

February Newsletter Vol 9 Issue No. 2 2024

Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends

In February, we had the pleasure of hosting Dr Wolfgang Boehn, his wife Eva, nephew Stefan, and girlfriend Michaela. For many years, Dr Wolfgang was the agent for the Africa Desk of the Catholic charity DKA Austria, and as a result, he developed a keen interest in the various development projects and formed friendships with the implementers.

Although he has retired, he still loves staying updated on recent innovations and developments and is enthusiastic about the progress made. Dr Wolfgang has even assisted in training some of our staff in project cycle management and proposal writing. He is thrilled to see improvements in facilities, education, health, vocational training, transformative services, child protection, and staff efficiency. Wolfgang and I can remember the early days when my office was made of iron sheets on a wooden structure on a cement floor.

We lived in the Mukuru Kayaba slum, and due to the lack of security, we could not keep any valuables in our shack as they could be easily stolen. We used a manual typewriter for our work. Looking back, it is amazing how much we accomplished with your help.

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Songa Mbele gardeners had requested rabbits for the children. We bought 2 mature males and 2 females from Sisters in Karen and hope to have several more after a month and a bit. The children and staff were really excited to see the rabbits. Some of them did not want to go home but preferred to stay to watch them. They called anyone who came to collect them to go and see the new wonders.

Airtel, one of our mobile providers, requested to build a mast tower in St Elizabeth, Lunga Lunga School grounds, so that slum dwellers could have good connectivity. The school is surrounded by the slum. The Trustees are dealing with this matter.

Malcolm Savage of Waves Trust passed away recently. We could see his funeral service on the live streaming service from England. It was very interesting to hear more about his life and work than we knew and to hear tributes from friends, coworkers and family. May Malcolm rest in peace, and may his wife, Margaret and son, John, be comforted. Fr Bill Moroney, Missionaries of Africa, also died in February. He was an early supporter of MPC and its work. In later years, Fr Bill served on our Board. He had a long, fruitful missionary life. May he rest in peace.

Angela Pashayan is a person who supports and sponsors young individuals from the slums by providing them with the opportunity to paint murals. One of these murals is located near our head office gate. Angela introduced us to one of her supporters, Sjors Janson, who, along with his wife, runs a family foundation named KWES. The foundation is dedicated to empowering poor children and youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. Mr. Janson had the chance to meet the students he had sponsored through Angela. These students proudly showed him their new uniforms purchased through his and Angela's support. Mr. Janson is also interested in providing spectacles to these students who require them to boost their confidence.

We were pleased to attend Sisters Rose and Mary Magdalen's final profession at a time when few individuals opt for religious life in many countries. The ceremony was made even more delightful by the addition of singing and dancing by some of our students, which added colour and delightful sound. Many Mercy schools and institutions participated, and we are glad to welcome new committed Sisters of Mercy. In addition, the newsletter contents indicate that all activities continued well in February.

Thank you for your work and support.

Sr Mary Killeen
Director



E_{ducation}

P_{primary} Schools

St Bakhita, St Catherine's, St Elizabeth and Sancta Maria Kayaaba

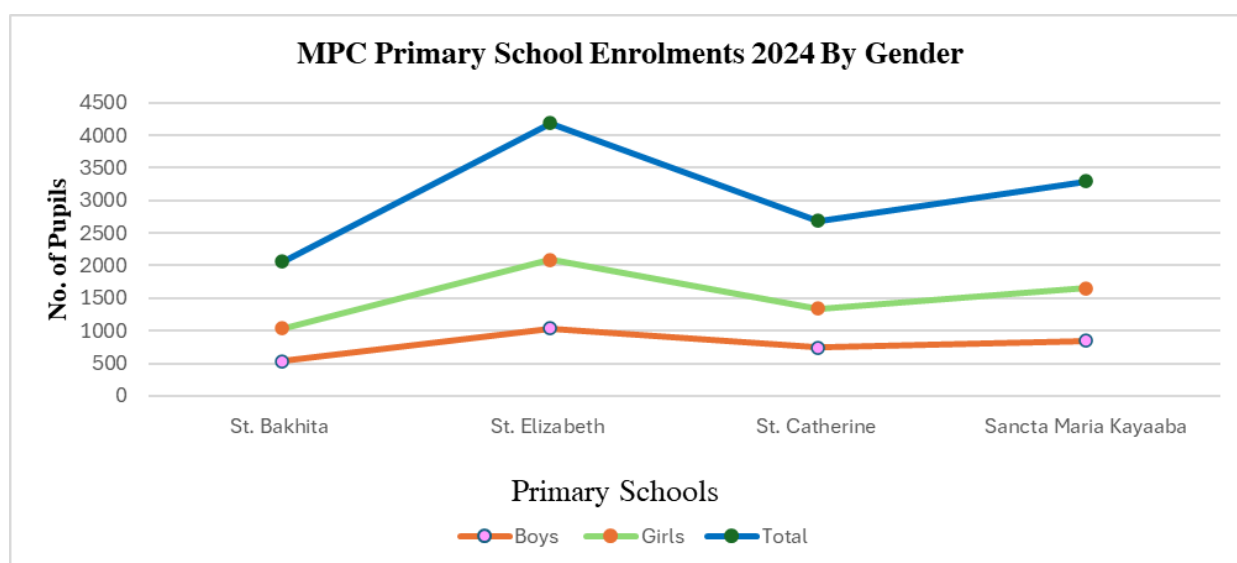
February was marked with plenty of energy, as teachers and pupils were fully engaged with learning, activities, drama festivals and mid-term assessments. Parent meetings were held to discuss children's progress and touch base on the education changes. Significant religious celebrations were conducted, like St Bakhita's Feast Day and Ash Wednesday, apart from the monthly Masses at each school.



Ash Wednesday Liturgy St Bakhita

Kenya's sluggish economy profoundly impacts parents living in the slums, as many can't afford basic necessities and the extra fees required to send their children to school. To address this issue, Team Pankaj has been supporting MPC's feeding program, which provides at least one meal daily to primary school children. It's estimated that about 2,000 out of the 6,000 pupils come to school without food. For parents with secondary school-age children, education costs are even higher, leading to delays in high school enrolments. MPC social workers are walking the slums to encourage parents to send their children to Form One and continue their education.

The primary enrolments are near capacity at all primary schools. It is wonderful to see so many children attend school.



The teacher shortage in Kenya continues to rise. The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) conducted a review and decided to scrap the certificate course for teachers, popularly known as P1 (primary one or lowest grading). Over 36,000 teachers were promoted from their current positions to Certificate 1.

Undergraduate teachers have been authorized to teach in junior secondary schools, resulting in a shortage of teachers in the lower primary grades. At present, the MPC primary schools have 4 fewer primary teachers than last year. In conjunction with other schools, MPC is actively petitioning the Government to assign more teachers and rectify the significant imbalance in the teacher-pupil ratio.

All primary schools need to complete repairs to maintain the buildings which the Government is responsible for. The safety of the children is of utmost importance, and MPC has taken the initiative to repair the most urgent items at the schools in the meantime. Some issues include faulty boreholes at St Catherine's and St Elizabeth's, while the water tanks at St Bakhita are functioning better and helping hygiene, cleaning and washing. The schools are still waiting for the Government to disburse funds that will assist them in carrying out the necessary repairs and maintenance.



Water Repairs at St Bakhita Primary

The schools received a number of visitors in February who donated educational resources to the pupils to help with the CBC learning.



Donations of books, writing material, crayons and sports gear to St Bakhita and St Elizabeth pupils.



St Michael's Secondary School

The total enrollment for St Michael's Secondary School is 525, with a gender ratio 51:49. There is little room for movement in Form 2. During February, there were a few special celebrations at St. Michael's. The school hosted St. Bakhita Primary School and Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre for the Ash Wednesday ceremony. Fr. Binu was the celebrant, and the parish catechist assisted him. The teachers attended professional development workshops and a retreat at Resurrection Gardens.



Ash Wednesday Mass

Additionally, a group of 49 students represented the school at the Final Profession of 2 Sisters of Mercy.

The Humanities teachers attended the language workshop at Starehe Boys Centre, sponsored by the Macheo program under Strathmore University. The facilitators were examiners from KNEC who were well-suited to present the new areas of focus for examinations and examination policy. The leading facilitator, Dan Mbobe, from Nation Media Group, writes various books. The teachers who attended shared their insights on return to the whole staff.



Ufangamano House hosts the Chastity Seminar every year for teenagers. The Kenya Conference of Professionals forum facilitated the event, which two teachers and 49 students attended. Upholding moral values in society was a key topic for the day. Several St. Michael's students participated as panel members, discussing issues such as 'Chastity and Pursuit of Happiness'. In the highly contested spoken word category, Bellamy Mugusi and Richard Wasike, both Form 3 students, performed a joint spoken word and won the category. They were awarded 7,500khs (€50). Edith Juman, a Form 3 student, was the runner-up and received 3,500 (€23).



St Michael's Students at Ufangamano House

Final Profession



Sister Mary Kanyi, the Director of Mercy Education, invited students from Mercy schools to represent their school at the Final Profession of Sr Rose Maranga and Sr Mary Magdaline Kibugi. During a Final Profession, the Sister makes perpetual vows of Poverty, Obedience, Chastity, and Apostolic Service to God for life. The ceremony was held at St. Austin's Parish in Msongari, where the St Michael's students performed a cultural dance during the Offertory and served at the altar.

Bishop Fr Cleophas Oseso Tuka from Nakuru presided over the ceremony, and two students served as altar boys.



Staff at Resurrection Gardens

The Mercy Education Office arranged a retreat day at the Resurrection Gardens in Karen for some of the teachers at St. Michael's. Sr. Mary Kanyi and Fr. Zac Ng'ang'a led the retreat. The first reflection was about the season of Lent. During the retreat, teachers participated in guided meditations, reflective exercises, prayers, and group discussions where they shared their experiences.

The Physical Education teacher attended a 3-day sports clinic at Jamuhuri High School. The clinic aimed to provide practical knowledge and skills to enhance athletic performance and prevent injuries. The clinic began with a comprehensive session on warm-up techniques led by experienced trainers and later dynamic stretches, mobility exercises and activation drills tailored to various sports.



Sports Clinic Jamuhuri High School



The girls' football team hosted United Queens in an intense encounter at our home ground. The match witnessed thrilling moments of skill and determination as both teams vied for victory in front of an enthusiastic crowd. The final score was 2-1, with our girls being victors.

In February, the school received some visitors. Jansen from the USA committed to sponsoring 10 students. The Fidel Goetz Foundation held a meeting for parents of sponsored students. The Absa Bank team visited the school and presented new football kits to the students.



Jansen with St Michael's Staff



Fidel Goetz sponsored girls held a parent's meeting.



Students receive donated football gear from Absa Bank

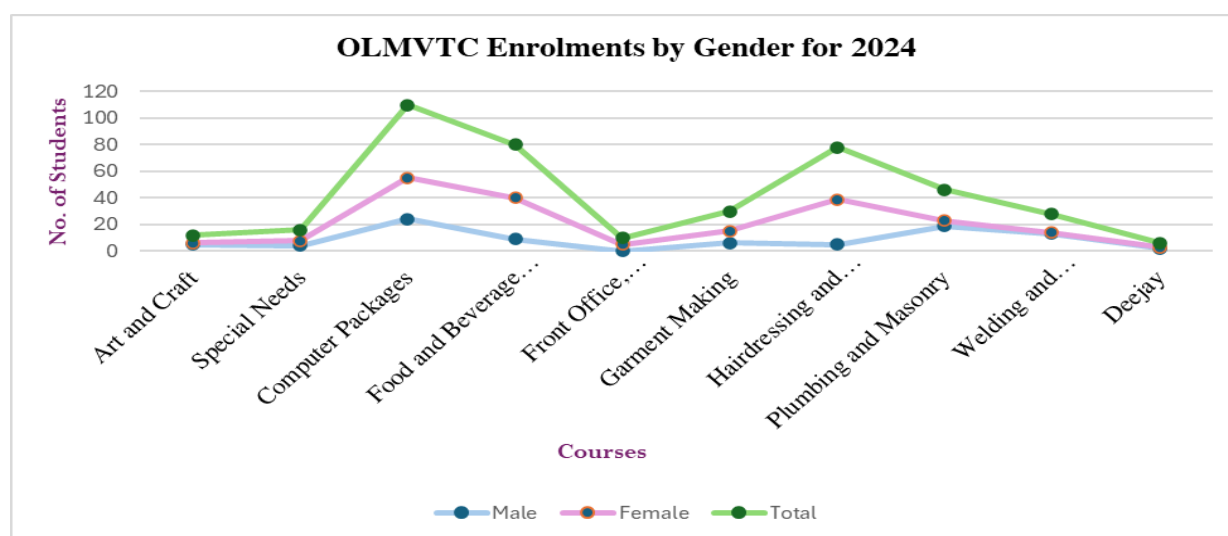
Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

The results from last year's 11 courses for NITA and KNEC examinations were released. The internal examinations numbered 109 students and 20% scored a First Class grade and 73% achieved an Ordinary Pass. The other 112 remaining students with a gender ratio was 69% female and 31% male did very well.

Class of 2023 NITA & KNEC Examinations					
Course	Female	Male	First Class	Ordinary Pass	Fail
Art and Craft (NITA)	2	6	-	8	-
Special Needs class (Internal)	3	5	-	8	-
Computer Packages (Internal)	66	35	21	72	8
Front office Procedures (KNEC)	14	0	9	3	2
Food and Beverage Production (NITA)	17	5	14	9	-
Food and Beverage Service (NITA)	17	6	6	17	-
Tailoring (NITA)	7	4	8	3	-
Dressmaking (NITA)	7	4	8	3	-
Hairdressing (NITA) *	34	5	12	26	1
Beauty Therapy (NITA) *	34	5	23	14	2
Plumbing (NITA) *	3	14	2	9	5
Masonry (NITA) *	2	12	1	11	1
Total			104	183	19

*Double component to course.

Enrolments continued in February increasing the numbers to 208 students across the 10 courses. A number of the additional enrolments come from the primary students who did not manage to sit their examinations in 2023.



The Centre has been fortunate to have partnered with Kenya Wines Agencies Limited (KWAL) who works collaboratively with the Tamarind Group Hotel to sponsor 30 catering students. The partnership has enabled the Centre to upgrade the catering course from NITA curriculum to Craft Certificate (KNEC) that will run from January 2024 to March 2025. The media launch will take place at the Carnivore Hotel on the 20th of March.



KWAL Briefing with students



8 selected students to represent the 30 sponsored students at the launch

Faith formation and spirituality sessions provide students with opportunities for prayer and reflection. The school occasionally hosts motivational presentations on Tuesdays, which students have received well.



Students and staff attend Mass in the MPC multipurpose hall



Transformations

Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

The Centre has 107 children with various disabilities attending daily to improve their capacity and capability. The class programs minimize the disability effect and improve the broad range of health conditions on most children. All the children receive a healthy diet at the Centre which is essential for their growth. The gender ratio is 69:31 in favour of boys. The Centre is researching on possible reasons for the higher percentage of boys.

Physiotherapy sessions help children to achieve their developmental milestones. In February, 67 children received therapy sessions, with more than 72% attending seven or more sessions. February's second, third, and fourth weeks had the highest number of sessions. Consistent therapy has resulted in some children moving to other units within the Centre due to their progress. The daycare unit has the most physically and intellectually challenged children, where children are toilet-trained and can say a few words. A total of 183 speech therapy sessions were conducted, with 56% of the 34 children attending six or more sessions per month. There is a strong emphasis on equipping children with the necessary skills to communicate effectively with others, especially their families.



Working with children with multiple disabilities and specific needs can be challenging at times. Mindful of these challenges, the Centre is pleased to offer counselling services to our staff to assist them and provide more outstanding care for the children. The services will feature group and individual support services.

Our staff during the introductory session with the counsellor at the Centre

The Centre is aware of children's socially disadvantaged backgrounds and often connects with the surrounding community through home visits. In February, the staff visited 8 families to provide psychosocial support. These home visits sometimes lead to discovering other issues faced by the families. During the same month, the staff found 21 medical needs cases and referred them to different hospital facilities. The prescribed medications were dispensed from the MPC Clinic to help the families with the costs.

The start of any year is always busy and at the Centre we hosted 41 different local and international visitors in February representing a variety of organizations. Volunteers add value to the Centre as many children will receive a one-on-one approach that makes a big difference. In February there were 17 volunteers assisting the teachers to care for the children.



Volunteers help the children with their donated books in class

Children were treated to the Sarakazi Dome Concert in February sponsored by Special Education Professionals (SEP) organization. The children were invited to perform a song on stage and walk on the catwalk for the fashion show.



Sarakazi Dome concert for youth with disabilities

Amidst a deepening cost-of-living crisis, the Centre expresses deep gratitude for the generous donations of food, hygiene products, stationery, clothing, and shoes over the past month. Many families in need were able to receive food parcels.

With more admissions and children growing, we needed more tables and chairs



New table and chairs

MPC Rehabilitation Centre

February had lots of activities ranging from classwork to gardening to meeting visitors and other events. The staff have worked hard to maintain an encouraging environment for learning, interacting with each other, and carrying out many hobby projects at the Centre. Currently, there are 66 residing at the Centre and 21 boys who are under the sponsorship program and are followed up regularly.

All the boys have settled well into their classes and the routine at the Centre. Each of them has demonstrated a strong desire to learn, which was reflected in their excellent mid-term exam performance. The Centre has successfully met each boy's individual requirements and supported them in their weaker subjects, which has led to significant improvement in their academic performance. The carpentry class has been equally enthusiastic and determined in their course. They successfully handled most of the Centre's maintenance tasks, such as repairing damaged wood structures and building a picnic table. Moreover, they completed their practicals with excellent proficiency. The high school boys, from Form 2 to Form 4, are greatly benefiting from the weekend tuition lessons. We hope that these lessons will improve their grades and academic performance.



Year 1 and Year 2 class preparing for the mid-term exams



Carpentry class applying final touches on the signposts and picnic table

At the Centre, counselling is an essential service that helps boys understand and process any traumatic experiences they may have had. The counsellor provides guidance on various topics such as loss and grief,

health, stress, and friendships to help the boys navigate life's challenges. Staff members also receive supportive counselling to help them better serve the boys. Counselling and mentoring go hand in hand, and in February, the Human Dignity group returned to the Centre to conduct some sessions.



Counselling Sessions



There is always a lot of physicality on the sporting field each month. The rugby squad has been doing well, as the new boys have quickly grasped the game and are eager for the Nairobi Rugby Tournament to start so they can compete and hone their already-acquired skills. The game helps the players develop their confidence and self-esteem. As a result, rugby has significantly impacted the boys' punctuality, discipline, teamwork, and discernment.

The soccer players also enjoy their time on the field. Benter Hadar has been helping the boys develop their skills by providing proper mentoring and coaching. They practice football three times a week, which keeps them fit and athletic. Owing to the boys' football talent, Kafoca Mukuru Study Ville, an organization focused on reducing drug abuse, has invited the boys to participate in a local competition in March and raise awareness about the campaign.

The music group is thriving at the centre. They go to EF Reuben Primary School very week to take lessons and learn to play different instruments. Two of our boys were selected to join the band and will play during EF Reuben Primary's events. Their skills have progressed from beginner to medium, and two have reached very competent levels.



Music Band practice

The art class at the centre has been running smoothly under the guidance of its art instructor, Samuel. The boys have achieved a state of peace and tranquillity, and their skills in sketching and drawing have significantly improved. This is due to their consistent practice and the available materials with which they can work. Furthermore, the counsellor noticed several verbally quiet boys could express themselves effectively through art.



BA crewmembers are taught how to make bracelets



Samuel and Strathmore university students interact with the boys



This month, we planted tomatoes, kale, spinach, capsicum, carrots, and onions at the centre. Currently, most of them are waiting to be transferred to the garden. Due to relatively dry weather in February, we have started using irrigation to water the plants. The vegetables consumed at the centre are kale, spinach, and pumpkin. We are incredibly proud of the boys for their hard work in watering and protecting the vegetables until they are ready to be consumed fresh from our gardens.

Kristina and the boys preparing the land and planting tomatoes, capsicum, onions, kales and spinach in the greenhouses

Poultry farming is going well, and everyone is doing their part in the daily routine tasks. Currently, we have 35 chickens in the coop. In February, we enjoyed omelettes for breakfast, and the boys were excited about taking care of the chickens.



Onesmas (Houseparent) refills food and water to the chicken



2 weeks old rabbit sunbathing

After failing to breed for a year, we decided to introduce a new rabbit breed. Finally, the three rabbits in the centre could reproduce, giving birth to 21 healthy rabbits. The boys have been very helpful in caring for the rabbits, feeding them, and helping the mothers nurse their young.



The boys listening keenly to the catechist

Reflecting and developing one's spirituality is crucial for overall well-being. Catechism classes are conducted weekly, helping young boys learn how to live in harmony with one another and learn about God. They can cultivate a peaceful and compassionate environment by learning how to pray and forgive others when they have been wronged.

The centre expresses gratitude to everyone who has supported the boys through their generous contributions to finances, food items, stationery, and clothing. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the following donors for their continued support and care of the boys under our supervision: Team Pankaj, Paula Cullen and her team, British Airways crew members, Action in Focus, Stephen Nganga, and Kalasinga.



Action in Focus



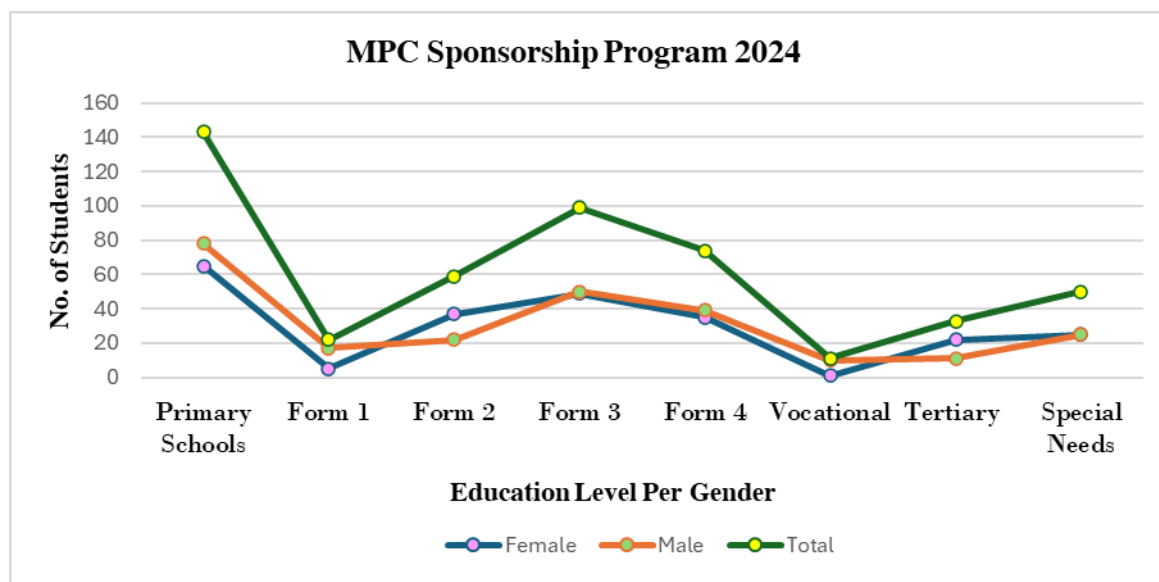
Cheryl Wang with the rugby team



BA crewmembers

Sponsorship Office

Since January the Sponsorship Office has processed another 96 students bringing the total number of sponsorships to 491.



During the month 21 needy students across the 4 MPC primary schools received new uniforms and learning materials from a new donor, Sjors Janson from KWES Foundation.



Some pupils with their new uniforms by KWES Foundation

The first few weeks of term are always the busiest. We greatly appreciate donors who have transferred funds for the pupils to enable them to enjoy attending school, stress free, rather than worry about how their parents are going to pay for fees. Our thanks goes to OLA Energy Kenya, Vivo Energy Kenya, English Press, Mukuru Alumni Group, Friends of Mukuru WA, Paula Cullen and her Team, Kenya Pipeline Company, Children's Fortress Africa and Bob Paterson's Group.

The Second Chance Empowerment Program continued with a few former prisoners receiving various business start-ups and boosters to generate income for themselves and their families. David Muturi was issued with a 'Smokie Trolley' as part of his roadside business selling boiled eggs. Wathie Mwangangi received support for his poultry business and teenage mother, Susan Waruguru, received supplies for her secondhand sock kiosk. The group held its first meeting with special guest, Peter Waithaka, from Emerging Leaders, who presented a seminar on how to succeed after incarceration.



David with his trolley



Susan Waruguru receives supplies



Second Chance Group



Mukuru Alumni with St Michael's Students

Long time supporters, the Mukuru Alumni Group visited MPC to follow up on the progress of their beneficiaries. Members of the Group spent some time with their beneficiaries to encourage and motivate them to focus on their studies.

The Sponsorship Program continues to make positive differences in the lives of hundreds of Mukuru pupils, students, adults, and former prisoners, and this is not possible without your support.



Social & Health Services

Social Services

During the past month, the Social and Health Services Department carried out 2,675 interventions and activities, with St Elizabeth Primary School having the highest number. The main focus was supporting students in our schools through various school-related activities. The Department's social workers ensured that all students attended school and provided necessary follow-ups to transition Class 8 to Form One students. The Department facilitated admission to its vocational centre for students who did not secure a place at secondary school.



Food parcels to families



Bread for the Rehab Centre

An essential activity was carried out in February, which involved providing nutritional support to the local community. Many community members reached out to one of the social offices seeking assistance with various needs such as clothing, food parcels, medical waivers, business start-ups, or counselling. The beneficiaries of this program included 500 underprivileged students who received school uniforms and other educational resources and girls who were provided with sanitary towels. These interventions and programs are crucial for ensuring that students can continue their education and that less privileged families receive the support they need.

Mentorship and Counselling sessions were offered to assist students in focusing on the big picture and their future. The Child Protection office continued to follow up on alleged abuse cases, with physical abuse cases arising from domestic violence presenting an increasing trend since the year started. The office offered workshops for parents on positive parenting and healthy family relationships. Staff counselling has also been ongoing.



Mentor session at St Michael's Secondary



Sancta Maria Kayaaba School pupils receive mentorship sessions Sr Dorcas.



Teenage mothers from St. Michael's Secondary School received some clothing for her children.



The clinic's social worker has been marvelous at monitoring the progress of children undergoing medical treatment in other hospitals. This involves ensuring they attend their scheduled appointments, follow up on their check-ups, and take their medication as prescribed to promote a speedy recovery.



Clinic Reception

During the month, there was a significant increase in the number of needy clients and students who received medical support at MIC. Most of the cases referred for treatment from schools were related to stomach issues, vomiting, and headaches. Additionally, the social worker has been closely following up on the health progress of 3 students from our schools who have been diagnosed with cancer.

MPC Clinic

The Clinic treated 1,912 patients, 41% of whom were children under 12. Another 251 individuals visited one of the four clinics in February, with the most significant number receiving immunizations. There were also 1,083 laboratory tests conducted. The most common ailments treated by the Clinic, respiratory and gastroenteritis, did not come as a surprise. The number of clinic registrations steadily increases by around 9% per month. There are several reasons for the increase, with the escalating poverty rate being the main one. As a result of the rising poverty levels, the Clinic has invested in its service delivery and enhanced its diagnostic capabilities, which has seen a rise in the number of visits to the Clinic and a reduction in wait times.

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	271	72	31	109	64	18	7	572
Gastrointestinal	102	58	49	75	43	14	3	344
Cardiovascular	16	11	18	15	41	25	12	138
ENT	30	28	14	24	6	1	0	103
Genitourinary	13	11	14	135	36	7	0	216
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	0	0	0	4	9	3	0	16
Musculoskeletal	10	26	16	37	44	22	5	160
Integumentary (Skin)	23	16	4	14	6	2	0	65
Dressing	7	12	2	13	15	0	1	50
Other Diseases	142	14	32	33	19	7	1	248
Subtotal Outpatients	614	248	180	459	283	99	29	1912

ANC	0	0	1	43	0	0	0	44
Immunizations	114	0	0	0	0	0	0	114
Nutrition	70	0	0	11	0	0	0	81
Comprehensive Care	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	5
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	5
Non-Medical (Mental)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Referrals to Medical Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Clinics	184	0	1	61	3	2	0	251
Total	798	248	181	520	286	101	29	2163



MIC nurses attending to mothers at the MCH room.

The Mother Child Health clinic was bustling, with 44 expectant mothers attending follow-ups and 114 babies vaccinated against communicable diseases. Another 81 individuals received nutritional counselling and support to address malnutrition and promote healthy eating habits. A further 28 individuals were assisted with their tuberculosis treatments, with 5 new cases.



Patients at St. Joseph's waiting bay.



Medical Social worker with a mother and child

Through consistent home visits, hospital check-ins, and patient follow-ups, the medical social worker ensured that individuals, particularly children facing severe medical challenges, received the necessary support and advocacy. During February, 410 patients had their fees waived, 77% of them children.

Individuals from the Czech Republic and St. Elizabeth University in Slovakia remain invaluable partners with MPC. In addition to their ongoing support with running the VCT and Nutrition Clinics, they recently introduced Dr Jana Popovova, a general medicine practitioner from the Czech Republic. MIC extends profound gratitude to Dr Jana for her 6-month placement. Furthermore, the Slovak team has provided translators to assist Dr Jana in communicating with patients who may face challenges expressing themselves in English. The entire MIC team is delighted and appreciative of the contributions made by the Slovakian team to Mukuru slums, primarily through the Clinic.



Dr. Popovova with the aid of Lilian Mutua as translator treats a patient.



Slovak team and Clinic Admin: From left Martin (Slovakian journalist/reporter), Lucky (MIC), Jacky & Lilian Mutua (translators), Dr. Jana Popovova (volunteer doctor) and Dariah (VCT and nutrition clinic manager)

The Clinic was honoured to receive visits from Mr Evans Obuya, a member of the Rotary Club in Nairobi, and Mr Victor Jackson, who belongs to the Rotary Club in Canada. Mr Jackson is a frequent traveller who distributes small packages of medical supplies worldwide through a connected group known as *"Not Just Tourists."* He generously donated dressing materials to the Clinic during his visit. Before leaving, both visitors expressed their desire to return and bring more friends from their respective Rotary clubs.



Victor, Moses, Lucky and Evans

During the year, the Clinic welcomes university students on placement. In February, two volunteer students will assist in the laboratory: Anne Maina, a computer science student from Strathmore University, who will help out at the social office, and Rumi Ranjiv, a computer science student from the United States International University (USIU).

The community health volunteers (CHV) conducted public health talks at the Clinic. Agnes Aluoch, CHV, presented to parents with children under 5 vital information regarding the early signs and symptoms of tuberculosis (TB) in pediatric patients. Good hygiene practices, proper nutrition, and timely medical intervention were emphasized. The parents were extremely grateful for the informative session. There will be specific talks each month in 2024. Equipping parents with

knowledge and resources to safeguard their children's health contributes significantly to the overall public health outcomes.



Agnes addresses the parents

A laboratory technician from MIC recently participated in a training session on conducting drug resistance surveys. The training, supported by global funds, aimed to prepare clinicians and laboratory officers to conduct surveys per the guidelines laid out by the national tuberculosis program. The technician's primary responsibilities include ensuring sample integrity, coordinating sample transportation, and facilitating the survey process. As MIC was selected as one of the facilities for this survey, it is now in a position to contribute to this critical research initiative.



A nnouncements

Activities outside the Departments

- ✚ In February, an array of activities took place. Equipment was purchased for the new food storage facility to enhance the receiving and distribution of food to the schools. Several crates and pallets were obtained to assist in the storage of food. In contrast, a heavy-duty weighing machine was purchased to assist in weighing kilograms of food to be distributed.



Equipment for food storage facility

- ✚ During the month, the Head Office received a number of assorted donations from AFC Bournemouth (UK-based football club), including books, stationery, and football jerseys for the schools. The exercise books were given to fire victims who had lost everything, while the jerseys were distributed to the schools' sports teams.



AFCB Donations received

- ✚ Wolfgang Boehn and his wife, together with colleagues Makaylah and Stefan visited the Centre. The team was able to tour the Head Office and the Skills Centre and were amazed at the progress.



Wolfgang and his team tour MPC Head Office



Katya and Eleanor at the head office

There were 2 volunteers Katya and Eleanor from Austria and study social work at MCI University (Austria). They came to MPC to get hands on experience and volunteer for a period of 3 months.

- ✚ The auditors presented their first audit 2023 report to MPC Management.
- ✚ First Draft Annual Report 2023



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 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.

