

RHOTIA VALLEY

# Rhotia Valley Children's Home

A safe and caring home!

Made possible by the  
'Rhotia Valley Children's  
Home Foundation'



# Our mission and purpose



## A safe and caring home

Rhotia Valley Children's Home is our safe and caring home for orphans and/or abandoned children from the local community. We help these children build a future- a promising future- in which they can take care of themselves.

From its foundation in 2006 the Home has always been closely connected with the Rhotia Valley Tented Lodge in which you are presently staying. Both the Lodge and the Home were started by two Dutch doctors (Joris and Marise Koch-Hekstra) who- after attending a seminar in Tanzania- decided to follow through with a joint project that would combine two goals: a premium-class and ecological tented lodge for visitors of the wild parks with a children's home to house and educate local orphans who could not be supported by their relatives.

The Lodge and the Children's Home were built on two hills next to each other in the village of Rhotia on the slopes of the Ngorongoro crater.

From the start, the vision of 'two hills, one goal' has been the leading principle behind this joint project. The Lodge would host seminars and tourists on a commercial basis, and from its income would support the cost of the Children's Home.

In 2006, Joris and Marise started the RV Children's Home Foundation, successfully seeking financial backers for the purchase of the land and the subsequent construction of the Lodge, the Children's Home and accessory buildings. Over the years the Foundation has supported numerous projects of Rhotia valley and has also financed the education of all the children at the Home and for local children a Small Bussiness School with grants for Start-Ups.

From that beginning financial donors of the Foundation included many visitors of the Lodge who- on their way to the Ngorongoro crater and/or the Serengeti- stayed overnight there for a couple of days.

They could personally observe and experience the work in the Children's Home and became sponsors. With these contributions many milestones have been accomplished over the years.





**2006:**

Land Purchase by the founders  
Marise and Joris Koch

# Milestones



**2007:**

Construction of the Rhotia Valley lodge and the Children's Home with the 3 houses, a kitchen and a big classroom for 36 children.



**2008:**

The result: new and safe home for these children.

And for sustainability & Community:  
renovation of Rhotia Road and solar panels for the three children's houses and the classroom of the Children's Home.



## 2009:

Purchase of lego, mountain bikes, puzzles, reading books and e-learning laptops for the children.

But also: the construction of 2x 50 000 litre water tanks and a pump system .

## 2010:

The installation of hot water boilers for the children's home kitchen and renovation of the kitchen.

And renovation of 6 km waterpipes to a spring in the mountains: water for the lodge, children's home and the village Rhotia



## 2011:

The total renovation of the Marera local primary school, with a library and new sanitary areas. All paid by donations through the Foundation.

And an official contract between Rhotia Valley and the Tanzanian Government was signed for the co-management of Marera Primary School to guarantee better education for the local children.



## 2012:

Construction of a biogas tank for use of cow dung



## 2013:

The construction and the opening of our own privat Pre-Primary School. A school for 100 local children between 5 and 7 years.

And for 7 years we also served at the school free nutrition .

And the 2 local primary schools were provided with new schoolbooks and the Marera primary school also with new desktops, a laptop room with solar panels on the roof and 100 laptops .







## 2014:

After receiving a gift, a playground for our pre-primary school could be installed.

And eight children finished their studies and found work, five of them as storekeeper, waiter, waitress and chef at the Rhotia Valley lodge.



## 2015:

Drilling and ...lots of water were found, so a borehole with a pumphouse and a 80.000 liter tank were build.

And a new schoolbus was bought to garantee a safe trip for our kids to their schools.





## 2016:

Renovating of the vegetable garden and installing an irrigation system and putting up beehives to prevent elephants from entering the garden. and the kids are also learning farming.



## 2017:

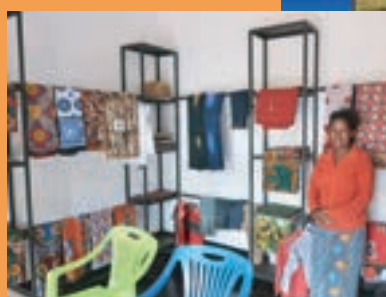
A playground is added to the children's Home.



## 2018

A pig project for the Rhotia Valley farm.

Small Business School project was started, a corporate training for 120 young adults from the village and afterwards help by the start of 30 little shops /companies.





## 2019:

Total sustainable by solar panels on the roof: the lodge and children's Home are powered by the sun.



## 2021:

Transfer of the Lodge management to Kili Villa, but the concept of 'two hills-one goal' is maintained.

The RVCH Foundation continues its funding of the children's education, housing and supervision.

2022/23 Major renovations of the lodge

Horses added to the farm for children to nurse and guests to ride along the crater forest rim.





# The Rhotia Valley Children's Home Foundation today

Also nowadays, the RVCH Foundation is working hard to collect donations for the education of the children (school fees for primary and secondary schools, college tuitions, vocational training and in some cases university tuitions!), clothing (shoes, school uniforms, underwear etc), as well as daily sanitation and supervision of the kids.

Since November 2021, the legacy of Joris and Marise Koch -Hekstra has been continued by the new Dutch owners of the Lodge who fully subscribe the 'two hills, one goal' principle on which the Lodge and the Home were founded. The Children's Home keeps the profits of the projects of food, water and electricity and the Foundation finances the costs of education, clothing, housing and daily supervision.

In 2023 20 children live at the Children's Home permanently and attend the primary school in Karatu to which they are transported every schoolday by our own Zebra schoolbus, which is financed by the Foundation. After school they play soccer, games or do arts and crafts with the volunteers and our guests. Around 10 youngsters meanwhile attend the Tumaini secondary school in Makuyuni where they receive full boarding, paid for by the Foundation. During school vacations and official holidays they return to the RV Children's Home which they consider their home.

Some of the brighter kids have graduated to college or attend university, and their tuition is also financed by the Foundation. At this moment five of them attend college (wildlife management, tour guiding, agriculture, technician) whilst three have made it to university (health science, veterinary science, engineering).

And a number of former RVCH children meanwhile work in the Lodge or on the RVCH farm! They all have received the basis for a sound future!

**The Children's Home has already  
hosted 70 children.  
Our children are:**

Samuel, Neema, Petro, Beatrice, Gasper, Malkior, Emmanueli, Domisiani, Airine, Emiliana, Malkori, Beatrice, Anna, Margritha, Lazaro, Irene, Margreth, Asteria, Joyce, Ebroni, Daniel, Lazaro, John, Rozina, Pendaali, Wilhelmina, Augustino, Elizabeth, Mkiwa, Rosemary, Stephano, Marietta, Christina, Maria, Theresia, Innocent, Akwelini, Fitness, Karani, Jovitha, Emanuel, Magritha, Silvia, Godwin, Asha, Jasmina, Mary and Justina.

# Two hills, one goal.

## What can you do to help secure the future of these children?

You are welcome to visit the Children's Home and get a personal experience of the life that our children lead in their small and safe community. An appointment can be organised at the desk of the Lodge.

And if you would like to support the children, than please join the community of financial backers who enable the future of these kids. Many visitors of the Lodge have preceded you and are now our most regular donors.





# Governance



## Governance

**Rhotia Valley Children's Home Foundation** is a Dutch foundation (a "Stichting" etc with so-called ANBI status and as such recognised by the Government of the Netherlands). It organises the fund raising efforts and allocates donations and contributions to the respective activities of the Children's Home in Tanzania. It is run by a voluntary Board and its members do not receive compensation for their respective input. So you can be assured that every given penny will be directly invested into the children!

## Boardmembers of the Dutch Foundation are:

Chairman: Philip Houben; Secretary: Ineke de Geer-Huisman; Treasurer: Wopke van Rhijn; Member: Aagje van Heekeren-Koning. The board is supported by Joris and Marise Koch-Hekstra, the founders van the Children's Home.

**In Tanzania** the activities of the Rhotia Valley Children's Home have a NGO- status, that is governed by a Board consisting of: Chairman: Marise Koch-Hekstra, treasurer: Philip Houben; Secretary: Nicodemus Bagari; Member: Upendo Sanay; Member: Justina Wire.



The background of the flyer is a photograph of a scenic valley. In the lower-left corner, a wooden cabin with a gabled roof is partially visible, nestled among green trees. A red dirt road winds through the valley, curving towards the right. The sky above is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy white clouds. The overall composition is peaceful and natural.

# RHOTIA VALLEY

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**Anbi Rhotia Valley  
registration nr 817361868**

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Contact address Foundation: [it.degeer@planet.nl](mailto:it.degeer@planet.nl)

**Bank details:**

Stichting Rhotia Valley Children's Home  
Rabo Bank Apeldoorn, the Netherlands  
IBAN: NL16 RABO 0129 4320 08  
Swift/BIC code RABO NL2U  
Elsweg 25, 7311 GT Apeldoorn, The Netherlands