



June Newsletter

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2022

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Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step By Step

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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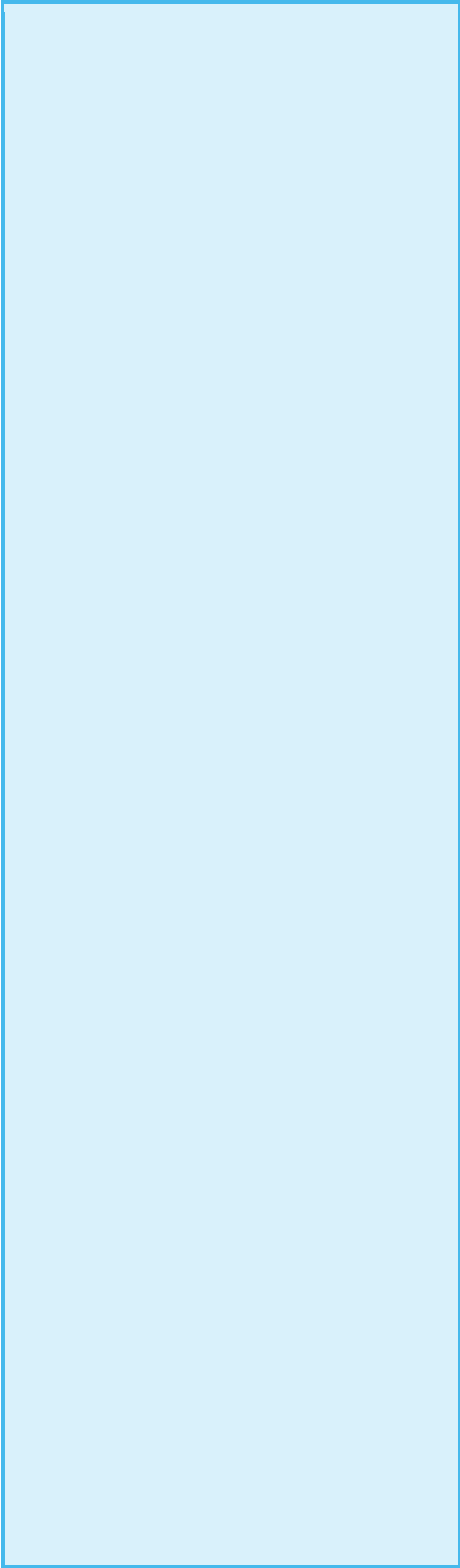
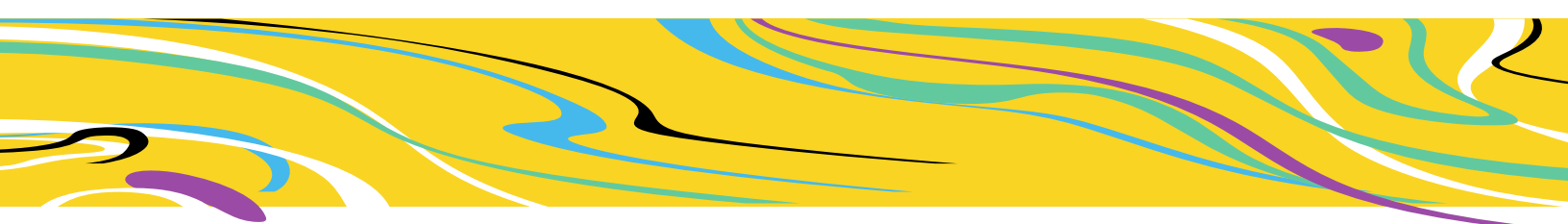
Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

I travelled to Ireland on 2nd June and was very happy to meet with immediate family and catch up with some Sisters of Mercy and friends. Sadly, I could not meet everyone I would like due to time and CoVid19, as a number of people had to isolate. Thanks to the Mater Community for hosting me.

I was happy to meet the Calary Congregation and their new young, energetic pastor. I was fortunate and happy to also meet Rev Bennett the former pastor who welcomed me to Calary many years ago. Paula Cullen and friends held a fundraiser for the work in the Rehabilitation Centre and for the proposed new dining hall. It was very well attended and I noticed a number of Calary congregants in the crowd and friends, relatives and neighbours of the Cullens. Thanks to all who supported the event.

I attended another fundraiser in Rome organised by Breana Stillman. Breana visited Mukuru twice with some of her colleagues and noticed that we did not have a piano or good keyboard. She hopes to get the funds to buy one for the Centre. Thanks to her and to her colleagues who donated their services for the marvellous concert. The leaders of the Christian Brothers, based in Rome, turned up in support.

On my return to Mukuru I saw that the work was going on steadily in all the departments. Dinah Maina, Deputy Director was very busy with the daily tasks of administering the Centre and preparing for the opening of Songa Mbele in July. I saw that Sr Louise and the boys, together with Reinhard, had constructed a new shelter for chickens further away from the kitchen and dining hall. I was sorry to miss Caroline Cullen and her group who visited while I was away and managed to do some work in Rehabilitation and treated children of Songa Mbele to a fun day. Thanks to them and to the various local donors.



With the increasing poverty it is hard to keep the children in school and college. Everything is increasing in price but income is less or the same as before. We have a number of children with serious health challenges whose parents have no income. In Kenya to be treated you have to pay first. It is an increasing challenge to pay for hospitalisation of children and destitute parents. I am most grateful to those who help out here. Some of the children, through your help, have been saved from going blind after an eye accident, or from death by having a necessary operation. Dr Monika, who worked for months in the Clinic, returned for a visit. I regretted very much not seeing her. She has supported St Catherine's Primary School with agriculture, poultry and sheep projects during her time with us. We miss her a lot.

Congratulations to Malcolm and Margaret Savage who funded the Kerrigan Cup for years. This brings great joy and excitement to the schools, as they compete with one another. Sr Lilian and Catherine Karuno conducted the Child Protection Training with staff, surrounding Mukuru community and local leaders. It reminds us of all of our duty of care towards children. Thanks to Sr Lilian and her team for this great work done with support of the Sisters of Mercy.

We are trying to renew and develop our vocational training courses. The youth we want to train often do not have the means to pay for their training. Our facilities for hair dressing and catering urgently need expansion. Our furniture, fittings and equipment need upgrading in many sections. Chantal Goetz from the FGF Foundation has contributed much towards this development.

May we improve the training and job opportunities. It is a challenge to deal with students from different levels of education. We integrated pasts students of Songa Mbele and other special units as they too need training in order to earn their living. We still have to equip the classrooms.

May we continue to alleviate the poverty we find.
Best wishes and prayers

Sr Mary Killeen
Director

Overseas Catch Ups With Donors

While trying to fit in some personal holiday time Sr Mary had the opportunity to catch up on a number of donors and supporters in Ireland, Italy and Spain.



Blackrock College Rugby Club supporters at a recent coffee morning hosted by Paula Cullen and Friends



Sr Mary receiving a cheque from Jenny Buckley on behalf of her late partner Don Kealey



The Irish Team relaxing after the successful Coffee morning Fundraiser for a new dining hall for the Rehab Centre



Sr Mary and Julie Sabby (Denmark) admiring some of the photo collages at the coffee morning

Fr Manuel donates uniforms for 2 teams at St Michael's Secondary School



There are many success stories of empowerment over the years from Mukuru. Sr Mary caught up with Kule Wario who is currently completing a Masters in Human Rights on scholarship from the Irish Government in Trinity College, Dublin. A former pupil of St Bakhita Primary School, Kule was helped by the Sisters of Mercy when a child due to her situation. Under the sponsorship program, MPC sent her to secondary school where Eugene took up the payment of fees and sponsored her in her first degree in law school. She has been working in human rights and prosecution for three years of pedophiles in Kenya since graduating.



Eugene Hillary, Sr Mary and Kule

An Australian Opera singer, Breana Stillman has visited MPC several times over the last few years and performed a number of musical items for the MPC school students and staff. The last few months Breana was busy developing the charity, 'OperAffinity' with other classical music musicians. Through a patronage from the Vatican and the support from the Australian Embassy to the Holy See OperAffinity organised its first charity concert in Rome and the evening was truly magical. The proceeds go to children in Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine and Mukuru slums. Sr Mary was invited to speak at the concert and introduce the works of MPC to the audience.

Concert held at the Church of Santa Maria in Campitelli in Rome



Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, H.E. Chiara Porro and Breana Stillman.



Performers



Kenyan Ambassador to Italy H.E. Consolata Maina

Sr Mary addresses the audience



Welfare Services

Rehabilitation Centre

The new recruits continued to settle-in during the month. The current number of the boys residing at the Centre number 61 and another 18 attached through sponsorship in other education institutions.

Rehabilitation Centre Composition

Classes	Accelerated Learning	St Catherine Primary	Vocational Training /Carpentry	Secondary	Total
Year 1	19				
Year 2	12				
Standard 2					
Standard 3		5			
Standard 4					
Standard 5		1			
Standard 6		1			
Standard 7		3			
Standard 8		4			
Grade III			16		
Grade II					
Form 1				8	
Form 2				5	
Form 3				5	
Form 4					
Total	31	14	16	18	79

The 18 boys who are 'attached' to MPC have received sponsorship to keep up with their education.

Institution	Primary Class	Secondary Level	Vocational	No.	County
Ss Peter and Paul School	8			2	Embu
Mbaikini Boys High School		Form 2		3	
Mururia Boys High School		Form 2		1	
Ituru Boys High School		Form 2		1	
Nyangwa Boys		Form 1		1	
Ruthimitu High School		Form 1		1	
Butula High School		Form 1		1	
St Michael's Secondary		Form 1		1	Nairobi
St Patrick's Secondary		Form 1		1	
St Paul's Sigomre		Form 1		1	
Genesis Immaculate Secondary		Form 1		1	
Mulaha Secondary School		Form 1		1	
Levis Magovi			1	1	
Joshua Atandi			1	1	

The teachers are working hard to ensure that at least the boys who were recruited in April are at par with the other boys. The boys in Year One are able to speak simple words and read in both Kiswahili and English. Most of the new boys struggle to read and write. Some of them can do simple Maths like addition, subtraction, multiplication. The youngest boy 7 years has greatly improved and is developing his confidence.

Year Two class has 7 boys attending Grade 7 and 5 that are just below the standard average. Some still find reading, comprehension and writing challenging but the Maths is much better. The good aspect is that they are positive about learning which goes a long way on the journey for achievement.

The Pro Futuro tablets continue to provide motivation for all the boys. The digital platform has many options for learning and the boys really enjoy the fun activities. The teachers also continue their proficiency with the tablets through the fortnightly training sessions.



Pro Futuro training session



Library time

The current carpentry class project is making picture frames and saloon mirrors for the Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre. The students have learnt how to use router machines to create patterns on the frames, cut different shapes, create designs using jigsaws, combined planer, circular saws, and ambital sanders. The exams were held and the boys showed great concentration. Derrick Gibnja, Dennis Owino and Simon Wekesa scored the highest marks. Seven boys have commenced their industrial placements. MPC is grateful to the companies who help develop their skills in the workplace. Companies such as Zablon, Exotic Crafts, Antique Furniture International and Timber workshops.





The catechist from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish South B takes the boys for catechism classes twice a week.

Extra-Curricular activities such as rugby, gymnastics and dancing keep the boys active after their daily lessons. Cultivation, weeding and transplanting kales seedlings and propping tomatoes gives an earthy feel to the other exercises.



Rugby training



Farm activities



Land preparation

THE FARM PROJECT: The Brothers and Sisters in Need project has begun in earnest. The activity in the project involves erecting the shade cloth for the chickens and the vegetables on the farm. The boys with the guidance from teachers have been actively working on the farm to ensure that the crops are monitored well. The first lot of vegetables grown were peas and the next crop will be Kales.



Peas getting ready for harvesting



Tomatoes in the green house



Harvesting

The chicken shade is under construction and hopefully by July it will be completed. Expanding the farm section of the Centre will help equip the boys with farming skills which they no doubt will use after graduation.



Initial stages...nearly there.



The Day of the African Child is set aside each year to celebrate the lives of those children who lost their lives in South Africa on 16th June 1971 when the Police unleashed gunfire on them as they were protesting because they wanted to be taught in their native language. The theme for 2022 was **“Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children”**. One example of this is when society was taught not to tolerate or legally permit child marriages, denial of education, or

other human rights abuses of children. All children are entitled to better education and care. The boys took part in the celebrations held at Shauri Moyo in Nairobi. They were taught about their rights and responsibilities as young citizens of Kenya.



Boys attending the Day of the African Child at Shauri Moyo



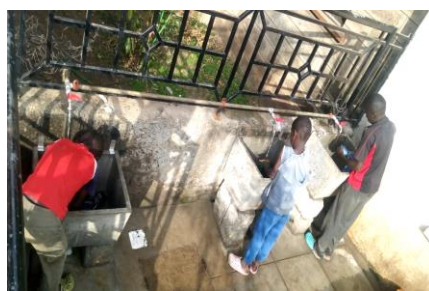
After a 2 year hiatus due to the CoVid19 pandemic the Mater Misericordiae Hospital Heart Run was on again. The Rehab Centre managed to participate in the Mater Heart Run to raise funds for underprivileged children.



The Whistle Team led by Caroline Cullen visited the Centre during the month. Apart from the friendly chats and involvement in the Centre activities the group completed a special project – developing the laundry area. There has always been a bottleneck when the boys gather to wash their clothes in dozens of buckets and one main water source. The group installed troughs outside the dormitory next to the bathrooms.



Construction underway



Washing clothes



Entertainment night



It was not all work. Whistle managed a celebratory party and fun activities.

During June the Centre received a number of donations from well-wishers such as Mr Ng'ang'a, Agatha Muigai, Dawoodi Bohra Community, Mr. Waweru, among others.



Bread and clothes donated by Rachael



Mr Waweru donated bananas and vegetables



*Vegetables donated by
Team Pankaj*



*The vegetables and fruits donated by
Action and Focus.*

*Samuel Njoroge brought assorted
clothes.*



The wooden desks were donated by Gurpreet.



*Agatha Muigai brought the cabbages, spinach and
tomatoes*





Donated clothes and books from British Airways Crewmembers



A former resident, Samuel Otieno (2013) brought some groundnuts to the Centre and interacted with the boys and shared his success story with them.

We are very grateful to the donors who continue to assist MPC to help the vulnerable to rebuild their lives.

Just a reminder that the **Go Fund Me Project** for the Dining Hall for Street Boys Rehabilitation Centre is still open. Due to the support the decision was made to build a permanent structure rather than a prefab one. Currently 60% of the funds have been raised only another 40% to go! If you wish to be part of the development at the Centre, please consider donating.

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

Proposed Design

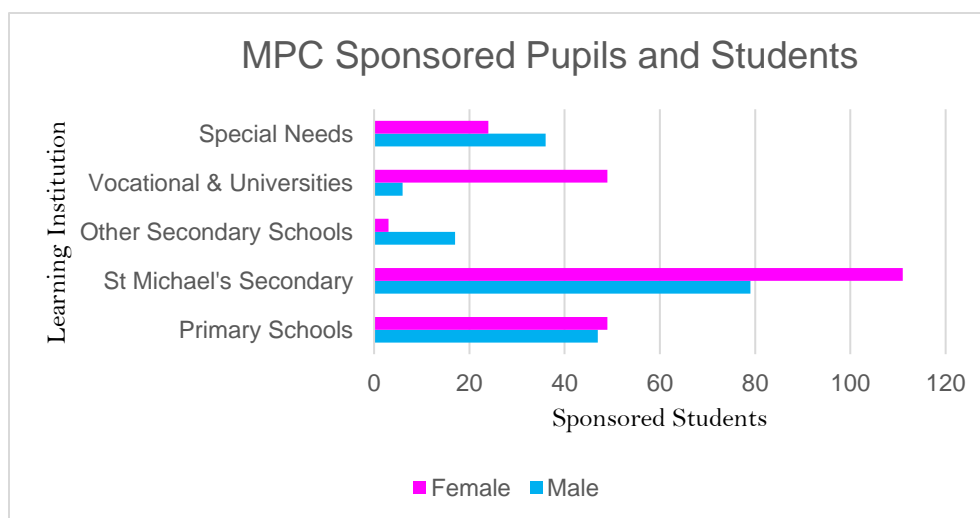


Sponsorship Office

June 30th marked the end of term one (2022 academic year) for all the students in secondary and primary schools. There will be a short 10 day holiday break for students and staff. During the break both primary and secondary sponsored students were busy writing their appreciation letters to their sponsors. Within the next few weeks all appreciation letters and academic reports will be posted onto the Sponsorship Database to be viewed at the sponsors' convenience. The database provides the option for the sponsor to respond to the child via a system email. Currently 421 pupils and students have been donated the wonderful gift of an education.



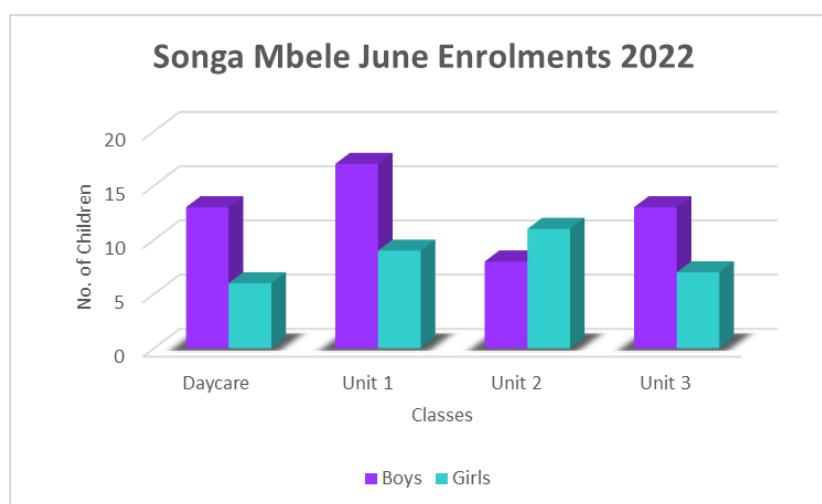
St Catherine pupils write their Appreciation Letters



MPC continues to explore with local companies the possibility of empowering young lives through sponsorships and mentorships. We hope to provide more information after engaging with a few organizations in June.

Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

We remember one of the Day Care children who died during the month with flu. Mark Kaunda was 9 year of age. The enrolments continue to increase, currently the children number 84 with a 60/40 ratio with 23 staff members. There are also other children who are able to connect with the therapy sessions as outside clients. The volunteers who visit the Centre during the month are very much appreciated with their commitment, enthusiasm and creativity. Volunteers from Rafa Home Care, United States International University, Sisters of Mercy, Missionaries of Africa Sisters. Some volunteers come for a few days, others carry out a community service placement for a couple of months.



The two therapists at the Centre treat the enrolled (58) as well as the 'outside' (13) children. The physiotherapist focuses on the muscle strength and the occupational therapist develops the gross motor activities for the children. The overall individual plan for each child is a combination with the teachers, social workers, counsellors and nutritionist. Each child is always given a 45 minute session depending on the child's disability. Given the severity of the disability the bulk of the sessions are exercised with those children in the Day Care Unit and Unit 1. The parents are also encouraged to part take in the exercises so that they can ensure that the child's therapy remains consistent over the weekends and public holidays.



One big success for the months is Stephen Macharia from Unit 1 who can now walk with a little help using the walking aid. Ongoing training is a critical ingredient for the children reaching their

milestones. For a good number of years Songa Mbele has provided the Sign Language training for children, staff and parents. Facilitator Emmy Akinyi led the 4 teachers, 28 parents, caregivers and children through the basics of sign language. They were also taught how to finger spell their names and greet people.



Sign language training by Emidex and George from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, South B.

We are always grateful to the many visitors, donors and supporters who wish to help brighten the lives of the children. During the month the Centre received: milk, beans, bread, biscuits, toilet rolls, margarine, sugar, rice, washing powder, diapers, carts, vegetables, fruit, maize flour, cooking oil, mattresses, porridge, water dispenser, juicer blender, mincer, towels,



Rotary Maghabribi Club



Blessed Annuarite Small Christian Community

After weeks of very good work the children were treated to a FUN DAY by the Whistle Team. The last time the group was in Nairobi was February 2020 just before the CoVid19 pandemic. They were delighted to be back at Songa for a few days. They were amazed at the transformation that has taken place at the Centre.

The Whistle Team provided a wonderful time where the children could just get excited with all the colours, activities like face painting, bouncy castles and races around the wheelchair circuit. Not too much book learning on that day. The smiles were enormous!



*The Whistle Team
Peter, Maria, Colm, Caroline and Maurice*



Songa Children's Fun Day

Social and Health Services

Social Services

The social workers in various offices have been working to ensure that students are in school and continue with their studies. With the odds stacked against many students from the slums it is very important that the social workers provide the best possible support for the students. Hence, a number of 'at risk students' are receiving counselling.

One practical support furnished through the Child Protection Office was the girls were trained in some self-defense and self-awareness tactics. The Umoja Karate Group took the girls through the theory and practical aspects ranging from primary pupils to Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre.



St Michael's Secondary School Girls Self-defence training



Skills Students doing the drills



Umoja Karate Group.

The induction of new MPC staff included training on Child Protection and Safeguarding.



With the pandemic still on, there have been challenges ensuring the students are safe and following the guidelines set by the Ministry of Health on CoVid19 protocols. Most of the children we serve come from underprivileged families whereby priority is given to the basic needs and not really their health. We are grateful to have received face masks and hand sanitizers which were issued to our students to use them.

The June inflation rate is 7.9% which is up .08% from the previous month. The Kenya economy has rendered most of the vulnerable groups to abject poverty and unable to fend for themselves. A great number of our families who fall into this category have been greatly affected. Most of them are unable to afford food due to hiked food prices. Through our various social offices, we received generous donations of food, clothing, school uniforms, resources, educational materials and shoes that have been issued to needy students and families. MPC is deeply appreciative to all donors for their generosity during the difficult month as it has helped to uphold people's human dignity.

The student profiling work continues as people's situations change quickly. The social workers are in and out of the schools and making home assessments so that families can be helped. It is important to identify who needs real assistance as quickly as possible to determine each person's status. Relieving the economic burdens from families provides stability for the families.



Mercy Mbiti and her son Gift Emmanuel check on her health



Princess Diana and her mother



Levi Amtavi in Grade 6 receiving clothing aid.



Sancta Maria Pupils



Fire victims receive clothing, beddings, and utensils

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

No.	Case type / Activities	Education						Health	Welfare		Child Protection	Total
		St Bakhita	St Catherine	St Elizabeth	Sancta Maria Kayaaba	St Michael's Secondary	Vocational Training Centre	MPC Clinic	Songa Mbele na Masomo	MPC Rehabilitation Centre		
1	Abuse Cases	1	1	1	2	1	1					7
2	Amaranth Adult Clients		70									70
3	Amaranth Babies & Child Clients		7									7
4	Behavior and Discipline Cases	3	3	1	6					5		18
5	Business Startup / Boosters	3			3	3	2			9	1	21
6	Counseling and Guidance sessions	1	4	4	12	7	5			19	2	54
7	CoVid19 Hygiene Material Resources					450				60		510
8	Donations Received		8		1	1			20	41		71
9	Fire and Floods Disaster Assistance		13						1			14
10	Food Distribution		118				30					148
11	Home Visits	9	38	6	17	13	7		10		3	103
12	Hospital Visits (to other Hospitals)	1				2		4				7
13	Malnourished Babies		16									16
14	Medical Cases (to MIC)	24	105	2	82	31	13	60	12	19	1	349
15	Meetings and Trainings	1		3	2		2		4		1	13
16	Mentorship Sessions	4	6	2	6	3	5		1	1		28
17	Mobilization of Resources											-
18	Needy Families Support (Community)	10	39				4		113		18	184
19	Needy Students / Children	42	15	18	20	5	3					103
20	Networking	2	5	4	4			6		1	2	24
21	New Admissions to MPC Institutions			6	1	15	31		1	2		56
22	New Teenage Pregnancies cases		1									1
23	Nutritional Support	1	20		77							98
24	Placements (Job / Internship)					2	1			2		5
25	Pregnancy Support Packages											-
26	Provision of Sanitary Towels	3		30		12	4		3			52
27	Referrals (except medical)	2		4	4	4	4		1		6	25
28	Safeguarding Follow Ups			2		3						5
29	School Absenteeism/Tuancy	29	9	10	23	25	5		53			154
30	Schools Profiles	29	141	102	180	38	25		3			518
31	School Visits									1		1
32	Songa Mbele Therapy Sessions								422			422
33	Sponsorship Follow-ups	10				20	3					33
34	Uniform Aid		9	320	3	5						337
	Totals	175	628	515	443	640	145	70	644	160	34	3,454



St. Elizabeth pupils enjoy lunch meals at School

St Michael's Secondary School Parent received a grant to Start Up a food kiosk.



MPC Clinic

Over the month of June there was a 10% increase in patients with record high numbers of sick pupils from MPC schools with St. Catherine and Sancta Maria Kayaaba Primary Schools having the highest numbers. Many of them had similar symptoms of fever, sore throat, headache and running stomach. Because of the Clinic the residents of Mukuru slums can access some form of health care and those with more serious ailments can be referred to other medical institutions. Most of the Clinic is subsidized through overseas agencies which allows people to be treated. Expectedly, the cold season has given rise to respiratory infections.



MOH medical seminar

The Ministry of Health continues to assist with the Clinic with the supervision of the TB program. The Clinic was advised by the MOH to develop two more steps in the programs: 1) Introduction of IGRA (Interferon gamma release assay) test for all TB household contacts before introduction of TB preventive therapy; 2) pediatric formulation for the TB infected children. The MOH provided training for the staff on the IGRA which involves diagnosis, testing of TB before initiation of preventive therapy (Active Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy).

Dr Monika Palockova from Slovakia has volunteered at the Clinic for 12 months while conducting some research titled '*Antibiotic resistance of isolated uropatheogens of uncomplicated urinary tract infections in populations of Mukuru slums, Nairobi, Kenya*'. Dr Monika Palockova and Mr Frantisek Podmanicky from Banska Bystrica, Slovakia presented the findings from the research. One of the major findings was that the Escherichia Coli bacteria was found to be the most common cause of UTIs in Mukuru. The two medications used to treat UTIs, Nitrofurantoin and Ciprofloxacin were found to be the most sensitive antibiotics for treatment while Co-trimoxazole was found to be resistant in treatment of UTIs.



Drs Monika Palockova, Frantisek Podmanicky and MPC Clinic Staff

June Registrations 2022 MPC Clinic

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	163	92	63	203	72	17	3	613
	Male	136	77	37	116	70	25	2	463
Subtotal		299	169	100	319	142	42	5	1076
Revisits	Female	217	61	33	162	73	31	2	579
	Male	140	40	23	76	54	27	5	365
Subtotal		357	101	56	238	127	58	7	944
Total		656	270	156	557	269	100	12	2020
Percentage	<i>Female</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>62%</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>59%</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>34%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>41%</i>

Summary Treatments For June 2022

Diseases	0-5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	Above 64 Yrs	Total
Outpatients								
Respiratory	327	114	61	146	73	27	2	750
Gastronintestinal	60	42	33	72	36	6	2	251
Cardiovascular	88	43	24	123	64	36	5	383
ENT	18	20	7	11	5	1		62
Genitourinary	3	3	4	115	23	6		154
Sexually Transmitted Diseases				7	4			11
Musculoskeletal	4	8	14	30	21	12	1	90
Integumentary (Skin)	14	14	4	6	7	2	1	48
Dressing	1	3		1	7	1		13
Other Diseases	31	13	5	7	3	1		60
Subtotal Outpatients	546	260	152	518	243	92	11	1,822
Clinics								
ANC			4	58				62
Immunizations	139							139
Nutrition	58				6			64
Comprehensive Care								
Tuberculosis				1	5			6
Non Medical (Mental)								
Referrals to Medical Facilities		1						1
Subtotal Clinics	197	1	4	59	11			272
Total	743	261	156	577	254	92	11	2,094

June 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	3	2	0	0	5
Anti-streptolysin O test (ASOT)	3	0	1	7	2	1	0	14
Bilirubin Levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blood Group	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blood Sugar (R.B.S/F.B.S)	1	0	2	5	15	9	1	33
Brucella	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
BS for MPS (Malaria)	72	20	14	44	14	5	0	169
Calcium Levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Creatinine levels	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	4
Du test	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Full Haemogram	96	48	32	81	43	13	2	315
HbA1c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Helicobacter Pylori	0	5	15	21	11	3	1	56
Hemoglobin Levels	5	1	1	8	2	1	0	18
Hepatitis B (HBsAg)	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	5
High Vaginal Swab Microscopy	0	0	0	11	4	0	0	15
Lipid profile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liver Function Test	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
Pregnancy Test	0	0	1	10	4	0	0	15
Rheumatoid Factor	0	0	0	7	8	3	1	19
Salmonella	1	2	4	10	3	0	0	20
Stool Analysis	35	45	35	43	25	2	1	186
UEC's (Urea, Electrolytes and Creatinine)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Uric Acid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urinalysis	4	22	10	86	32	1	0	155
Urine Culture	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
Urine multudrug test	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
VDRL/Syphilis	0	0	0	6	2	2	0	10
Total	217	143	121	347	175	40	6	1049
<i>Average Tests Per Day 49</i>								

Education

Primary Schools

The condensed school terms pose a challenge for teachers especially to ensure that the syllabus is covered before the holiday break. This fast pace is not ideal for pupils as it does not provide for in-depth learning. Eventually, inadequate teaching time will create frustration for the pupils. Rushing curriculum is never good for anyone but we hope that the desire to learn is greater than attendance by the pupils.

A new Mercy Education Office Director was introduced to all the Mercy schools. Sr. Mary Kanyi will head the Sisters of Mercy Kenya Province Mercy Education Office. Sr Kanyi has already visited all MPC schools to become familiar with the sites, pupils and staff.



Sr Mary Kanyi – Director Mercy Education Office



The new school BOM (Board of Management) members were finally inaugurated in June. The ceremony was held at St. Catherine's Primary School with the County Director of Schools Makadara division presiding.

The never ending pupil/teacher ratio continues to be an issue at the MPC Primary Schools. Nine teachers were either transferred, retired, maternity leave, or ill without any replacements. The Head Teachers have no other option than to combine classes which already have large numbers. Representation has been made to the Teachers Service Commission but no response has been received.

MPC Primary School Pupil/Teacher Ratios						
Primary School	TSC	MPC	BOM	County	Total	Ratio
St. Bakhita	14	4	0	5	23	47:1
St. Catherine	18	5	0	4	27	45:1
St. Elizabeth	25	6	3	6	40	46:1
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	25	3	1	3	32	41:1
Totals	82	18	4	18	122	45:1 Avg

Even though the ratio creates unconducive learning environments the demand for education is ever increasing. The enrolments number over 5,700 children for 2022 academic year.

MPC Primary Schools Enrolments 2022			
School	Boys	Girls	Total
St. Bakhita	459	624	1,083
St. Catherine	592	633	1,225
St. Elizabeth	854	949	1,803
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	716	894	1,610
Total	2,621	3,100	5,721

Despite the constant challenges, life continues. All primary schools held their End of Term One examinations. Good to see some healthy competition between the schools.

MPC Primary Schools Term One Examination Analyses							
School	Class	Maths	English	Kiswahili	Science	Social Studies /RE	Total
St. Bakhita	7	46.54	44.30	50.24	41.67	49.76	232.51
	8	50.34	43.56	45.22	48.38	50.73	263.23
St Catherine	7	52.33	47.49	49.69	50.1	41.79	241.41
	8	50.1	51.78	50.56	47.34	43.47	243.25
St. Elizabeth	7	54.98	54.98	51.62	50.72	50.98	261.71
	8	53.74	50.21	46.31	51.39	48.54	250.19
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	7	48.89	50.23	54.27	51.94	50.67	255.97
	8	50.27	51.61	52.59	53.21	52.17	259.85

The standout results school appears to be Sancta Maria Kayaaba with 9 scores over 50 and St Elizabeth's with 8 scores of over 50.

The French lessons continued in June with Grade 2 pupils at St Bakhita Primary School. The children are able to sing simple songs, greet people and respond to greetings as well as count to 10 in French. Later on, the children will interact with other children to test out their French skills.

The faith formation of pupils featured in June. All schools celebrated Mass and the catechism classes continued to prepare the children for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.



Mass at St. Bakhita

After a two year hiatus, The Kerrigan Cup 2022 Tournament was held again to the delight of pupils and staff. The tournament has become a tradition at the MPC schools and proudly sponsored by Waves Trust. Initially there is a round-robin and then elimination games to produce the four teams who will fight it out for the Kerrigan Cup. Hundreds of children watch and barrack for their team on the final day of competition. The venue of the final matches was at St Bakhita Primary School. St Bakhita was well represented as both the boys and girls team made it through to the finals. The boys played against St Elizabeth Primary with the score being 16 to 1 and the girls played against St Catherine's with the score being 16 to 0. A very strong performance by St Bakhita.

The winning teams were St. Bakhita Boys and St. Bakhita Girls. Individual awards were given for the Fairest and Best Player being Kemsee James and Fatuma Mohammed both from St Bakhita. The referee for the day was from Kenya Football Federation club. All members of the boys winning team received a cap while the girls received a sunvisor. Certificates and trophies were also awarded.



Winners: St Bakhita Girls



St Bakhita Boys



Kerrigan Cup 2022 Action

The Ministry of Education in conjunction with World Vision invited all NGOs supporting schools in Nairobi to discuss possible partnerships. With key Government officials in attendance, the NGOs expressed the challenges they experience especially with gaps in government funding. The Ministry also highlighted that they would embrace further assistance with infrastructure such as classrooms, science laboratories, computers, libraries, toilets, electricity, sewerage connections, fencing, clean drinking water as well as other professional development like training teachers in competency based curriculum, counselling and parental support programs.



MOE and NGOs Meeting

Another important aspect for the primary schools in June was the Ministry of Health conducted health training sessions especially good hygiene. During the trainings, CoVid19 vaccinations, boosters and HPV vaccines were administered to the students, teachers and parents who needed them.



A Ministry of Health Officer presents sessions on good hygiene

The Umoja Karate group take the students through their safety awareness and self-defense training paces at St. Bakhita Class 4 and 5. Clearly the pupils appreciated the training.



St Michael's Secondary School

With the new term and academic year, the enrolments increased slightly at 6.4% being an extra 28 students by the end of June. The target of 550 students remains a strong possibility with each of the Form years approaching capacity.

Years	Boys	Girls	Total	Capacity
Form 1	76	72	148	150
Form 2	81	45	126	150
Form 3	50	55	105	150
Form 4	46	39	85	100
Total	252 (54%)	211 (46%)	464 (84%)	550

The students sat two assessment examinations during the term being the Mid-term and End of term exams. The top three academic performing subjects are listed below and mainly fall under the sciences. The humanities subjects need further focus.

<i>Form 1 North</i>	<i>Form 1 South</i>	<i>Form 1 East</i>
Biology	Biology	Biology
Computer Studies	Maths	Computer Studies
Physics	Computer Studies	Maths

<i>Form 2 North</i>	<i>Form 2 South</i>	<i>Form 2 East</i>
Geography	Business Studies	Computer Studies
Kiswahili	Computer Studies	Geography
Business Studies	Kiswahili	Business Studies

<i>Form 3 North</i>	<i>Form 3 South</i>	<i>Form 3 East</i>
Agriculture	Geography	Agriculture
Physics	Physics	Physics
Geography	Agriculture	Geography

<i>Pre Mock Exams</i>	
<i>Form 4 North</i>	<i>Form 4 South</i>
Geography / History	Computer Studies
Computer Studies	Geography
C.R.E	History

As June comprised term breaks there were few extracurricular activities. One activity was the self-defense training for the girls that was enjoyed immensely, while the boys participated in the football friendlies with the neighbouring schools.



Karate Training



St Michael's Secondary School is always trying to find new ways and programs that will assist students to maximize their experiences while attending secondary school. The "Boys 2 Men" program offers mentorship for the boys aged between 14 – 18. The program consists of group activities, one-on-one mentoring, motivational talks, with a focus on overall development towards adulthood. Some of the topics involve: academic success, career goals, leadership, peer pressure, sex education, emotional intelligence, drugs, faith and respect for women. Everyone has the capacity to be shaped and molded into an even better human person.

St Michael's has been partnering with Strathmore University's Macheo program since 2016. The results have been beneficial for students, school and university. All students in a Form group sit for the examinations. Once the 20 students have been selected based on the examination performance, they are invited to participate in the program that takes place on Saturdays for 4 hours. The program cycle has a number of subjects which changes each Saturday. The subjects include Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Kiswahili, Mathematics and English. The teachers also receive professional development training in their subject areas such as Physics and Chemistry. The previous Macheo group 2021 KCSE results produced several Cs which allows them to gain entrance into a tertiary education institution.

Macheo Program KCSE 2021		
Susan Bayachi C-	Mary Kasendi D+	Rayvon Mocha C-
Caroline Mumbua C	Abigael Mutheu C	Leonard Mutunga C
Shadrack Mwanzia C	Milkah Njeri C-	Joy Nyambura C-
Brian Onsoti C+	Dennis Mutunga C-	

Currently St Michael's has 18 Macheo candidates in Form 3 and Form 4. We hope that all candidates embrace this wonderful opportunity to further develop their academic ability.



Aleta Oryall donated sports outfits to the St Michael's Girls soccer team

Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

June started well with the World Environment Day. The students took part in various activities such as cleaning and planting of trees. The theme for this year's Environmental day was "ONLY ONE EARTH". It is never too late to change and we can still play our part to ensure we live sustainably and in harmony with nature.



Planting for Environment Day

The Vocational Training Centre has continued to give opportunity to various interns to gain direct work experience. Br Jacob from Tangaza University College started his internship in June and he has assisted many students. Mike Mukundi (Cooperative University) and Ann Kemunto (former St. Michael's Secondary Student) have been with us since April and they are doing a great job.

The Centre received several visitors and donations during the month of June. Aleta Oryall from St Francisco USA, British Airlines Crew members sent lots of Hairdressing and Beauty products, Caroline Cullen and her group Whistle Foundation, Mrs Raja from Oshwal Chemicals donated hand sanitizers. We are very grateful for the donations, visits and continued support to the needy students.



*British Airlines Crew members
catch up with some Skills
Students*



Donation of sanitizers by Oshwal Chemicals



BA Crewmembers donations of hair and beauty products

This year's two day orientation program was conducted one month after the start of the academic year. Policies and procedures, rules and regulations and students' expectations were highlighted as well as the opportunity for the students to become familiar with the Centre's services and facilities. Different MPC offices formed part of the orientation such as Child Protection and Safeguarding, Sponsorship, Social Services and the Education.



Orientation program for new students

The Graduation Day is the culmination of all the time, energy and work students have put into gaining their qualification. It is a defining moment to remember for years, an opportunity to celebrate achievement. One hundred and ninety four (194) students celebrated their graduation in June. It was a very important day for them as this cohort went through the CoVid19 disruptions. Some of them could not hold their joy and excitement! A big number have grown and transformed completely, and that's the ultimate goal of education. Many of them have achieved the social-economic and individual purpose brought about by education.



Awarding of outstanding students



2019 & 2020 Graduation ceremony

The computer packages classes are very popular. There is always the challenge of not enough computers and hence the need to have multiple classes in the day. The computer lab has 17 fully functional computers against 30-40 students. Currently students are sharing computers at the ratio of at least 3 learners per unit. In a bid to address the challenge, the Centre has already initiated the process of buying teaching materials which include 12 additional computers, UPSs and a data projector. We hope that the items will be delivered by the time the students start their exams.



Computer classes in progress

The Dressmaking class has covered the introduction of the course, tools and equipment in garment making, stitches, garment details and embroidery. The students can now operate a sewing machine both manual and industrial. The students have a filing system of keeping records of what they learn and stitch in class. The class work will be kept for future reference. According to the new curriculum from the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), the teacher has divided the students into 2 groups: Class Eight and Form Four (secondary) dropouts. Despite the different levels of education, both groups are making much progress.



Student's handiwork

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.

- ❖ Different departments held activities for World Environment Day. Over 200 species of trees were planted on MPC sites.
- ❖ Kenya Pipeline donated wood that will be utilized in the carpentry classes at the Rehabilitation Centre as well as cooking meals at the MPC schools.
- ❖ MPC Head Office had the new telecommunications system installed. The installation included new wiring, handsets and hotspots for the wi-fi and CCTV in the therapy building.
- ❖ Whilst overseas Sr Mary attended several fund raising events organized by friends, donors and supporters.

