



MUKURU PROMOTION CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Empowerment Step by Step

Monthly Newsletter
JUNE 2019

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From The Director:

Dear Friends,

I highly appreciate the various ways you assist Mukuru Promotion Centre to operate. A number of British Airways crew help a lot with clothes, toys, school items, bedding, household items and equipment for art and craft, sports, hairdressing and beauty. This is a tremendous help as the students do not have the means of supplying what is needed. We have many fires in the dry season. You have enabled us to give the victims a change of clothes and replace some of their necessities.

Sancta Maria College, led by Martin Flynn, visited us with ten girls and three other staff. The teachers here and the children were delighted with their visit and appreciated their donations. Congratulations to the Sancta Maria Principal, staff and parents as well as the whole student body for permitting and facilitating the trip and for the donations to projects.

This year, eRko Slovakia, are celebrating their silver Jubilee. Mr Marian Caucik met me briefly on his way through Nairobi. Congratulations on the Jubilee and on many years assistance to various departments of MPC. We are still mourning Danica, agent of eRko, who worked with us for ten years and died in the Ethiopian plane crash on 10th March, 2019.

Our partnership with Cheshire Foundation means a lot to us as we work together for empowering children living with disabilities. Our social worker, Irene, works closely with Cheshire, and was sponsored by them to capacity building in Kisumu for a few days. Africa Direct had a volunteer, Donie O'Shea, fundraising for Songa Mbele furniture and for catering equipment for Songa. He intended to spend two weeks with us but had to return home after one week due to death of his brother in law. Thanks to all who supported Donie and to Africa Direct for facilitating his volunteering.

As you know there is great need for environmental education and waste management in Nairobi. We are trying to implement training in all of the schools and departments and to do some recycling. We will begin small and hopefully keep improving. We met with "Well Aware" who will assist us with the solar powered bore hole pump on the St Catherine's site.

We welcomed the new Irish Ambassador. We finished the month with an inspiring talk by Sr. Brenda Dolphin, on Catherine McAuley, our foundress. We feel very fulfilled in knowing that we carry on the work with and for the poor, through our partnership with all of you.

Sr Mary Killeen

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Social & Health Services:

The cases handled by the social office this month are listed below. The department has been doing interviews and home visits for the children especially the Class Eight pupils. The Class Eight interviews happen 3 times a year as well as a home visit to give the sponsorship panel a better idea when making the decisions for sponsorship into secondary school. The social workers provide briefs for the panel so that more is known about the child, family background, desires both for the child and parents / guardians as well as the living situations. The end of year exam is one part of the process for sponsorship and the social workers help MPC to make the determinations after the KCPE.

On the list of activities there is an unusual one, birth certificates. This is causing much anxiety for MPC as the Ministry of Education has required all pupils in schools to have a NEMIS number (National Education Management Information System) and the birth certificate must be submitted. For many parents who live in the slums it is difficult as many are victims of fire and floods where they lose everything. Some pupils are orphans and don't know when they were born. The most common of birthdays is 1st January! The social workers are now helping the parents to fill the birth certificate application forms to present to the government authority, Birth and Death Registry. So far they have managed to submit 356 forms with a long way to go.

CASE TYPE(ACTIVITY)	NUMBER
Home visits / Tracing	177
Abuse cases	5
Amaranth Clients	76
Nutritional support	76
Malnourished Babies	15
Indiscipline	23
Truancy and Absenteeism	15
Moral Formation Talks	1,587
Drug Abuse	4
Counselling	34
Displacement / Missing Children	3
School visits	1
Profiling for Sponsorship	137
Uniform support	17
Birth Certificate Checks	184
Medical Cases	142
Needy Family Assistance	51
Class 8 Assessments	102

Social & Health Services:



Motivational talks by the GT Wamini group and Social worker



A Mukuru Primary pupils before and after receiving her new uniform.



MPC Clinic:

The Clinic continued to treat hundreds of patients each week during June. As the colder months are experienced we expect higher treatment numbers. The Ministry of Health came to inspect the vaccine refrigerator and was satisfied with its condition, thus we will continue receiving the vaccines for the different diseases. There is a shortage of tetanus vaccines in the country and we have had to purchase them separately. Over the last month there has been over 120 tetanus vaccines given to children.

Patients Treated in June

Patient	Gender	Under 5	Under 13	Above 13	Total
New cases	Male	121	72	191	384
	Female	109	63	227	399
Revisits	Male	148	36	157	341
	Female	136	53	268	457
Total		514	224	843	1,581

The 12 Most Common Illnesses Treated In June

Diagnosis	No. of Patients
Acute upper Respiratory infections	514
Gastroenteritis and Amoebiasis	317
Urinary tract infections	223
Skin infections	47
Neuralgia and Neuritis	39
Lower respiratory infection	33
Abdominal pregnancy	33
TB	15
Hypertension / Diabetes	46
Injuries /wounds	28
Others	399
Helicobacter Pylori	26
Total Treatments	1,720

MPC Rehabilitation Centre

The Mary Immaculate Rehabilitation Centre is reaching out by meeting the parents / guardians of the boys. It is hoped that the good experience at the Centre will help them when they move forward with their lives with better understanding and sound information. We know that from previous years the boys share some wonderful moments as well as some sad moments. We try to give them good tools to deal with difficult situations, be it with family members or work environment.

The home searches is challenging but so far we have managed to cover most with 8 more remaining to be completed. In our visits, we sadly noted that three parents/guardians had relocated, therefore, we could not visit them. Our next option is to try and trace them from their rural homes and extended families who may know their whereabouts. Overall, most parents were happy to see their children but there were a few cases where the reunions were not so good. The exercise is still going on and hopefully by the second week of July all of them will be concluded.

In each home search visit there is a similar story. It was noted that 3 boys have suffered abuse from their families and then move to the streets, thinking that it would be safer. One was a case of corporal punishment by the grandmother; the other a case of sodomy which was dismissed due to lack of evidence (neighbors refused to testify) and so the perpetrator was let free and the third was a case of child labor due to poverty level being high and so the child went looking for ways to feed himself. These stories unfortunately are far too common for those who live in poverty and are denied their rights.



A mother who is very ill with her poor elderly mother



Trying to trace through the Chief but in vain

The Mercy Education office sponsored 32 boys to attend the celebrations marking ‘*The Day of African Child*’. The ceremony was held at Rongai, just outside the city, and the main theme for the function was ‘*Preserving the Environment*’. The day was filled with entertainments, dance competitions and games.



Raising Awareness on Environmental Issues

Other activities during the month were the motivational talks given by the MPC counselor on anger management attended by the Standard 7 Class boys. Good behavior management is very helpful for the boys as well as an enjoyable learning experience.



The social worker paid a visit to the Saints Peter and Paul School, Embu. It was a timely visit as the school had its AGM where the emphasis was on child safety. After the meeting the children were released for their midterm break.

We have received a huge donation of fire wood from the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. The pieces came in very manageable sizes for the jiko (wood fire oven).

We received cakes, apples and yoghurt from Kenya Airways which we shared with Songa Mbele. We enjoyed the goodies for four days after classes. Hmmm lots of smiles!!!



Eric from Action & Focus donated veggies to the Centre twice this month. The company exports veggies and have promised to donate the produce that doesn't meet the strict international exports standards. They look great to us!



The Sancta Maria College group from Dublin, spent the day with the boys and donated football shirts and two soccer balls.

The day was enjoyed by the boys especially having the interaction with the girls. The half time break entertainment from both groups was outstanding. It was hard to go back to the match.

The carpentry boys assisted in painting the library shelves under the supervision of their instructor, Charles. The shelves were from the clinic and had been remodeled for the library. One of our previous staff members, who is studying for the priesthood, Douglas, returned during his semester break to help create the library system for implementation. The books are being labeled, covered and catalogued. Once all is ready, the library will be set and ready for use.



The boys sat for their mid-term exams and then had a more relaxing time during the break where they were engaged in environmental cleaning, show casing talents, playing games and watching movies.



Preparation for the new playground has started.



Measuring



Digging



Moving

Gathering

St. Michael's Mixed Day Secondary

St Michael's received a number of visitors from within Nairobi and overseas. We were very happy to host the students from Sancta Maria College, Dublin, during the month.

The students from Dublin had the opportunity to tour the school and conduct a number of lessons in different subjects, debate about emerging issues for youth as well as seeing and hearing the talented students at St Michael's. So impressed by the talents of the students, Sancta Maria will sponsor a talent competition to develop the arts more at the school. The Arts are often overlooked in a school as it is not a priority for many. We are delighted with the support from Sancta Maria College.



Martin Flynn and the student group from Sancta Maria College

The school choir participated in the zonal music festival in Ruaraka and qualified to proceed to the regionals in July. Thanks to Mr Munguti from South B Parish, Our Lady Queen of Peace, who has a passion for singing, trained the choir for a few weeks prior to the festival. We hope that they will do well in the next stage.

St Michael's were very fortunate to have an International group of retired Northern Ireland Police Commissioners and Senior Personnel visit MPC and conduct sessions on Personal Safety and Anti-radicalization for our students. We also had the Administration Police from the area and officers from the Professional Criminologist Association of Kenya. There is always a high risk for students in slums that they will be influenced by gangs and cartels due to the poverty levels. The sessions were very informative and appreciated by the students and staff.



*International visitors
address the schools at
MPC*



St. Michael's Mixed Day Secondary

St Michael's Principal attended a benchmarking program at Our Lady of Mercy Secondary Girls School which was attended by other principals and several officials from Makadara Sub-County, and TSC. The TSC Director stressed among other things team spirit and consultation among teachers, team teaching, bench-marking, lesson attendance register, lesson recovery register, code of conduct and ethics in the teaching profession. The Sub County Director spoke on how to set a school target mean from the subject means. The good practices learned are being implemented at St. Michael's sequentially and the loopholes are being addressed.



From left to right: Shirao (secretary Kepsa and principal Nile Road Secretary), Stephen Gathii, (Chairman Kepsa and Principal Aquinas High), Jane Muturi (TSC Sub County Director), Ann Githaiga (Sub County Director Makadara)

St Michael's had a mentorship program for the Form 1 students from Barclays Bank, Industrial Area Branch. The team held an open forum with the students providing inspiration and motivational messages. Barclays have committed themselves to provide monthly mentorship meetings and to 'walk' with the learners' up to 2022.



St Michael's Volleyball Team



Barclays Bank Mentorship Program

The volleyball boys emerged victorious in competition and crowned the best volleyball team in the sub regional games. The win helped the boys to compete at the next level, Nairobi Regional games which were held at the Eastleigh Boys High School. The boys did well in the preliminaries. Unfortunately, most of the students were banned from playing further, due to lack of original birth certificates. Sadly, the team could not continue with their matches.

The Form 3 Girls enrolled in the Macheo program attended the June session at Strathmore University. There is great impact on the students' characters and academic performance.

Primary Schools:

Both the Public Health and Sub-County Departments of Quality Assurance completed the inspection of the 4 Primary Schools for purposes of re-registration by the Government. The enrolment has stabilized though with a few transfers from and to the schools. There are 5,955 pupils attending the 4 primary schools with the girls at 50.6% just edging above the boys.

MPC is still waiting on TSC to post adequate teaching staff to the primary schools. The schools are 28 teachers short. We will continue to lobby the authorities.

Item	Primary School	Girls	Boys	Sub-Total
	St. Elisabeth	967	971	1,938
	Mukuru Kayaba	878	788	1,666
	St. Bakhita	535	489	1,034
	St. Catherine's	635	682	1,317
Total		3,015	2,930	5,955

The Ministry of Education has disbursed books for Grades 1 to Grade 3 to our schools. The texts are for seven subjects:

1. Mathematics Activities.
2. English Literacy Activities.
3. Kiswahili Activities.
4. CRE Activities
5. Hygiene & Nutrition Activities
6. Environmental Activities.
7. Literacy (Listening & Communication through readers)

Hopefully, the books given to each pupil will assist in the learning as we had not received a ratio 1:1 before.

All Standard 5 pupils at Mukuru Primary and the Rehab Centre went on the ecology trip sponsored by Waves Trust and African Fund for Endangered Wildlife Kenya (AFEW). This is a terrific excursion and the pupils always have a great time learning about conservation and wildlife in Kenya.



The AFEW organising committee Charles, Peris, Rono and Risper

There have been frequent accidents occurring along New Likoni Road with most casualties being pupils from St. Bakhita. A letter addressing the problem has been written to the attention of Nairobi City County Minister for Roads, Public Works & Transport.

The Sancta Maria College students visited St. Bakhita Primary and Mukuru Kayaba schools. The visitors were involved in colouring activities and making of masks. The group also donated learning materials i.e. colouring pencils and note pads to the pupils for the activities



St Bakhita Primary has a water crisis. Nairobi Water has turned off the water line due to an outstanding bill. The Ministry of Education allocation for water and electricity for the year was only ksh. 17,000 for 1,000 pupils and the current water bill is Ksh 50,000. The pupils are carrying water to school in containers. The Head Teacher has been lobbying Ministry but the problem has not yet been resolved.

Songa Mbele Na Masomo

The month of June has been great through the inter disciplinary approach of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, special teachers and caregivers. Over 45 clients received therapy sessions twice a week. The clients have been cooperative and consistent in the attendance which makes all the difference to the childrens' physical mobility. Most of the children are doing well and are fast reaching their own set goals. To further improve their handling of 'Activities for Daily Living' (ADLs), we are looking for equipment and tools for fine motor skills training such as velcro board, peg board, zipping board, buttoning board, and theraband.

The Home program has been going well and all the caregivers are attending therapy sessions with the clients.



Parents, teachers and children during the Special Olympics

To further improve their skills the children in Special Coaching class, attended a Special Olympics - Young Athletes event held at St. Paul Primary School. This is a great initiative which aims at giving the children a chance to nurture their talents.

Other training for staff occurred on disability awareness and speech therapy during the month.



A German volunteer, Nora, from Strathmore University donated CBC books (Competency Based Curriculum) to the Centre. The books were for lower grades and a few for upper grades. The books are greatly appreciated by students and staff. We wish Nora well as she returns to Germany.

Songa Mbele was fortunate to have a visit also from the Sancta Maria students during the month. The group donated clothes and play materials. We thank them for their generosity and for remembering us.

Songa Mbele Na Masomo



Tamara suffers from cerebral palsy and attended the Special Day Class and has experienced complications since birth. Her mother managed to take her to a hospital in the village a couple of times but sadly died on arrival. The burial took place upcountry, Busia County. The social worker together with one Special Ed teacher attended the burial.

Happy Tamara with the physiotherapist during therapy sessions.

Wall Update progress is going well with the construction of the perimeter wall.



Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training

The month of June had many activities. We had an inspection from NITA to upgrade our current trades from Grade III to Grade II and I. The inspection was successful and we are now accredited to test Grade II and I in the Hairdressing & Beauty and Garment Making. The Plumbing and Masonry course lacked the required space at the facility which means that Grade II students will have to register in another centre. The Masonry workshop cannot accommodate both Grades and the tools and materials we have are inadequate for the number of students. NITA promised to send a comprehensive report which we will provide as soon as we receive it. We hope that by 2020 that these issues will be resolved.

Students from Sancta Maria College visited us in June and spent time with our art and catering students. The catering students demonstrated their culinary skills in the Pride Restaurant. All the plates were squeaky clean afterwards so we guessed that meal was greatly appreciated.



The catering students had several opportunities during the month to display their growing confidence in the hospitality industry. KWAL (Kenya Wine Association Ltd) sponsored all the catering students to a 2 week intensive training course at the prestigious Kenya Utalii College of Hospitality.



They also helped the new DJ course with DJ training by bringing in an expert, in the business, 'Big Ted' to do some jamming sessions for the 15 new students.



Happenings around MPC



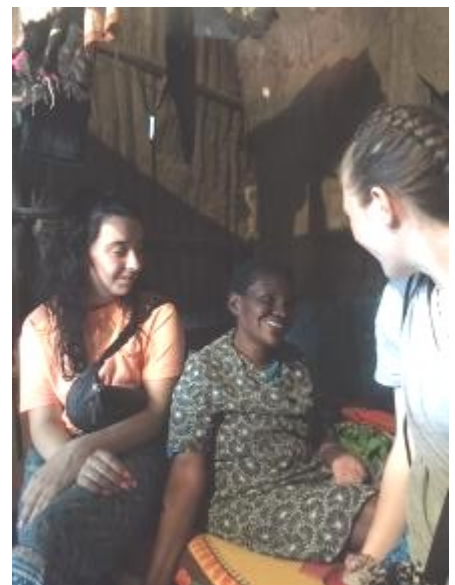
As mentioned in the newsletter, Sancta Maria College students and staff visited MPC. The group travelled to Chepareria in the North, Mavoka in the South East and Nairobi Central. The students spent time at each of the MPC programs and engaged with the different groups. They come every 2 years and we love to see them. They will be supporting various projects at MPC: environment, education, talent development, social rehabilitation, special education resources and medical support for poor families.



Staff measuring the field



Martin assists with the layout of the field



Sancta Maria students spend time with a local woman in her home.

MPC took part in the security training facilitated by the DCI (Directorate of Criminal Investigations), IPOA (Independent Police Oversight Association) and security personnel from Ireland.

Crime in the informal settlement is on the rise and skills students are no exception. Our aim is to ensure our students are prepared morally, ethically and skills wise, hence we have put a consensus effort to ensure we provide moral and ethical classes on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.



Northern Ireland Mission for Africa with local police representatives



Full House



Dr Paul Bailie addresses the groups from MPC



HODs Rehabilitation Centre, Peris Thuku and Social and Health Services, Francisca Katua at the International Conference.



An American group, called Well Aware, came to help out at the St Catherine's site. The bore hole that we had installed in 2013 broke down. We haven't managed to get any water from the bore hole for 2 years. The problem was with the pump. We hope that Well Aware will help us with a solar powered pump so that the children can have water. Sr Mary, Sr Kathy, Reinhard and Sarah's Well Aware team met during the month to discuss the partnership.



Mukuru Promotion Centre

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Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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Thank you for your support to improve the quality of life for thousands of
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each day.

