what if the hunger is really going to become a problem for them? We can't just hope it will blow over. Would you help us find new sponsors to enable us to step in where needed?

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

Tree icon We are grateful that we were able to find Safiata's father, and that Safiata can live with her uncle and aunt. Please pray for Safiata as she is processing the traumatic past and the ongoing changes in her life. Pray too for her little brother, that he will end up in a safe home.

Tree icon We are grateful that 23 children have returned to their families. Please pray that they will know love in their new home, and make new friends.

Tree icon Please pray for this Winter, which will see food prices rise. That people may look after one another; that those with means help those that lack them.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN PRAYER AND IN GIVING

On behalf of the children in Burkina Faso.