

In memory of Irene van Beekum.

It was not unexpected, but still shocking to me, hearing Wout at the phone: 'Irene has passed away'.

Your Mom, Bart, Hanneke and Wout, was also somehow the mother of Mirembe.

In 1979 Irene was the co-founder, and since then for years the driving force behind the Mirembe Foundation.

Maintaining friendships, close relationships and confidence in the strength and good intentions of her Ugandan partners, were the foundation of Irene's dedication.

Education programs, women and girls could always count on her support.

She was convinced that they are the pillars of a country's future.

'Irene was an inspiration to many, generous and a woman with a strong character', Fidelis Banura from Fort Portal wrote this week. 'Also, she would ensure that you utilize donations in the right way, and to the intended project objectives'

With her dedication Irene made a life-lasting difference for many.

It was not very unexpected, as I said before.

On Ascension Day, May 31st 2019, Mirembe celebrated its 40st Anniversary.

A picture taken on that day, on the Hello World manifestation at Boxmeer, shows Irene enthusiastically addressing passing visitors. She is radiating pleasure, promoting her foundation for the last time!. On that very day she stepped down from the board of Mirembe. Her health condition did allow her to continue.

Sunday, May 29th, three years later, brought the final goodbye. We all of Mirembe foundation, feel somehow like orphans.

Irene, thank you so much!