



MUKURU PROMOTION CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter
January 2019

"Empowerment Step by Step"
Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy

From The Director:

Dear Friends,

I wish you all a very Happy New Year. Some of you would know that I was not in Kenya during January as I stayed in Ireland after the Presidential Award ceremony on 29th November. This extended period gave me the opportunity to spend time with family, friends and Sisters around the country as well as doing the necessary fundraising appearances. I managed a few days in England with the Sisters of Mercy, Bermondsey, who provided a pleasant space for prayer and reflection as well as time with Sr Assumpta Walsh who is a great supporter of MPC and worked in Nairobi for over 10 years.

My time in Ireland and Spain for both working and catching up with friends and former volunteers was wonderful.

Whilst in Spain, I was thrilled to visit the office of Manos Unidas, who over the years have supported MPC and given much funds for development. It was delightful to see Inez in her native Madrid working environment. We had an inspiring visit to Africa Directo, and met with the Jesuit Father from 'Enculture'. I also visited Pedro's business office, Quantum. Javier Amate and his wife provided terrific catechetical resources for our children at MPC. They worked non stop in preparing all the materials for me to bring back. I have much gratitude to Pedro and Stella who hosted me, and arranged my travels. Their daughter Stella provided the culinary delights for the various meetings in their home. I definitely have put on a few inches around the waist.

I am truly grateful for all the inspiring support given by many of you over the years. I trust that the year ahead will continue to be a source of hope for thousands.

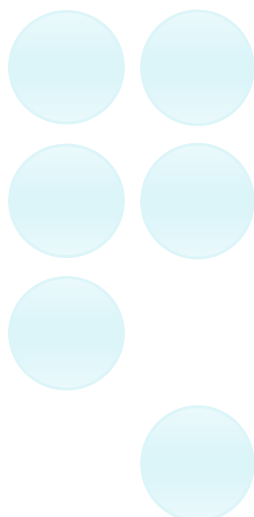
Sr Mary Killeen

Mary Immaculate Clinic:

Like all the MPC Centers, the Clinic opened for operations in the first week of January. Thanks to the Irish Embassy Small Grants in Kenya we now have a new medical records database which will help keep detailed

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information on patient management, provide detailed Health ministry reports at different intervals for the weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports at the press of a few buttons. The database will help reduce waiting times for the patients and assist the staff to provide patient friendly services.

The Home-Based Healthcare Program was suspended indefinitely due to the decrease in numbers and lack of donor funds. While the medical staff are still at the Clinic our social workers will help with the follow ups of the neediest cases and refer them to the Clinic when necessary.

The Antenatal clinic had 160 mothers while the Postnatal clinic had 148 children attend for immunization. It was discovered that 4 of the children were underweight and were referred to the nutrition clinic for monitoring.

During the month of January access to healthcare services for over a thousand of Mukuru residents was achieved. The tables below gives an account on who received the services and for what reasons.

Number of patients treated in January 2019

Age	0-5 years	6-17 years	18- 35 years	35 above	total
Male	185	95	187	109	576
Female	200	101	230	94	615
Total	385	197	417	204	1,204

Diseases treated in January 2019

Illness	Number of Cases
Upper respiratory conditions	108
Diabetes	1
Gastroenteritis	93
Skin diseases	51
Other conditions	60
Other neurological conditions	4
Urinary tract infections	71
Pneumonia	0
Hypertension/ Diabetes	8
Total	396

Clinic Visitors

We were fortunate to have 2 volunteers from England who gave up their holiday time to help out at the Clinic. Sarah and Tina (twins) had everyone buzzing with energy as they assisted with floor tiling, painting the consultation rooms and waiting bay areas and hanging up curtains in the different rooms. We are very grateful as the consultation rooms were in special need of renovations. The renovations were timely as the cervical cancer screening program will take place in February.

Clinic Makeover:



Having twins caused a little confusion for some of the staff receiving double the conversations. Dr Nina who is leading the Cervical Cancer screening program attends the grand opening of the newly renovated rooms.



MPC Clinic Staff at Lunch with Sarah and Tina

MPC Rehabilitation Centre:

As the year began most of the activities involved getting the 2018 group into schools and placements and preparing for the new boys for 2019 recruitment program.

10 boys completed their NITA Grade III exam and were placed in different companies for their attachment in January. The boys who completed their KCPE were placed in secondary schools and two of them were placed in vocational training as per their request. Some boys were referred to other rehabilitation centres for further treatment.



Recruitment 2019

The recruitment process for new boys began this month with the staff walking around the ‘dens’ and specific places in the slums to talk to the boys. The recruitment process takes a number of weeks as we need to engage with the boys a few times before we invite them to come and see if the program will be successful for them. During January, we spoke to dozens of boys in the different places and 23 accepted the invitation to come to the centre and see if they can turn their life around.

Over the next 3 weeks the Centre will conduct various assessments to ascertain their abilities and their capabilities so that they are placed in the right classes. Medical check-ups will be carried out and information gathered so that the social workers can start on their backgrounds so that parents can be contacted. At times the boys are on the streets due to misunderstandings with families, orphaned or neglected in some way. They are very eager to start on this new journey of their life. Its great to see at the end of the year how transformed the boys will be. We wish this group all the best for the coming year.



Staff meet the street boys in the dumpsites



A staff with the street boys during the recruitment exercise and a street family at Black Army Base

We had the opportunity of hosting some visitors at the Centre this month. The guests spent time with the boys and gave some donations. A few of the 2018 boys were placed on internship also received bedding donations and food from Caroline & Maria to help them with their new life. Both Caroline and Maria will be returning in March with their group to assist further.



Abhishek from Dubai with the boys at the Centre



Some of the 2019 Recruits and Caroline, Maria and staff at the Centre

Songa Mbele Na Masomo Children Centre:

Songa Mbele opened on 8th of January after the Christmas holidays. The month began with a lot of activity at the Centre with 19 children ‘exited’ from the program into mainstream primary schools to make way for new children and the other 2 placed in special schools. There was also a steady stream of visitors and corporations visiting the centre as part of their corporate social responsibility programs.

One of the children’s parent received a donation of a washing machine from CDSK (Cheshire Disabilities Services Kenya). This was given in a bid to help the mother get more work to support the child and pay for her school fees after exiting the program.



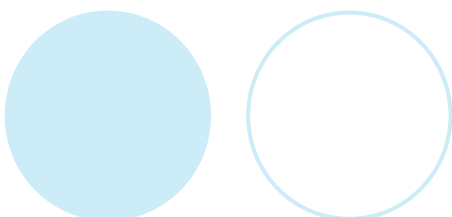
Elizabeth Ndanu’s mother with the washing machine donated by CDSK



Naivas supermarket, Capital Centre, visit to the Centre as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility



Physiotherapy and psychotherapy in session



The Primary Schools:

This year when the schools opened, the number of pupils enrolling was very high compared to the other years. This was mainly attributed to the fact that most of them were migrating from neighbouring schools due to lack of school lunches. The World Food Program handed the program to the Government last year and at the beginning of the school term 2019, they were yet to deliver food to schools. Thanks to a local donor, we have been able to provide the school lunch to pupils including the extras.

The large numbers of pupils turning up for enrollment is a positive thing because it shows that many children in the Mukuru slums are embracing education. On the other hand, it has posed a challenge in terms of the teacher-pupils ratio. Several teachers were transferred to other schools by TSC and the gaps are yet to be filled. As for the classrooms, the pupils are full, making it a challenge for the teachers to teach effectively.

School enrollment as at January 2019

School	Girls	Boys	School total
St. Catherine's	653	599	1,252
St. Bakhita	514	475	989
St. Elizabeth	984	926	1,910
Mukuru Primary	887	775	1,662
Total	3,038	2,775	5,813



Visitors in one of the classes at St. Bakhita

St Michael's Secondary:

Most of the students were eager to start the school year as they were transiting classes. The admissions for Form 1 started on 7th January and stretched through to the end of the month. There are many changes happening in the education sector in Kenya and we try our best to manage the situation. For example, all students must now be registered with the NEIMS database as opposed to the schools registering them. Students must produce birth certificates which for many our students is a major problem due to fires and floods.

Another challenge was in 2018 the Teachers' Service Commission employed 10 out of our 16 teachers during the year. This does have an impact on the consistency we tried to deliver during the year. The government has a target of employing 33,000 new teachers to manage the demand so we do expect more transfers during the year.

School enrolment for term 1

Class	Number of students
Form 1	67
Form 2	130
Form 3	112
Form 4	108
Total	417

The results from 2018 KCSE were reasonable with 13 out of the 98 obtaining a university placement. The greatest improvement was with the sciences. We congratulate the teachers involved in extracting the good results from the students.

SUBJECT	ENTRY	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	X	P	U	M.S 2018	M.G	M.S 2017
English	98	0	0	1	1	6	12	17	13	16	30	2	0	0	0	0	4.857	C-	4.179
Kisw	98	0	0	0	0	6	11	7	16	13	37	8	0	0		0	4.347	D+	3.978
Maths	98	2	2	3	1	7	3	3	4	3	24	30	16	0	0	0	3.51	D	3.236
Biology	71	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	2	2	31	29	1	0	0	0	2.972	D	2.133
Physics	27	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	2	9	8	1	0		0	3.963	D+	2.966
Chemistry	98	1	0	2	3	4	2	3	5	6	22	41	9	0	0	0	3.357	D	2.573
History	42	1	1	0	2	3	6	2	10	6	8	2	1	0	0		5.286	C-	5.047
Geography	56	1	1	0	4	2	5	4	6	2	25	5	1	0	0	0	4.607	C-	6.047
CRE	98	0	0	2	4	7	12	12	19	11	25	6	0	0	0	0	5.041	C-	5.236
Agriculture	28	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	10	12	0	0	0	0	3.179	D	2.5
Business	70	0	0	2	5	2	4	3	3	4	33	10	4	0	0	0	4.014	D+	3.239

		MEAN GRADE SUMMARY KCSE 2018																	
		A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	X	P	U	M.S		
Boys	65	0	0	2	2	3	6	5	5	12	23	7		0	0	0	4.462	D+	4
Girls	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	24	9	4	0	0	0	0	3.818	D+	3.614
Total	98	0	0	2	2	3	6	8	10	24	32	11	0	0	0	0	4.2448	D+	3.809

During the month, the school had several activities taking place which included a parents meeting for the incoming Form 4 students; a football tournament; a cross country run; Heads of Secondary Schools meeting at the County offices; moral formation talks facilitated by the social workers among other activities. January has been a very busy month.



A teacher speaking to the parents during a parents’ meeting at the school



The school football team during a match with a neighboring school

Our Lady Of Mercy Training Vocational Centre:

The activities started with enrollment of students into the different courses. The number of students who have registered and reported has been high which is positive, showing that the youth are embracing studies even after high school education.

The students were taken through orientation by the Head Teacher, Mr Musyoka, Head of Health and Social Services, Mrs Akinyi, and the Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer, Sr Lilian. This helped the students become familiar with the Centre and know what is expected of them. This is in line with the organization's plan of ensuring that protection and safeguarding of the children, youth and staff is well practiced and communicated to everyone.



The child protection officer speaking to the new students during the orientation session



Plumbing & Masonry students during a practical class

Skills Students' enrollment January 2019:

Class	No of Students
Catering	36
Computer	52
Art and Craft	8
Plumbing and Masonry	9 grade III 6 grade II
Garment Making	14
Front Office	10
Hairdressing and Beauty	24
Total	159



We are thankful for Maria's assistance both at the Clinic and Skills where she expanded on our course outlines..

Social and Health Services:

The social and health services department continued working closely with the community members to ensure that they get the necessary assistance. As schools opened this month, the department started working on the activities planned for 2019. These include, formation talks, life skills sessions, assessments and home visits for Class 8 pupils and handling referrals as they are presented to them for assistance. This month the cases that were handled are outlined below. After the completion of December interviews for sponsorship, the children who were eligible were given the results and have reported to school. At this early stage over 250 students will be sponsored in 2019.

CASE TYPE	NUMBER
Amaranth Clients	70
Malnourished Children Program	17
Nutrition Program	86
Sick Cases	93
Needy Cases	17
New school Admissions	216
Sponsorship Interviews	33
Fire Victims	4
Case profiles for Need assessment	17
Coaching 2018 pupils 'Exited'	19
Special Coaching 2018 'Exited'	2
Home visits	8
Medical Referrals	5
Behavioral Cases	6
Placement for Industrial Attachment	10
Referrals to other Institutions	2
MIRC boys' School Placement	4
Medical Emergency cases	2
Abuse Cases	3
Class 8 1 st Assessment for Sponsorship	17
Total	



One of the many home visits during the month of January

I t Happened....

Today in History:

In January 1995 MPC schools became separate entities. They were no longer managed as branch schools of Mukuru Primary. Each school put together a management committee consisting of eight parents, three sponsor representatives, one from the department of education and one from the local authority.

In January 1996 Ruben Primary School was reverted to MPC from the Japanese Education Fund and Sisters of Mercy agreed in 1998 that the Australian Christian Brothers would take over the Reuben School in the year 2000.

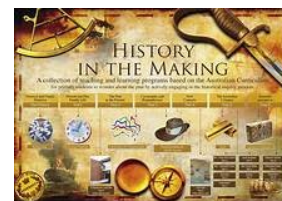
Sr Mary Killeen became the Director of MPC and Sr. Teresia Njonge was appointed the Head Teacher of Kayaba Primary.

Sr Margaret Slattery introduced 2 new courses at the post primary skills training program. The programs was based at St. Catherine's Primary School. The King Baudouin Children's home accepted 30 girls who had been in a exit house owned by MPC in Kayaba.



In January 2008, Sr. Mary Geason, a Sister of Mercy from Melbourne, joined MPC as Deputy Director. The Government of Kenya announced free basic education for primary day schools and gave a supplement to boarding schools and gave much needed opportunities especially for MPC pupils in the 6 primary schools.

St. Michael's Secondary School opened on 21st January the same year with an intake of 45 students. Sr Angela Hartigan was the first secondary Principal. The school was housed in the former King Baudouin Children's Home.





Mukuru Promotion Centre

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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.



Three Cheers



The Reno gang taking a break