



MUKURU PROMOTION CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Empowerment Step by Step

Monthly Newsletter
February 2019

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

Inside this issue:

Social Services	2
Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre	2
Songa Mbele na Masomo	3
Rehab Centre	5
Primary Schools	8
St Michael's	9
MPC Clinic	10
Sponsorship	11

From The

Dear Friends,

In 2007 the Sisters of Mercy were sued for damages done to public land, which is the playground of St. Catherine's Primary School, and was grabbed in 1994 and then sold to NSSF (*National Social Security Fund*) who then engaged an agent to sell it to others. The case is coming up for a hearing on 1st of March thus time was spent with the lawyer preparing to be a witness in the case.

An orphan, Ivan Obade (Evans) was diagnosed in September 2018, with leukaemia. His specialist, Professor Mwonda, recommended bone marrow transplant as the cancer is still present after eight courses of chemotherapy. The transplant cannot be done in Kenya. We have attempted to find his sibling, but so far have not been successful. His passport is being processed. If a donor is found to pay and a bone marrow match is found, he will travel for bone marrow transplant. Another orphan, Steve, who is also HIV positive, became very sick and had to be hospitalised. He is now stable and is an intern in a company.

Klaus Zeugner, a photographer, visited from Austria, to record the work being done by MPC and supported by DKA Austria. He agreed to mentor Winnie Ogutu, a new employee in image recording, which is building our capacity to produce clearer photographs. I was very happy to see the primary school pupil, Asker, who gave birth just before her final primary exam, settled into Form One in St Michael's.

We realise we have two major challenges facing us now, 1) increase our fundraising capacity 2) build up our Child Protection Office to ensure childrens' safety.

Sr. Kathy and I were very happy to visit the Ruben Centre, which was founded by the Sisters of Mercy and run by us for ten years. It was great to see the development work going on there by the Christian Brothers from Australia.

We have been networking to see how to improve mental health care in the project and within our Clinic.

The Mater Misericordiae hospital is willing to partner with us on training the unemployed youth, such as catering, office workers, domestic workers as well as security. We are also discussing the possibility of selling water from our bore hole to service some of the needs at the hospital which could generate some income for MPC. February has been a very full month and we trust that the new activities and partnerships will continue.

Sr Mary Killeen

Social Services:

The social services department was involved in various activities and the majority was focused on the children. The children from the schools were given medical attention with chronic and emergency cases being given priority. The first fire outbreak in Maasai village and some of the victims were given assistance through the social office and within 2 days another fire occurred and then another one 4 days later. Our donor has kindly stepped in to assist hundreds of families through Sr Barbara and the St Catherine's social office.



Left: houses destroyed in the fire. Right: one of the victims who received bedding from the social office

Case Type	Total Number
Nutrition Program	134
Sick Cases	103
Sponsorship	4
Victims of Fire Tragedy	4
Needy Cases	106
Admissions	6
Abuse Case	1
Behavioral/Indiscipline Cases	14
Trainings	2
Exit of Special Needs Children	2
Home Visits	49
MICATO Sponsorship	92
Profiles of New Students	37
Class 8 Assessments	211
Uniform and lunch box donations from MPC	449 uniforms 327 lunch boxes

Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

The Centre received its NITA (National Industrial Training Authority) accreditation for two more trade courses at the centre being sign writing and painter decorator trade courses. The monthly celebration of mass at the training centre has stabilized since its introduction last year in September many students attended mass in the hall which was at capacity.



Skills students during the Ash Wednesday mass with Fr. Willy

Songa Mbele Na Masomo

The centre reintroduced the Home program for parents so that the physiotherapy procedures they learn at the centre can be continued at home for their children. This has greatly improved the response of the children and has improved their overall wellbeing.

This month the daily attendance for the coaching unit and the special daycare increased with an average attendance of 84%. The special daycare had 21 children, special coaching unit had 24 children and the coaching unit 28 children. All delighted to be at Songa.

We were grateful to the visitors who came and spent time with the children during the day as well as their thoughtful donations of food and clothing. Many of them stayed to help out with the lunchtime feeding program.



Star Kids Initiative staff with the children at the Centre



Notre Dame Sisters feeding the special daycare children

Some of the interventions and activities undertaken by Songa during the month:

Case type	No.	Intervention
Exit of special children	2	Two children have been exited to special schools
Clothing aid	28	28 clients were supported. This includes the children and the parents who lack clothes and bedding.
Home visits	20	20 home visits were conducted.
Sick cases	9	9 cases were referred to MIC for treatment and further management.
Admission for school	5	3 children were enrolled to Songa Mbele and 2 were referred to St. Catherine primary school.
Nutritional support	2	2 Children from the special day care class have severe malnutrition. They were referred to MIC and the Nutrition Centre for further intervention and to St. Catherine's social office for possible enrolment into the amaranth flour program.
Abuse case	1	Case of physical abuse of a girl in the coaching class was reported to Hazina Chief's office. The perpetrators, her elder sisters, were summoned by the chief and received a verbal warning.
Fire tragedy	1	One pupil was affected by a fire outbreak on 17 th February. They received assistance from the social office.
Needy Cases	26	26 Children from very needy families were re-assessed and reports compiled for further intervention.
Wheel chair aid	1	The office issued a wheel chair to a client who has spinal tuberculosis and he cannot walk. Unfortunately the client passed away on 26 th .02.2019 and the family returned the wheel chair.
Profiles	37	31 of the compiled profiles are for the new pupils in our Centre, and 6 are for the old pupils whom had no profiles.



Technical University of Kenya students during a visit to the Centre

Mary Immaculate Rehabilitation Centre

The recruitment of new boys for the 2019 program continued and now we have 38 boys ready to go through the program. Their next step is a medical checkup which is conducted by our medical staff at the Clinic. The boys have settled into their classes which are divided into three categories based on the boy's ability and capability: Primary 1, Primary 2 and Carpentry class.

CLASS	CATEGORY	POPULATION
Year 1	0 to Class 4	10
Year	Class 5 to Class 7 & 8	18
Carpentry	16 years and above	10

Four boys from the 2018 group were referred to Mwangaza Rehabilitation Centre for further rehabilitation before being reintegrated to school and their families. The Centre welcomed them well and we are hopeful that they will finish the process well and make good decisions about their futures.

Several groups of visitors came to the Centre and had fun times interacting with the boys. They took time to talk to them about various issues and gave donations to help the boys during the process.

The boys also had an art workshop this month with Paula Cullen and her group. This is one of the extra-curricular activities that the boys are engaged in to help them build their creative side as well as keep them busy. Paula and her group also provided all the new uniforms, shoes, shirts, jumpers and other casual wear for the boys. The boys scrubbed up well the next day for formal classes.



Boys being fed upon arrival at the Centre



One of the boys still high on arrival



*Boys together with the social worker on arrival
At Mwangaza Rehabilitation Centre*



*The British high commission staff, the boys and
Centre staff during a visit*



Breakfast, compliments from Diamond Trust Bank Staff



Above: 5 new recruits

Left: new recruits in uniform with Catherine, Vera and Paula.

Below: Some of the boys after school

Moving the container

We finally managed to move the container from point A to point B. It was a major logistic task. When buildings are erected without wide enough passages it makes life difficult as you will see in the photos.



A little cross country, through the vegie patch, around the library to the final resting place next to the kitchen. Phew!

Primary Schools:

The schools' enrolment continued. The increase is associated with a private donor who has been supporting the school lunches for a number of years. The enrolment numbers are shown below.

PUPILS				
Item	School	Girls	Boys	School total
1.	St. Catherine's	677	627	1,303
2.	St. Bakhita	528	482	1,010
3.	St. Elizabeth	984	926	1,910
4.	Mukuru Primary	888	777	1,665
Total Enrolled		3,077	2,812	5,889

There is a big challenge with the teacher/pupil ratio as we have not yet received replacement teachers from the TSC (Teachers Service Commission). Several of our teachers were transferred at the beginning of the year as part of a government promise to provide secondary transition to pupils. The country needs another 33,000 teachers to fill the positions. We can only continue with our lobbying the TSC and the Education Ministry and keep hoping that they will send us teachers or support the teachers that we employ to reduce the ratio to a more conducive level for sound education.

The KCPE registration was done and currently we have 660 pupils from the four schools who will sit for the exams in 2019. There were difficulties obtaining the necessary documents needed for the registration, especially the birth certificates. Unfortunately, we have had fires in the villages which consumed the victims earthly possessions and documents. There were some parents who submitted fake birth certificates and the consequence is deregistration. It is not an easy process but we have the social workers in the different schools trying to obtain the certificates with the help of the children office.



	School	School Total
1.	St. Catherine's	135
2.	St. Bakhita	111
3.	St. Elizabeth	214
4.	Mukuru Kayaba	200
Total Enrolled KCPE		660

St. Michaels Secondary

St Michael's held its termly sports day event during the month where the students played and competed in the different sports. They were very excited. The Parents' meeting for the Form Two students was held and they were happy to make contributions and be involved in their children's education.

During the celebration on the Feast of St. Bakhita, our students were visited by a drama group from HAART who educated the students on the issue of Human Trafficking.

Two students who performed very well in 2018 KCSE came to talk to the students and motivate them to study.



2018 Top Performers talking to the students



*Form Four Opening Term Exams
Top Performers*

Mary Immaculate Clinic:

We were fortunate when John Nugent came from Dublin on professional business to Nairobi, as John presented MPC with laptops that will be utilised at the clinic. We also received a cash donation that will assist with the cervical cancer screening program.



February continued well in the Clinic with the numbers of patients treated increased from January 2019:

Age	0-5 years	6-13 years	14 and above	Total
Male	220	55	274	549
Female	292	69	573	934
Total	512	124	847	1,483

Common illnesses treated in February:

DISEASE	NUMBER
Upper Respiratory Conditions	67
Diabetes	1
Gastroenteritis	4
Skin Disease	10
Other Gastro Intestinal tract conditions	60
Other Neurological conditions	8
Urinary Tract Infections	22
Pneumonia	1
Hypertension/Diabetes Mellitus	8
Allergic Rhinitis	18
Sexually transmitted infections	15
Total	214

Dr Karin, a volunteer doctor from Slovakia, arrived and will be with us for the next 3 months helping the clinic with its programs and mentoring. We are very grateful to St Elizabeth's University, Slovakia, and the partnership with Dr Krenery who started the program over 20 years ago.

Sponsorship:

The total number of students under the sponsorship program are currently 259. We do hope that we can increase this number over the next month as the needs arise and people respond.

Category	Number of students Sponsored
Children living with Disabilities	50
Vocational skills	11
Colleges & Universities	10
Primary Schools	81
Secondary Schools	107
TOTAL	259

Some sponsors managed a visit during the month and had the opportunity to interact with some of the children they are sponsoring. One of them, Vera, Catherine and Paula, identified a few boys who have completed the rehabilitation program and promised to continue sponsoring their education.



Vera Smith, Paula Cullen and Catherine Nolan with the some of the sponsored boys



t Happened....

Today in History:

ESTABLISHMENT OF MPC

Mukuru Promotion Centre was established in May **1985** as a non-formal school with 45 pioneer pupils. Four untrained teachers who had received some teaching methods from teachers at Our Lady of Mercy Primary School conducted 4 main classes. It was a project of **Sisters of Mercy (Kenya)**.

The Centre was established as a result of the growing number of children who had to drop out of school because their parents could not afford fees being demanded for building extra classrooms. A group of concerned parents approached the government and various church bodies asking for some provisions to be made to help keep their children off the street, resulting in Sisters of Mercy responding to this appeal by establishing MPC. The school which served as a church on Sundays consisted of a large hall divided into four classrooms by cartons. It was jointly funded by the Sisters of Mercy (Ireland) through **Sr. Cora** and **The Missionaries of Africa** through **Fr. Manuel**. **Sr. Mary Killeen** who was the Head Teacher of Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Primary School collaborated with Fr. Manuel to establish the school and so they are recognised as the co-founders of MPC.

In 1987 female students who qualified to undertake secondary education went to Our Lady of Mercy Secondary school while the male students went to Highway Secondary School. The dressmaking classes were moved to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Centre (OLQP) for students who did not proceed to secondary school after it was found that the machines could not be left safely in temporary buildings. On the school compound, boys joined carpentry and masonry classes in rooms built by Fr McFarren, a Salesian Father. The tools were brought in a huge chest and returned to each afternoon to the Salesian in Karen.

In 1990, pupils of Mukuru Primary (Kayaba village) sat for the first KCPE examination. Two streams were started from class one to eight and Mr Raja of Crown Industries donated maize and beans for the students lunch before world food programme (WFP) commenced in 1993.

In 1991, A German priest **Fr. Rakyl** requested assistance to run a school in Lunga Lunga. This led to the establishment of St Elizabeth's school under the auspices of MPC.

In addition, NSSF donated two adjoining acres where the Vocational Training Centre is currently.

In 1992, MPC acquired 5 acres of land opposite Express Kenya a land which was former quarry and dumpsite.

A general election was held and tribal clashes saw a huge influx of Boranas from North Eastern and Kikuyus from Moro to Kayaba slums. Many of their children went to St. Catherine's and MPC built a house for some of them.

In 1995, Blessed Josephine Bakhita Primary School was opened to try and accommodate some of the children from the slums due to mammoth increase in numbers in population. The parents wanted to call the school after **Cardinal Otunga** but the Cardinal directed the school to be named after the newly beatified Sudanese Woman.

In 1996, Mary Immaculate Rehabilitation centre was opened as a special drop-in centre. Kayaba clinic, currently known as Mary Immaculate Clinic (MIC) was moved to St Bakhita from Crown Industries and formally opened by **Lion Ushah Shah** on 21st February.

In 1999, the Clinic moved to St. Catherine's site for security reasons. Sr. Patricia O'Meara succeeded Sr. Mary Killeen as MPC Director, September 1999. Sr. Kathleen Rooney took over in June 2001.



Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step by Step
Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

www.mercymukuru.co.ke

Email: info@mercymukuru.co.ke

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



On Sunday 10th March we were out celebrating Sr Patricia's birthday when the news came through that there had been an Ethiopian Airlines plane accident where 157 people lost their lives. At the time we didn't make the connection. When we returned in the evening the tragic news of flight ET302 was even more traumatic when Sr Mary received the news. Danica Olexova, a project manager for eRko Slovakia (Christian Children's Communities Movement) was on the flight. Danica was scheduled to meet with us on the Monday morning at the Head Office and then again during the week with the Songa Mbele na Masomo staff. We have all been in shock.

Danica has been assisting our staff for the last 4 years and we meet a couple of times a year. She was a passionate woman who worked tirelessly for the marginalised in Kenya and Ethiopia. Danica was tenacious and committed to finding the best possible outcomes for people. She lived in Nairobi for 3 years working at the DKA Support Office, conducting monitoring and evaluation support to projects in Kenya. After the closure of the DKA Support Office at the end of 2015 Danica worked for eRko Slovakia where she continued her work in monitoring and evaluation of projects. Danica will be sadly missed by scores of people not only in Kenya and Ethiopia but in her own country, Slovakia. Our prayers and condolences to her family.



God, we commend to you our friend and colleague, Danica.

May she enjoy your presence and your love for all eternity.

