

Mukuru Promotion Centre

APRIL NEWSLETTER

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JOURNEYING 40 YEARS WITH THE MUKURU COMMUNITY

MPC DIRECTOR

Dear Partners, Supporters, Family and Friends,

April was a typically busy month for us at MPC, filled with challenges and amidst these challenges, we also made significant progress, giving us hope for the future.

We welcomed a new teacher, Oscar Ochieng, to our Rehabilitation Centre. He replaces Elvis, who has been offered a government teaching post in his home county. While we were sad to lose Elvis, we are happy for him and his opportunity. The cost of living and travel in Nairobi is high, and we understand his decision. Oscar, originally from Western Kenya, is glad to be closer to home than his previous posting in Northeastern Kenya. We look forward to seeing him thrive in his role working with the older boys in the Centre.

Heavy floods continued to cause significant damage, particularly affecting our parents, students, and facilities near the river. One major concern has been the collapse of a riverbank near the wall of St Michael's, triggered by erosion and activities by Athi Water and Sewage Company. The matter has put the school wall at risk of falling and urgently needs repair. This repair is crucial to ensure our students' safety and the school's continued operation. We're grateful to the Irish Embassy for providing a grant to help protect the riverbanks at St Bakhita Primary School.

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The rising cost of food has been devastating, especially for families already living in poverty. Many families are struggling to put food on the table, and without the support of Fr Manuel Gordejuela and the Missionaries of Africa, the situation would have been much worse. Their intervention ensured that many people were saved from hunger.

Our Child Protection Office continues its critical work of safeguarding children against abuse. They offer ongoing staff training and engage with the broader community where, unfortunately, much of the alleged abuse takes place. Despite arrests, perpetrators are often released after bribery, making our work even more difficult. Still, we've been encouraged by the efforts of two police officers who have shown genuine commitment to justice and child protection.

Our Clinic has expanded its services due to shortcomings in public healthcare. With support from the Pablo Horstmann Foundation, their doctors, and volunteers, we are providing better, more reliable care. The Slovak Foundation Hope for the Sick and Poor continues to support nutrition services for pregnant women, mothers, babies and contributes a volunteer doctor. Dr Nina's expertise in women's health has also been a significant help. We thank our Kenyan staff and international volunteers who make healthcare accessible for many who would otherwise go without. We are concerned about the increasing costs of licenses for laboratories, pharmacies, medical practitioners, and work permits. Meeting these rising expenses is a growing challenge. We are also preparing to secure the grounds of St Catherine's Primary School by constructing a fence. We have the necessary permits and will begin once the torrential rains subside.

It's encouraging to see all stakeholders working together to combat online abuse among school children. While smartphones are a great innovation, they have also brought increased access to harmful content, including pornography, which puts our youth at greater risk. Awareness and education are key in addressing these issues.

The Vocational Centre continues its vital work despite rising costs for staff, materials, and exam fees. Most of our students come from low-income backgrounds and cannot afford these expenses. We are deeply grateful to all our supporters without you, Mukuru youth would not gain the skills they need to secure employment.

At Songa Mbele, we've witnessed incredible progress. Thanks to physiotherapy, specialised equipment, dedicated teaching, and a nurturing environment, children who once couldn't walk are now walking. Some children are beginning to speak for the first time. The improvement among autistic children is especially inspiring. Though we still lack specialised expertise, we see daily routines, caring staff, and peer interaction making a significant difference, giving us hope for the future.

The boys in our Rehabilitation Centre are also developing well. We've introduced music, art, after-school coaching, rugby, gardening, special soccer training from professional coaches, and sponsorships to good boarding schools. These initiatives are shaping character and broadening horizons. Special thanks to Team Paula, Chrissie from the BA crew, Coach Dan, Kristina and her team from the World Bank, the Heeran Family, and others, your support means everything.

The need for student sponsorship from primary to college level has surged due to rising fees and worsening poverty in Mukuru. It's hard to believe how global decisions impact us here. Policies under former U.S. President Trump, particularly the threat to end AGOA (African Growth and Opportunity Act), have profoundly affected our local economy. Many of our Alumni and parents work in export zones that depend on AGOA. Nearby gender clinics and NGOs, previously funded by USAID, have also been impacted, resulting in job losses among our staff, parents, and alums. Health services for HIV, TB, and immunisations, previously supported through USAID, are now at risk. The number of skilled professionals now unemployed is heartbreaking.

This month, we also said goodbye to Rion Teegan, who supported us for six months and took on many responsibilities. Her final task was to organise the removal of the old Grevillea trees planted years ago by Paul Murray and the children. These trees provided shelter for many years and, after careful sawing, are being used in furniture making at St Bakhita Primary School. Thank you, Rion. We wish you and Chris well in your next chapter.

Earlier this year, we asked for prayers for Emelda Wairimu, a Form Two student battling facial cancer. After enduring painful chemotherapy and radiotherapy, she was transferred to the Texas Cancer Centre for palliative care. Amazingly, she has returned to school and is still first in her class despite all she's been through. Her courage is truly inspiring.

Finally, we were honoured to be invited by the Irish Embassy to a documentary screening on former President Mary Robinson, which was thought-provoking and motivational.

Thank you to all who have partnered with us on this journey. Your continued support is invaluable and enables us to bring hope, healing, and opportunity to the children and families of Mukuru. We sincerely appreciate your support.

Asanteni Sana, for creating the **possibilities for change**.

Sr Mary Killeen
Director

Archival Corner

“Leo Katika Historia – Today in History”

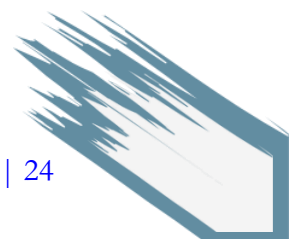
A Blessing in Disguise - Tales of Deadly Floods



Nairobi and the broader region of Kenya faced one of the most devastating flooding events in the nation's history, triggered by El Niño-like rains in April 2024. Government officials reported a tragic toll of 76 confirmed deaths. At the same time, over 80 individuals remained unaccounted for, with more than 190,942 people displaced from their homes. Nairobi County bore the brunt of the disaster, recording 32 confirmed fatalities amidst an ongoing search for numerous missing persons. The floodwaters forced more than 147,000 residents to flee their homes, leaving many in dire circumstances. Following closely behind, Nakuru County's Mai Mahiu reported 30 confirmed deaths, with grim reports of over 60 bodies trapped in the thick mud created by the flash floods. The devastation was not contained to Kenya alone; neighbouring Tanzania also suffered significantly from the relentless monsoon rains, leading to at least 155 casualties due to flooding and landslides.

In Nairobi, many affected hail from the Mukuru Slums, where conditions were already precarious. Tragically, the impact extended to educational institutions, with MPC Schools facing severe challenges. Hundreds of students were displaced and urgently needed food and shelter as their schools faced insurmountable challenges. St Elizabeth Primary School and Songa Mbele Na Masomo were inundated with floodwaters. At the same time, the flood's fury compromised the structural integrity of the perimeter walls at various schools, notably St Bakhita Primary School.

In response to this unfolding crisis, our dedicated team has partnered with generous donors to combat soil erosion along the perimeter wall of St Bakhita Primary School. MPC erected gabions to provide stability, addressing large cracks developed due to the relentless rains. MPC aspires to extend similar support to other sites, proactively mitigating the continuous threat of flooding that has tragically claimed lives and disrupted the education of countless students. Without partners and donors' steadfast support, MPC could not confront and overcome the consequences of flooding.



Social and Health Services

Activities In April



In April, the national inflation rate rose to 4.1%, which significantly impacted the cost of living for numerous families in our community. Yet, despite these economic hardships, the spirit of solidarity and togetherness among our residents remained strong. The resilience displayed during these trying times truly exemplifies the strength of our community.

Vulnerable vocational students received essential food parcels during the holidays

Throughout the month that schools remained closed, our committed social workers quickly mobilised to address the community's pressing needs. They delivered over 2,580 essential interventions designed to support students and vulnerable residents in Mukuru. Acting with urgency and compassion, we provided vital resources, including nourishing food, warm clothing to protect against the chill, and crucial household items, assisting more than 1,600 families struggling to navigate the challenges they faced during this difficult time.



Parent receives bedding support



Clients gathered at St Catherine's Social Office to receive food parcels and clothing

The Child Protection Office undertook impressive proactive measures by establishing strong partnerships with local authorities, such as influential area chiefs, a diligent police station, enthusiastic child protection volunteers, and the dedicated area chairwoman. These collaborative efforts played a vital role in meticulously following up on reported cases of abuse, ensuring that timely and effective interventions were carried out to protect and support vulnerable children. Their unwavering commitment reflects a profound dedication to safeguarding the well-being of our most at-risk community members and cultivating a nurturing environment where every child can thrive in safety and security.

The Amaranth supplementation program at the MPC Social Office at St. Catherine Primary School continues to support over 110 malnourished babies, children, and mothers with chronic illnesses. Additionally, the monthly nutritional support funded by the Pablo Horstman Foundation has been instrumental in assisting vulnerable individuals who would otherwise be unable to afford a meal. Although the prolonged doctors' strike ended earlier in April, the MIC Clinic remains a critical resource, offering affordable medical services to the community. Thanks to the Pablo Horstman Foundation, sick children and pregnant and post-natal mothers receive free healthcare, with clinics operating weekly.

Recognising the challenges many girls face in accessing menstrual hygiene products, we have distributed sanitary materials to 107 girls across the schools. This initiative ensures that girls do not miss out on their education, as those whose families cannot afford these materials often stay home. Furthermore, the social workers conducted 173 student profiles, with 83% of them from St. Michael's Secondary School, identifying students who may be at risk of dropping out due to financial difficulties in paying their fees. These profiles are being prepared for potential sponsorship.



Sancta Maria Pupils

Every parent aspires to create a better life for their family, dedicating themselves to ensuring their loved ones are provided for. It is truly inspiring to see parents who receive "business-start" kits seize this opportunity with determination and creativity. By offering individuals the tools and resources necessary to launch their own ventures, we enable them to cultivate their potential and thrive. This supports their personal growth and underscores a deep commitment to fostering a brighter and more sustainable future for their families and communities.



Gladys tends her shop

Gladys Kwamboka is a dedicated parent at St. Michael School and has recently faced the challenges of being a flood victim. Despite these hardships, she received sponsorship from the Douglas Foundation to help launch her general shop. With hard work and determination, Gladys is successfully establishing her business and making positive strides in her life.

Mary Immaculate Clinic

Activities In April

April 2025 was a particularly active and impactful month for the Clinic. With patient volumes continuing to increase and the complexity of care evolving, our dedicated staff responded professionally to the clinical activities, service delivery, community impact, staff developments, and ongoing challenges experienced in April. The Clinic's caseload demonstrates the community's continued reliance on it as a key access point for primary and specialised care. In April, 2,664 patients were treated, 53% of whom were children, and the gender ratio was 60:40 female to male. There were **1,377** laboratory tests, 46% of which were paediatrics.



Baby Naseer and mother

In line with the Kenya Expanded Programme on Immunisation (KEPI), the Child Welfare Clinic facilitated 139 immunisations. These vaccinations targeted life-threatening childhood illnesses such as tuberculosis, polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus.

The Maternal Health Unit remained vital to community wellness this month. A total of **181** antenatal care (ANC) mothers were attended to, receiving services ranging from regular checkups, nutritional guidance, and anaemia screening to prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. Postnatal care (PNC) was provided to 20 mothers, with focused support on breastfeeding, postpartum recovery, and neonatal well-being. These interventions are key to reducing maternal and infant mortality while promoting safe motherhood.

The Imaging Unit sponsored by Pablo Horstmann Foundation, reported **104** obstetric ultrasound scans conducted for expectant mothers. These scans are critical in monitoring the development of the foetus, determining gestational age, detecting congenital anomalies early, confirming foetal position, and even identifying the gender when appropriate. Ultrasound imaging empowers mothers and clinicians with the information necessary for timely medical decisions by offering early and accurate insights into pregnancy progression. The ultrasound imaging is a terrific addition to the services at the Clinic. Additionally, the unit conducted **18** outpatient ultrasound scans, of which 5 were paediatric cases. These involved evaluating suspected abdominal and regional conditions in children and were key in enabling appropriate clinical management.



Dr Alba Bassets

Dr. Claudia, who served excellently for four months at MIC, has completed her tenure and returned to Spain. Her contributions during this period were deeply appreciated. We welcome Dr Alba Bassets as the new paediatric doctor at the Mother and Child Unit. Dr. Alba has brought renewed energy to the team, and her proactive approach to staff development through training sessions has already made a positive impact. Her expertise and dedication are expected to enhance the quality of paediatric care in the coming months.

In April, we conducted several Continuous Medical Education (CME) sessions as part of our commitment to professional development and quality care. These training sessions addressed common conditions in paediatric and emergency care. One particular session focused on dehydration and hypovolemic shock, both frequent issues in paediatric and emergency settings. During this session, staff were trained on the Rapid Clinical Pathway (RCP) and Root Cause Analysis (RCA) approaches to quickly identify underlying causes using the ABCDE technique, which is critical for emergency assessments.

1. **A – Airway:** Ensuring patency
2. **B – Breathing:** Assessing respiratory rate and effort
3. **C – Circulation:** Monitoring pulse, perfusion, capillary refill
4. **D – Disability:** Checking consciousness, glucose levels
5. **E – Exposure:** Looking for rashes, injuries, or external signs

The second session was on Paediatric Cardiac Arrhythmias, underscoring the critical importance of promptly checking for response, breathing, and pulse in suspected cardiac cases. In cases of tachycardia, a comprehensive differential diagnosis was explored, ranging from supraventricular tachycardia (SVT) and cardiogenic shock to congenital heart defects. Healthcare providers engaged in a robust discussion on how to identify signs of severe cardiac involvement, such as cold extremities and altered mental status, and the appropriate interventions, whether supportive care, medication, or referral.

Another session focused on a Sepsis Simulation, a scenario that simulates a real-life situation involving meningitis progressing to septic shock. The hands-on exercise emphasises the importance of timely diagnosis, interprofessional communication, and adherence to evidence-based sepsis protocols. This simulation is a crucial part of our training as it helps us improve outcomes in critically ill paediatric patients.

The final session for April focused on Asthma and Teamwork Simulation. The purpose of this simulation is to train our team in both clinical management and team dynamics under pressure. The scenario involves a child in respiratory distress unresponsive to initial bronchodilators, prompting escalation to intravenous therapies, including magnesium sulphate. Team members must practice closed-loop communication to ensure clear, confirmed instructions. In contrast, the team leader establishes a shared mental model to align priorities such as airway support, medication timing, and escalation of care. This simulation reinforces the critical role of structured teamwork, rapid decision-making, and leadership in improving outcomes during life-threatening asthma exacerbations.

The Social Office welcomed a new social worker, Mercy Wairimu, a significant addition that brings new vigour and attention to the psychosocial needs of patients. The social worker's active participation in interventions and linkages of needy patients in nutrition and social welfare is a reassuring step towards enhancing patient care. MPC is incredibly grateful to receive generous donations from well-wishers. The recent donation from of prebiotic and probiotic suspensions from Phillips Pharm Ltd, will significantly contribute to patient care by helping restore healthy gut flora, enhance immunity, and improve nutrient absorption.



Phillips Pharm Ltd Donation



We received a generous donation from Ms. Kristina Nwazota, an employee at the World Bank, which included several face masks, nebulising masks, paediatric spacers, cough drops, and hygiene essentials. This donation will significantly enhance the quality of care we provide, as these items are crucial for preventing the spread of infection and managing respiratory conditions. We sincerely appreciate her continued support and contributions to community health.

Kristina Nwazota donation

The Ministry of Health visited the Clinic to continue its supervision of the Tuberculosis (TB) services. Officials closely examined the Clinic's diagnostic protocols to ensure accuracy in identifying TB cases, as well as the infection control measures in place to prevent the spread of the disease. They also assessed the patient management pathways to evaluate how effectively patients are treated and monitored throughout their care journey. Overall, the feedback from the Ministry was overwhelmingly positive, with officials commending its commitment to upholding high standards in the provision of TB care and its dedication to improving public health outcomes.

April was a month of challenges, yet it also brought noteworthy advancements in several vital areas, including maternal and child health, diagnostic services, social support, and ongoing education. The Clinic is deeply committed to broadening its range of services, strengthening partnerships within the community, and advocating for the healthcare needs of those it serves. Through collaboration and dedicated efforts, we aim to ensure that our community has access to the essential medical support and resources for their well-being.



Staff training during simulation exercise

Primary Schools

Activities In April

Poverty is complicated, but feeding a needy child isn't. Through Team Pankaj, MPC fed over 1,000 pupils over the April holidays. Many children were taking their lunch home to share with other family members. Tragically, two young pupils from St Catherine and St Elizabeth died in April, one from drowning caused by the heavy rains and the other from an epileptic attack. In response, the Social Office played a crucial role in attending to the families, highlighting the community's response to such tragic events.



Holiday Feeding Program



The current enrolments of the primary schools number 6,526, and when Term Two commenced, there were challenges as the National Government abruptly halted all the bursaries and scholarships given by the County Government. This left parents confused and stressed about how they would navigate school levies for their children, creating an urgent situation. Fewer learners turned up in the first week of school, as many parents cited fare hikes from the village to the capital city, while others assumed that classes had not commenced.

Ongoing professional development training helps teachers stay updated on the latest curriculum developments and recommended best practices, ultimately benefiting both educators and students. In April, several training sessions took place: a refresher course on competency-based education for teachers, a management training for school heads organised by the Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI), a program for teen mothers sponsored by the Ministry of Health, and an online child safety training hosted by Child Fund Kenya.



Sr Mary Killeen with Sancta Maria Kayaaba teachers and pupils

The Nairobi City County Government (NCCG) is constructing 4 Grade 9 classrooms at Sancta Maria Kayaaba Primary School. This addition will help alleviate overcrowding, as some classes had to be merged to accommodate the Grade 9 students. The project is expected to be completed by the end of June 2025.

The Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) recently demolished the chain-link fence surrounding St Catherine's Primary School as part of its efforts to enhance the Dunga Road pathway with cabros (pavers). This decision has raised concerns about the safety of the young children attending the school, and we are glad that KURA will promptly install a new chain-link fence to ensure a secure environment for the children.



Demolition of St. Catherine Primary School fence.



Every MPC primary school dedicates itself to maintaining its grounds and buildings. Unfortunately, the Government often hesitates to provide the necessary funds for vital maintenance tasks. This includes repairs to gutters, perimeter walls, painting, and tiling—all crucial for ensuring that classrooms provide a conducive learning environment for students and staff alike. To enhance their surroundings and promote environmental awareness, some primary schools have beautified their campuses by planting small trees and creating inviting green spaces that foster education and respect for nature.

Dolphin Stationers visited the Head Office and brought snack donations. During the April holiday, over 300 children from MPC primary schools received these snacks. Mr. Gohil, the Director of Dolphin Stationers, was present to oversee the distribution and to meet with Sr. Mary.



Dolphin Stationers team with Sr Mary and Lucia



Parents with their children from MPC schools

St Michael's Secondary School

Activities In April

As the new CBC curriculum continues to expand the difference for St Michael's means that Form 1 has been replaced with Grade 9 however, the Grade 9 students remain in the primary campuses. St Michael's enrolments now are for Form 2 to Form 4 that number 437 students with a close gender parity. The biggest cohort is the Form 2s and in 2025 will see the biggest number of Form 4s sit the KCSE at 148.

St Michael's Secondary organised the holiday academic program over 2 weeks for the Form 4s. The 2 hour block sessions were designed to prepare students for their upcoming final exams, improve their academic performance, and offer additional support in subjects they may find challenging. Over 85% of Form 4s participated in the program.



The Ministry of Health held training for teachers on a Comprehensive School Health program (CSH) at St Stephen's ACK Church along Jogoo Road. Mrs Loice Nyathira, St Michael's Deputy Principal, attended the training, which included values and life skills, gender growth and development, children's rights and responsibilities, nutrition, water hygiene and sanitation, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) that causes cervical cancer.

CSH Training

In April, a significant in-service for teachers took place, featuring the impactful Safe Community Linkages for Internet Child Safety (Safe Clics) Project. This project, a crucial step in addressing Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA), was hosted at the Western Plus Meridan Hotel and generously sponsored by Life Skills Promoters. The event was a powerful demonstration of collaboration, bringing together key stakeholders from the education sector, child protection agencies, law enforcement, and civil society. The focus was on the growing threat of online child exploitation and the urgent need for preventative and responsive measures. The meeting highlighted the increasing risks children face in digital spaces, primarily through social media, gaming platforms, and other online forums. Experts presented data on the rise of online grooming, the sharing of explicit content, and the psychological impact on victims.

Participants were trained on:

- Recognising signs of online abuse
- Safeguarding policies within schools
- Reporting mechanisms and legal frameworks
- Strategies for educating children and parents about online safety

The workshop emphasized the need for schools to integrate digital safety into the curriculum and to collaborate more closely with parents and local authorities. The recommendations from the Meeting:

1. Immediate review and strengthening of the school's child protection policy.
2. Regular training for teachers and students on online safety.
3. Establishment of a reporting and support system within the school.
4. Partnership with cybersecurity and child protection organisations for resources and support.

St Michael's has already established a robust Child Protection and Safeguarding policy. This initiative is strengthened by comprehensive support services provided through the MPC social offices, ensuring that every child's safety and well-being are prioritised.

St. Michael's School has gratefully accepted a generous donation of stationery from English Press. This contribution will significantly reduce the printing costs associated with producing essential learning materials, allowing the school to allocate more resources towards enhancing the educational experience for its students.



English Press Donation

Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

Activities In April

Skills continued its regular training program as outlined in the April curriculum for the 197 enrolled students. The instructors compiled assessment performance data for each student, and every learner received an academic transcript that reflected their performance in both theory and practical components. All 169 students participated in examinations and successfully demonstrated their skills. The assessment evaluated their understanding, proficiency, and application of the techniques learned during the term. Of the 169 students, 39 who completed the computer course successfully finished their studies. The 2 cohorts for the Kibondeni hospitality training were assigned work placements at different hotels.

KWAL has partnered with MPC for several years, providing invaluable training, sponsorships, and experiences for catering students. Recently, additional mentorship sessions were held at KWAL's head office in Ruiru. During these sessions, students listened to various speakers who discussed topics such as achieving goals, humble beginnings, and the importance of consistency in identity.

As a registered NITA examination centre, OLMVTC hosted examinations for Hairdressing and Beauty students from the Reuben Centre.



Kiswahili and
Mathematics
exams for
OLMVTC
students



Hairdressings and Beauty
examinations





Dressmaking and
Tailoring
Examinations on
pattern drafting



Catering students sit the theory examination

Grevillea tall trees near the Skills buildings posed a risk to the stability of the structures and the safety of the people nearby due to the potential of falling branches during windy weather. The tree removal was conducted over the holiday to minimize any chance of accidents during the process. The removed trees will be repurposed to create desks for St. Bakhita Primary School. Additionally, some will be used to construct shade areas for Skills students, allowing them to sit outside during lunch instead of eating in classrooms. This will provide a more comfortable space for relaxation during break times, eliminating the need to carry chairs outside.

Skills Building without the huge
Grevillea trees.



Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

Activities In April

The Centre recently enjoyed a brief hiatus before eagerly resuming its activities. The atmosphere was filled with joy as the 69 boys and 34 girls at Songa returned to class, energised to engage in therapy sessions that fostered their growth and development. Perhaps most exciting for the children was the opportunity to play games together, rekindling friendships and laughter after the break.

In April, the Centre proudly celebrated World Autism Awareness Day, 4th April, 2025, an occasion that emphasises the beauty of diversity and encourages a deeper understanding of differences among children. This special day was brimming with engaging activities designed to promote acceptance and awareness, bringing together children and their parents in a community of support and learning. The festive atmosphere was alive with fun and connection as stories were shared and new perspectives gained, enriching the lives of everyone involved.



Songa children during the day's activities



The mentorship sessions were thoughtfully organised for the children at the Centre to foster their individual self-esteem and personal growth. During these engaging sessions, the children could interact meaningfully with their parents, guardians, and teachers, creating a supportive community. Moreover, they explored essential topics related to child rights and adolescence, empowering them with knowledge and confidence as they navigate their developmental stages.

Mentorship with Unit 3 children with Hellen from the Centre's social office

Songa Mbele receives many visitors throughout the year. In April, Grace Arena Ministries, USIU students, and Star Kids donated fresh provisions and learning resources to the Centre. The Centre is grateful for their ongoing care, support, energy, and time.



USIU students at Songa

The Centre is fortunate to have the MIC Clinic offer accessible healthcare services for children thanks to the Pablo Horstmann Foundation. In April, six children were referred to MIC for treatment.

Mary Immaculate Rehabilitation Centre

Activities In April

The Centre's formal classes took a break for a few weeks in April by the academic calendar. We are pleased to report a noticeable improvement in the boys' behaviour and demeanour, reflecting our program's positive impact. Life at the Centre is always energetic and filled with activities and visitors. In April, we welcomed Team Chrissie, British Airways crew members, Coach Dan, Our Lady of Queen of Peace representatives, Grace Ministry Church, and other local supporters.

Currently, the Centre has 55 boys in residence, along with 36 boys who have completed the program and continue under the sponsorship program. These sponsors are crucial in helping these boys pursue their education or apprenticeships. The Centre has 17 boys in Year 1 and Year 2 classes. At St. Catherine's Primary School, 21 boys are enrolled, and 11 boys attend carpentry classes. The remaining 6 boys are enrolled in nearby secondary schools. All the boys successfully sat for their end-of-term exams, which included various subjects such as math, science, and language. We observed significant improvements in their performance, with many boys achieving higher scores compared to previous terms. Psychosocial support is essential to our program. Most boys have developed the confidence to share their past traumas in both group and one-on-one counselling sessions.

The resources at the Centre are highly beneficial for education in the 21st century. Profuturo generously donated headphones for use with the tablets, enhancing e-learning opportunities. As a result, boys can learn at their own pace and ability using the tablets. Each boy has an account that the class teacher monitors to track their progress. The learning through the tablets was a great initiative originally facilitated by Calary Church, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.



E-learning Classes

For the first time at the Centre, a 16-day music camp was organized and led by our regular music teacher, Mr. Collins, along with four other music professionals. The boys' performance during the talent show that followed showcased their talent and highlighted the camp's success. This event has set a high standard for our future activities, and we are excited about the opportunities it will create for our boys and are grateful to the National Concert Hall and Galway City Council, Ireland for donating the musical instruments.



Music camp at the Centre



Soccer Camp



The Centre welcomed Team Chrissie and Queens Park Rangers Coach Dan, who organised a soccer camp. The boys were excited to practice and learn new strategies and skills for the game. Each participant received a uniform, boots, and a new soccer ball. They also played friendly matches against other teams; we proudly report that they won all their matches. They have continued to excel.

The boys thoroughly enjoy their art classes, providing a wonderful opportunity to explore their creativity. In these vibrant sessions, they immerse themselves in various art forms, crafting unique necklaces, colourful bracelets, beautiful candles, decorative mats, captivating drawings, and expressive paintings. As they channel their imaginations, their skills flourish with each project. For the upcoming 40th anniversary celebrations in May, they have poured their talents into developing exciting new designs that reflect their hard work and enthusiasm.



Boys fully engaged in the Artwork



Catechism classes broke for two weeks and will resume in May. Spirituality and formation are vital at the Centre, and the boys actively pray each day, spending time reflecting to support their personal growth. They attend Mass every Sunday at South B's local parish, Our Lady Queen of Peace.

The Centre also focuses on caring for living things, including plants, vegetables, rabbits, and chickens. The boys have shown great interest in the agricultural activities at our farm. Most weekends, they participate in farm work, which they willingly enjoy. We installed drip irrigation systems in both greenhouses, allowing us to plant various vegetables and fruits. Through this project, the boys acquire valuable agricultural skills that will benefit them in their future endeavours. These projects are being sponsored by the Heeran Family, Ireland.



Greenhouse after repairs



Inside the Greenhouse



Rabbit House

The boys have taken on the important task of collecting, cooking, and serving the fresh eggs. This opportunity has not only instilled a sense of responsibility in them but has also led to a remarkable transformation in their behaviour. In addition to this, we dedicated time and effort to repairing our chicken and rabbit houses, reinforcing them to ensure they are secure against any potential intruders. This accomplishment represents a significant milestone for our initiative, and we are excited about the possibility of expanding our flock of chickens and increasing the number of rabbits soon.

After the term break the boys returned to regular classes. As an incentive generous well-wishers donated new books and learning materials.



Boys received textbooks for the new term



All ready for Term 2

We have been fortunate to receive generous donations from supporters, who play a crucial role in helping us each day at the Centre. These contributions allow us to provide essential services and programs at the Centre. We are truly grateful for their commitment to the MPC mission.



Fresh provisions from well wishers

Easter is a deeply meaningful season for Christians, and this year, the Centre delightfully marked the celebration. The atmosphere was filled with joy as Team Paula Cullen generously provided a bountiful meal featuring delicious dishes and refreshing drinks. The boys were overjoyed, laughing and sharing stories as they sat together around the table, celebrating the season's significance. It was a memorable gathering that truly commemorated the special feast.



Easter celebrations

Sponsorship Office

Activities In April

April was a month of significant engagement with our 673 sponsored students, comprising 308 primary pupils, 248 secondary students, 46 university students, 42 vocational skills students, and 29 special needs youths. The Sponsorship Office supported them through academic monitoring, mentorship, and community service projects, fostering personal development and instilling a sense of responsibility while the students pursued their education. The Office also ensured that student updates were collected and financial support for the next term was processed.

We gathered the End of Term 1 assessment reports for the students St. Catherine Primary School sponsored. These comprehensive reports, which were shared with their sponsors, provided valuable insights into the academic progress of the students they support, underscoring the importance of their role in the students' academic journey.

During the break, the Office organised a mentorship and sensitisation day for sponsored students at St. Michael's School. This event brought together students and speakers for a day of motivation. Former St. Michael's students shared valuable insights about the importance of discipline, goal-setting, and overcoming challenges, which resonated well with the students. The day also included interactive group discussions, where students actively participated, allowing them to express their concerns and receive advice on academic and personal matters, making the sponsors feel their support is being utilised effectively.



Sponsored students during mentorship session



Group discussion during the Sensitisation Day

The Sponsorship Office hosted an enriching five-day community service program for sponsored students. This initiative encouraged students to 'give back' to the Centre while fostering a deeper sense of responsibility and civic duty. Throughout the week, students engaged in various hands-on activities, including cleaning and beautifying school grounds, which enhanced the aesthetic appeal of their surroundings and promoted vital environmental conservation practices.

The enthusiasm among students was palpable, with most actively participating and embracing the spirit of service. However, a few faced unforeseen circumstances that prevented them from joining the activities. Despite these absences, the program proved to be a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression on the students about the significance of community involvement and its positive impact on their environment and society.



Students Community Service at MPC


In April, a significant part of our workload involved collecting, scanning, and uploading thank-you letters and end-of-term reports from our donors into the database. Each sponsored student wrote personalised letters expressing their gratitude to their sponsors. The academic reports offer sponsors a clearer view of their beneficiaries' progress, ensuring they stay informed about the impact of their contributions.

As Term 2 approached, our Office processed the fees for sponsored students attending boarding schools. This included verifying fee structures with the respective institutions and confirming payment deadlines. Additionally, the Office followed up with the schools to ensure the funds were correct and promptly addressed discrepancies. This step is critical to guaranteeing uninterrupted education for our beneficiaries.

Announcements


Activities Outside the Department

While the various MPC Departments provide an overview of the month's events, the Head Office works behind the scenes to facilitate many activities that support and align with departmental objectives and targets. Amid all these activities, there are also other events and developments to note. Below are some additional updates.


 Rion Teegan who has volunteered at MPC since September 2024 showed her husband Chris and friends around the Centre. Rion and Chris plan to return to Ireland at the end of April.



From left: Rion Teegan and her husband Chris Teegan, Sr Mary Killeen, Vicky Bickerton and Andy Bickerton

 Auschidys Disability Africa visited the Head Office to engage in preliminary discussions regarding a potential partnership with MPC in awareness creation on disability.



 The Three Musketeers team from Australia, who donated several water tanks ensured its proper installation.



HOD meeting in progress



Water tank installed with pipes



The MPC Heads of Department at the monthly meeting.

Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step by Step
Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy

40 Years Anniversary

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Thank you for your continued support

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