



MUKURU PROMOTION CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Empowerment Step by Step

Monthly Newsletter
April 2019

From The Director:

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Dear Friends and supporters,

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April was a busy month for me as Sr. Kathy was away for most of the month on a home visit to Perth. We hoped for rain during April and were concerned about floods so had meetings with the city's disaster management agencies. The rain, when it did come was light. The World Food Program stopped feeding the 90 schools within non formal areas last June. We have struggled to get steady donors to supply the food. Mr Manu Shah of KD Wire, has been very generous and enabled us to keep going up to June. We were promised the funds for food by the government but up till now have not received them.

We welcomed Caroline Cullen and her group when the temperatures were very high. They transformed a classroom into a dorm for the over 18 as we have a few students who have reached 18 and have not completed secondary. According to the law children are those under 18 so we had to separate those over 18. They will use the same kitchen. Caroline's group visited nursery schools within Mukuru, donating educational supplies. They treated children with disabilities and street children to a day out. We had a local donor Metropolitan Canon in the Rehab Centre who brought plastic buckets for the boys, food stuff and donated 73,000 for sponsorship for the lads leaving the Centre. The Kenya Province of Sisters of Mercy supported us in the areas of education, water and child protection which was wonderful. We plan to repair the borehole pump for the site of St. Catherine's which services the school, clinic and rehab. The Kenyan Child Foundation (Ireland) may partner with us in the area of early childhood and primary education. They will visit in July. We look forward to meeting them and hopefully partnering with them. Enjoy the 'keeping in touch' newsletter.

Sr Mary

Social & Health Services:

Although April is the month for school holidays this didn't stop the social workers and support staff from conducting activities, attending to matters and events. The Social and Health Services still have clients coming into the offices to enquire about issues that are impacting on their lives, assistance in personal matters or follow ups on different cases. The table below gives an indication on how the Social and Health Services continued to outreach to our catchment area:

Case Type / Activity For April	Number
Abuse cases	2
Amaranth Clients	80
Nutritional support	215
Malnourished Babies	12
Truancy and Absenteeism	13
Support with clothes	13
Death	1
Moral Formation Talks	186
Drug Abuse	1
Uniform support	2
Community Service Program	72
Fire Outbreak	4
Medical Cases	28
Total	629



Girls received some clothes donations

MPC Clinic:

The Clinic attended to 1,241 patients during April, 521 being male and 720 being female. There was a decrease in the number of patients coming in for treatment because of the Easter and school holidays. April is a time that many people travel upcountry to visit family and friends.

The Mother Child Health unit had a total of 76 mothers coming in for antenatal clinic with 21 being new mothers. The immunization program continues to go well with 49 children being immunized from various illnesses according to their age. Also there were 8 patients who came to the TB clinic for their medication. One of the TB patients was a new person while the other 7 continued on their course of medication.

The most common illnesses treated during the month are as listed in the table below.

Illness Treated	No. of Patients
Other Diseases	302
Urinary Tract Infection	281
Respiratory Tract Infection	255
Diabetes / HTN	74
Tonsillitis	47
Skin Infection	98
Abdominal Pregnancy	44
Neuralgia & Neuritis, Arthritis	29
Bronchopneumonia	24
Migraine	21
Helicobacter Pylori [H. Pylori]	15
Myalgia (Muscle Pain)	29
Intestinal Parasitism	12
Routine General Health Check-Up Of Inhabitants Of Institutions	10
Total	1,241

We also had one emergency birth and the baby was born healthy and later transferred to Mukuru Health Centre (Reuben). The mother of the baby was given baby clothes and shawls from St. Catherine's social office.



During the month we received donations of medication and shoes at the Clinic from Beta Health Care and friends of Dr Nina (our volunteer doctor) and we are very grateful.

Donation from Beta Health Care

MPC Rehabilitation Centre

The boys at the Centre completed their end of term exams and achieved an average performance. This is a fair result given the amount of time that some of the boys have after an absence in school. Some of them are still new thus they are still catching up with their studies and programs at the Centre.

During the month, Caroline Cullen and her group, Whistle, organized a short trip to Stedmark Amusement Park in Lang'ata. The group consisted of 4 men and 5 women. They had a great time, playing, testing out the rides and finishing off with a special lunch before going back to the Centre.



MIRC boys at the Stedmark Amusement Park with Caroline Cullen's 'Whistle' group

We were also fortunate to have the men from the group assist with erecting the new partitioning in the old classrooms with some help from the carpentry boys. The new partitioned rooms will now be used as a senior dormitory for the older boys who are transitioning from the Centre to an independent life.



Partitioning of the old classrooms to be used as a dormitory



Finale!

Job completed

Metropolitan Cannon staff visited the Rehab Centre and spent a full day with the boys. The day consisted of some games and motivational talks. The group also provided some essential donations of food and personal effects as well as a contribution towards sponsorship funds.



Metropolitan Cannon group with the Staff and boys at the Centre

The water tanks were put on the newly built platform at the Centre for water harvesting during the rainy season. Now that the rains are here, we will be able to harvest enough water for use around the centre thus reducing our water bill.

Peris, HOD, organized with the Area Chief to have the boys at the Centre registered with the Huduma number. This is a nationwide exercise conducted by the government to ensure that every individual has a unique number that will enable him/her to access different government services. The staff at the Centre were also able to register for the same during the exercise saving a lot of time waiting in queues.

As with all the other departments at MPC, the Rehab staff were trained on Child Protection and Safeguarding during the month.



Child Protection and Safeguarding training for MIC, MIRC and Songa Mbele staff

St. Michael's Mixed Day Secondary

Activities that took place during the month involved the teachers mainly as the students were on holiday. The teachers attended the Child Protection and Safeguarding training sessions. Other teaching staff went for the 'examiners' training which will help improve the exam standards in the school and ultimately assist our students to achieve higher in the national examinations.



Child Protection and safeguarding training for teachers at St. Michael Secondary

Primary Schools

The issue of the food feeding program for the 5,500 plus pupils is still unresolved. We continued to write letters and go to the appropriate official offices to find a way forward. We received the same responses as before but no action. We are extremely fortunate that our donor, Mr Manushakal from KD Wire, has continued to supply food for another month. We will continue in our endeavour to lobby the government to provide the food for the children from the slums.

The schools were on a short break for the Easter holiday and thus there was not much activity in the schools. During the school holiday, the teaching and non-teaching staff were trained on Child Protection and Safeguarding policies and procedures.

A schedule of trainings, sponsored by the Mercy Education Office of the Sisters of Mercy and facilitated by Mrs Catherine Karuna, occurred over a 3 week period. Over 85% of the staff were trained and the remaining number will be trained in the month of May when the schools resume for the second term.

Sponsorship

The sponsorship office was busy during the school holidays with the sponsored students writing their appreciation letters, submitting their termly academic reports and completing their community service duties. The community service activities were carried out at the various MPC sites during the holiday period as a way of giving something back to MPC. It gives a good opportunity to catch up with the students to see how they are travelling with their studies.

Many sponsors responded to the students' letters, photos and report cards. They were delighted to learn about the students progress and gave many encouraging words to them.

Currently, the sponsorship beneficiaries are listed below according to the level of education. We congratulate all the students who have performed well during term 1 and hope that they are able to keep up the efforts and gains made so far.

Category	Population
Special education (Primary, Secondary, Vocational, Colleges & Universities)	51
Mainstream Primary	84
Mainstream Secondary	100
Vocational Training	9
Colleges / Universities	10
Total	254



Songa Mbele Na Masomo

The therapy section continued well with children attending sessions consistently. The home therapy program also went well. During the month, we received various equipment to help in the centre with its therapy programs from Rosslyn Academy.

The Special Day Care class had 20 children, the Special Coaching class had 24 and the Coaching class had 34 children. The number has remained consistent through the months and has contributed greatly to the progress of the children getting the right services.

Periodic meetings with the parents have helped maintain the consistent attendance for therapy and classes. The parents have been encouraged to follow up on the children's progress by being present in different ways for the wellbeing of their children.

The big excitement for the month for the children were the excursions. The children went to Mamba village, courtesy of Caroline Cullen and her Whistle group.



Songa Mbele Children at the Mamba village



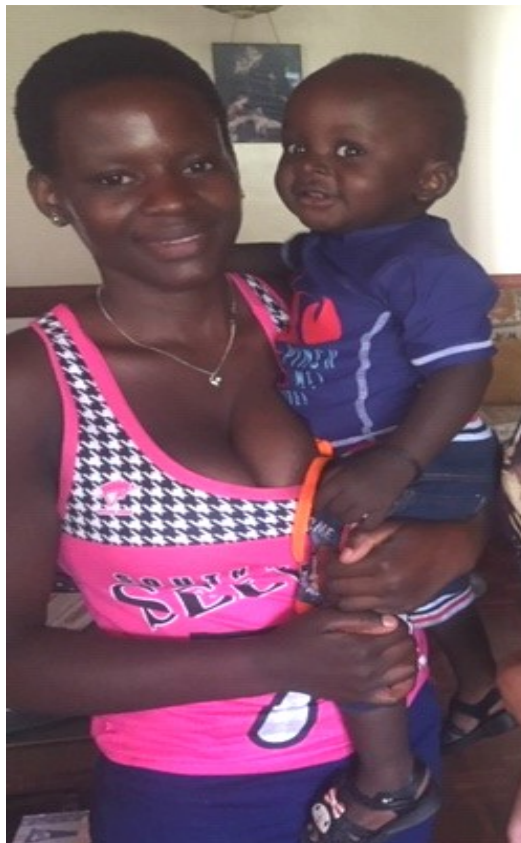
Equipment donated by Rosslyn Academy

Ivan Obade was 7 years old when orphaned. His parents died in 2011. He lived with his aunt and uncle in Commercial village in the Mukuru slum with 2 younger cousins. He was a student in Standard 8 at St Catherine's Primary School. Ivan was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in October 2018 and had over 10 rounds of chemotherapy before he was taken to intensive care at Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Nairobi. Ivan tried very hard to beat the cancer but sadly died on 15th April 2019 aged 14 and buried on 26th April in Migori, Kisii County.



During his illness we tried extremely hard to locate his only sibling, Alice who he had not seen for 3 years. The medical doctors said that it was critical to find Alice, as she would be his best chance for a bone marrow transplant. With the help of many people our search did not find Alice. Professor Dominic Mwenja, CEO of Mater Misericordiae Hospital, organised the local television station to do a story on Ivan to see if anyone knew Alice's whereabouts. The next morning Alice walked into the hospital. She had seen the story on the news. There was much excitement about his prognosis and the possibility of the transplant. It was a lovely reunion for them.

Sadly, the reunion was to last only 4 days. The positive side was that Ivan met his sister, Alice, and nephew, Raymond, before he died.



We would like to express our gratitude to the people who made many things possible for Ivan. The Mater Misericordiae Hospital, for waiving the fees and all their efforts in treating Ivan especially Dr Martine Makanga (Medical Director), and Professor Walter Mwanda, (Oncologist) who provided his services for free. The staff and children at St Marian's Children Centre who were a great support to Ivan providing lots of visits as well as the students at St Catherine's. His sponsor who had been sponsoring him for 3 years at St Catherine's and provided for his funeral expenses, Leeann Sadleir. Our friends in Dublin, Paula, San Diego, Noreen, Perth and Melbourne's Kelly Foundation.

Ivan had an infectious smile that just lit up the room. Even when he'd go back to St Marian's in between treatments, he had such a positive outlook and influenced the other children in the best possible way. He was a very caring and thoughtful young man and without doubt his parents would have been very proud of him. His welcome in heaven would have been full of joy.

Alice and Raymond

Happenings around MPC

MPC reported last year that we received a visit from Dr Graham Devereaux and his medical group from the UK Medical Research Council as well as representatives from KEMRI (Kenya Medical Research Institute) led by Dr Helen Meme, who were exploring options on conducting lung disease research in the slums. In April, Dr Meme from KEMRI returned to invite MPC officially to be part of the Tupume study ('Let us breathe'). We are delighted to partner with KEMRI and the UK Medical Research Council as we are very aware of the negative impact that the pollution has, coupled with the dire living conditions our residents deal with each day. We wait for more news on how we can support this vital study that will shed light on the desperate conditions and its impact on the lives of thousands of people living in the slums. The study will involve over 1,000 children in Mukuru.



t Happened....



1997

The **Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)** is a pan-African non-governmental organization founded in 1992 by five women ministers of education to promote girls and women's education in sub-Saharan Africa by making sure they have access to schools and are able to complete their studies and fulfil their potential, in line with **UNESCO's Education For All Movement**.

The organisation's members include ministers of education, university vice-chancellors, education policy-makers, researchers, gender specialists and human rights activists.

Sr Mary Killeen (MPC) won the prestigious Award in 1997 as a recognition for her contribution in female education in Mukuru. The highly competitive award comprised a certificate, a sculpture or textile conveying an inspirational vision of the African Women and a cash award of \$6,000US.



Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step by Step
Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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Thank you for your support to improve the quality of
life for thousands of children, youth and seniors
each day.

