



Mukuru Promotion Centre
Empowerment Step By Step
 Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy
www.mercymukuru.co.ke

Newsletter

September 2021
 Vol 6, Issue No.9

Feature This Month:

Mercy Day	3
Excursions	6
Therapy Block Update	11
Disabilities Kenya	21
Sponsorship Boost	27
Announcements	29



Vocational Training Therapy Block for Disabled Youths and Offices

Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

I was very happy to welcome Chantal Goetz and Katya Alvarez from the Goetz Foundation to MPC. They are interested to partner with us in the empowerment of female leaders. They met the present Form 4 (final year) female students of St Michael’s Secondary School. They saw that their knowledge of careers after school as well as training opportunities was quite narrow and needs much improvement. They encouraged us to ensure that the students obtain a very good command of language. Their feedback and recommendations are appreciated as often visitors can see areas of improvement that we may not have realized. Chantal and Katya also visited Songa Mbele Na Masomo, our Centre which is on the edge of Kisii and Kayaaba villages in Mukuru slum. From there they could see a number of Mukuru villages and get an idea of the magnitude of the catchment area. This helps them to understand the hardship many of our students face and the disadvantages they have overcome to reach their present standard.

It also shows the advantage of empowering such students as each student who does well normally moves the whole family out of the slums, where their quality of life is greatly improved.

Our MPC Board set up sub-committees to advise on Human Resources, Finance and Education sectors at MPC. The sub-committee members visit the relevant offices on the different sites at regular intervals throughout the year. Their expertise and recommendations help our staff to further development in the applicable sectors and become more familiar with the different legislations in the country to ensure that MPC is compliant and delivering quality services to the most marginalized.

We are delighted that crew members from British Airways and KLM have begun to visit again after a long absence. They supply and donate clothes for fire victims, school children and babies as well toys and equipment for Songa Mbele and our Rehabilitation Centre. We missed them dreadfully during their absence.

A member of the Land Commission visited us and promised to assist with the title deed of two acres of land donated in 1998 to Sisters of Mercy. We long for that matter to be finally resolved. We still attend the High Court regularly for the defense of St Catherine's Primary School public land. The next hearing is on the 22nd of this month.

September seemed to be the month of funerals for us. Sr Patricia's brother Sean, died in Ireland and she managed to see him just before his passing. A long-time friend and supporter, Maria Cummings, died and was cremated after a funeral Mass on the 15 September. Paul Cummings, her husband died two months previously. Maria's brother from Spain, was here in Kenya visiting her and trying to settle her affairs. She had a beloved dog called Chiki, which I inherited. May they all Rest In Peace.



Chiki in his new position as Office Assistant



Paula Cullen and her group had sent us two palettes of donated items mostly for the street boys. We had expected them to come directly to Nairobi. However, they landed in Mombasa and remained there until numerous tariffs and taxes were paid. I visited the Head of Kenya Bureau of Standards who eventually assisted and managed to get the goods released. We had been waiting for them since July.

Alcoholism and drug abuse are common among slum dwellers and some of our former students. It is heartbreaking to see those who did well in school and were trained for a career losing jobs due to substance abuses.

The therapy block building has not been handed over yet due to uneven quality of the terrazzo floors. This has to be rectified. I have been sharing an office since 2015 and am anxious to have privacy and an office of my own soon. We hope to have the handover completed in October. Getting experienced tradespeople with specific skills proves to be taking longer than normal and many are quick to blame CoVid19 on many things.

Sr Mary Akinyi, Sr Louise and Brian continue to attend to the growing needs of Songa's specialized furniture and equipment for the disabled children. We are grateful to all of you for your support in all MPC Departments. We welcome Vivo Energy as donors in sponsorship of secondary school students. It is together that we enable the education, training and treatment of very poor children and youth.

May God continue to bless the work of our hands.

Sr Mary Killeen
Director

Education

Like all Mercy Institutions established by the Sisters of Mercy around the globe, 24th September is the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy and is marked by many different kinds of celebrations. At MPC and the schools we are grateful that we can participate and share God's mercy with thousands of people we work with especially the poor and vulnerable. The Mercy Education Office organized a celebration that was held at St. Ann's High School in Makadara where all Mercy associated schools sent 10 representative pupils for the celebrations. For all the other pupils, students and staff each MPC Department held their own celebration due to the CoVid19 restrictions.



Mercy Day celebration at St. Ann's High School

September has been hectic with a lot of administrative tasks to be completed by the various stakeholders. The Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) released the nominal rolls for 2021 KCPE candidates, to confirm their details and school choices to avoid any mix-ups during exams. The schools were given one week to confirm and send the details back to KNEC for final compilation. The Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) training was organized by the Sub-County Education Office and was conducted at the Ngara Day Nursery. School enrolments continued during the month as well as teachers being transferred without replacement. The enrolments are mainly in Classes 4, 5, 6 and 7. The condensed school terms pose a challenge in that teachers have to rush the syllabus to cover expected work. The pupil becomes the bearer of all the challenges and, if home support is not there as well, then the pupil is even more disadvantaged. Operating an educational institution will be much easier when the academic year returns to one calendar year.

The Sub-County Director of Education (Makadara) held a meeting due to the concern that a number of Class 8 candidates had not commenced their secondary education. Students were given a choice of 4 high schools to attend and 2 were received at St Michael's. The Education Director stressed the importance of continuing their education but students from the slums face many other daily difficulties.



Candidates who had not joined Form One

Each MPC primary school has its own unique set of challenges but the most inhibitory is teacher pupil ratio as it causes so many other issues. MPC has been lobbying TSC and Ministry of Education to address the urgent issue. During the month Sancta Maria Kayaaba received 3 male teachers and a female deputy head teacher but St Elizabeth has a shortage of 8 teachers. Each time we place our request to the Ministry and TSC we are informed to wait a little longer.

MPC Primary School Enrolments for 2021

MPC Primary School	Boys	Girls	Total
St Bakhita	525	536	1,061
St Catherine	628	647	1,275
St Elizabeth	852	935	1,787
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	794	859	1,653
Totals	2,799	2,977	5,776



ECDE Parents meeting at St Bakhita



St Bakhita Scouts commissioning

We are grateful for any assistance we require at the primary schools. The Standard Media Group and Davis and Shirliff provided handwashing water tanks to help with good hygiene for the pupils. St Elizabeth also received 100 story books as a thank you for taking part in the interviews held by the APHRC to discover more about the before and after affects of the pandemic.

St Michael's Secondary School

September brought the end of term 1 for 2021/2022 academic year. The students were involved in lots of academia, cultural, and sporting activities. St Michael's held a number of meetings for staff and parents. Our enrolments are slowly increasing and we are at 73% capacity. The school has some places for students and we are investigating the possible issues for the lower female students count. We have noticed a big disparity with female students at St Michael's especially in Form 1 at 34% and Form 3 at 39% of the cohort. Form 2 and Form 4 have better parity at 47%.

Over the last semester St Michael's has focused on developing further supports for the students by holding academic clinics for the Form 3 and Form 2 students as well as mentoring sessions. The response was fairly good since the majority of the parents came to follow on their child's academic progress.

Br Patrick Norah MAfr spent time with the students and challenged them to think about what life will be like for them after completing their secondary education. From the responses received it seems that many of our students had no idea what they intended to do after school.



Br. Patrick Norah mentoring candidates.

A group of students went to St. Ann's Girls Secondary School to represent St Michael's and celebrate Mercy Day with all the other Mercy associated schools in Nairobi. The school choir lead the celebrations and sounded terrific. It is always nice to hear other schools say how well your own school performed and behaved.



Mercy Day celebration at St. Ann's Girls' Secondary school.

There were two excursions during the month. The computer class attended the Multimedia University to learn about the new technologies and trends. The students enjoyed the interactions with other students from other schools as well as seeing first hand what possible futures they may have in the IT field.



St Michael's students at Multimedia University of Kenya trying out different medias



The Geography excursion gave the students the opportunity to visit the Great Rift Valley, Menengai Crater in Nakuru and Hell's Gate in Naivasha – where the Tomb Raider was filmed. The real purpose of the trip was to introduce the students to the Olkaria Geothermal plant and learn how electricity is produced by use of steam from underground.



After the excursions and celebrations students returned to exams. The Form 4 students sat their pre-mock exams while the other Forms had their mid-term and end of term exams.

Not much is mentioned in the media about CoVid19 but some of our students and their families are still impacted by its consequences. Over 60 food parcels were distributed along with masks, sanitary towels, and clothes. Others were aided with nutritional and medical support.

Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

Courses resumed in September after a two-week break. The first week of resumption was full of activity as parents rushed against time to secure admission at the Centre. As earlier discussed, the economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic has been devastating. Many parents in Mukuru slum have been left jobless and poor which means that the parents have delayed in sending their children due to lack of funds.

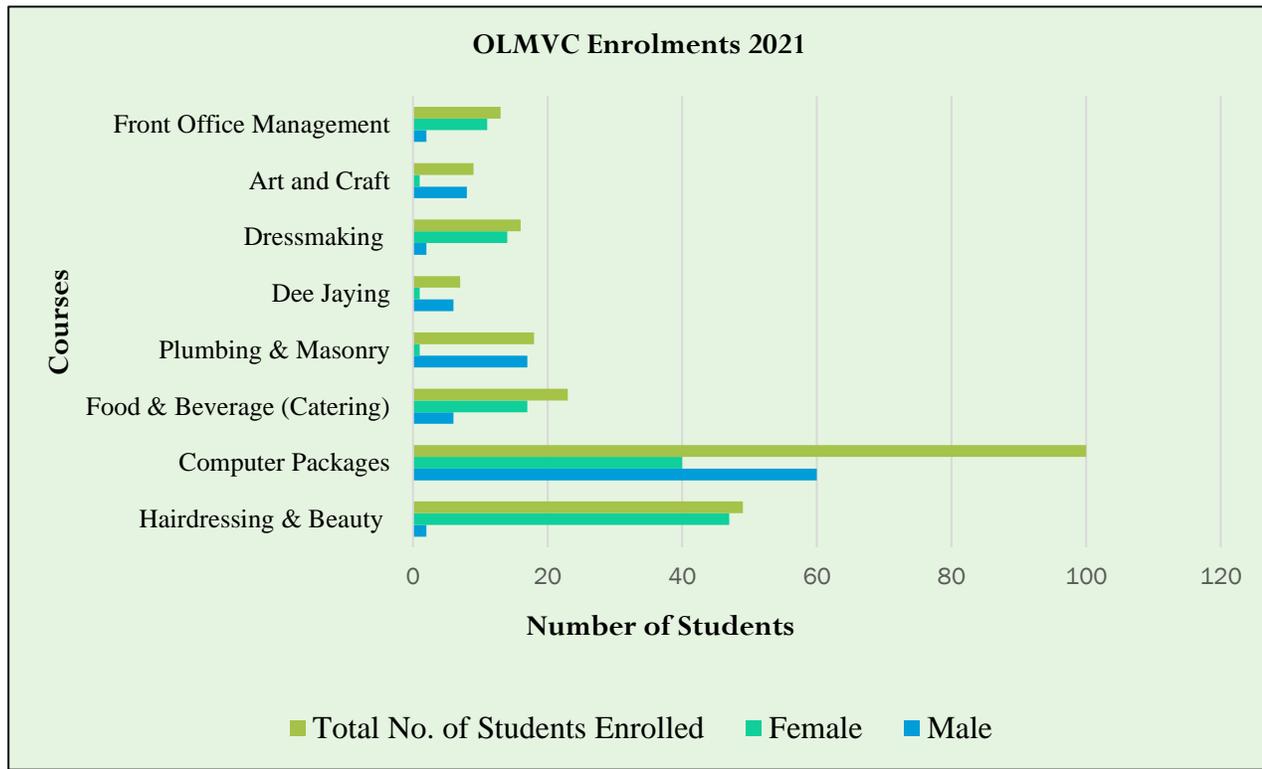
The National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) exams for the remaining 2020 students was held between 13 – 17 September. The exam was fair for most of our students but it was marred by delays and confusion. Some of the examiners allocated to our Centre did not report at all while others reported late. Candidates waited eagerly as the Head of Department and teachers made efforts to resolve the mishap and after two days of turmoil our students did very well in the exams.



Some of the 2020 Plumbing students compete against time to finish their exam



NITA exams in progress for Catering and Hairdressing students



We were grateful to receive 7 new CPUs for the computer laboratory from Oakville Rotary Club. The old ones had been upgraded 3 times and couldn't take any more upgrades due to new software requirements. The new HP *Intel Core i3 CPUs* use Windows 10 Pro and can take the latest Microsoft Office applications with sufficient storage (1TB) and RAM of 4GB making them much better for the students. Every CPU came with a new keyboard and a mouse. The next hurdle will be to sort out the internet capabilities.



Donated CPUs



Computer Packages Class

Our annual art exhibition was held with lots of new and bright styles on which to feast. The exhibition provides the opportunity for the students to sell their artworks and encourage others to join the Centre. The event was filled with pomp and colour with students taking a day off from class. Many were filled with optimism and high expectation, that they would make a killing from the sale of their artwork especially the paintings.



Our main objective was not necessary to make sales but to expose the students to such events. We also wanted to recruit talented youths from Mukuru slum especially those who did not get any chance to join school or further their studies. Three days prior to the exhibition, the students and their teacher toured the slum and talked to parents with idle youths in the village, to join our Centre and acquire skills and possible employment.



Art on display



Deejay students provided the music and chat



Handcrafted items

Therapy Block Update

Coming to the business end of the therapy building block construction there are many changes that occurred during the month. The major activities were the flooring, tiling, painting, door installations, electrical cabling, toilet and basin installations and external plumbing connections. Before the handover is carried out there will be a site inspection to identify any further final touch ups.



Door fitting



washroom tiling



Terrazzo flooring



Painting ceiling and windows



Electrical installations

Plumbing and drainage connections

External Paving



Security lights



Cleaning



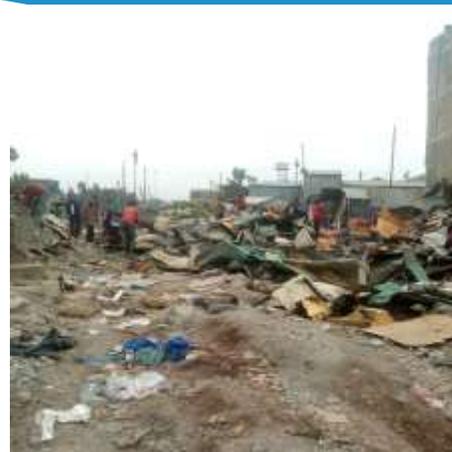
Front View



Side view

Social Services

One of the biggest jumps in activities since the start of the new academic year has been absenteeism. Every school is affected with an extra 159 for September that is on top of 359 reported in August. The students and their families have really suffered during the pandemic with the constant changes in their lives. Some went up country, others stayed in the slums and others were evicted because they could not afford their rents. Now a large section of the slums has been bulldozed to make way for a road. The social workers have tried to maintain the connections and support for the families during the month with over 2,000 interventions. The Department's outreach work is invaluable to tens of thousands of people in Mukuru. We are very grateful to all the donors who make the services possible.



Lunga Lunga homes bulldozed



The meetings, networking and trainings provided so many opportunities for children, parents and staff. More and more awareness is happening with Child Protection and Safeguarding. This year over 75% of MPC staff have been trained in safeguarding awareness who in turn share that knowledge with hundreds of parents in all our schools. Keeping parents well informed has been a feature for September with all the social workers attending parent meetings in Grades 1-8 across all MPC Co-sponsored schools. We are happy to partner with the Religious Against Human Trafficking (RAHT) as we see a number of cases each month in the region.

The other initiative to support parents is the Economic Empowerment program where 20 parents were selected and attended a four-day training workshop on budgeting and costing of their businesses. Parents need capacity building as many have only completed primary school. After the training the social workers visited their businesses to ensure the environment can support their businesses.

Donations are always welcomed and dispensed to the very needy in the community. The social workers have developed good relations with the many villages in Mukuru and the primary schools provide a great avenue to keep the networking alive. We would like to acknowledge the following people who continue to support children and their families through their generosity of food provisions, sporting equipment and cooking materials.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| ▪ Action in Focus, | Paula Cullen and Friends | Andrea Halbach |
| ▪ Mr Waweru | Charles Ngari | Pauline Macharia |
| ▪ Pankaj Foundation | Devkan Enterprises | Mama Adela |

The summary of the interventions and activities for September are listed below.

Case Type (Activity)	No. of Clients	Case Type (Activity)	No. of Clients
Admissions to Schools	32	Meetings, Network and Trainings	54
Abuse Cases	6	Mentorship Sessions	8
Amaranth (Nutritional Supplements HIV/AIDS)	129	Mobilization of Resources	20
Counselling and Guidance	81	Needy Students	40
Discipline Cases	22	Needy Assistance (Families)	87
Donations Issued	161	Needy Assistance (Community)	47
Donations Received	30	Nutritional Support	250
Fire Victims Assistance	1	Profiles	159
Follow Ups (Medical, Safeguarding, Education)	5	Referrals	82
Home visits	28	Sanitary Towels	193
Hospital Visits	12	School Absenteeism /Truancy	165
Malnourished Babies	59	Sponsorship Follow-ups	37
Masks, Sanitizers CoVid19 Hygiene Distributions	52	Teenage Pregnancies and Support Packages	6
Medical Cases and Referrals	528	Uniform Aid	12
Total			2,306



Mentorship session: Coping mechanisms



Life skills session at St Bakhita Class 7



Teenage mother receiving care package



A former Sancta Maria Primary Pupil was supported to join Form One at St Michael's. She receives milk formula to feed her child while she is at school.



Demolition at Lunga lunga and Kayaaba village to pave way for road construction





Mothers and pupils receiving nutritional support at St. Bakhita Primary



New uniforms for students joining Form 1



Lunch – Team Pankaj

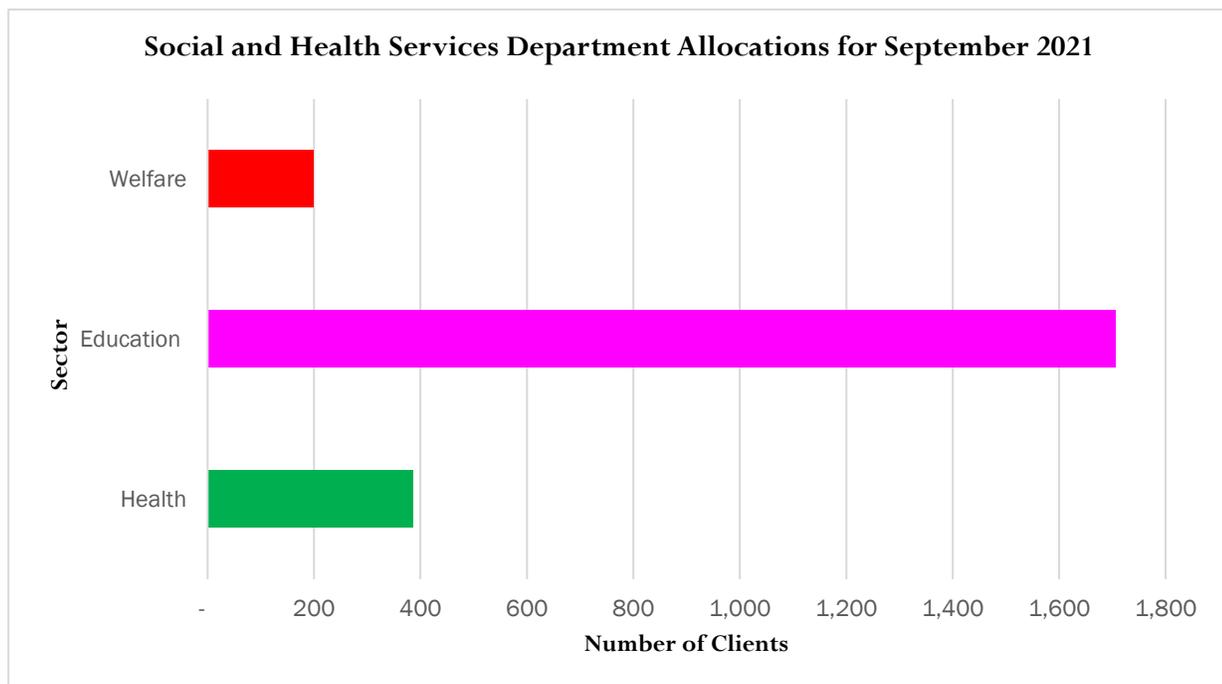


St Bakhita Primary School home visits



Parent capacity building training

To give a statistical breakdown on the social and health services for the month, the Education sector saw the greatest demand at 74% followed by Health at 17% and Welfare at 9%. The statistics provide a good understanding on why it is important to have social workers in every learning institution so fewer people as possible are not left behind.



Health Services

September has seen various activities at the Clinic including supervision from the Ministry of Health staff Tuberculosis (TB) Preventive Therapy Unit, the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) training as well as over 1,500 consultations.

Monitored by the Ministry of Health's Sub-County TB and Leprosy Coordinator, the TB program involves Clinic staff who are issued medications weekly for a period of three months, to prevent them from contracting TB from the TB patients who number approximately 21. The other training conducted was the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV. The training will be a great benefit to over 130 mothers who attend Maternal and Child Health Clinic.

Mrs Katarina Zuffa from the Slovak Aid Cooperation visited the Clinic and delivered a grant for new medical equipment and a nurse's salary. This support will assist the Clinic in delivering more services to the patients.



Signing the Health Agreement



Slovak Team and Sr Mary

The Clinic statistics for the month are listed below

The Laboratory Tests For September

	Type	Cases		Type	Cases
1	Blood slide for malaria	173	9	Full hemogram	12
2	Stool analysis	154	10	Pregnancy test	12
3	Urinalysis	120	11	High vaginal swab	6
4	Haemoglobin check	46	12	Salmonella antigen test	5
5	Helicobacter pylori	33	13	VDRL	4
6	Blood sugar	26	14	Blood grouping	3
7	Antenatal profile	24	15	Brucella antigen test	2
8	Rheumatoid factor	13			
	Total				621

Average 30 tests per day

Patients Treated in September 2021

Category	Gender	0-5 Years	6 -12 Years	13-17 Years	18-35 Years	36-49 Years	50-64 Years	>65 Years	Total
New Cases	Female	156	72	39	214	82	21	4	588
	Male	142	67	60	114	62	23	2	470
							44		
Revisits	Female	107	17	10	95	37	18	4	288
	Male	92	19	22	48	27	30	5	243
							48		
Total		497	175	131	471	208	92	15	1,589
<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>52.92</i>	<i>50.86</i>	<i>37.40</i>	<i>65.61</i>	<i>57.21</i>	<i>42.39</i>	<i>53.33</i>	<i>55.13</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>47.08</i>	<i>49.14</i>	<i>62.60</i>	<i>34.89</i>	<i>42.79</i>	<i>57.71</i>	<i>46.67</i>	<i>44.87</i>

The Top Ten Treated Ailments in September by Age Group

Disease	0-5 Years	6 -12 Years	13-17 Years	18-35 Years	36-49 Years	50-64 Years	>65 Years	Total
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection	123	44	21	46	34	8	2	278
Lower Respiratory Tract Infection	106	25	21	73	36	12	2	276
Urinary Tract Infection	5	3	3	45	15	2	1	74
Gastroenteritis	10	10	12	12	4	3	0	51
Gastritis	1	2	11	17	5	0	0	36
Helminthiasis	4	12	3	10	6	2	0	37
Myalgia	0	3	10	8	6	3	1	31
Diarrhoea	7	1	5	2	2	1	1	19
Febrile Illness	19	14	0	6	6	2	0	47
Diabetes and Hypertension	0	0	0	4	5	4	0	13
Other Diseases	52	23	9	115	59	28	7	293
Total	327	137	95	338	178	65	14	1,155

Welfare Services

Songa Mbele na Masomo

The children at Songa Mbele have continued doing well in the various learning skills according to their levels of ability especially in the daily living activities. Currently there are over 80 children with disabilities enrolled at the centre with another dozen utilising the external therapy classes. Five new children were admitted for external therapy sessions, 3 of them have cerebral palsy and 2 have delayed milestones due to rickets. It is great to see the children's improvements especially Melvin Orangi who can now stand with supports and walk independently for 300 metres.

The numbers at Songa are gradually increasing as the social workers identify more and more children living with disabilities in the slums. The background information provides an insight into how big special education really is in the slums.



Unit 4 with their new uniforms

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) was established soon after Kenya signed the UN Charter for the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in May 2008. Under the Kenyan Constitution (2010) *every person has the right to free basic education*. However, only 45% of mainstream children, who complete primary school, complete secondary school (*Ministry of Education 2019*). The figures for Inclusive Education and Children with Special Needs is extremely low, even though provisions are made for the Special Needs Education under Part VI of The Basic Education Act 2013, the implementation is another concern. Children living with disabilities are often discriminated, stigmatised and segregated because of their low levels of capabilities and many are viewed as “cursed“. There are six main categories of disability in Kenya. Recent research conducted by Development Initiatives based on the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics reveal that mobility disabilities are the most common at 42% while visual disabilities number (36%), Cognition (23%), Hearing (17%) Self-care (15%) and Communication at (12%). Approximately 1 billion persons worldwide live with some form of those disabilities. It is estimated that over 800 million of them live in the developing countries. Out of that figure 90% do not have access to education “making those with disabilities the largest and most marginalized minority in the world” (Favazza, Siperstein, Ghio, Wairimu and Masila (2016:113).

Songa Mbele continues to raise awareness in the Mukuru community that every person is valued and every child deserves some form of education and care. The new facility will provide even more opportunities to outreach to the most vulnerable group in the community. Several meetings were held in September with the main focus being on improving the children's wellbeing, attendance, diets and medical NHIF membership for parents. Disabilities training for our staff and parents is always a priority. Some of the trainings during the month ranged from specific learning disorders to child protection and networking.

We are delighted to report that all our staff have received their first dose and when the country receives more vaccines from the COVAX program we hope that the second doses will follow very soon.

During the month we received donations from wellwishers consisting of stationery, bales of maize and flour, shoes, clothes and bedding.



New childrens seats



Lunchtime for Special Daycare Children

Chantal and Katya from Goetz Foundation at Songa



MPC Rehabilitation Centre

Rebuilding, reconnecting, re-socialization and reintegration were the constant themes in September. The many successes throughout the month as the boys pursue their own personal goals as well as the Centre's expectations. The boys continue to provide tangible transformative evidence of growth by embracing the different challenges, be they academic, cultural, nutritional, environmental or sporting dimensions. The donors and well-wishers are a constant source of affirmation for the boys. We are grateful to the Paula Cullen Group of family and friends as well as Iris Lange who sponsor a number of boys at the Centre.

During September the recruitment drive program took place to identify street boys who would like to change their lives for the better. Out of the 63 boys approached by the team 16 agreed to remain at the centre for the 12-month residential program. The new recruits have already been placed into different classes: 10 in Year 1, 5 in Year II, and 4 in carpentry.



Some of the 2021 recruits

Currently in residence we have:

Class	Education Level	No.
Accelerated Learning Year I MIRC	Standard 2	4
	Standard 3	4
	Standard 4	3
		11
Accelerated Learning Year I St Catherine's Primary	Standard 2	1
	Standard 4	1
		2
Accelerated Learning Year II MIRC	Standard 6	3
	Standard 7	7
		10
Accelerated Learning Year II St Catherine's Primary	Standard 5	1
	Standard 7	2
	Standard 8	7
		10
Carpentry Year I	Grade III	7
New Recruits	Grade III	4
Year II	Grade II	4
		15
Total		48

The accelerated learning classes are proving to be suitable and accepted by the boys. Returning to normal classes without the right supports in place could be counterproductive. The classes have different components so that all types of learning are appreciated. The Profuturo tablets are particularly helpful as the programs are already in place to accommodate the different range of learning ability and having our own library provides the best environment for those boys who are more introverted and academically inclined. A big thank you to the Calary Parish Wicklow for supporting the ProFuturo program, it has proven to be winner with the boys and staff. To ensure that we can maximize the learning, the teachers receive training every week to keep ahead of the classes.



Different learning classes in progress



The multi-disciplinary approach to rehabilitation involves counselling. The three counsellors have mapped the neediest counselling cases for individual counselling as well as group counselling sessions.



The physical activities are really embraced by the boys. Art, acrobatics, dance, singing and sports provide a great outlet for their energies. Tapping into the different kinds of expression is another way which the program endeavours to help the boys with their own development.

Acrobatics



Art classes which involve beadwork, mosaics, drawing and painting are conducted on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Acrobatics and contemporary dancing classes are held on Mondays and Fridays.

Art class

Two of the most popular roundball games are held Mondays and Fridays (basketball) and Wednesday and Sundays (soccer). Kenya has one of the World's best Rugby Sevens sides and one of our donor's is providing rugby coaching on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They may not reach national selection yet, but they will be fit and healthy.



Basketball



Rugby



Soccer



With all these wonderful opportunities we still need to ensure that other preventative strategies are put in place to help the former street boys and their families. After establishing contact with parents through the visitation program it is important that parents be assisted as well. Parent Empowerment is the other link in the chain towards rehabilitation and frequent meetings are held with the families. Establishing a strong connection for reintegration is critical to the boys' graduation at the end of the program.

The boys who sat their carpentry (NITA) exams earlier have now secured an industrial attachment at Exotic Wood LTD and Antique Wood LTD and will be there until November. We wish them well and every success as they are well on the way to total rehabilitation.



Octavius Mureithi



William Muturi

Peter Kamau, a former resident received a grant of Trade Tools to set up his own woodwork business. Vera Smith has provided funding to Peter for a number of years assisting with the different carpentry levels and requirements. Now a fully qualified carpenter we hope that Peter can go from strength to strength. Thank you to Vera Smith and her Carlow supporters.



Peter receives his tool kit



There are many activities each month at the Rehabilitation Centre which would not be possible without donors' generosity. Sometimes the items may be small and other times priceless. We received several donations during the month. One of the volunteers, Andres Candel, will be at the Centre until December. Andres donated a number of basketballs and a pump to the Centre.



Andreas plays rugby with the boys at Nyayo National Stadium

Action in Focus donated lots of vegetables a few times during September. Healthy meals are a great part of the process.



Sponsorship

The sponsorship program is a great support to children from the marginalized villages of Mukuru slums, especially in this CoVid19 crisis when education is considered as a nonessential commodity for those who are struggling for survival. We appreciate the great support afforded to us by over 200 donors as it has become so meaningful in the current environment.

Education support has enabled many students to come out of their shell and set themselves free from the vicious cycle of poverty. Through the continuous support from donors, the students are able to attend school regularly without having to worry about dropping out for lack of school fees. Every end of term, they are organized to write appreciation letters to their respective donors. The exercise happened on 28th of September as Term 1 2021 was coming to an end. It is always an exciting moment to have the students write to their donors.



St. Catherine's Primary pupils writing to their donors.

It is such a great privilege and honor to receive regular visits by our donors. The Mukuru Alumni came to donate learning materials to their sponsored students. As Mukuru Alumni they know well the importance of education. The students were happy to receive school uniforms, stationery and revision books.



Students receive donations



The Vivo Energy Kenya Team presented a cheque in favor of ten students who joined Form One at St. Michael's Secondary School. They are delighted to partner with us to support very needy students. It was such a joyous day spending time with the Team showing them around and we are grateful for their generosity.



Students receive a cheque for their school fees

A number of our Special Needs students showcased their work during the Skills Exhibition event in September. The students use their imagination and creativity to make innovative and useful things. They recycled bottles, waste boxes, newspapers and beads to create beautiful artwork.



Skills Art Exhibition Event

Many of our students under the educational sponsorship program are really fortunate to receive your support. Throughout the years, the program has transformed the lives of thousands of marginalized students by assisting them financially either through school fees or resources and materials. Many of these students have gone on to complete their higher education, some have completed professional courses and many are working with good paying jobs. Hooray!! They could not do it without your generosity!

We were delighted to receive Chantal Goetz on her two-day Kenya visit. The Goetz Foundation is providing support for 50 female students at St Michael's Secondary School. This sizeable contribution is greatly appreciated. The students spent time with Chantal and spoke about their extra challenges with completing their secondary education. The CoVid19 pandemic has created even more issues for the students as they try to contribute to their family's earning capacity. All spare time is normally utilized in some tasks to generate an income which leaves little time for study.



Chantal Goetz and St Michael's Students

Announcements

- **St Catherine's Land Update**

Sections of the public land at St Catherine's has been in dispute since 1998 and the case hearings are heard in Kenya's High Court. The case was again adjourned until October 2021 due to the lawyer not being available.

The other land concern is the Skills plot that was excised by NSSF and given to MPC for the purposes of education and although its Allotment Letter was given the title deed was not issued. During September Madam Fatuma and her officers from the Ministry of Lands visited the sites to organize surveys to help resolve the matter.

- **CoVid19 Cases**

The two staff members who contracted CoVid19 have recovered and were issued with confirmed negative status. They will need to wait 3 months before they can receive the vaccines.



Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step by Step

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

Email: info@mercymukuru.co.ke

[Director: maryk@mercymukuru.co.ke](mailto:maryk@mercymukuru.co.ke)

Website: www.mercymukuru.co.ke

Tel: +254 (0) 722 505 904

Tel: +254 (0) 733 588 068