



Mukuru Promotion Centre  
*Empowerment Step By Step*  
Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy  
[www.mercymukuru.co.ke](http://www.mercymukuru.co.ke)

# Newsletter

February 2021  
Vol 6, Issue No.2

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*The New Facility at Songa Mbele na Masomo taking shape*

*Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,*

The children were well settled in February. There was an air of steady work around the schools. It was a surprise and joy to welcome negotiations with the Fidel Goetz Foundation on the possible sponsorship of girls in secondary and post-secondary education. We hope to partner with the Foundation in producing future female leaders in Africa. We are very happy to be part of their planning, together with schools in South Sudan and Uganda.

It was also a joyful surprise to receive porridge for two schools from the Ministry of Education after years of lobbying. They consider the two schools within the slums to be schools serving the informal sector but not the other two on the periphery of the slums. We have to see how the other two can be included.



Our vocational training has been badly affected by the closures for CoVid19. Half of the students, about 100, have given up hope of ever finishing their courses. The Government of Kenya repeatedly states how important vocational training is for the country, yet agencies of the same government postpone exams without giving new dates, causing students to despair of passing and getting their certificates. The type of furniture supplied commonly in Kenya has steel legs, with small rubber tips. The rubber wears out quickly leaving very sharp points which pierce the cement floors and ruins them. The catering classroom had such a floor. The masonry students, under their teacher's direction, repaired the classroom recently.

Songa Mbele children look forward to the completion of the new building. It is great for them to feel their school building is equal to or better than the ordinary primary schools. It also shows the parents how important they and their children are to MPC and The Kenyan Child Foundation. We were sad to lose one of our donors due to CoVid19 challenges in fund raising. We are busy now looking for a replacement to keep many centre activities running and to give the children the services they need to develop their potential.

We celebrated the Feast of St Bakhita with Mass and prayer for those people and children still caught in slavery. Various speakers helped to increase awareness of slavery within our own surroundings and of the exploitation of children and orphans.

We are very grateful to some of you for the donations of toys, food, stationary, art and craft material, clothes and supplies for hairdressing and beauty and to all of you who partner with us in enabling the people of Mukuru informal settlements access education and services like other better off people.

May God bless and protect you and fill you with blessings.

Sr Mary Killeen  
*Director*

## Education

The four Primary Schools have made tremendous progress towards adapting to the revised academic calendar that was disrupted by the CoVid19 Pandemic. There have been activities that have been implemented that are geared towards restoring the schools' functions. Notably, all Standard 8 pupils will have the opportunity to sit the upcoming national examinations hence the preparations are underway. Given the unusual circumstances the pupils have been taken through the changes to allay any extra anxiety. With the revised academic calendar, the National Examinations for Primary Schools is scheduled between 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and rehearsals on 19 March 2021.

Mentoring is a well-established concept that assists various people regardless of the discipline. Helping the pupils at the four primary schools by bridging any knowledge gaps and seek opportunities to excel will be our focus for the year. To reach this achievement it was necessary to have guidance talks with the Class 8 girls, all 350 of them, at the four MPC Primary Schools, focusing on their marks, attitude, application, career goals and benefits of joining St. Michael's Secondary School. Out of the 350 girl pupils we had over 190 applied for the mentorship program. This is a wonderful beginning.

Charitable contributions are a testament to the integral role that organizations play in our society. We received donations of toys from Breana Stillman (England / Australia) which were donated to the Early Childhood Development Education program at the 4 MPC Schools. The pupils also received donations of biscuits which they consumed during their break time from Team Pankaj.



*[L] St. Elizabeth Primary School (ECDE)*

*[R] Mukuru Primary School (ECDE)*



The children are delighted with their 'goodies'.



*St. Catherine's Primary School (ECDE)*



*St. Bakhita Primary School (ECDE)*



We received stationery items from Team Pankaj which were distributed to students of the upper classes in the four Primary Schools.

*St. Bakhita Primary School pupils*

After three years of negotiating with the various Ministry officials on the Feeding Program for the pupils in the schools we are happy to report that St Elizabeth Primary School received 2,550kgs of porridge for February and Sancta Maria Mukuru Kayaaba received 1,635kgs of porridge. Unfortunately, St Catherine and St Bakhita were not considered 'informal' by the Ministry. Thankfully, Team Pankaj has provided the meals for the pupils. To feed over 6,500 children each month is approximately €7,000. This is a huge sum to find each month. It is difficult to say to parents that they must pay 10 cents per child per day as most of them don't even have that amount of money to contribute. The feeding program is essential for the well-being of the children. Team Pankaj has come up with a proposal for parents and stakeholders to keep the program going. It will depend on parents making a small contribution of 400Khs (€3) per term. This will provide all the children with one meal per day for the term.

**ST. JOSEPHINE  
BAKHITA**

*"The Lord has  
loved me so much...  
we must love  
everyone...  
we must be  
compassionate!"*



During February St Bakhita Primary School celebrated their Feast Day and patron St. Bakhita. Josephine Margaret Bakhita was canonized on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2000 by Pope John Paul II. She was a Sudanese-Italian Canossian religious Sister who lived in Italy for 45 years after having been a slave in Sudan. She is the patron saint of Sudan and Human Trafficking Survivors. Her witness and tremendous deeds provide inspiration to our pupils.



*Fr celebrates Mass for the whole community.*



*St Michael's Dancers*

## **St Michael's Secondary School**

The absentee rate remains an issue for St Michael's Secondary School. The lack of earning capacity for parents does impact on paying for the basic necessities. As a result, some of our students are absent from classes to do casual jobs that helps subsidise the family income. St Michael's continues to outreach with the network of social workers we have to identify the extreme cases so we can assist in some way.

During the month we had a meeting with Team Pankaj who will help us with the meals for the students. A pay bill number was established so that parents can contribute directly into the account and will receive confirmation on their contribution.

In March, our Form 4 students (final year) will start their National Examinations for the Kenya Secondary Certificate Education (KSCE). This year's group has had to endure one of the most disrupted academic years in history. To help support them the school held a prayer day for the candidates. We have tried to provide the extra support for them as the last 10 months have been so disjointed. The candidates sat for their mock exams in February.

We are looking at ways to improve the opportunities for girls in secondary school. Our new partnership with the Fidel Goetz Foundation will help the female Form 3 and Form students. The Fidel Goetz Foundation will partner with Mukuru Promotion Centre to support secondary girls' education over a five year program. Good mentoring is crucial to shape up students' goals and as such it substantially increases their chances to succeed in their academic journey. The partnership will support identified students to increase their learning, develop their essential skills to overcome the hurdles and challenges they face and to make sound decisions with the many difficult situations they face or any obstacles they come across.

## Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

The month of February marked another big step for our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre (OLMVT) after a successful quality assessment by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA). TVETA is a public corporate agency established under the Technical and Vocational Education and Training ACT of 2013. Their main task is to approve, register, regulate, accredit, and license all TVETA institutions, their programs, courses and trainees as well as assessment centres. The quality assessment sought to establish the Centre's compliance with set standards. They also wanted to ensure that education and training services satisfy identified needs of the industry, trainees and society. OLMVT has invested heavily in technical training facilities, human resource and industrial partnership to produce learners with the right competencies to serve the society. Their visit helped us to gain more insight on leadership, management and governance. The department continued to enhance skills particularly in the Catering course. The students are now able to do their practicals for three days a week.



*Catering students in a practical session*

*Catering students learn how to make meatballs.*



The floor of the Catering classroom is quite dilapidated and in need of urgent repairs. The classroom was constructed five years ago and the high number of students using the room has led to wear and tear. Poor workmanship, use of lockers (desks) and cleaning methods have all led to rapid deterioration of the floor. The catering students were moved to the Pride Restaurant (the other side of the site) so that the repairs could be completed.

As part of an assessable task the Plumbing and Masonry students worked hard to complete all the repairs. Their work was very much appreciated by the catering students who are happy and motivated in the renovated classroom.



*Catering classroom repairs by the Plumbing and Masonry students*

The Front Office students have been learning how best to use technology for different presentations in Office Procedures, a major course in the Front Office Curriculum. The students have learnt how to present different topics in office procedures by creating PowerPoint presentations. They have also learnt how to write reports and different types of letters such as sales letters, enquiry and apology letters, application letters, memos and other forms of business letters in communication skills.



In housekeeping, the students have covered methods of cleaning different areas and how to arrange them such as conference rooms, computer rooms, corridors and hygiene practices in housekeeping.

*Front Office student uses Power Point for presentation*




## Social Services

The Social and Health Services Department was fully engaged as dozens of activities were carried out across all MPC departments touching the lives of over 2,000 people during the month.

### Summary of February Activities

No.	Sector Case Type / Activity	Education						Health	Welfare		Totals
		St Bakhita	Sancta Maria Kayaaba	St Elizabeth	St Catherine	St Michael's Secondary	Vocational Training Centre SKILLS	MPC Clinic	Songa Mbele na Masomo	MPC Rehabilitation Centre	
1	Abuse Cases	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	11
2	Amaranth Clients	0	0	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	160
3	Behavioural and Discipline Cases	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
4	Counseling and Guidance Sessions	0	7	10	8	14	17	0	0	0	56
5	CoVid19 Hygiene Material Resources	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
6	Donations Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	18
7	Donations Received	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	18	27
8	Fire and Flood Disaster Assistance	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	14
9	Food Distribution	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
10	Home Visits	22	20	20	12	3	2	3	3	27	197
11	Hospital Visits	0	0	0	0	3	0	10	0	0	26
12	Malnourished Babies	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	28
13	Medical Cases	13	63	11	60	27	6	0	5	11	370
14	Meetings and Trainings	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	28
15	Mentorship Sessions	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	4	0	9
16	Mobilization of resources	50	50	50	50	30	20	0	0	0	250
17	Needy Family Support (Community)	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	14
18	Needy Primary and Secondary Students	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	38
19	Networking	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	27
20	New Admission to the MPC Institutions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
21	New Teenage Pregnancy Cases	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
22	Nutritional Support	38	48	0	75	40	0	0	0	0	402
23	Pregnancy Support Packages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Provision of Sanitary Towels	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	14
25	Referrals	0	12	0	10	0	0	8	1	0	31
26	Safeguarding Follow Ups	0	3	0	3	0	1	1	0	1	9
27	School Absenteeism / Truancy	3	13	0	12	4	0	0	0	0	60
28	School Profiles	0	30	20	0	19	0	0	0	0	138
29	School Visits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Songa Mbele Therapy Sessions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	6
31	Sponsorship Follow Up	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	36
32	Uniform Aid	0	0	110	19	4	0	0	0	0	133
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2,180</b>



The activities included case management and follow up, profiling for the primary and secondary schools' students, assessments on the sponsorship program, motivational talks and counselling as well as the new crises of teenage mothers and their care.

One of the major activities for the month was to follow up and prepare the Class 8 candidates to ensure that they were ready for the national examinations in March. These exams are so significant they really do dictate the future lives of young people.

The teenage mothers' program is key for so many young girls to enable them not to give up on their education. There are many academically able girls who just need the extra support and understanding so that their own anxiety can be reduced to ensure good care of their newborn baby.

The social workers experience many considered 'taboos' in the community so extra efforts need to be taken to ascertain that we are receiving all the facts in cases. Understandably, we encounter parents who withhold information or embellish the truth a little which slows down the process to help them, or there is a lack of paperwork that is required by various Government agencies. MPC is acutely aware that given the poverty and desperation that has been exacerbated by the pandemic the challenges that people are being faced with is at an extraordinary level.

We know that we are fighting for the most vulnerable in society and with the support from well-wishers we endeavour to do our best. We would love to do more but acknowledge the present restrictions.

## Health Services

February reported higher statistics than January at the Clinic. We interpret the increase in all numbers as a sign that the community is getting the help they need. This was much more than we expected considering some challenges. We are thankful and hope that going forward, we can even make our services more meaningful and available to the poor the poor we serve. There were 1,862 patients treated for over 2,800 ailments during the month with 57.2% being male and 42.8% being female.

Officials from Starehe Sub County Ministry of Health visited the Clinic during the month and were pleased with the work that is being conducted. The officials renewed their commitment to supporting the Clinic through the Ministry of Health funding for vaccines. The Ministry are aware that the services in the Clinic for Mukuru slum residents are heavily subsidized by donors.

Our staff has continued with the initiative CME ( Continuous Medical Education) which was developed last year. Its program highlights the best practices where staff share knowledge with each other on a regular basis. This is both structured and un-structured whereby each staff member can report and share some new diseases development. It requires research and application by each staff member. The end results are experienced by the patients who receive better quality of care. We have also included motivational speaking on Mondays for staff to help their well-being as well as manage the CoVid19 pandemic better.

The Clinic has had its IT system in place for 3 years. The management undertook a process of visiting Mukuru Kwa Ruben run by the Christian Brothers and Mukuru Kwa Njenga run by the Medical Missionaries of Mary Sisters. We wanted to gauge how well our system was performing and if we could enhance our services. Happy to report that our system is operating very well, and we will look at improving a few minor issues.

There were 1,892 patients treated during the month with 51.7% being revisits to the Clinic with the majority from the Under 5 category. The tables below identify some interesting statistics. A good number of patients who come to the Clinic present with more than one ailment. The largest group is the males under 13 and under 5 categories. The 18-35 years category is the largest for the women. The immunization program continues to do well with 243 inoculations in the month and the Ministry of Health are very pleased with these figures. The rate has increased 250% since 2019.

### Patients Treated in February 2021

category	Gender	Under 5	6 -17 Years	18- 35 Years	Above 36 Years	Total
New Cases	Male	187	152	167	90	596
	Female	79	78	107	39	303
		266	230	274	129	899
Revisits	Male	232	99	81	83	495
	Female	160	71	154	83	468
		392	170	235	166	963
<b>Total</b>		<b>658</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>1,862</b>
<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>63%</i>	<i>48.7%</i>	<i>58.6%</i>	<i>58.6%</i>
	<i>Female</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>37%</i>	<i>51.3%</i>	<i>41.4%</i>	<i>41.4%</i>

### Most Common Treated Ailments in February

Diseases	Under 5	Under 13	Over 13	Male	Female	No. of Cases
Acute Upper Respiratory Tract Infections	342	186	220	432	316	<b>748</b>
Urinary Tract Infections	6	18	207	74	157	<b>231</b>
Immunization	237	2	4	136	107	<b>243</b>
Gastritis			229	126	103	<b>229</b>
Febrile Illness (Unspecified)	21	64	134	147	72	<b>219</b>
Amoebiasis, Parasitic Infections (Malaria and Intestinal)	21	24	76	68	53	<b>121</b>
Headaches (unspecified)	10	34	74	72	46	<b>118</b>
Abdominal pregnancy			98		98	<b>98</b>
Gastroenteritis			74	13	61	<b>74</b>
Diabetes and hypertension			52	21	31	<b>52</b>
Skin Infections	13	18	16	24	23	<b>47</b>
Neuralgia and Neuritis			44	21	23	<b>44</b>
Other Diseases	184	216	189	475	134	<b>589</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>2,813</b>

## The Laboratory Tests For February

*Average 36 tests per day*

	Type	Cases		Type	Cases
1	Urinalysis	147	10	Haemoglobin Levels	13
2	Stool Ova / Cyst	133	11	Salmonella Antigen	9
3	Malaria	115	12	Brucella Test	3
4	Full Haemogram	126	13	Rheumatoid Factor	3
5	HighVaginal Swabs	44	14	UEC's	3
6	Helicobacter Pylori	38	15	Calcium	3
7	Antenatal Profile Tests	32	16	Liver Functions	2
8	Random Blood Sugar	28	17	Hepatitis B	2
9	Pregnancy Tests	18			
	<b>Total</b>				<b>719</b>

The Clinic received some medical equipment and drugs from Dr. Jabbal and also from Mr. Hiten S. Patel.

*Mr. Hiten S. Patel giving the donation to Ignatius Mugo.*



## Welfare Services

### Songa Mbele na Masomo

After last month the children are a little more settled with the new arrangements of classes in the tent at the playground end of the compound. The children can see the beautiful new facilities nearing completion and are very excited. The guard rails have been installed on the front of the building but the internal works are incomplete.

The visitors continue to come to the Centre and bring donations of food, shoes, clothes and hygiene items. We are very grateful to people who provide basic necessities for the families.



*Class in session*



*APHBET Meeting*

In preparation to operate in the new facility we have had several meetings to see how we can maximise the learning for the children and provide a good quality learning experience for them as they face many challenges each day. The Alternative Provision for Basic Education and Training (APHBET) and County Education officials came and we discussed the guidelines for the informal settlement schools as many are too congested.

The CoVid19 pandemic has impacted on several of our partners who have provided funding for the programs and salaries over the last few years. We are looking to engage in new partnerships so that the children living with disabilities will continue to receive the learning and therapy they require. MPC is keen to find new donors to help with the funding gaps.

During February one more pupil who has cerebral palsy was admitted into the DayCare Unit. We noticed that the weather changes, the heavy rains, had impacted on the pupils' attendance. With no proper roads to use for the wheelchair bound and avoiding the open sewerage it is arduous for parents to bring the children when it rains so heavily. Some children are still struggling to achieve different skills depending on their capabilities but we were happy to see the proof of therapy with one girl managing to hold a cup!

The Special Coaching class had no absenteeism in February and one new admission. The activities are geared towards the daily living tasks so that the children can be as independent as possible. Two pupils have mastered toilet skills and one boy with autism has managed to settle and is able to do pre-writing activities.

The therapy sessions continued to gather momentum as the children return to the Centre in greater numbers to receive consistent and regular therapy. One girl can manage to crawl independently. Other clients are also making efforts to achieve different milestones at their own pace.

### Success Story

Esther Awino was admitted at the Centre for therapy sessions as an outside client in 2018, when she was 11 months old with cerebral palsy. She was unable to roll over, sit and had delayed speech. She could not reach, grasp or release objects as her fingers were too weak due to malnutrition and calcium deficiency.

After lots of therapy she is now able to creep, walk with support, sit independently and talks with slurred speech. Her finger muscles have also developed as she can now reach, grasp and release an object without assistance. She can also now feed herself. Wonderful!



*Therapy sessions taking place*



*Luciah and Sr Louise and Brian discussing new proposals*



*Children smartly dressed with red t-shirts and Jumpers donated by Braebun school*

## The Kenyan Child Foundation New Facility

The external features of the building have been completed. For the next couple of months the internal works will be the focus. During the month the activities included tiling the bathrooms, applying the undercoats, installing the guard rails, preparing the terrazzo floors, fixing the window frames and finishing the terrace roof structure.



*Complete tile work in the toilets*



*Window frames fixed - front and back of the facility.*



*First floor corridor railings*



*Terrazzo preparation for the corridors*





*Roof Terrace*



*Ramp*



*No wonder the children are getting excited!*

## MPC Rehabilitation Centre

Last year was disruptive and we could not complete the home tracing or connect with the boys' families due to the CoVid19 pandemic. Unlike other years in 2021 we will exit the boys in the next academic year which begins in July. However, given the unpredictability of the CoVid19 pandemic and the County travel restrictions we will probably need to revisit the home tracing program when there is more certainty. The Head Teacher at St Catherine's has agreed to register a few of the boys at Grade 3 which will enable them to sit the National Grade 3 Assessment that qualifies them to enroll in Grade 4 in July.

Class	Education Level / Year	No.
Year 1	PP1-[1] Std 2-[1] and Std 3-[6]	9
Year 2	Std 5-[4] Std 6-[7] Std 7-[3] and Std 8-[1]	15
Carpentry	Grade III [11] and Grade II [1]	12
St Catherine's	Std 3-[1] Std 4-[1] Std 6-[2] and Std 8-[5]	9
St Peter's Embu	Std 8-[2]	2
Mangu Boys High	Form 3 [1]	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>48</b>

In year One the academic ability of the boys varies. Some can do simple mathematics such as addition, multiplication and subtraction, others are able to tell time, counting and identifying money. They are able to read syllables, join them together and make simple words and read sentences, reading stories and answering oral and written questions in both Swahili and English.

In year Two the boys can read and interpret statements with minimum assistance from the teacher. Their writing skills, creativity and composition have improved markedly.



*Year One Class*



*Year Two Class*

The Profuturo lessons and teachers' training have been ongoing. The teachers are able to teach the boys using the tablets and this has reduced writing in books and whiteboard. The boys are now able to learn different subjects hence have more digital literacy.



*Profuturo lesson in progress*

The library lessons are also enjoyed by the boys with the help of the teachers and the occasional volunteers. The volunteers have been assisting in maintaining the library.



*Library lessons for both Year One and Year Two*



The carpentry class has been working on several projects. They keep demonstrating confidence in their newly acquired skills that shows they are smart and ready for their grade test scheduled in April. They assisted in the construction of a chicken coop at St Catherine's Primary School and are now working on the Rabbit Hutch for their now multiplying rabbits.



*Carpentry boys at St Catherine*

The new students have been constructing various wood working joints like bare faced tenon, open bridle, half lap and dove tail joints. They are catching up well with the others.



We received some wood pieces from the Head Office that will be used for the carpentry projects so the boys can practice the different joints.

*Carpentry boys offloading wood from the project truck.*

The co-curricular activities continue to play a big part in the boys' rehabilitation. With the different types of activities such as art, beadwork, yoga, acrobatics, dancing and scouting they participate in give them opportunities to develop their other talents. The acrobatics and dancers actively took the lead in recently recorded "Jerusalem" challenge dance. <https://youtu.be/Ccva9RZLSUE>.



*Jerusalem challenge dance*



*Catechism lesson*

Catechism classes have resumed on Fridays and Wednesdays. These classes prepare the boys for baptism and confirmation and are taught by a catechist from Our Lady Queen of Peace in South B parish.

The agriculture efforts at the Centre are going well. We planted cowpeas and are now weeding the vegetables.



We have also reared some chickens and rabbits which have made the boys responsible through feeding and cleaning the hutch and coop. The rabbits have multiplied to 8 and the chickens have produced the 3<sup>rd</sup> tray of eggs after we got a donation of layers mash this month, 5 hens are laying eggs!



Even though CoVid19 is still with us life seems to have eased and people are going back to their normal lives. We planned the home tracing schedule for February and many of the boys were excited as they reunited after a long period of disconnection. Sadly, there was one case with a parent who denied she was the mother. The neighbours told us that they did not know she had a son and actually introduced him as her little brother who had come to visit with his “donor”. The majority of the boys are from abusive families and this is what led them on the streets in the first place.



*One of the boys with his grandparents*



*Home tracing in Kitale*



*At Ruai*

On the other hand, we meet parents who thought they were dreaming on seeing their son who went playing with friends and never returned. Sadly, some neighbours gathered in their homestead and swore not to let the son go back. The parents checked with different police stations in vain. His photo was circulated on the media but with no results. They kept their faith by praying day and night. Luckily the boy had been brought to MPC from Kamukunji Police Station.



*Home tracing*



*A happy reunion*



*Officially back together*

The social workers are now compiling their findings so that we get to know the best way to support them through his education.

Donors and visitors have continued giving us financial, moral and support in kind. We were able to share some of the donations with St Catherine Social office and Songa Mbele to help very vulnerable families who lack the basic necessities. We would like to acknowledge them for their generosity:

- Pankaj through Devkan Enterprise who provided some vegetables.
- MPC donated milk and tomatoes and a friend of MPC donated layers mash 25kg
- Vine Harvest Education and Shoe Foundation donated textbooks and stationery.
- Mr. Waweru donated bananas.
- Charles Ngari donated tomatoes.
- Joginder Auto Service donated packets of milk
- Songa Mbele donated pawpaw
- Action in Focus donated vegetables and passion fruits.
- Meshack donated some pawpaw.
- Sonia Birdi donated sweets, biscuits, sugar, milo and milk.
- Cooperative Bank donated foodstuff, stationeries, toiletries, and layers mash 50kgs.
- Strathmore University donated foodstuff and toiletries.
- A guardian donated bread and savannah orange drinks.
- Anne Njoroge donated milk
- During home tracing, one family from Mwea donated some mangoes.

## Sponsorship

Being the middle of term 3 2020 academic year for the Grades 8 and 4 as well as Form Four students most of the focus for the month was on the new enrollments to Form One in July 2021.

Interviews were carried out for the 2021 sponsorship applications for Standard 8 students from all the MPC Primary Schools to identify the most vulnerable ones for sponsorship to secondary school. We try and spread the limited positions across the four primary schools. The numbers varied from school to school with a consideration of those who meet the requirements. The follow-up interviews were conducted with all the assessed students together with their parents /guardians. The panel consisted of the Sponsorship Officer, Head of Social Office and Head of Education and conducted 64 interviews from the four primary schools.

Two beneficiaries were enrolled in technical schools during the month. We hope that Levis Magovi at Comboni Polytechnic in Nakuru and Abija Onsonu at Kisiwa Technical in Bungoma will do well in their training. Martin is 18 years and dropped out of school due to substance abuse. He has enrolled in the Deejaying course as he has a passion in music. He will be supported with counselling to help him reach his goals.

We are still working on our sponsorship database which will enable the sponsor to log onto the website and read the latest on their sponsored student. We will let you know when this is operational.



*Martin*

## Child Protection and Safeguarding (CPS)

The Child Protection and Safeguarding Office seems to never sleep. Unfortunately, there are many reported cases. However, this is promising in one way, as people in the community are trusting the reporting mechanisms of the Office.

After conducting motivational and formation talks at St Michael's Secondary School and the Vocational Training Centre we received 20 abuse cases and scheduled 49 counselling sessions with students.

The Office continues to follow up on and manage reported cases, facilitate talks for students and parents, provide counselling and reach out to the community. The set up of school committees has proven to be a successful initiative as the more people are involved the greater the awareness and the children feel safer.

## Announcements

- ❖ MPC commenced its 2020 Audit and hope to have the Annual Report 2020 as soon as possible.
- ❖ Towards the end of 2020 we started developing the new Strategic Plan 2021-2026. This process is still on-going.
- ❖ We continue to lobby the Ministry of Education through the County Director, Mr Koigi for a better teacher/pupil ratio.
- ❖ Vivo Energy's Communication Manager visited St Michael's Secondary with the view to sponsoring a number of secondary students.
- ❖ The MPC truck is busy with many collections and deliveries of donations. We are grateful to Miva Austria for funds to purchase the truck.
- ❖ We welcome Mr Charles Muchiri, one of our new board members who was given a guided tour to familiarize himself of all the MPC departments on the five sites. We really appreciate all the Board members for their efforts and commitment to MPC.



Mukuru Promotion Centre

*Empowerment Step by Step*

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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