



*January Newsletter Vol 9 Issue No. 1 2024*  
[www.mercymukuru.co.ke](http://www.mercymukuru.co.ke)

Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

The year began with a hectic month of January. Several local donors arrived with various types of donations. Often visitors ask, ‘Do Kenyans donate, and what about your past pupils?’ The answer is yes! Kenyans donate if they are aware of a serious need and are assured their funds or donations will be used well for the purpose donated. St Michael’s Secondary School, the Rehabilitation Centre, Songa Mbele and Sponsorship are all assisted by local donors. We saw a significant increase in local donations in December and January. Our Mukuru past pupils are often not in a position to help others for years. When they secure employment, they concentrate on educating their siblings, continuing their education and training to be secure, and helping their parents, who are often jobless and in great need. Frequently, they move the whole family out of the slums. Then they fall in love and are busy providing for their own families.

Some of them still help in the midst of their own duties and responsibilities and securing their careers as they sponsor some students to secondary or third-level education, giving them opportunities they themselves received from us. Some of our past pupils from Our Lady of Mercy Primary and Secondary where Sr Patricia and I worked for years also help out at times. For all of this we are most grateful.

We have a new major concern. A huge dump has been developed opposite our Head Office site. This dump is affecting us all.

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There is a very bad smell at times; at others, a black cloud arises from burning rubbish, and sometimes, this is very toxic if plastics and rubber are among the burning items. Barrels formerly used for various chemicals are cleaned, and some of the substances are dumped in the river so the empty cleansed barrels or drums can be sold. One of our parents and Emelda, our student, have cancers which are related to the pollution from the dump. The children of Mukuru have a much higher rate of respiratory challenges than children in other Nairobi areas. The people of Embakasi, Athi River, Machakos, and Makueni, who use the water from the river flowing next to the dump, have higher rates of cancer than other Kenyans due to the pollution of the river. We need to join with other concerned parties to move the illegal dump. When we met with the media at the dump, we were verbally abused and threatened. There is a need to establish a strong network to lobby for the removal of the dump for the safety of individual concerned parties.

Neighbouring residents across the river from some of our sites dump the soil in the river to make new land and push the river over onto us, so they gain land while our schools and centres are endangered. Highly politically connected cartels are involved. We were worried for people along the riverbanks during recent heavy rains and floods. We heard of a few students and people who were swept away but did not have dense populations affected. Their houses or goods were swept away, but thankfully, there was not the great loss of life we feared.

As you can see, our activities in all centres went on well. In previous years, we struggled with students affected by drugs and alcohol. Such students, especially the peddlers, had a bad effect on other students, took a lot of staff time and did not seem to improve as the year went on. This year, we have a policy of non-tolerance. We will not admit anyone, whether parent, student or client, who is high or drunk. There has been a vast improvement in secondary students since the introduction of this policy. Hopefully, the improvement in behaviour will be reflected in their results.

We make it a point to change the layout of our newsletter every year to keep things interesting. For this year, we've chosen a simple and refined design.



Our organization, MPC, will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2025. We have planned several meetings throughout the year to discuss how we can make it a special celebration. One of the events we have in mind is a podcast that will share information about MPC's history, development, and outreach over the years.

If you have any questions or specific topics you would like us to cover in the podcast, please email [info@mercymukuru.co.ke](mailto:info@mercymukuru.co.ke) with the subject line '**Podcast 2025**'. We are grateful for your continued support in enabling us to carry out the work of the Mukuru Promotion Centre. Thank you.



Sr Mary Killeen  
*Director*



# E<sub>ducation</sub>

## P<sub>rim</sub>ary Schools

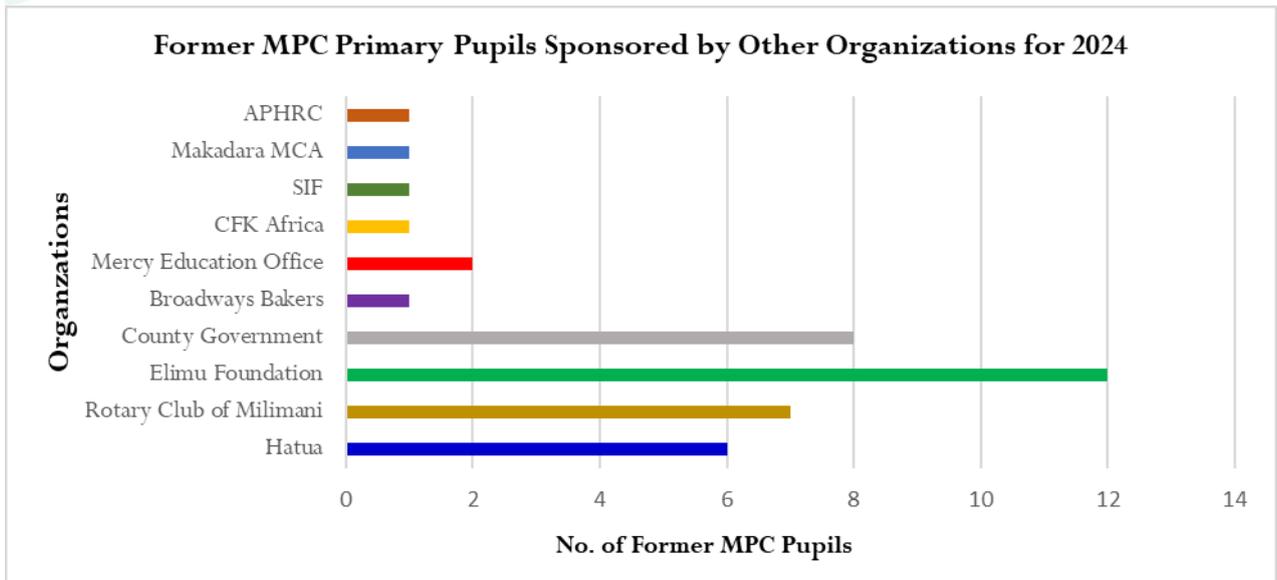
Primary schools opened their doors across the country on 8th January with different faces, some with joy and delight to be back, others showed a little more anxiety as the pupils progressed to the new year of learning with the Competency-Based Curriculum in each grade. The KPSEA exams were released, and all Grade 6 pupils advanced to Grade 7. The Government announced that it will employ 20,000 teachers to deal with the Junior Secondary School (JSS) teacher deficit.

The Presidential recommendation on education reforms means that the JSS students will study 9 subjects instead of 14 to address the overload of JSS teachers. The Government has yet to send teachers with the required specialization to handle the JSS. In the interim, the Teacher Service Commission (TSC) has requested the Headteachers to allow degree holders in the primary section to teach in JSS. The JSS pupils attend the primary school campuses. The total enrolments for January are:

MPC Junior Secondary School Enrolments				MPC Pre Primary to Grade 6			
School	Boys	Girls	Subtotal	Boys	Girls	Subtotal	Totals
St Bakhita	149	155	304	344	345	689	993
St. Catherine	189	192	381	500	351	851	1,232
St. Elizabeth	340	349	689	698	707	1405	2,094
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	197	181	378	622	595	1217	1,595
<b>Total</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>2,164</b>	<b>1,998</b>	<b>4,162</b>	<b>5,914</b>

For some new admissions, there were issues as the parents needed the required items, such as transfer letters from the previous school, birth certificates or admission levies. Some parents ended up at the Chief's office (mayor) for assistance while others visited MPC offices for assistance.

Kenya's economy has been snowballing, which has resulted in a hike in the prices of books, uniforms, and shoes for school-going children. The government has abolished the secondary school health subsidy that was implemented by the previous government. As a result, parents must pay more for admissions and continuing students. This has led to delays in admitting children to Form One, as many parents need help to afford it. Also, the number of established sponsors in Kenya has decreased, and bright and needy students must find other ways to fund their education or miss out altogether. The following graph shows 39 MPC primary school pupils who obtained secondary sponsorships by other organizations for the 2024 academic year.



St Bakhita Primary School's headteacher, Mr Samuel Maina was appointed in the first week of January, and Sancta Maria Kayaaba, Mrs Idah Obombo, was appointed at the end of January. MPC welcomes the two new head teachers and hopes they will bring energy and ideas to develop the children's learning further.



The Mercy Education Office organized a professional development day for the staff of the Mercy associated schools on Mercy schools' catholic ethos.

*Sr. Mary Kanyi with Teachers from Mercy associated schools*

The health hazards faced by children living in Mukuru slums have been well-documented for several years. Recently, awareness was raised again about the Likoni dumpsite opposite MPC Head Office where MPC's St Bakhita Primary School, St Michael's Secondary School, and Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre, are located. Neighbouring companies invited the media to report on health concerns and stop rubbish dumping and burning. The campaign was broadcast on three television channels to urge the government to address the challenges people living in the area face. Unfortunately, no response has been received from the government, and the dumping and burning of rubbish continue to release highly toxic fumes, posing a severe threat to the health of the children, parents, and staff.



*Media and Sr Mary at the dumpsite grounds*



*St. Bakhita and Sancta Maria Primary School Councils and teachers*

The Archdiocese of Nairobi recently organized a symposium for primary school councils, which took place at Mang'u High School. The theme of the symposium was "Leading with Holy Spirit guidance". All MPC schools sent their prefects to be part of the delegation. The Headteachers were urged to support the school prefects and assign them roles to mentor leadership skills.

Parent meetings were a feature for all primary schools in January to ensure that information was disseminated about the coming year, authority requirements, responsibilities and expectations. One of the most significant issues for parents is submitting authentic Birth Certificates. At the end of the meetings, the parent bodies (Parent Teachers Association) committee members were elected. Wasting no time shortly after the parent elections, Board of Management (BOM) meetings were held to strategize on the necessary operations of each school especially with the new Junior Secondary Schools housed in the primary campuses.



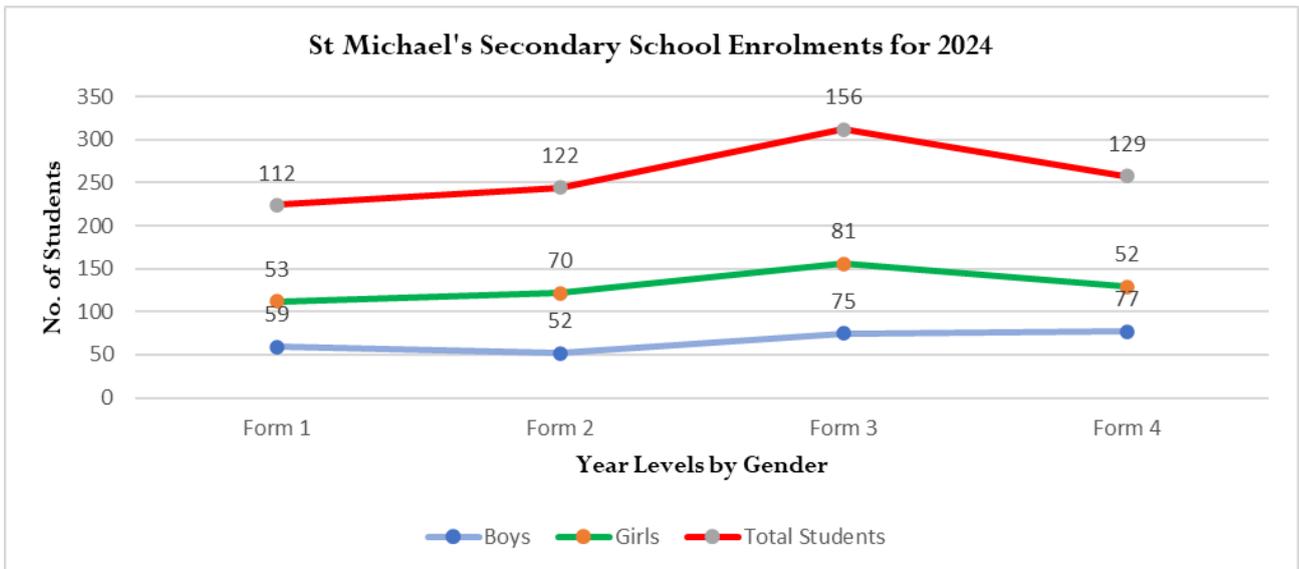
*Parent Meeting at St Catherine's Primary School*

Parents were reassured that the feeding program would continue at MPC schools with the assistance of Team Pankaj. The local Government feeding program (Dish na County) was launched in 2023 but has yet to stabilise. MPC approached the County Offices to avoid inconsistencies and unknowns and requested they be exempted. Team Pankaj has operated the feeding program at MPC for 2 years, and it is running very well.

The Public Health officials visited all MPC primary schools to test chlorine levels in the water. Counter to the claims, the health officials were happy to inform parents and pupils that no excess chlorine was found and recommended that the water tanks be emptied each term for fresh water to be stored.

# St Michael's Secondary School

St Michael's Secondary students returned to school on January 8 followed by the new Form One's a week later. Currently there are 519 enrolled with room for more students. A few home visits were conducted and a further 13 very needy students were identified. Some of these students have parents suffering from chronic illnesses, others are single parents who are intellectually challenged while others are suffering from depression due to having no income and are living hand to mouth.



One very sad case was when a bright student and her father traveled to a school upcountry and were both killed in a matatu (bus) accident. The mother is still stricken with grief, and the younger son now attends St Michael's. The family were nearly evicted as they had no money to pay for the rent arrears of 3 months. The mother had not eaten in days. Her son returned from school and kept some Githeri (beans and maize) which

he had got for his lunch at school, in his pocket. When his mother saw him, she stretched out her hand to receive a handful of food. Caroline Cullen and some of her Whistle Foundation from Ireland witnessed this exchange and were struck with disbelief. So moved by this experience, the group paid for their rent and provided some food for the family.

There are many unfortunate cases in the slums where single parents struggle for the basic necessities and education is a luxury that they simply cannot afford. Regular assessment home visits are conducted on students attending the MPC schools.



*Assessment Home Visits of Belvin and Leon who live in Kayaaba.*

The St Michael's KCSE results were released in December 2023 for the 97 students. Four female students were pregnant while taking their examinations. While the results were down compared to the previous year, the girls achieved higher overall results than the boys. All 6 students who are eligible for university admission are girls. The dux of school was Salako Sophiat Olatidebe, who achieved a B grade of 62; closely behind her was Tracy Anyona with a B- grade of 58. Kituyi Emmanuel Wafula was the highest achieving boy with a C grade of 39 points. Nearly 90% of students will be eligible for vocational training courses.

St Michael's Secondary School KCSE 2023 Overall Summary Grades										Mean Scores	
Candidates	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	2023	2022
Boys	0	0	0	2	5	18	13	3	0	3.75	4.29
Girls	1	3	2	4	10	13	19	3	1	4.23	4.64
<b>Gender Combined</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.03</b>	<b>4.44</b>

A major cost for any school is the learning resources. The Headteacher and his delegation visited Mr Mange'eli, Company Director from Nova Industries, to officially receive the Form 3 donated books. The students were also treated with sodas.



*Nova Industries*



St Michael's students also received belts form Sun Flag Company. The students were delighted with their new belts.

## Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

The academic year has begun at the centre, and the staff is excited to have picked up the mantle as the term started on January 8, 2024. The learning process started immediately, and 155 students were admitted to nine different courses for January, with a male-to-female ratio of 40:60.

The NITA examination schedule has been released, and the first round of exams will be held in April, followed by August and December. All students must register for the exams using the government's official digital platform before the applicable dates.

The Class of 2023 students are set to participate in a 3-month industry placement program starting in January. This program includes students from various courses, such as Food and Beverage, Front Office, Garment Making, Hairdressing and Beauty, Plumbing and Masonry, and Arts and Crafts, with a total count of 35. After the industry placement program, the students will be assessed and recommended for graduation. There are 20 different companies from the surrounding areas involved this year, which will provide accurate and practical experience to students, preparing them for their future employment. Often, students are offered employment even before the end of the placement program which demonstrates the quality of MPC's training.



*HODs Professional Development Day*

Heads of departments from MPC attended the professional development day organized by the Mercy Education Office to discuss the topic of faith formation in all Mercy-associated schools. Today's primary challenge is to help the staff support the students in their spiritual lives.

The Centre heavily relies on donations and support from generous donors to provide the necessary resources for each course. The Centre is grateful for in-kind donations such as clothing, shoes, personal hygiene products, learning resources and uniforms. Pregnancy donations significantly benefit young women who require extra assistance and help them avoid dropping out of their courses.



# Transformations

## Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

The Centre welcomed 104 children who were pleased to be back there in the new year, along with 23 equally excited staff members. Each unit of the Centre engaged the children in various activities such as communication, exercises, numeracy, speech, physiotherapy, literacy, and ADLs (daily living activities). Some children made progress and will be promoted to the next unit. Additionally, three children have been transferred to Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre to learn a skill that will help them become self-sufficient.



*Exited Children off to Skills*

After only returning for a few weeks, the children enjoyed a New Year's party sponsored by Caroline Cullen's Whistle Foundation, Ireland. Whistle has long supported Songa Mbele na Masomo and visits once a year. The children certainly celebrated with lots of cake, sodas and treats.



*Children sharing lunch together and a cake with members of the Whistle Foundation*





The Foundation members commented that the level of poverty in the slums had dramatically increased in the last few years. They managed to organize 65 food provisions parcels for the 65 parents whose children attend the Centre.

During different times of the month, some children were given donated clothes, including uniforms, and a few parents received small-size soft care diapers for their children as well as clothes for themselves.

The impact of volunteers is terrific and helps the Centre to achieve a more one-on-one exchange with the children. This month 10 volunteers from RAFA Institute of Caregiving Services, Railway Training Institute (RTI), USIU (*United States Institute University*) and Strathmore University who completed a community service placement at Songa Mbele as part of their respective courses. Parents also assist with helping out in the kitchen preparing meals or cleaning.

Normally the Centre sees some regression in children's capacities after the Christmas break as they don't receive speech or physiotherapy for a few weeks. However, 64 children received regular physiotherapy in January amounting to 321 sessions. The children who require speech therapy numbered 32 totaling 138 sessions.

Parents are encouraged to participate in the life at the Centre especially when sessions or meetings are offered. In January 4 Class meetings were held for the parents to become more involved in the life of their children and to understand their disability and progress better.



*Parent Class Meeting*



In January, the Centre received visitors from different organizations and individuals, some of whom spent their time with children while others brought in donations, and still others wanted more information about the Centre. The donations included plastic glasses, food provisions, hygiene materials, stationery items, clothes and shoes.

# MPC Rehabilitation Centre

Activity! Activity! Activity! That was the best way to describe the actions at the Rehab Centre. The staff organized various events such as the New Year's Party, admission of Form One students, transfers, and recruitment. The month began with 38 boys in residence, and by the end of the month, the number had increased to 64. Additionally, 21 boys under the sponsorship program required follow-ups. In terms of education, 22 boys were taking accelerated learning classes, 24 were attending St Catherine's Primary, 11 were enrolled in vocational training, and 7 were attending secondary school.

The boys had a fantastic party to celebrate the arrival of the New Year. Thanks to the Whistle Foundation, who provided food and beverages for the party, the boys enjoyed face painting and team-building activities and feasted on delicious food.



*Face Painting*

Four Rehabilitation boys have completed their KCSE 2023 exams and have received their results. Daniel Isaiah has obtained a C+ score, which means he is eligible to attend university. Morgan Kairo and Bill Otieno have scored C- and D+, respectively, allowing them to pursue vocational training. David Otieno's results are still pending. We congratulate each student on their achievement and wish them the best in their future endeavours.

The recruitment exercise was conducted in collaboration with Makadara, Starehe, Central Police Departments, and local implementing partners. The county recently assigned a task force known as RHINO Officers to patrol the streets and detain any street boys and their families. The authorities carried out the January operation to guarantee that all boys enrolled in school were accepted. Rhino contacted every children's home in Nairobi to come to the Central Police Station, to see where the boys could be accommodated among the centres. MPC Rehab received 7 boys.



*New recruits at the Centre*

Members of the Whistle Foundation were accompanied by our staff and observed the recruitment process.

The boys have significantly benefited from an extra teacher who will apply individually tailored strategies to help with the academic needs of each boy. After the initial assessment of each boy's academic ability, they are allocated to the appropriate class.

The Centre secured new sponsorship opportunities for 8 boys who were absorbed into various high schools across Kenya and 14 boys who enrolled in St. Catherine Primary School. We greatly appreciate the generous contributions made by the British Airways crewmembers and Christina Brooks, Mr Gilbert from the Newmark Group and Cheryl Wang. Also for Paula Cullen and her team who continue to sponsor 28 boys attending St Catherine's Primary School, St Michael's Secondary School and other boarding schools.



*Sponsored Boys to St Catherine's*



*Carpentry students*



*Year 1 Class with the new teacher*

The carpentry class comprises 11 boys who have shown a great interest in becoming skilled carpenters. They started learning as early as the second week of January and have been working hard at the Centre. Under the guidance of their carpentry instructor, Charles Ndirangu, the boys have completed several tasks such as putting dado rails in the offices, repainting the office, placing skirting boards in the music room, refurbishing benches, fixing broken doors and starting construction of a picnic table for a client. Their enthusiasm and determination are evident in their work.



*Carpentry students at work on the tasks.*



*Charles demonstrates how to use the artists pyrography machine donated by Claire Chambers*





*Group therapy session*

The counsellor and an intern counsellor have assisted the boys in settling into the Centre, feeling safe in the environment, and sharing about their lives on the streets. The group counselling sessions occur 3 times a week as well as individual sessions.



The Rehabilitation staff received an orientation from staff counsellor Agatha Mutua, who explained the concepts and objectives of group and individual therapy sessions for the boys.

Rugby has remained the most popular sport at the Centre; after being exposed to MIRC's team spirit and rugby culture, the new boys developed an interest in the game. While we wait for the tournament schedule for this year to be released, the coach, Denishe Ndinya, who plays for Kenyan Rugby team Shujaaz, has been extremely valuable in helping them hone their talents on the field. The rugby team and their coach continue to be sponsored by Paula Cullen and her team with Leinster Rugby and St Gerard's School Ireland, supplying their kits.



*Rugby players after training session*

The boys are under the strict guidance of their soccer coach, Benter Hadar. They have been putting in double the effort on the field to secure a spot in the FKF League competition. This will give them a platform to nurture and grow their talent. Soccer plays an essential role in the boys' lives in the Centre. Their team morale was seriously affected by their failure to qualify for the previous year's competition. However, this year, they intend to turn things around.



*Soccer players training session*

The new boys showed keen interest in the music band and immediately signed up. The boys attend weekly music classes at AEF Reuben Primary School. They practice every evening under the tutelage of one of their own, Swaleh Ali, who helps the boys refine their musical talents. The Centre is optimistic that additional instruments can be obtained this year to complete the band, including a drum kit. Currently they have only a few instruments which are insufficient, such as whistles, violin, and a keyboard.



*Music classes with Tobias and Swaleh Ali*

The art class has remained lively, with the new recruits fitting in seamlessly with the activities, such as drawing, painting, beadwork, and candle making. Art is instrumental in helping the boys express themselves, especially during counselling sessions. It allows them to articulate the traumas they have faced or the ordeals they may have witnessed and how these experiences have affected them.



*BA crewmember is shown how to make bracelets*



*Art class*

The vegetable garden must be maintained daily with the assistance of the Afltoone Club members. Under the direction of the teacher, Jane Wanjiku, the boys have successfully transplanted seedlings into the greenhouse. Among the vegetables are kale, spinach, arrowroot, carrots, onions, and tomatoes. Apart from having fresh vegetables to choose from they reduce the costs at the Centre. Well-wishers visiting the Centre and seeing the vegetable garden are suitably impressed and contribute through environmental maintenance activities. Kristina Nwazota and her family recently assisted with some duties and then treated the boys with snacks.



*Vegetable garden*



One of the activities that helps boys in rehabilitation is caring for the chickens. Tending to an animal is a great way to promote healing and relaxation. The boys are responsible for feeding the chickens on time and providing them with all the necessary resources to live comfortably. As a result, the chicken population has been steadily increasing. They now have 12 new chicks and 25 hens, and they produce plenty of eggs for their meals.



*Chicken coop*

In January, the Centre received donations of food provisions, mosquito nets, stationery items, clothes, and funds. We would like to acknowledge Team Pankaj, Whistle Foundation, British Airways crewmembers, Kristina Nwazota, World Bank Africa, Pattni Brotherhood, Rasik family, Bhavesh family, Blessed Anuarita Small Christian community, Simeis Synergy group, Fusion group and individual donors for your care and support. The Whistle Foundation spent several days with the boys and hosted a few parties, pizza nights and gifted each boy a pair of new crocs



*Kristina Nwazota*



*Maria, Caroline and Maurice from Whistle Foundation*



*Donations from the Whistle Foundation*

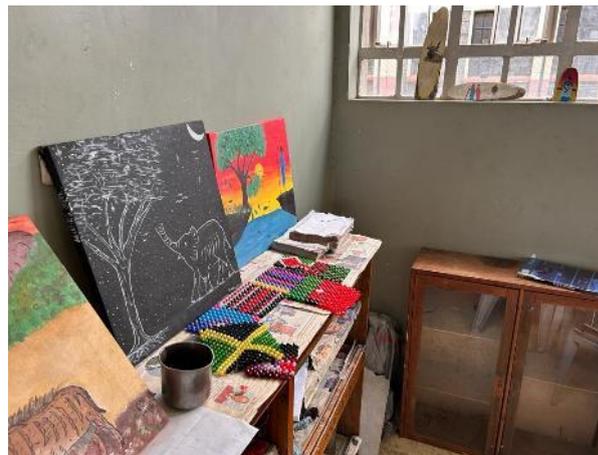


*World Bank Africa CCC group donations*



*World Bank Team marvel at the boy's carpentry products*

*BA Crewmembers join with the boys*



*Some of the boy's artwork*

## Sponsorship Office

At the beginning of the academic year, it is essential to check up on students at different schools and ensure that they have returned after the long holiday break. School fees for two terms must be paid before the end of the first week, so it's crucial to follow up. Currently there are 384 sponsored students in various educational levels in different learning institutions and 50 of whom are in special education units.

We are excited to have received new sponsors for many Rehabilitation Centre students who attend St Catherine's Primary School and other secondary schools. Additionally, Angela Pashayan has committed to supporting 21 students, with 10 in primary and 11 in secondary school.



*Jonathon and Beverley*

During their visit in the month, sponsors Beverley and Jonathon mentored and talked to their five sponsored students.



*Martin Muteithia*

Martin Muteithia is living with dwarfism and experiences discrimination a lot, which has caused his self-esteem to be impacted, currently he is recovering from drug abuse. He was admitted to the Recovery Trials Rehabilitation Centre. Martin is making good progress and has shown signs of improvement. Martin is academically gifted and will enroll in Form 4 to complete his KCSE 2024.



*John Muteti and his parents*

At times there are cases when the probability of success is low and the person endures one set back after another. MPC sponsored John Muteti to a specialist rehabilitation center but ultimately John was unwilling to attend and went back to his parents who hope that he heals from his addiction.

David Safari successfully completed his rehabilitation program and was ready to start a new life. David will commence a course on photography and videography and is very excited and grateful to his sponsor.



*David Safari*



# Social & Health Services

## Social Services

The Department undertook several activities to improve the welfare and progress of students and the less fortunate families in Mukuru. Through these interventions, over 2,500 residents received assistance. In January, nearly 10% of the interventions were food related. Direct relief was provided to more than 200 families through various social offices in the 5 MPC sites. Many parents are unable to supply the basic necessities for their families due to poverty. Just before school started, fire outbreaks resulted in the loss of everything the families had. Several families were given assistance with school uniforms, shoes, books, and bags to help them get back to school.

As the new year commences, our primary focus remains on assisting our schools' underprivileged students and clients. This includes counselling sessions to help them address any emotional or psychological issues, guiding them on matters that require clarity, offering nutritional support, and facilitating access to healthcare services. Additionally, we also provide educational support to those who need it.

At the beginning of each academic year, our social workers ensure all students have returned to school. We also follow up with the Class Eight candidates who have transitioned to secondary school and help secure scholarships from the County Government and other partnering organizations for those in need. For those who couldn't continue their education due to financial difficulties, we offer them admission to St. Michael Secondary School. Others seeking a skilled course can join Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre. We aim to ensure that all Class Eight candidates transition to further education. The social workers in each school worked closely with the school administration to assist destitute parents seeking admission for their children.



*Food distribution at St Catherine's PS*



*School Uniform Relief*

The beginning of a new year is usually a time of happiness, merrymaking, and hopefulness for a new beginning. However, in the Mukuru community, these celebrations are mixed with worries about the future, particularly for those who are dealing with long-term illnesses. Residents in the community are grappling with various health issues such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes, hypertension, tuberculosis, and gastrointestinal diseases.

Numerous patients had recently arrived from rural areas. They were experiencing environmental health issues, such as malaria and gastrointestinal problems due to contaminated water or food. Additionally, with the start of the new academic year, the clinic provided medical certificates to students for school enrollment, including younger children with minor injuries that needed stitches or bandages due to their playful activities.



MIC managed patient care effectively, providing services such as maternal and child health (MCH), antenatal care (ANC), outpatient care, minor and major surgeries, voluntary counseling testing (VCT), and nutrition. The clinic received support from new volunteers, including Dr. Jana Popovova from the Czech Republic and several Kenyan university students on internship programs. Agatha W.K. Mutua also visited the clinic and provided valuable group counselling services

*A patient in the consultation room.*

In January 2024, the Clinic treated a total of 1,752 patients. Of these, 52.72% were female, while 47.28% were male. The data also revealed that females had a higher percentage of revisits across most age categories, which indicates that women in the community rely more on the Clinic's services. This data also suggests that women are more aware of the importance of healthcare and are more engaged in seeking medical attention.



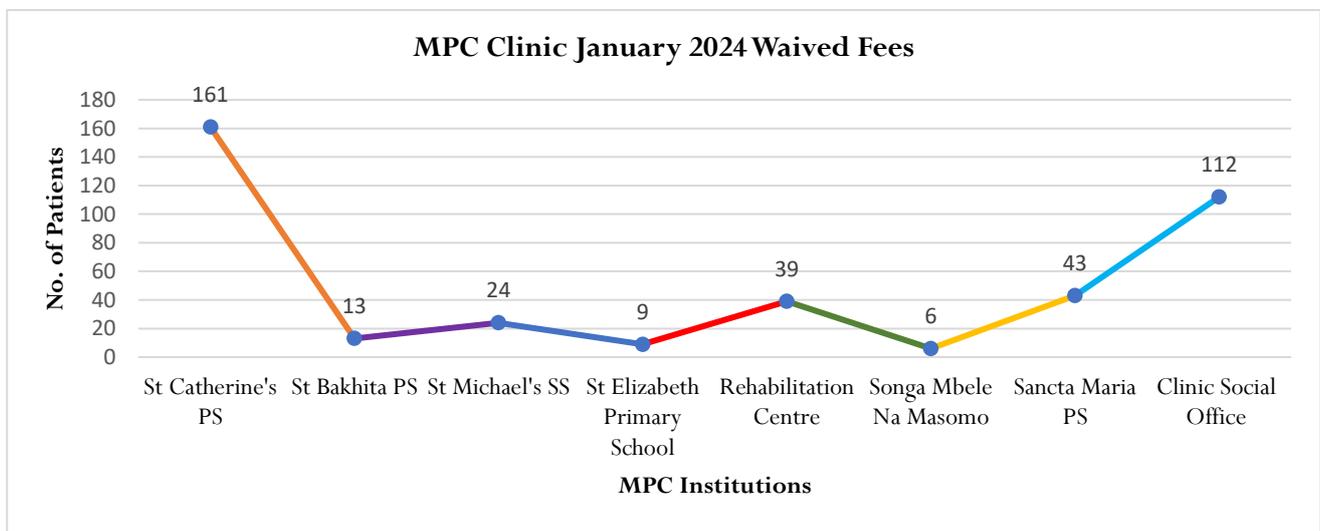
*Laboratory technician and HIV /Aids counsellor*

During January, the most common illness was Upper Respiratory Tract Infections, which affected 284 people across different age groups. The infection was most prominent among individuals between 0-5 years and 18-35 years. The second most frequent medical consultation was for medical check-ups and assessments for students before the start of their academic year. The third most in-demand service was for immunizations, vaccinations, weight checks, and maternal and child health services (MCH). Notably, many urinary tract infections were reported in the 18-35 age group, while gastroenteritis was prevalent in the 0-5 age group. On the other hand, older age groups had more cases of hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and osteoarthritis. The wide range of health issues showcases the Clinic's dedication to addressing a diverse spectrum of medical conditions within the community and tailoring its services to cater to the unique needs of different demographic groups.

The MIC Social Office plays a vital role in providing support to children who have been diagnosed with various ailments. They do this through regular home visits, hospital check-ins, and patient follow-ups. The office also refers patients who require specialized care to appropriate government facilities. Unfortunately, many patients face financial challenges accessing healthcare. To address this issue, the MIC Social ensures that children's consultation fees are waived to help needy parents who struggle with the high cost of living. In January over 400 patients' fees were waived.



MIC nurse triaging a patient.



In addition to treating patients the Clinic needs to maintain the capacities of its staff through providing professional development. During January the training sessions conducted were Digital Adherence Technology (DAT), a program implemented by the Global Fund to monitor TB patient adherence. This initiative, which was on trial in selected counties in Kenya; it commenced in September 2022 and concluded in September 2023. Another day involved assessing the performance of the DAT program, which discussed best practices and challenges. The Clinic has enrolled 7 eligible clients for the DAT program who will be monitored.



Group counselling session by Agatha Mueni.



To improve the Clinic's access points for patients, the maintenance crew added a wheelchair ramp, and the corridor's light bulbs were upgraded to LED globes, doorknobs and doors were adjusted thus making the building safer for patients and staff.

Installation of wheelchair ramp



# Announcements

## Activities outside the Departments

- Mrs Matharu from Osho Chemicals Industries Limited donated hygiene materials to the Head Office.



*Jane and Mrs Matharu*

- Public health crisis emanating from the burning waste materials producing toxic fumes in the area. The neighbouring companies have lobbied NEMA (National Environmental Management Authority).
- Each department contributed to the finalizing of donor reports.
- Preparation for the 2023 Audit report
- Well-being program for staff was launched.
- Staff appraisals commenced for 2024.



*Head Office staff meet with the counsellor*



- The security staff all received new work gear.