

**MPC**   
**November Newsletter**  
 Vol 7 Issue No. 11  
 2022

## Mukuru Promotion Centre

*Empowerment Step By Step*

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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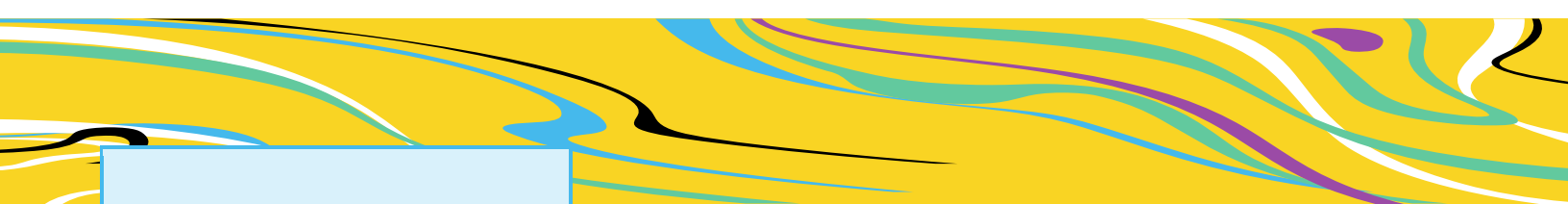
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Dear Partners, Supporters, Family and Friends,

As you can see from the newsletter, November was a very tense time for those primary and secondary students preparing for exams. It was the first time that Grade 6 pupils had to sit for testing by people other than their own teachers. Standard 8 pupils sat for their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE). Their results, in the KCPE determines their entrance into secondary school and which grade of school. The secondary school exams, Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) continue right through December until the 23rd. The students results from the KCSE exams determine what onward courses they can qualify for and which of them can attend university.

The Sisters of Mercy, Mukuru Promotion Centre, ran a school called Ruben Centre in Mukuru kwa Ruben slums from 1991 until 2000 when the Christian Brothers from Australia, took it over. They had assisted a nursery school from 1986 as well as helping the Catholic faithful to access sacraments as at the time they did not belong in any parish. At the beginning of November our Head Office was visited by two staff members from the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission looking for Sr Mary Killeen, whom they wanted to call to their office to make a statement about the origin of the school. I attended their offices on the 9th of November with an assistant Eliud Handi. We gave a draft statement we had prepared and relevant documentary evidence and were questioned on details by three Ethics staff members, one of whom was a lawyer. It seems that after the school was on the plot, placed there by the Director of City Education and Land officials, a former politician, Cyrus Jirongo, had taken possession of the title of the public land. He, allegedly, used the title to get a loan.





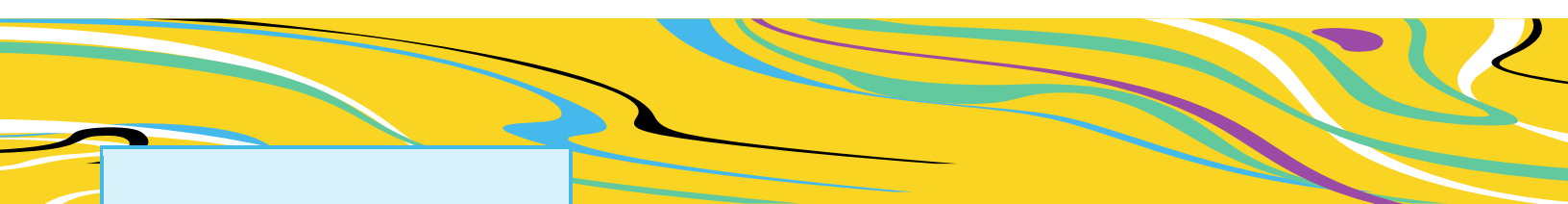
In 2014 he sued the Nairobi County Government for compensation for loss of his land due to a public school occupying the plot. He was given 250 million Kenya shillings (\$US 25M) but did not surrender the title. The County gave the compensation but did not get the title. This is what the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission was investigating. It is just one case where school/public land is taken without the knowledge of the school and other officials. It is an example of the loss of funds for development. It makes us very concerned about the case of the playground of St Catherine's which continues in the courts.

The secondary and vocational training students benefitted by the donation of 20 used computers from the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. We are grateful for this donation as the students need to be computer literate, in order to succeed.

We welcomed Vera, Catherine and Theresa and then Paula and Adrienne to the Rehabilitation Centre. Thanks to them and to their relatives, friends and businesses who support them. I am delighted at the improvements noted in management of the Centre and in the activities of the boys. We appreciate the local donors who assist the Centre with food, cleaning materials and at times footballs and equipment.

Manos Unidas representatives , Inez and Antonia, were present on the 17th of November for the official Opening of the Therapy building. We had a simple ceremony of opening and blessing of the facilities. We are very grateful to Manos Unidas as the chief donors of the building. They were assisted by the family of Stella Zuzarte RIP, Hannah Foley RIP (Jerry and Helen Killeen), Salvatore and Carmela Lobue and Deirdre and Adrian Ennis and family who are also assisting with the furnishing and equipping of the building.

On the 19th of November I attended the launching of the history of the Archdiocese of Nairobi by Fr Laurence Njoroge. We were mentioned in the book. I met Sr Agnes Kariuki at the event. She looked well and was in great form. Sr Agnes was at one time teaching in St Elizabeth's Lunga Lunga and I lived with her in the Mater community for some years. On the 22 November we were shocked to hear of her sudden death at 59 years of age. May she rest in peace. We are reminded that we do not know when or how we will be called from this life.



We participated in the 'Plant the Planet' campaign of the GAA on the 20th of November. The boys from the Rehabilitation Centre and the students of St Michael's Secondary School got a chance to interact with the Irish sports stars. Thanks to Paula Cullen and Adrienne Keely for organising a wonderful day out for the boys and to MPC staff for looking after them.

James Mutugi, a former pupil of St Bakhita Primary School and an ex-prisoner held an Art Exhibition on the 26 November in the South B Art Centre. I attended the exhibition with a few BA crewmembers and purchased some of his work. He was sponsored by Noreen Walsh and friends, who assist a number of Mukuru residents who have been imprisoned. Thanks to Noreen for empowering them to earn their living as they try to live a dignified life on exit from prison.

We continue to have a challenge with male youth suffering from various disabilities who are addicted to alcohol and drugs. There is much stigma in the community about those born with various disabilities. We sponsored Martin, a person of short stature, to a rehabilitation centre during the school holidays with the hope that he overcomes his alcohol addiction. He is bright but has a habit of missing school on Mondays and after holidays due to drinking bouts.

On the 29th we celebrated the Child Disability Day with the parents and children of Songa Mbele. They enjoyed the day. As you can see many activities took place in the schools and centres. We thank you all for your prayers and support.

May God bless each one of you.

Sr Mary Killeen  
*Director*

# Welfare Services

## Rehabilitation Centre

November was a wake-up call for the staff and boys at the Centre as so many things need to take place before the end of the year. The 63 boys who reside at the Centre and the 5 who are attending as day scholars are busy completing their classes. The 17 boys who were exited earlier still receive support through sponsorship and are conducting their learning activities as well. This golden education opportunity is generously supported by Frank and Paula Cullen & Friends. Currently the group is sponsoring 26 boys.



*Year One Boys*

Classes	Accelerated Learning	St Catherine Primary	Vocational Training	Secondary School	Totals
Year 1	24				<b>24</b>
Year 2	16				<b>16</b>
Standard 2					
Standard 3		4			<b>4</b>
Standard 4					
Standard 5		1			<b>1</b>
Standard 6		1			<b>1</b>
Standard 7		3			<b>3</b>
Standard 8		4			<b>4</b>
Grade III			1		<b>1</b>
Grade II			14		<b>14</b>
Form 1				2	<b>2</b>
Form 2				1	<b>1</b>
Form 3					
Form 4					
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>71</b>



Some improvements have been noted with a few of the boys and we hope that all the learnings will be applied well for the national examinations in December and the others who will sit the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) examinations.

*Year 2 Boys*





*Carpentry Class*

There are 14 boys in the carpentry class who have been very busy with their practicals in preparation for NITA Grade 3 Trade tests scheduled in December 2022. They have been fully occupied fitting the laboratory cabinets in the Clinic which will put them in good stead for the hands-on practical dimensions. By making and fitting the cabinets, they gained much knowledge in measurements, cutting curves, using routers, sanders, circular and jigsaws. The boys are also becoming more familiar with technology and software programs through the Pro Futuro tablets.

Vera Smith and Adrienne Keely supported the carpentry class with overalls, boots and carpentry tools. These boys continue to do well in their exams and are given placements in the nearby factories before becoming employed.



*Pro Futuro Carpentry Lesson*



Increasing the level of sustainability is a keen goal for the Rehabilitation Centre. One example is the agriculture program where the boys have consistently tilled the land to produce various vegetables like kale and spinach inside and outside the greenhouse. The chicken coop also provides nourishment for the boys.



*Tending to the vegetables*

One significant step at the Centre is to assist the boys to reunite with their families after separation. At the end of the year the Centre will facilitate the reintegration of 19 boys with their families. One way to measure the success of the reintegration is conducting Parent / Guardian Meetings throughout the year. It is always delightful to see the encouragement from parents when they see the positive changes in their sons.

The boys were thrilled to receive a visit from Paula Cullen, Vera Smith, Catherine Nolan, Adrienne Keely and a new member of the group Teresa Heeran. Vera, Catherine and Teresa arrived first followed later by Paula and Adrienne. The Centre was buzzing with all the excitement that the group brings. The group visits the Centre twice a year and normally stay for a fortnight. The energy that the group brings is just so refreshing and the maternal care is second to none and leaves a deep-seated impression on the boys. For a short stay, the group has a busy time schedule and their impact is immeasurable!

On arrival their first priority was to ensure that all the boys have enough clothes and footwear. Each boy got a bag with T-shirt, vest, socks, and jocks. The badly worn school shoes were replaced with runners and new crocs.

Christopher Muiruri, Stephen Njoroge and David Goodluck receive their new kit bags.



*Gold! New kit bags*



*Teresa measures up for shoes*



*Vera kits out the carpentry boys*



*Adrienne and Paula with the boys*

Educational resources such as drawing and colouring in books plus a Hisense TV were also shared.



*Vera and Catherine Shopping*

The Paula Cullen group accompanied the boys to “Plant the Planet” event held at the Harlequins Ground, Parklands where they participated in Gaelic games of football and hurling. The big treat for the boys was the mini coaching clinic by the Irish players.



*The boys participating in Gaelic games event with Paula, Adrienne and Teeresa*



*Irish players providing some tips*



The event was organised by Alan Kerins who has developed the sport in Africa over a number of years. This was the first time for GAA games to take place in Kenya. The boys had a great day interacting with the GAA players who made the trip down.



Brother Colm O'Connell has trained a number of Kenya's sporting elites. As a bonus to the day one of Br Colm's protégé's, dual Olympic Gold medalist (800 metres) David Rudisha stopped for a photo with Paula and Adrienne.



Another totally different experience was the excursion to the Belleview Primary School swimming pool. Witnessing the size of the smiles and energy they thoroughly enjoyed the day. Nairobi is far from the coast and the opportunities for playing in the pool are minimal, with few resources around, so the day was extra special.



*Brighton and Nelvis give the Thumbs Up!*





The art of conversation is never lost here. The Paula Cullen group spent many days chatting with the boys offering a listening ear, encouragement for future dreams, participating in learning activities, games, as well as some wonderful maternal love and joy.



*Activities in the Garda Room*



*Art work*



*Story Telling*

The Centre receives much support from Leinster Rugby, Blackrock RFC, Pepsi and Carlow Tag Rugby Associations with rugby gear donations for the boys to participate in the local rugby tournaments as well as their own training sessions. One of the other initiatives supported by the Associations is the employment of a football and basketball coach to ensure that all sporting passions are catered for. The support given by these generous Associations paints a wonderful picture of care and belief in the boys' futures.



*Rugby training at the Centre*





*Carlow Tag Rugby Team with Catherine Nolan*



*Team Sports*



*Jersey Presentations*

The boys enjoyed some good old fashioned sporting competitions organised by the Paula Cullen group. Once the boys were allocated into different teams the games commenced!



*Pepsi Team with Teresa Heeran (Galway)*



*Leinster A Team and Vera Smith (Carlow)*



*Leinster B Team Paula Cullen (Dublin)*



*3-Legged Race*



*Teachers and Team Coaches*



The Paula Cullen group continued their support towards the education of many boys at the Centre. Currently, 12 primary, 2 secondary, 9 boarding, 4 vocational and 1 tertiary students all enjoy the gift of education given by the group. Each time that the group visits the Rehabilitation Centre they bring huge amounts of underclothing, art materials, educational resources to mention a few items. The group has a number of fundraising events in Ireland throughout the year and the latest one will help towards the “state of the art” dining hall project which will be inclusive of landscaping outside the kitchen area. Although the Paula Cullen group consists of 6 main players, there is an army of family and friends supporting them.



*Paula and Adrienne with Dennis Wanyoro who received a rugby scholarship to Muvuti High School.*



*Acrobatic uniform sponsored by Irene Plunkett and Family*



*James delighted with his Leinster gear*



After all the activities and competitions in the jammed packed visit, there was an ‘Awards’ ceremony where prizes were conferred on the best and fairest, tries scored, essays, art pieces and performances. The group’s next visit will be in March 2023.





*Health and Hygiene Talk*

During this time of the pandemic, appropriate hygiene protocols have never been so important. The Clinic staff presented a few sessions on general hygiene, dental care and dangers of drugs.



November was a very eventful month with many happenings. Other visitors contributed to the overall well-being at the Centre through their donations. British Airways crew members, John Pembe, Mr Kalasingah, Team Pankaj, Mr Sigh, RTI students, Carlos Kamau, donated many items like maize flour, meat, bread, milk, cutting machine for vegetables, sugar, rice, cooking oil, notebooks, reading books, whiteboard markers, writing pads, oil colours, crayons, stickers, shoes and clothes.



Providing a safe place for young boys to grow and develop involves many different aspects. Every bit helps in running the Centre and MPC is very appreciative of the many people who assist us in this special service.



After the Dining hall's foundation was laid the clear structure of the building has started to take shape. November saw the walls and columns erected. Wider culverts were necessary to take away the water from the Clinic that passed under the foundations of the dining hall. The following photographs show the progress of the building. We are very grateful to Frank & Paula Cullen and Friends who have committed to the project which was desperately needed.



*Ring beam completed.*



*Side walls continued*



*Side walls completed*



*Brick sculpturing*



*Preparations for the roof beams*



## Sponsorship Office

The Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) took place in November and 561 pupils from the 4 MPC primary schools sat their exams to progress into their secondary education. Prior to KCPE, MPC sponsored motivation talks with the Class 8 candidates to encourage them to prepare well for the exams as well as raise awareness of sponsorship to St Michaels Secondary.



*Class 8 talks*

MPC was delighted to meet Paula Cullen and her team to discuss their sponsorship of the boys at the Rehabilitation Centre and plan for 2023. MPC is very grateful to Paula Cullen, Vera Smith, Adrienne Keely, Catherine Nolan and Teresa Heeran for their unwavering support and time. We would also like to acknowledge Irene Plunkett who was unable to make the visit this trip but will come on the next one in 2023.



*Cullen Team with MPC Staff*

As the academic year is fast coming to a close the sponsored pupils and students prepare to write their appreciation letters to the sponsors. The letters and academic reports will be loaded onto the database for easy access.



*Pupils write appreciation letters.*



*Sensitization Day*

To help pupils, students and parents maintain a focus on education, the Sensitization Day was held before the closure of schools. The guest speaker was Lilian Njeri, a professional teenage mentor who provided extra motivation to the students.



One of Kenya's telecommunications companies, Airtel, who has been sponsoring students at St Michael's Secondary School for over 10 years invited 15 pupils from St Bakhita Primary School for a career day at its Headquarters at Parkside Towers, Nairobi.



Mr Ashish Malhorta, Airtel CEO, came to celebrate World Children's Day. The pupils were treated with a tour that highlighted the communications room, met a number of staff from the different departments and concluded with a lunch. The pupils also had a chance to sit in the CEO's chair to try for size! One of the 15 could be the next generation of telco engineers, sales representatives, or administrators. Only time will tell.

*Mr Malhorta giving insights to the pupils.*



## Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

In November the Centre celebrated the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. Children, staff, parents and invited guests came together to observe the specialness and uniqueness of each child regardless of their ability.



Cheshire Disability Kenya supported training sessions for children with disabilities on career choices and self-development. The facilitator, Sheila Kekayaya, highlighted the challenges people with disabilities encounter in career development such as stigmatization, lack of proper education, negative attitudes from the community, lack of confidence, employer's doubts and lack of transport to name a few obstacles they need to overcome. She shared some coping tools like accepting and understanding one's disability, embracing assistive devices and managing stress levels. The training was well received as many who attended stated that they found it very helpful.

Other professional development training for staff included interpersonal communication skills and growth counselling by Peter Nyette a member of Songa Mbele's Advisory Council. A session for parents was also organized that aimed to enhance the 'parent to child relationship' through positive parenting which facilitated by Daniel Ogembo, Bernard Adika and Sr Akinyi. The parents were grateful and requested the Centre to plan another session on Trauma.



*Disability Awareness Training Session*

The nature of the Centre requires a high child to teacher ratio. The Centre is fortunate to have a steady number of volunteers and visitors who help with the one-on-one children. In November the Centre received 2 sets of volunteers from Rafa Homecare College who assisted with the activities of daily living according to the capability of the child. A total of 18 volunteers helped out across the different classes at Songa. We also welcomed ProVictimis' Executive Director, Arianne Waldyogez from Geneva, who has been a supporter for a number of years.





In November two new children were enrolled at the Centre. One child has cerebral palsy and the other has hearing impairment. We know that Blessings Nyambura and Brilliant Kinya will receive good therapeutic care. The total number of enrolments now stands at 84 being 49 boys and 35 girls. The numbers are fluctuating due to the uncertainty of the parent's income. All children continue to receive therapy and participate in learning activities.

Eugene Omete from the Daycare Unit is our big improver for the month. At the age of 3 Eugene was enrolled at Songa with cerebral palsy. The main issue for him was hypertonicity. He had no head control, trunk stability and was unable to sit, crawl, stand and walk. After continuous therapy Eugene can now give a smile, achieve some head control, trunk stability, side sit independently, long sit with assistance, roll over independently, plays with toys and crawls independently.



*Eugene enjoying the different experiences at Songa Mbele.*



A Timor-Leste doctor, Nina Rangel has been volunteering at MPC Clinic for 8 years and also attends to the children at Songa on a monthly basis. Dr Nina carried out a general checkup and treated 24 children and referred others to hospital for specialists' treatment. Dr Nina has recommended that the children with cerebral palsy see a neurologist for further follow up. The Centre is still awaiting the medical reports from the National Council for Persons with Disability (NCPD) when the assessments were carried out in January 2022.

During the month the Centre received food provisions, a goat, toys, clothes, shoes, bed, puzzles, and pram. We are thankful to British Airways crew members, Lily Nyawira, Mr Siby, Steers Restaurant, Team Pankaj and Cynthia Alubala for their thoughtfulness.



# Social and Health Services

## Social Services

The month started off with quite a number of activities such as food distribution exercise, mentorship among others. The food distribution was sponsored by the Conrad Hilton Foundation whereby over 430 needy and vulnerable clients from Mukuru community were able to receive a food package. St Catherine's social office continued with Amaranth program and attended to sick clients as well as malnourished babies who are supported with nutritional supplements every two weeks.



*Food Distribution Program*

The social offices worked hand in hand with the schools' administration to ensure that the students were fully supported during the national examination period. The guidance, counseling and mentorship sessions were conducted for the KCPE candidates and other students who were breaking for holidays. Over 1,200 girls especially those who were sitting exams were supported with hygiene materials and undergarments so that they were not absent for the national exams as they would not be able to afford them.



*Girls Hygiene Parcels*



MPC social offices are sincerely grateful to the donors who have supported us throughout November with their kind donations. It is comforting to know that all donations are disbursed to needy individuals and families furnishing them with dignity. Through sponsorships the Department has been able to organize uniforms and school gear for needy primary and secondary school students. The Class 8 sponsorship candidates interviews commenced in November to ascertain the needy cases for secondary education sponsorship in 2023.



*Mentorship Session at St Elizabeth Primary School*

Hardly a month goes by without some disaster occurring in the slums. In November there were more fire outbreaks due to the living conditions and accidents happen all the time. Sadly, due to the high density living, hundreds of families are often impacted. Dozens of families managed to receive some basic essentials such as bedding, clothes, shoes and food to help them get on their feet again.



*Fire accident at Mukuru Kwa Reuben where some of our students lived.*

There was a record number of people who were assisted in November. Normally around 1,800 to 2,000 clients would be helped in some way. Last month there were 1,649 clients assisted. With the impact of the CoVid19 Pandemic the number increased to over 3,000 clients in November with a steady rise in the number of medical referrals. The social and health outreach would not be possible without the stable support from donors and well-wishers.



**Social and Health Services Statistics**  
For November 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
2	Amaranth Adult Clients		68									68
3	Amaranth Babies & Child Clients		8									8
4	Behavior and Discipline Cases		2	4	9	1				11		27
5	Business Startup / Booster				1	3			7	1		12
6	Counseling and Guidance sessions			14	27	7	9			21		78
7	CoVid19 Hygiene Material Resources											-
8	Donations Received	1	6	1	1	1	1		14	20	1	46
9	Fire and Floods Disaster Assistance		1			2						3
10	Food Distributions	75	130	90	90		35				18	438
11	Home Visits	3	1	6	10	6	5		2			33
12	Hospital Visits (to other Hospitals)						1	25				26
13	Malnourished Babies		12									12
14	Medical Cases (MIC)	10	76	9	37	20	4	60	14	25	1	256
15	Meetings and Trainings	2							5	1	1	9
16	Mentorship Sessions	4	2	5	5	2	7			4		29
17	Mobilization of Resources											-
18	Needy Families Support (Community)	5	38				1		1			45
19	Needy Students/Children	1	4	18	18	6			102			149
20	Networking		5	1	5		2	14			4	31
21	New Admissions to MPC Institutions						4		2	7		13
22	New Teenage Pregnancies cases						3					3
23	Nutritional Support		10									10
24	Placement (job/internship experience)						1			6		7
25	Pregnancy Support Packages	1	2									3
26	Provision of Sanitary Towels	153	320	263	327	54	117		6			1,240
27	Referrals (except medical)	1				9						10
28	Safeguarding Follow Ups				3		2					5
29	School Absenteeism/Truancy	8	6	1	16	14	6		57			108
30	Schools Profiles	27	23	44	11	10	1		2			118
31	School Visits											
32	Songa Mbele Therapy Sessions											-
33	Sponsorship Follow-ups	30	30		50					1		111
34	Uniform Aid	1	5	120	3	4						133
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3,033</b>



### November 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	93	47	37	155	52	13	4	401
	Male	74	40	16	78	32	15	2	257
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>167</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>658</b>
Revisits	Female	188	45	29	185	70	37	3	557
	Male	152	45	33	65	48	28	2	373
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>340</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>930</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>507</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1588</b>
Percentage	<i>Female</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>70%</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>60%</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>40%</i>

### November Diagnoses 2022

Diseases	0-5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	Above	Total
							64 Yrs	
<b>Outpatients</b>								
Respiratory	176	52	31	78	22	13	2	374
Gastronintestinal	71	29	22	56	21	10	0	209
Cardiovascular	67	42	4	109	73	49	7	351
ENT	16	19	7	13	5	0	0	60
Genitourinary	0	1	2	108	14	3	0	128
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	8
Musculoskeletal	11	6	5	14	18	3	2	59
Integumentary (Skin)	25	5	3	22	6	1	0	62
Dressing	0	1	0	3	3	1	0	8
Other Diseases	37	15	36	29	14	9	0	140
<b>Subtotal Outpatients</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1,399</b>

The major disease treated at the Clinic continues to be respiratory, which is no surprise given the environmental issues in the slums. It is great to see that the immunization rate has remained steady.

## November Clinic Summary 2022

### Clinics

ANC	0	0	5	56	0	0	0	61
Immunizations	118	0	0	0	0	0	0	118
Nutrition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Comprehensive Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non Medical (Mental)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Referrals to Medical Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Subtotal Clinics</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>179</i>
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,142</b>

## November 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	0	0	0	18
Anti-streptolysin O test (ASOT)	0	2	1	5	3	2	0	13
Bilirubin Levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blood Group	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Blood Sugar (R.B.S/F.B.S)	0	0	1	2	11	11	3	28
Brucella	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BS for MPS (Malaria)	37	2	2	15	6	2	1	65
Calcium Levels	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
Creatinine levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Du test	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Full Haemogram	45	27	19	44	19	10	0	164
HbA1c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Helicobacter Pylori	3	3	5	12	5	1	0	29
Hemoglobin Levels	8	5	2	4	5	1	0	25
Hepatitis B (HBsAg)	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
High Vaginal Swab Microscopy	0	0	0	27	4	0	0	31
Lipid profile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liver Function Test	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Pregnancy Test	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	16
Rheumatoid Factor	0	0	1	1	2	4	0	8
Salmonella	0	0	3	8	2	1	0	14
Stool Analysis	24	25	18	48	19	10	1	145
UEC's (Urea, Electrolytes and Creatinine)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uric Acid	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Urinalysis	2	6	8	93	31	13	1	154
Urine Culture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urine multidrug test	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VDRL/Syphilis	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>723</b>
<i>Average Tests Per Day</i>	<i>34</i>							

The 7 age brackets have provided more information on the patients being treated at the Clinic which will help with future planning of services.

# Education

## Primary Schools

November created some stress for the Class 8 candidates and Grade 6 pupils as they prepared and sat for the KCPE and KPSEA national examinations. The academic calendar will return to normal in January 2023 which will reduce confusion and anxiety for both pupils and teachers. Grade 6 pupils will proceed to junior secondary school with the CBC (*Competency Based Curriculum*) and the Class 8 candidates will continue with the old 8-4-4 system into secondary school's Form One. The old 8-4-4 system will be completely replaced by 2024.

Three meetings with the Ministry of Education were held to ensure all the examination Centres are ready to facilitate the final exams. With two graduating classes in one year, the schools received more invigilators and supervisors than previous years to manage the number of candidates per school. The privately owned schools with less than 30 candidates had to merge with a public school near them.

External Examination Enrolment For 2022						
Primary School	Grade 6			Class 8		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
St. Bakhita	55	66	121	73	79	152
St. Catherine	64	56	120	78	90	168
St. Elizabeth	92	118	210	109	142	251
Sancta Maria Mukuru	93	85	178	96	120	216
<b>Total No. of Candidates</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>787</b>



Some very excitable pupils at St Catherine's Primary as they concluded the year.





The transition process from one stage to the other is a great milestone and the graduation ceremony of the preprimary children was done in style in their respective schools. The young ones were so excited to join primary school. The head teachers, through their speeches, welcomed the pupils to the primary life and promised to take care of them while in Grade one.



*ECDE Graduation Ceremony*

Before the end of classes for 2022 the Education Coordinator with the Sponsorship Officer attended each school to raise awareness of the sponsorship program at MPC with the Class 8 pupils.



The status of the “promises” from the Ministry of Education remains the same without delivery. The teacher shortage situation in the primary schools still persists. We hope that with the academic calendar returning to normal in 2023 that this issue will be finally addressed.

Some welcomed numbers across all the primary schools have been the retention of the pupils has increased due to the balanced diet that the pupils are receiving and the reduced number of teenage pregnancies.

One tradition at St Catherine’s Social Office is Sr Barbara Dooley hosts a Christmas party for all the children with each child receiving an early Christmas present.



*St Catherine’s Christmas Party*



Sr Barbara would like to acknowledge the people of Liverpool who have facilitated the sponsorship for 49 students to pursue their education in secondary school, college and vocational training with the various learning materials included. The Friends of Mukuru Australia through Sr Kathy Kettle have continued to sponsor (55) the neediest primary school children who otherwise would be on the streets and involved in God knows what. Team Pankaj has also continued to provide school dinners for the children across the 5 MPC sites. Unfortunately, Sr Barbara has had to cut back on the distribution of Amaranth by half due to the increased cost resulting from the countrywide famine. We hope to resume as soon as the situation all round improves. The Raja Trust never fails to come to our rescue with food for the worst of the destitute families. Without this support it would be distressing to consider the situation of the families especially during the long holiday break when the children do not receive the daily lunch meal at school. In January we always note the loss of weight each time they come to the social office. We are grateful to John & Moira Burns and Friends as well as Sr Vincent Finnerty and Friends who supply the morning porridge to the children throughout the year.



*That's quite a lot of porridge!*

One disaster in the slums that you can always count on is the number of fire outbreaks or floods. We are very appreciative of the British Airways and KLM Airlines crew members who over the years bring very many suitcases of goodies. The donated items include clothes, shoes, toiletries, bedding, toys, art materials, books, stationery, beauty and hair dressing training materials, even sweets (lollies) and biscuits for the children. It all makes life a little more bearable. A big thank you to everyone!



*Donations Received*



Sukuma Twende Trust visited Sancta Maria Kayaaba and donated books for the school. We also received a visit from the Tusome program coordinators. The Tusome program, which means 'Let's Read', is a Government initiative in collaboration with USAID that focuses on four key interventions to improve literacy outcomes: enhancing classroom instruction, improving access to learning materials, expanding instructional support and supervision, and collaborating with key system-level literacy actors focusing mainly on Kiswahili and English for pupils in Grades 1, 2, and 3. To monitor its progress assessments are carried out in the schools through the Ministry of Education.



*The Clinic staff held health talks with the MPC primary school students.*

The primary schools have seriously taken up the mantle of the environment in their schools. The school grounds are looking well with lots of new seedlings planted. The primary school year finished with the Class 8 candidates Mass in the multipurpose hall at MPC.



## St Michael's Secondary School

As the school year was drawing to a close, the number of extracurricular activities decreased, while the conscientious students started to gear up for the national examinations between 1<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December.



*Father Gabriel presiding at the school Mass.*

November commenced with Father Gabriel presiding at the whole school Mass in the multipurpose hall. The homily focused on taking one step at a time and not to be worried about things beyond our control.



*Form 3 Parents Meeting*

The parents were invited to a meeting that briefed them on the expectations for their children when transiting from Form 3 into Form 4, the last year of secondary education. The attendance of the parents was positive as they asked many questions.

Mr Stanley Mucheru from the Constituency Office visited St Michael's to engage with the school on how best to assist it with bursaries and among other needs. St Michael's Secondary is the only secondary day school in Mukuru slums and two thirds of the current enrolments are sponsored mainly by overseas donors.



*Mr Stanley with MPC Staff*



*Mr Gilbert Abenga addresses Form 4s.*

Before the national examinations (KCSE) take place many activities must be conducted. Supervisor, Mr Gilbert Abenga from Highway Secondary School, and his team of invigilators took the Form 4 candidates through the expectations, rules and obligations of KCSE during the rehearsals. The guidelines are very strict and no one other than the principal and students can be found at the school during the exams. Any breaches could invalidate the results of students.

A fitting way to conclude the year was with prayer. The students' parents were invited to share the ceremony with their sons and daughters. The other Form groups led the service as part of the goodbye ritual for Form 4s. The Form 4s appreciated being held in prayer by the school and parents.



## Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

The prolonged periods without rainfall have impacted the country's food basket with alarming reports of hunger in large sections of the country. Efforts by the Government to cushion farmers through subsidies have had no immediate impact and the cost of living has also continued to rise. November also witnessed the 7<sup>th</sup> wave of CoVid19 with scientists predicting another wave to go through in January 2023. Our students have been severely affected and receive morning porridge and lunch thanks to MPC donors. Other food packages are distributed to the most vulnerable students.

The major sponsors of the new Therapy Block at the Vocational Training Centre, Manos Unidas, were present for the official Opening and Blessing on 17 November 2022. MPC welcomed Manos Unidas representatives Ines Pan De Sori Alves and Antonia Morales from Spain. The event included other donors and dignitaries. The Therapy Block caters for Youth with Special Needs who take the

time that they need to learn a trade so that they can gain some employment. The purpose built building has a strong focus on therapeutic learning to assist the youth in their skills development at their own time. The sensory room provides the opportunity for calm and comfort to the autistic students. We are grateful to the Construction Committee team who conducted dozens of zoom meetings as the building was constructed during the CoVid19 pandemic. A special thanks to Dinah Maina for coordinating the project from the ground.



*Manos Unidas representatives cut the ribbon*



*Ines Alves and Antonia Morales*



*Sr Louise Roche, Antonio Couceiro, Ines, Bob Paterson, Antonia, Sr Mary, Fr Joseph and Sr Patricia Moran.*



*Guests and dignitaries*





The Fidel Goetz Foundation has sponsored the most vulnerable girls within the student cohort at the Centre as well as the provisions of learning materials and protective clothing for several courses. This sponsorship provides certainty for many students who otherwise would drop out of training which would negatively impact on their capacity to earn a living.

*Catering students sponsored by Fidel Goetz Foundation*

The Kenya Wine and Agencies Limited (KWAL) has been a long-time supporter MPC especially the catering and deejay courses. KWAL sponsors the catering students to a 2-week intensive course at the prestigious Utalii College while professional deejays were hired to train our Deejay students. KWAL have expressed interest in sponsoring the Youths with Special Needs in their courses. The KWAL delegation that visited on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 was led by Erick Githua (Corporate & Regulatory Affairs) and Christine Onyango (Human Resource Department).



We are grateful to the British Airways crew members who visited the Centre in November and donated great educational resources and practical supplies for the various courses.



*Donations Displayed*



The internal assessment took place in November to prepare the students for the final National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) and Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) examinations scheduled for December.



*Examinations in progress*

As we have enrolments each year we also have the problem of maintaining the building and furniture such as student desks, equipment and rooms. The next best thing if you don't have the funds is repair. MPC contracted a fundi (welder) Paul Onyango who has commenced work on the furniture in the different classrooms and the mabati storeroom.

## 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.

- Ministry of Education and Irish Embassy sponsored the Young Scientist's 5<sup>th</sup> National Science and Technology Exhibition at the Sarit Expo Centre. There were 5 secondary students from St Michael's Secondary School who participated.
- St Catherine's Land Court case has been ongoing since 2007. There was a hearing scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 that was rescheduled to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
- The drought covering the Horn of Africa continues to impact on the lives of people in Kenya and we see an increase in the levels of starvation which is reflected in the demands on MPC services.

