**Alpha Communities Report 2023**

Looking back at another year. A year with blessings, and a year with challenges. Knowing that God is with us and goes before us gives us hope and peace.

This year we started with 3 foster homes, 29 children, and 15 staff. We ended with 3 foster homes, 28 children and 13 staff.

The ‘Smile’ home went through some staff challenges in the spring. One staff member was not behaving in an acceptable manner, the children asked to speak to me and shared their fears of this person as she was allowing inappropriate behavior from some children, not disciplining them when needed. This led to some dangerous situations. We had a few good talks with her, she understood where she had made some mistakes and she left the home and Alpha. She has since found a new job, and the ‘Smile’ home is doing well. One special needs boy was allowed to go to the ‘Rainbow’ center, a school run by the Catholics, and he is loving it there.

The kids in Home of ‘Plenty’ (Ruth’s home), are doing well. They are of course still missing Ruth, especially her hugs and kisses. Ankhaa and Anirlan were allowed to spend some time at a revalidation hospital where they received treatment and massages. Ankhaa turned 18 in the summer, so this was his last time. This year some children went to different after school activities such as guitar lessons, chess and soccer. We are so thankful for Chimgee who is leading the home and taking care of the children in a fantastic way! We were able to send her to Korea in autumn to attend a Crisis Management Seminar. One of the staff retired in the spring.

‘Hope’ family is also doing well. Unuruu graduated high school and started university attending the English Education department, wanting to become an English teacher. The transition from home to dormitory was not easy, but he got used to it and enjoyed, even doing his own cooking several nights a week. Bataa had a major operation, to fix the gap in his gum. This went well and her recovered very fast. Only one more operation to go. Helen was able to take a short trip to Hong Kong in February, to catch up with friends and meet the mission board at her church there. She was also able to take a trip back home to Holland in autumn. It was good to spend time with family and friends and to rest.

Alpha Communities was inspected twice this year by the Department of Social Welfare. We passed with flying colors and were told we are the best caring center. Three of our workers were awarded being the best workers in the capital 😊. Some staff were able to attend training first aid training and art therapy training. In the summer some kids attended summer camp, went on trips to the country side, visited relatives and enjoyed the summer house. In the winter we were able to support a few poor families with food and clothing. And we bought a car in the spring. We have a very happy driver!

We are thankful to have people like you supporting us and praying for us. Thank you so much for investing your time.