


MPC
April Newsletter
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Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step By Step

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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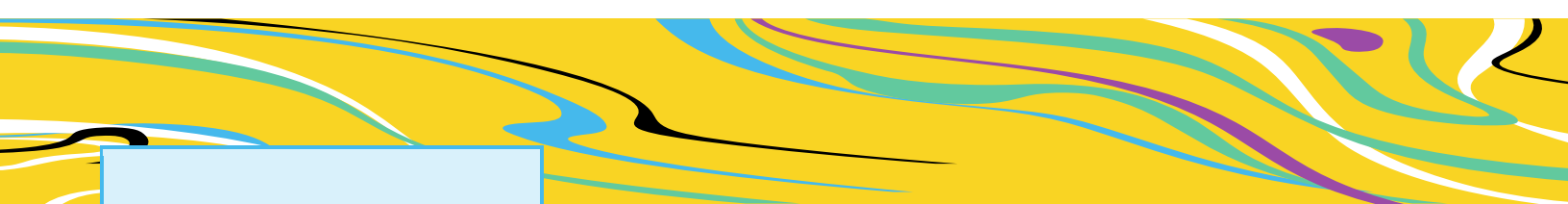
Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

We were happy to see boys graduate from our Rehabilitation Centre to jobs, secondary school and third level training. We welcome new recruits from the streets. The new recruits can be very destructive. They are often very angry boys due to what they have suffered before and during their street life. It takes time for them to learn how to express their anger in ways that do not cause damage to other boys, windows, furniture and equipment. Counselling, sports, drama, dance, art and music all help them to express themselves in wholesome ways. We thank all of the donors and sponsors, foreign and local, who assist in their upkeep and education that plays a significant role.

We had a march for International Women's day to highlight the rights of girls and women to equal opportunities with boys and men. This march took place from our Head Office to Our Lady of Mercy Primary School. We had about two hours delay as the police stopped us from marching even though we had the required permission. After much dialogue the march was allowed to go on. The residents of Mukuru gave the marchers huge support along the way. The march was addressed by visiting Americans Noreen Walsh and Mary Richardson who encouraged us all to keep lobbying for rights for all.

Our secondary results were less good than we had hoped for. There are many extenuating circumstances due to the increased poverty from unemployment due to Covid, and to many evictions of families which took place to make room for new roads. Students sell peanuts on the road, wash clothes and cars for customers, run errands and some of them engage in petty thieving and criminal activities in an effort to help the family survive. As there is no unemployment benefits in Kenya and the Government did not assist those families who lost their income.





People have to try to survive by all means. Some of the secondary students missed a lot of school days trying to gain a living.

Tuberculosis is an increasing challenge in Mukuru slums as people have less to eat and live in densely populated areas. The poor sanitation leads to other communicable diseases. Where there is sanitation, a person is required to pay to use the facilities. Those who are unemployed relieve themselves in the open.

Due to the numbers finishing primary and secondary school, we have a great need to expand our vocational training facility. We have decided to make our present dining hall into more workstations for students and to put outside dining facilities. We will increase our capacity for hairdressing and beauty training by removing a partition separating a classroom from the staff room. We also have to increase our computer training capacity. The students training in vocational training sit for government certification, which is a huge added expense as each student has to pay for the exam and some up towards 10,000khs (€80) just to sit the exam. We are grateful to those of you who pay for students from low income families.

Our primary schools produced some of the best students in the country with five students gaining more than 400 marks out of 500. All of these five students were boys. Girls have a lot of household chores, washing of clothes for neighbours and caring for children for income, which limits their hours of study. Still one girl scored 399 marks!

Thank you, all of you, for helping the various needs of the children, youth and parents of Mukuru. It is pitiful to see parents walking around looking for help for their child to join secondary school or college. The students dream of attending boarding school or being residents in college. Day secondary schools cost about €250 per year while boarding costs about €700. University fees have doubled even for those students helped by government. Without your help, and that of the few companies who sponsor bright children from poor families, they would not get the opportunity.

May God bless you all.

Sr Mary Killeen
Director

Welfare Services

Rehabilitation Centre

Being a Christian Centre, the boys actively took part in the Lenten season, reflecting on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter was celebrated with much joy. We were also fortunate to have some of our long term donors visit in April. We welcomed Paula Cullen, Adrienne Keeley, Irene Plunkett and Catherine Nolan from Ireland for a few weeks. The boys were delighted to have the women and role models around for the time.

The recruitment program continued with the Centre welcoming a few more boys who wish to turn their lives around. The aim of the Centre is to ensure that boys from the streets and those abandoned by their family find support where they can receive the aids they need for a brighter future. Some will return to their families and others will prepare themselves for an independent life after gaining some basic education and vocational skills. Currently the Centre has 67 residents, 13 of whom were exited earlier but are sponsored through MPC to other educational institutions to complete secondary school.

MPC Rehabilitation Centre April 2022							
Classes	Accelerated Learning Class	St Catherine Primary	St. Bakhita	Vocational Training	Secondary	Sponsored Boarding	Totals
Year 1	32						32
Year 2	8						8
Standard 2							
Standard 3		1					1
Standard 4							
Standard 5		1					1
Standard 6		1					1
Standard 7							
Standard 8		3	1			2	6
Grade III				7			7
Grade II							
Form 1					5		5
Form 2					5		5
Form 3							
Form 4					1		1
Total	40	6	1	7	11	2	67

James Kamau, a former resident who attended Mang'u High School sat for his KCSE in March and received his results in April. James obtained a mean grade of **B** (65 points) which will give him access to join University where he hopes to do engineering as he has a passion for mathematics. A success story such as James provides inspiration to the other boys. The Centre wishes him well in his educational pursuits and a bright and successful future ahead. We are grateful to his sponsors who provided the funds for him to complete his secondary education.



Paula, Irene, Catherine and Adrienne celebrate James' success with cake.

The 7 primary students who sat for their KCPE exams also did well with Denis Wanyoro achieving the highest marks of 304. The centre is working hard to ensure that the boys are placed in secondary schools. After all that academic work, the school holidays arrived and provided them with other development activities. The boys participated in counselling sessions and motivational talks. In addition, the teachers continued to mentor them on agriculture and farming tasks.

During the month the boys received a big treat, a day visit to the Animal Orphanage, where they saw and learnt more about the native animals especially the Big 5!



In-House Competition

Another exciting activity during April was when Paula, Adrienne, Catherine and Irene organised an in-house sporting competition for the boys. Everyone was a winner on the day as each boy received a gift.

The social worker continued to ensure that possible recruitments, home visits and reintegration interviews were carried out. The new boys were issued with new clothes, shoes, medical and educational assessments, and given the necessary inductions at the Centre.

Two of the previous boys were reintegrated with their families in Siaya. Their families were delighted to receive them. One boy who completed the residential program is waiting for his grandfather to organise his return. The Centre will assist in every way to help with his reintegration.



The Centre identified an issue that is becoming increasingly common for the parents and grandparents of the boys. The CoVid19 pandemic has exposed an even more tragic plight for them. The level of poverty and source of income has become a strenuous challenge. The complexity in the working environment has alienated many parents who struggle to provide for their families. Some of these boys then take on the responsibility and leave their family home to see if they can help. Sadly, life on the streets is a dead end and some of them feel ashamed because they failed. Bridging that divide and healing the relationship requires much intervention.

As a strategy to assist the families, the Centre will create several projects intended to help the parents to reunite and provide for their families. One such project is the 'Business start-up' for the parents. Parents will be selected after a home assessment to gauge the probability of success with a particular focus on their willingness to help their children. The parents will participate in a number of sessions once they have identified a business such as small kiosk, second-hand clothing or gardening services. They will be taken through various elements of setting up a small business so that they can provide for their families.

The Centre hosted the International Street Child Day celebrations in April. The Association of Sisters of Kenya's (AOSK) were represented by Sr Christine, Sr Delphine, and Mr Joseph and were keen to see how MPC manages the operational dimensions of the Centre as they wish to develop a computerised program that would assist the overall welfare services for street children.

Rugby is becoming more popular at the Centre thanks to Paula Cullen and her supporters. The boys have received coaching and by all accounts the raw talent keeps developing. Most of the boys have not experienced playing with an oval (Gilbert) shaped ball. With great anticipation the boys participated in the local rugby competitions. As they say, 'practise makes perfect' and became the winners in their first competition.



Spectating and supporting from the sidelines can be nerve racking at times. The boys were delighted with the enthusiastic energy from the one-eyed supporters.





The boys celebrate after winning one of the two trophies. One was for the under 16s and the other was the under 14s. We are grateful to the Leinster Rugby Club for donating the outfits – it certainly made a big difference to the boys.

Peter Omondi, Nelson Lumusi, Dennis Wanyoro and Peter Gichui with the trophy

With his raw talent seen by some sporting scouts, Dennis was offered a place at a rugby boarding school. He is one of the 27 boys who are currently being sponsored by Paula Cullen and Friends.



While Pauline, Irene, Adrienne and Catherine were at the Centre they interacted on many levels with the boys.



[L] Adrienne presents James Maina and Stephen Njoroge after their win at the in-house competition.



[R] Nelson Lumusi, Austin Omondi, Joshua Atandi, and James Kamau receiving their certificates after painting the kitchen.

A colourful poster was painted to farewell Paula, Adrienne, Irene and Catherine. The boys can't wait for the next visit.



MPC is grateful to the many local supporters who provide food provisions. The cost of living is climbing and feeding 60+ boys every day, as any parent will tell you, is not cheap. The Dawoodi Bohra Community and Team Pankaj continue to provide nutrition for the boys.



The national dish – Goat – from Dawoodi Bohra Community



Vegetables from Team Pankaj



Hass Gas donated rice, maize flour, sugar and wheat flour



Current Dining Room Floor

Catherine Nolan, Adrienne Keeley, Irene Plunkett, Vera Smith, Paula Cullen and Clare Chambers have set up a **Go Fund Me project** for the Dining Hall for Street Boys Rehabilitation Centre. The goal is €15,000.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/Dining-Hall-For-Street-Boys-Rehabilitation-Centre>



Dining Room Wall

To view more photographs of the dining room please go to the above link. We would really appreciate your support, no matter the size of the contribution.



Sponsorship Office

The Form One admissions at St Michael's Secondary School commenced after the release of Kenya Certificate of Primary Education KPCE results. Pupils who had scored 250+ in their KCPE were welcomed to apply to St Michael's and others to the Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre. There are 150 positions in Form One at St Michael's and the Sponsorship Office hopes to offer 50 pupils sponsorship through the generosity of our donors. We are grateful to the Kenya Pipeline Company for providing 30 scholarships at St Michael's Secondary School. We also appreciate the many donors who offer assistance towards daily living expenses such as food and hygiene materials. The CoVid19 pandemic domino effects continue to impact the poor in Mukuru slum.

The Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) results were released in April. The students are currently waiting for the Government 'calling' letters to know what course / university placement they will be offered. Others will be joining vocational training for different courses depending on their capabilities. With deep gratitude we would like to acknowledge our donors for the current group: *Airtel, Bob Paterson, Raja Trust Foundation, Frank and Joan Hughes, Larry McMillen, Juri and Sharon Koor, Yvonne McGregor, Maralynne Monteith and Brian Wilson, Robert and Odette Therberge, Elizabeth and Michael Richard, Cheshire Disability Services Kenya, The Mukuru Alumni, Sr Assumpta Walsh, Peter Crayford, Beverly Cheserem, Paula Cullen and friends* for sponsoring these students through the four years of secondary school.

Made possible by our sponsors, a total of 33 students sat for the 2021 KCSE (*Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education*) 31 of them studied at St Michael's Secondary while 1 studied in Mangu Boys High School and another studied in Muvuti High School.

MPC Sponsored KCSE Students Results 2021

KCSE Grades								Total
B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	
1	2	3	4	5	8	6	4	33

The breakdown shows that 6 students will receive an offer from a university while the remainder will have access to a vocational training course. Receiving a 'calling' letter is the first hurdle for the students; the next hurdle will be to find the funds to help them continue their education which will not be easy. All employment positions in Kenya now require the completion of KCSE so this is a great start for all of them.

It was a privilege to have Paula, Adrienne, Irene and Catherine visit us at MPC during the month. The group has been long term supporters of MPC especially the Rehabilitation Centre for Street Boys. One of their sponsored students achieved a B in the recent KSCE exams.



Sr Mary, Catherine Nolan, Stella Mathe, Irene Plunkett, Adrienne Burke and Paula Cullen

Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

The children's learning continued to improve, both academically and physically even though the assessment reports from the Kenya Council for Persons with Disabilities is still pending; however the staff have devised the individual education plan for each child and this has had a positive result.

Each of the IEP plans contains physical, nutritional, academic components to ensure that the child's progress and development is specifically design for them and that the parents are fully aware of what the centre is trying to achieve which must be continued at home for a more overall attainment of the milestones. We have noted that nutrition is playing a huge part in the overall wellbeing of the child. We are grateful to Team Pankaj who understands the essentials of good nutrition. Involving the parents as much as possible is very important to achieving many goals. The Centre held Health Education training sessions for parents /guardians and community health volunteers. The training focused on WASH (water sanitization and hygiene), mental and maternal health. Most of the children at the Centre have one form of cerebral palsy and offering more information to parents such as the origins, factors, best practices, care for children and supports for parents is paramount to the overall understanding of the disease and for it not to be viewed as a 'curse' which is the case in some cultures.

The social workers attended professional development sessions on the Disability Inclusion Score Card (DISC) sponsored by Cheshire Disability to improve on the Centre's disability programs. Feedback was presented at the sessions and the final score card format will be issued next month.

During the month the Centre received donations of food provision, toys, clothes, shoes, educational resources, hygiene materials and kitchen utensils. We are grateful to British Airways crew members, Team Pankaj, Mrs Mika Buri, Madam Rachel Malech, Naivas Ltd, Emma Mugambi, Evergreen Christian Group and Gas Africa for supporting the Centre in April.



Provision from Team Pankaj



Toys from BA Crew Members



Naivas Supermarket



Evergreen Christian Group

The above donations were distributed within the Centre as well as to the needy families whose children are enrolled at the Centre. Over 25 needy families received clothes, shoes and food parcels and another 220 parents received food parcels during the month.



Needy families received food parcels



Parent / Guardian training sessions on Health Education.



Cerebral Palsy Training

Parents' Meeting



Evergreen Christian Group

The Centre is providing much needed support to over 80 families each month with at least another 100 families outside in the slums. To keep the work progressing we do need the help of many people. The visitors who come to assist and the university placements all combine to bring much hope to the children and their families. The networking that happens each month is amazing and we are very grateful to all people from around the world who assist us; no matter how insignificant contributions may seem, they all make for a positive loving environment for children to grow.



Social and Health Services

Social Services

Nutrition and food distribution seemed to be the biggest demand during April at the Social Offices. Over 650 food parcels, nearly 70 needy support packages and an increase in medical visits to the Clinic kept the social offices quite busy. The CoVid19 pandemic may have lost its coverage in the media but at the social services level MPC continues to respond with its cascading and indirect demands for families living in the slums. One such consequence is the absenteeism in the schools. Many of the children are trying to support the families by trying to earn some form of income to help with daily living expenses.



One angle of Kayaaba Village

Sancta Maria Primary Kayaaba registered a record number of pupils absent. The school has a population of approximately 1,900 students and just under 20% of its population was absent during April. Kayaaba is located in the middle of a very crowded Mukuru slum. Anyone who visits the slum is overwhelmed by the sheer number of people walking around – hundreds and hundreds of people walking around going somewhere but ending up nowhere – all looking for casual work.

With people’s nutrition bearing the brunt from the pandemic we are expecting to see an increase in the number of medical treatments at the Clinic in the coming months. In April there were over 130 medical referrals to the Clinic. After a thorough examination and biopsy Moses’ mother was informed by the senior surgeon that an amputation above the knee would be the best solution for him.



Moses waits for his prognosis



Parents for needy students in st Michael’s and St Bakhita receiving Team Pankaj food packages.



Mukuru Promotion Centre
Social and Health Services Statistics
Month of April 2022

No.	Case type / Activities	Education						Health	Welfare			Total
		St Bakhita	St Catherine	St Elizabeth	Sancta Maria Kayaaba	St Michael's Secondary	Vocational Training Centre SKILLS	MPC Clinic	Songa Mbele na Masomo	MPC Rehabilitation Centre	Child Protection	
1	Abuse Cases										1	1
2	Amaranth Adult Clients		63									63
3	Amaranth Babies & Child Clients		10									10
4	Behavior and Discipline Cases									9		9
5	Business Startup / Booster	3			3	3	1			10	2	22
6	Counseling and Guidance sessions	1			6	1	3			4		15
7	CoVid19 Hygiene Material Resources											-
8	Donations Received	3	3	1	1	2	1		9	30		50
9	Fire and Floods Disaster assistance											-
10	Food Distribution	50	107	27	50	50	147		226			657
11	Home Visits	4		3	3	2	2	2	2	10		28
12	Hospital Visits (to other Hospitals)							7	1			8
13	Malnourished Babies		13									13
14	Medical Cases (to MIC)	1	27	2	2	4	3	71	8	16	4	138
15	Meetings and Trainings		1				2	1	5	2		11
16	Mentorship Sessions		7						1			8
17	Mobilization of Resources											-
18	Needy Families Support (Community)	2	28				2		18	1	3	54
19	Needy Students/Children	5			5	1	4					15
20	Networking	2	4	1	3	1		8				19
21	New Admissions to MPC Institutions	1	10		5		2			3		21
22	New Teenage Pregnancies cases	1										1
23	Nutritional Support	1	11									12
24	Placement (job/internship experience)						8			1		9
25	Pregnancy Support Packages											-
26	Provision of Sanitary Towels	4		23								27
27	Referrals (except medical)				1	4	4		1			10
28	Safeguarding Follow Ups				1	2						3
29	School Absenteeism/Truancy			6	368		1					375
30	Schools Profiles	2			12	70			3			87
31	School Visits											-
32	Songa Mbele Therapy Sessions								233			233
33	Sponsorship Follow-ups		12			17			3	3		35
34	Uniform Aid	2	1							51		54
	Totals	82	297	63	460	157	180	89	510	140	10	1,988

The statistics captured for the month show other activities in April are also on the increase.



Sponsorship Home visit assessment



Krishna Family donation to Skills students



Team Pankaj provide school lunches



One of the programs conducted at the Clinic during April was the medical certification of secondary students. Given that the pupil / student population lives in Mukuru slum the Clinic provides subsidized medical treatments through school programs. On occasions MPC is fortunate to have overseas healthcare workers who wish to volunteer for a period of time. When healthcare workers volunteer they normally assist the MPC clinicians with screening follow ups so that if any child has an underlining medical disease we can identify early and improve the percentage of full recovery. During April 22 medical certificates were issued to students joining secondary school as this has become a requirement for some boarding schools.

The Clinic continues to play its part with the tuberculosis program with the support of the Ministry of Health’s (MOH) Sub-County TB Coordinator, Mary Nzamalu. The feedback from the supervision supplied by the MOH indicated that the Clinic is up to speed with its documentation and there was great improvement on household follow-ups. We are grateful to the Ministry who provided 4 boxes of surgical masks for preventative measures when the staff are treating the clients.



Surgical masks

Summary Treatments For April 2022

Diseases	0-5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	Above	Total
							64 Yrs	
Outpatients								
Respiratory	64	13	7	60	35	16	2	197
Gastronintestinal	41	14	11	49	25	7	2	149
Cardiovascular	63	17	32	97	57	37	11	314
ENT	7	4	4	4	2	0	0	21
Genitourinary	5	7	6	72	20	9	0	119
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	0	0	0	12	9	1	0	22
Musculoskeletal	0	5	5	24	23	7	1	65
Integumentary (Skin)	10	2	6	8	2	0	0	28
Dressing	1	0	1	5	0	2	0	9
Other Diseases	21	1	8	12	2	1	1	46
<i>Subtotal Outpatients</i>	212	63	80	343	175	80	17	970
Clinics								
ANC			2	37	0			39
Immunizations	128							128
Nutrition	62				6			68
Comprehensive Care	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	4
Non Medical (Mental)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Referrals to Medical Facilities	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
<i>Subtotal Clinics</i>	190	1	4	39	9	0	0	243
Total	402	64	84	382	184	80	17	1213

April Registrations 2022

Category	Gender	0-5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	Above 64 Yrs	Total
New cases	Female	86	25	36	138	58	15	4	362
	Male	32	14	23	81	28	15	2	195
Subtotal		118	39	59	219	86	30	6	557
Revisits	Female	107	16	12	108	55	31	3	332
	Male	75	11	18	53	47	31	8	243
Subtotal		182	27	30	161	102	62	11	575
Total		300	66	89	380	188	92	17	1132
Percentage	<i>Female</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>62%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>61%</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>35%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>39%</i>

April 2022 Laboratory Tests

Laboratory Tests	0 - 5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	> 64 Yrs	Total
ANC Profile	0	0	0	18	1	0	0	19
Anti-streptolysin O test (ASOT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bilirubin Levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blood Group	0	0	3	2	0	1	0	6
Blood Sugar (R.B.S/F.B.S)	1	0	2	0	4	6	2	15
Brucella	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BS for MPS (Malaria)	21	6	2	22	11	1	0	63
Calcium Levels	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Creatinine levels	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3
Du test	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Full Haemogram	38	7	10	53	22	9	4	143
HbA1c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Helicobacter Pylori	0	3	2	18	16	3	2	44
Hemoglobin Levels	3	1	4	8	5	0	0	21
Hepatitis B (HBsAg)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
High Vaginal Swab Microscopy	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Lipid profile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liver Function Test	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pregnancy Test	0	0	8	7	2	0	0	17
Rheumatoid Factor	0	0	1	2	9	3	2	17
Salmonella	0	2	5	6	2	1	0	16
Stool Analysis	10	17	8	37	16	1	0	89
UEC's (Urea, Electrolytes and Creatinine)	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
Uric Acid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urinalysis	4	7	8	56	40	9	2	126
Urine Culture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urine multi drug test	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
VDRL/Syphilis	0	0	2	2	2	1	0	7
Total	78	44	60	239	130	36	12	599
<i>Average Tests Per Day 28</i>								

Education

Primary Schools

April marked the beginning of the new academic year 2022. Schools re-opened after a seven (7) weeks holiday break . In the first few days only 70% of pupils reported back and the rest slowly reported but now all the pupils have commenced the new academic year.

After the release of 2021 KCPE results, calling letters started streaming into schools for students to join secondary schools. If pupils are fortunate to receive a calling letter from a Government school then only the tuition fees will be paid. Every parent knows that having a child in secondary school has many other fees that require payment. For many Mukuru parents they will experience the anguish in trying to work out how they can afford to pay the difference. If a pupil has performed well, being a mark over 350 they have a high probability of obtaining some form of sponsorship for established organizations and commercial banks. For the bulk of pupils who achieved between 250 – 300, they will have higher hurdles to overcome. For the others who achieved a score below 250 they face an uncertain future. One organisation such as Hatua increased their cut off mark to 380 for boys and 370 for girls from 370 for both genders in 2020. The MPC Sponsorship Office is searching for more sponsors to assist the children.

Last month we mentioned that from the MPC primary schools there were 5 boys who scored above 400 marks. This was an exceptional result. We are happy to notify you that each of the boys received funding from Hatua.

Name	KCPE Score	Secondary School
Felix Anjiri Sharp	417	Machakos Boys High school
Gregory Auma	410	Moi Forces Academy Nairobi
Samuel Isavuja	409	Nairobi School
Brian Musyoki	401	Makueni Boys
Fidel Okatch	400	Utumishi Boys Academy

MPC Top KCPE Achievers



Enquires will be conducted on all other KCPE pupils to ensure that there is a 100% transition from primary to secondary school. The pupils whose scores were below 200 will be advised to enrol in a vocational training course. However, that will have issues due to the age of the pupils. The age to join a vocational training course is normally around 15 – 16 years of age. The age barrier will impact on some of the pupils which could see them stay at home for a few years.



At the commencement of the new academic year teachers held meetings to deliberate on how best to transit students to the the next grade/class without any repetition as per the government guidelines. Some streams were reshuffled for fair distribution of students, especially those moving to Class eight. After some ingenuity all classes settled well.

Currently, there are 4,680 pupils enrolled in 4 MPC primary schools. Head teachers have been advised not to deny any needy child a chance to join the school. As the year progresses the enrolment numbers will increase.

Primary School	Boys	Girls	Total	Current Capacity
St. Bakhita	414	407	821	68%
St. Catherine	542	475	1,017	67%
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	588	645	1,233	68%
St. Elizabeth	770	839	1,609	89%
Totals	2,314	2,366	4,680	Ave. 73%

The Head Teachers met with the Director and Executive Development Officer to discuss issues facing the primary schools. One of the biggest problems is the feeding program. Approximately 30% of the pupils attending the schools come from destitute families with no possibility of contributing to a feeding program. It was agreed that no child will pay for feeding program this term as the donor has offered to feed them for free. MPC is contributing to the cost of feeding which is around €50,000 per year. The World Food Program supplied the food for the program but stopped in 2017. MPC has been trying since then to secure ongoing support for the program. The other point of discussion was the new Boards of Management for each school which has not yet been inaugurated by the County Education Board.



Head Teachers Meeting

When schools close for holidays it signals a challenging time as many children who attend the schools depend on the meals for survival. MPC is thankful to the Team Pankaj Foundation for the continuous support with the school feeding program. Through Team Pankaj MPC received 450 packages of relief food from the National CoVid19 Fund. The food packages consisted of assorted provisions such as maize meal, wheat flour, rice, salt, black beans, special green grams, and cooking oil. The packages were distributed to very poor families.

The schools also received five tons of briquettes as fuel for cooking and 40 cartons of bar soaps which are to be distributed (one carton) per school per week. The soap is to be used by the children for various cleaning purposes. MPC is grateful to have received food for the schools in the new term as this will ensure smooth running of the school without feeding challenge.



Sweet Potatoes



Cooking oil, Tomatoes Paste, Salts and Spices



Porridge and beans



Bananas



Vegetables



Onions

A typical month's shopping list to feed over 5,000 children each day has been captured reasonably well in the table. Hence MPC is very grateful to all donors who assist with the feeding program.

Food Items	Quantity	Items	Quantity
Maize Meal	4,800kgs	Tomato Paste	118.8kgs
Rice	3,000kgs	White Peas	1,950kgs
Maize Kernels	2,000kgs	porridge	2,500kgs
Njahi	1,000kgs	Green Vegetables	500kgs
Salt	200kgs	Hard Vegetables	1,453kgs
Spices	15kgs	Mixed Vegetables	314kgs
Cooking Oil	300lt	Sweet Potatoes	3,300kgs

The pupil/teacher ratio continues to be a problem for the MPC primary schools. Two MPC subsidized teachers from Sancta Maria Kayaaba were absorbed by Teacher's Service Commission (TSC) but were then posted to other schools. This practice only widens the pupil / teacher ratio gap in MPC schools and deteriorates the learning environment for the children. It is true that some teachers do not wish to work in a "slum" school and request a transfer which makes life harder for the children. Under the Constitutions of Kenya every person has the right to free basic education but in reality for the slum dwellers it is different.



Composition of Teachers in MPC Primary Schools

Primary School	TSC Teachers		MPC Teachers		BOM Teachers		Total		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
St. Bakhita	3	13	0	4	1	0	4	17	21
St. Catherine	3	16	1	4	0	2	4	20	24
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	8	20	0	3	0	0	8	23	31
St. Elizabeth	2	23	2	4	0	2	4	28	31
Total	16	72	3	15	1	4	20	88	107

If MPC did not subsidize teaching and non-teaching staff at the primary schools the children would be experiencing an even poorer quality of learning.

MPC Primary Schools	Ratio with TSC only	Ratio with TSC and MPC Teachers
St. Bakhita	59:1	46:1
St. Catherine	70:1	56:1
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	44:1	40:1
St. Elizabeth	65:1	52:1
Average	60:1	48:1

The enrolments for Pre-primary pupils also commenced in April being 46% male and 54%.

MPC Pre-Primary School	PP1		PP2		Total		Total Enrolments	County Teachers
	M	F	M	F	M	F		
St. Bakhita	26	34	36	35	62	69	131	5
St. Catherine	27	19	18	17	45	36	81	4
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	10	20	34	37	44	57	101	3
St. Elizabeth	16	21	30	45	46	66	112	6
Totals	79	94	118	134	197	228	425	18

The year 2022 will be unique with two examination classes being the traditional Class 8 and the new CBC Grade 6 who will need to all be registered. The Head Teachers attended a meeting with the County Director of Education for the implementation procedures for the examinations.

St Michael's Secondary School

After the KCSE 2021 examinations concluded, St Michael's reopened later in April to commence the 2022 academic year for 437 students. In the first week only 222 students had reported but by the end of the month that figure improved to 400. Often the bus companies increase their fares either side of school terms which results in many of our students waiting until the prices return to normal so they can afford the tickets.



School Assembly

The 10-week term ahead will have the usual staff meetings, parent meetings, classes, examinations, sporting competitions and talent concerts for the students. The 2021 KCSE results were released and 12 students out of 123 candidates will have access to university. It was hoped that more students, especially girls, would gain entrance to tertiary level institutions.

KCSE 2021 Performance by Gender

Students	No.	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	Mean Score 2021	Mean Grade	Mean Score 2020	Dev.
Boys	58				1	3	2	4	11	17	11	5	4.24	D+	4.77	-0.53
Girls	65					1	5	8	15	13	19	8	4.96	C-	4.76	-0.41
Total	123				1	4	7	12	26	30	30	2	4.60	C-	4.77	-0.16

Form Four End of Year 2021 Results

Subject	Entry	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	Mean Score 2021	Mean Grade	Dev. From 2020
English	123			2	2	6	16	17	20	25	33	1		4.94	C-	-0.86
Kiswahili	123			2	8	12	8	10	14	14	38	15	2	4.68	C-	-0.09
Maths	123	1	1	2	2	1		2	3	8	23	46	34	2.63	D	+0.08
Biology	53					1	4	3	2	3	21	17	2	3.32	D	+0.22
Physics	70			1		1	2	3	1	34	15	26	18	2.6	D	-0.65
Chemistry	123						1	2	2	3	21	75	19	2.22	D-	-0.21
History	80		2	4	6	11	18	9	9	6	14	1		6.21	C	-1.38
Geography	43		2	4	4	9	8	4	4	2	6			6.88	C+	-1.46
CRE	123		1	3	8	8	12	15	11	16	42	5	1	4.98	C-	-0.91
Agriculture	24			2	3	3	2	5	2	2	5			6.16	C	-2.02
Business	63			2	2	3	7	3	5	3	21	16	2	4.06	D+	+0.04
Computer Studies	35	3	1	5	5	6	3	4	1	3	2	2		7.49	C+	-
Number	123	4	7	27	40	61	81	77	74	74	117	220	78	4.60	C-	-0.16

The results from the 2021 academic year for Form Fours indicated a higher level of achievement by the students however in reality the scores in the KCSE were much lower with no As'.

Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

St Euphrasia Vocational and Training Institute visited our Centre for benchmarking and the day was fruitful and we look forward to more engagement with them in the near future. The outgoing plumbing students completed the repairs in the Art classroom and Jimmy, a Strathmore University student on placement, assisted the Centre to develop the online catalogue for paintings and portraits in the Art gallery.

Now that the new skills facility for youths with disabilities is fully operational there has been an increase in the number of enrolments. The youths are engaged in craft work and how to do beadwork and make mats. Drawing, painting and life skills classes are part of the specifically design course. There is a focus on life skills as most of our students lack basic knowledge on how to do the normal day-to-day activities with underdeveloped interpersonal skills. The course covers topics such as etiquette, self-esteem, interpersonal skills, manners, dress code, personal grooming, cleanliness and hygiene. Most of the programs administered have been successful with 50% of the students completing their coursework. In beadwork, we worked on improving designs, colour choice and achieving proper measurements. Mat making was a new unit introduced in mid-February and the youths concentrate on colour choice, measurements, design and technique.



Special Needs Youths learn how to paint



Special Needs Youths

Towards the end of the month 106 students sat for the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) examinations. NITA certification helps students get work attachments so that at the end of the course they have demonstrated that they are ready for employment. The placements provide invaluable practical experience for the students. We wish all the students the best of luck as they start their attachment postings.



NITA examinations in progress



Interior Decorating



Masonry and Plumbing



Garment Making

The Centre always receives lots of overseas visitors and aircrew members from different airlines. The most regular aircrew is British Airways. The crewmembers provide basic essentials for many of our courses. Other visitors are mindful of practical items that is often out of the reach for many of our students. We are very grateful to them for remembering us at MPC. During the month we received donations from Noreen Walsh and Mary Richardson, Paula Cullen and Friends, Team Pankaj and Krisha Sumariya family and friends. These donations go along way in boosting the morale of the students.



Happy hairdressing students after receiving blouses and products from British Airways Crew Members



Announcements

There are many activities that continue throughout the month that are not reported but are very necessary to maintain the outreach services of MPC.

- Caroline Nganga, Project Development Officer from Irish Embassy visited with Irish visitor, Saoirse Tracy for project monitoring. The Irish Embassy provided a grant for 20 parents to start their own business – or ‘Start Ups’. The visitors met with a number of the parents who had already commenced their own businesses.



Caroline Nganga meets with the MPC Team vendor



Meeting a parent - Secondhand clothes

- Discussions were held on the expansion of the Skills centre especially catering, computer and hairdressing as they are the most popular courses.
- The Kohlenberg Foundation was established in 1994 by American Philanthropist, Julie Kohlenberg, '**towards the advancement of the education and relief of poverty of residents in Kenya**'. Sadly, Julie passed away in 2000 but she had bequeathed a considerable amount of funds to the Foundation before her death. The Foundation did not become fully operational until 2005 when Sr. Mary Killeen and Sr. Patricia Moran were appointed Trustees. The Foundation will cease operating in 2022 as its funds have been exhausted. However, in the 17 years of its active existence, the Foundation has sponsored over **3,900 students** at different educational levels :
 - **65 in Primary Schools,**
 - **2,298 in Secondary Schools** and
 - **1,595** in different **Universities/Tertiary Colleges.**

The Foundation also gave some funding towards infrastructural development in different educational institutions. The activities of the Foundation were coordinated by Trustee, Sr Patricia Moran.

