

February Newsletter

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Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

The children of Mukuru were slow to return to school in January for several reasons. Due to recent evictions, some families were still trying to relocate near the school. High transportation costs from rural areas, where they had sought temporary refuge with distant relatives, made it difficult for many. Additionally, teachers' demands for learning resources required by the new curriculum exceeded what some parents could afford. Corruption in the education system, leading certain school heads and teachers to request illegal payments, may have caused some students to drop out. We will need to investigate the situation further.

Grade 10 students, along with those at the vocational centre, have been slow to report back to school. The loss of job opportunities in the Industrial Area and the need for students to help supplement their parents' income are significant. Many older students and young adults in their early twenties are trying to provide for themselves and their siblings after losing their parents. Often, we only learn about these situations when social workers follow up on absent students. It's encouraging to see students attending symposia with peers from other schools, participating in sports and various activities, and competing. However, the biggest challenge for students from low-income backgrounds is the cost associated with these activities.

We are fortunate to have parish priests serving our various centres with regular Masses and for special occasions. We are grateful for their dedication.

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We continuously strive to enhance our staff's skills through training in areas that need improvement. A heartfelt thank you to Mercy Chege and DKA for their recent Project Cycle Management training.

Our vocational centre continues its partnership with St. Therese's College for the second year, focusing on food provision, serving, laundry, and housekeeping. We thank KWAL, Tamarind Group, and Hilton Hotels for their sponsorship. We aim to recognise the talents and achievements of our students and staff, promoting a new concept in Kenya. Additionally, I want to thank Bob Paterson for his inspiring rewards for achievements at St. Michael's Secondary School, which motivate student involvement in this program.

At Songa Mbele, we truly miss Juliet's physiotherapy services, which she provided for two years before returning to France. During her time with us, she delivered exceptional care, and the number of children who can now walk, children who previously could not, stands as a testament to her hard work, talent and dedication.

February was a hectic month at the rehabilitation centre as we continued recruiting new boys. Welcoming, dressing, and assessing each new boy is not an easy task. Many of them are traumatised, and most have various medical issues that need to be addressed. To manage these challenges, recruitment will occur in stages to prevent a group from growing too large all at once.

On February 19, Sr Anne and I attended the 'meet and greet' Irish businesses event in Nairobi, focusing on Irish interests. Since the Sisters of Mercy Kenya is a branch of the Sisters of Mercy Ireland, it is essential for the Mercy Partnerships Committee to maintain strong connections with Ireland. These gatherings provide us with updates on agreements between the Irish and Kenyan governments. The Irish government actively supports young scientists, offers master's scholarships, seeks Kenyan employees across various sectors, and promotes initiatives in community development, environmental sustainability, and agriculture. Attending these events keeps us well-informed and is crucial for networking.

Paula Cullen, Irene, Clare, Catherine, and Molly arrived in late February for a two-week program at the rehabilitation centre. We wish them success in their important work supporting each boy's unique needs. We appreciate everyone involved in this effort.

I am grateful to all of you. Your support allows us to continue confidently each day. Thank you for your assistance in enabling our services.

Sr Mary Killeen
Director



Archival Corner

Since its inception in the early 1990s, the Mukuru Promotion Centre Clinic has had several locations before settling in its current one. The Clinic was previously situated at Mukuru Primary Kayaba, at the school, and later in a go-down owned by Mr Raja of Crown Industries in the Industrial Area. As the population increased and more patients sought care due to poverty, poor sanitation, and limited health facilities in the area, there was a need for more space to accommodate additional patients and to make access to the Clinic safer and easier, especially during the flooded rainy seasons, which led to the move.

After extensive lobbying, the Nairobi City Council allocated a parcel of land near the current St Bakhita Primary School. With donor support, MPC established a semi-permanent structure on the newly developed grounds of St Bakhita Primary School [current Head Office site].

During a visit to Austria and Slovakia in 1995, Sr Mary Killeen met Dr Vladimir Krcmery, an epidemiologist at St Elizabeth's Trnava University in Slovakia, who offered to help MPC relocate the Clinic. The Mary Immaculate Clinic was named by Dr Krcmery due to his great devotion to Our Lady and the Rosary, who is also the Patroness of Slovakia.

The Mary Immaculate Clinic was relocated to its current site in 1999 (opposite Mater Misericordiae Hospital on Dunga Road) as a newly built wooden structure designed by Dr Bucek, next to St Catherine's Primary, with significant support from Slovakia's St Elizabeth's Trnava University, which still continues to send medical personnel to serve the Clinic in six-monthly placements.

For the past 35 years, the Clinic has been a vital healthcare resource for the Mukuru community, providing care for tens of thousands of patients annually and impacting the lives of hundreds of thousands in diverse and meaningful ways. Today, the Mary Immaculate Clinic (MIC) thrives with substantial support from Spain's Pablo Horstmann Foundation, which plays a crucial role, particularly in enhancing paediatric care services. This support is complemented by the dedication of international volunteers who contribute their time and skills to the Clinic.

In 2025, MIC made a notable impact by treating 30,611 patients and performing 16,189 laboratory tests. Impressively, 45% of the cases involved children under 13, highlighting MIC's dedication to caring for the youngest and most vulnerable members of the community.

E_{ducation}

P_{primary Schools}

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

Academic activities progressed throughout the month. Students remained engaged, participating in lessons and showing enthusiasm. The teaching programs were executed as planned, with facilitators effectively implementing their curriculum to enhance learning outcomes. There were two parents' meetings, fostering a spirit of collaboration between schools and families to ensure overall development and academic success. There were only a few admissions suggesting a stable enrollment, which was reassuring for the schools as they plan. The enrollment number for 2026 is 6,233. However, we are aware that each school is not at capacity.

Primary School	Boys	Girls	Total
St Bakhita	575	508	1,083
St Catherine	711	712	1,423
St Elizabeth	1,130	1,098	2,228
Sancta Maria	719	784	1,499
Total	3,131	3,102	6,233



KWES monitoring visit with sponsored primary pupils.

The Head Teachers received the government capitation early this month to enable them to run schools effectively this term. School BOM meetings have also been held to prioritise the schools' needs in line with the government's infrastructure capital vote head. During the month, the schools broke for a three-day half-term break and resumed at the beginning of March. This allowed them to refresh and recharge for the second half of the term.

The Ministry of Education's visit to schools aimed to monitor the progress of the senior school transition for Grade 9 students. The Ministry had identified delays affecting many students from the 4 MPC Primary Schools. During the visit, achieving 100% transition was emphasised, as all children had been allocated by the Government via the CBA portal. Students and staff had the chance to engage directly with policymakers and gain insights into National Educational priorities. The discussions concentrated on curriculum development, infrastructure enhancement, and student welfare, while underscoring the importance of aligning school programs with government initiatives. The Ministry stressed the need for a timely transition to prevent learners from being disadvantaged. Overall, the visit strengthened relationships among the institutions, the Ministry, and students, and motivated students to recognise the vital role of education in shaping the nation's future.

Despite schools remaining severely affected by the shortage of primary school teachers, the available staff worked diligently. Teachers demonstrated resilience and commitment by managing larger class sizes, adopting creative teaching methods, and maximising the limited resources available to them. The situation highlighted both the pressing need for additional teacher recruitment and the remarkable perseverance of those already serving in the system.

The Students Leaders Symposium was organised to provide a platform for student leaders to exchange ideas, strengthen their leadership skills, and learn strategies for effective school governance. The event was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Nairobi Catholic Education Office and was hosted at Mang'u High School. During the symposium, participants discussed integrity, responsibility, and inclusivity, and explored practical approaches to representing and advocating for their peers. The program emphasised collaboration and critical thinking, equipping student leaders with the tools needed to contribute positively to their institutions and communities. The sponsorship and venue underscored the importance placed on nurturing leadership among young learners at the national level.



Students' Council Symposium at Mangu High School



The Junior School exposure program was designed to broaden the horizons of younger students by introducing them to mentorship and support beyond the classroom. The initiative was sponsored by a group of local gentlemen known as "Temp", who volunteered their time and resources to mentor and support boys from Sancta Maria Kayaba School. Through interactive sessions and guided activities, students gained confidence, developed

curiosity, and strengthened their sense of teamwork as they visited the Dandora KCC where they learnt about milk processing. The exposure highlighted the importance of mentorship in shaping character and inspiring academic excellence. By engaging with role models, the students were encouraged to view education as a holistic journey of growth and discovery, laying a strong foundation for future success.



Dandora Kenya Cooperative Creameries Factory

Ash Wednesday signals the start of Lent in Christianity, with liturgies held at the Head Office, St Bakhita, and St Elizabeth Schools. These services offered the school community a chance to gather in prayer and reflect at the start of the Lenten season.



Ash Wednesday Liturgies at St. Bakhita and St Elizabeth Schools

St Michael's Secondary School

The major development for the 2026 academic year at St. Michael's was the introduction of a new academic induction for Grade 10 students, replacing the previous Form 2 candidates. The Grade 10 induction ceremony was held to officially welcome and orient the students to the senior level of learning. The session focused on academic expectations, discipline, career guidance, and leadership development.

Each year at the beginning of the academic year, students who have shown significant improvement from the previous year are invited to St. Michael's for the prize-giving ceremony. This event also serves to motivate students to strive harder in the upcoming academic year. The ceremony was presided over by Board of Management member Bob Paterson, who awarded 5,000 Ksh to 5 students for improving by 2 grades. We congratulate Gloria Lukumbuka, Stephen Gachigi, Mercy Hellen, Ashley Kigamwa, and Micah Achieng for their achievements.



Gloria Lukumbuka receives her award from Bob Paterson

One effective strategy to enhance overall performance in science subjects is to implement a rewards system for students. The school has introduced incentives to recognise the top-performing students in Mathematics. This initiative aims to boost performance in the subject and foster a culture of positive academic competition.



Principal, Mr Ngari, presents awards to students

To help senior students prepare for the 2026 academic year, Form 3 and Form 4 received a motivational talk from Sr. Anne Itotia, who delivered an inspiring message under the theme "Choices Today, Destiny Tomorrow." She emphasised that the decisions made today, academically, socially, and morally, shape their future. Students were encouraged to make responsible choices, resist negative peer pressure, and set clear goals for their success.

The spiritual atmosphere at St. Michael's was particularly profound in February, highlighted by the joyous celebrations of the Opening School Mass. This event brought the school community together in a spirit of unity and reflection. Additionally, Ash Wednesday marked the solemn beginning of Lent for Christians, a time for introspection and spiritual growth. The ritual of receiving ashes served as a powerful reminder of the 40 days of preparation for Easter, marked by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, with a focus on a change of heart.



Liturgies in February



St Michael's is always seeking ways to support students practically, providing tools to address the issues teenagers face in today's society. The International Association of Suicide Prevention hosted an engaging and insightful forum focused on the key themes of mental health awareness and emotional well-being. This event brought together experts, advocates, and community members to discuss the importance of understanding mental health issues, sharing resources for support, and building resilient communities. Participants took part in meaningful conversations, workshops, and interactive sessions to raise awareness and encourage positive mental health practices.



Confidence And Leadership Sky Girl Program.

The Sky Girl program continued to empower female students through valuable mentorship opportunities. Through engaging discussions focused on building confidence, developing leadership skills, and making responsible decisions, participants gained the tools and insights they needed to thrive. The program fostered an inspiring environment where young women could learn from experienced mentors, share their aspirations, and cultivate the skills necessary to navigate challenges and seize opportunities in their personal and academic lives.



Sky Girl Presentation

The cocurricular activities continued throughout February, with students participating in the Makadara Sub-County Ball Games alongside 10 other schools. This week-long event took place at Buruburu Girls Secondary High School. St. Michael's teams performed impressively, with both the boys' and girls' basketball teams securing third place and qualifying for the sub-regionals. The girls' handball team finished in fifth position, while the boys' team placed seventh.



Makadara Sub-County Sports Day

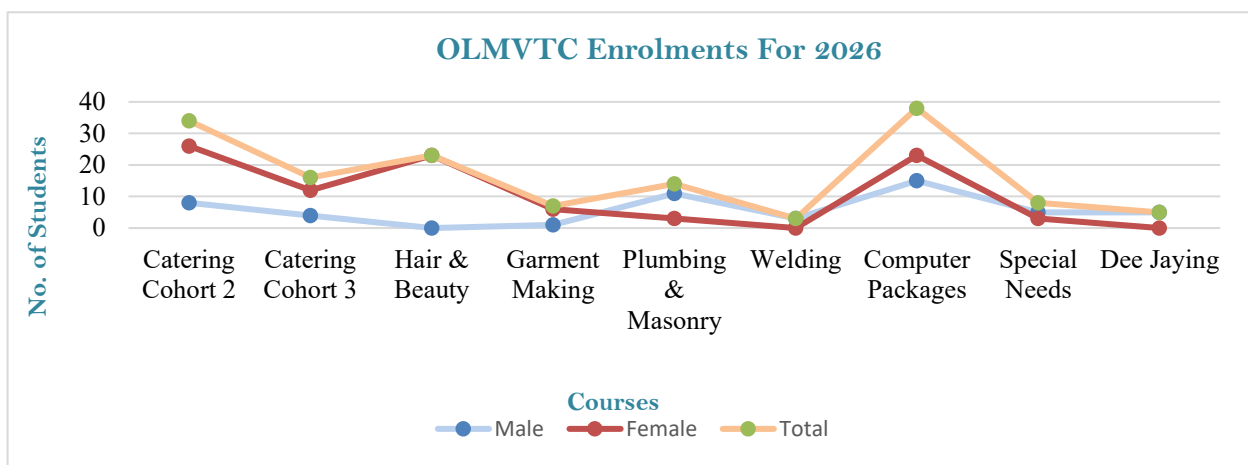
The other tournament was the Makadara Sub-County Athletics competition, held at St. Aquinas High School. St. Michael's secured fourth place overall. Glen Wafula Muganda excelled in the 800m, finishing in first place, and secured second place in both the 400m and 3,000m races. Angela Shayo and Kelvin Misero won the walking race, while Kelvin Misero also finished second in the 100m. Additionally, the boys' 4x400m relay team placed third. It was a remarkable effort by all the students.



Makadara Sub-County Sports Day

O ur Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

The OLMVTC has currently enrolled a total of 148 students, comprising 96 female students and 52 male students. While these figures are down from last year, we hope that by March, more students will consider a vocational course. All of these students actively participated in the Centre's orientation day, which marked a vibrant introduction to their vocational training journey. The turnout for the various courses has been encouraging given the economic climate, with each course hosting a number of students, fostering an engaging, collaborative learning environment from the start except for the Arts and Craft course.



The student orientation began with a solemn Mass, creating a reflective atmosphere for the day. Following this, students were taken through the Centre's mission and values, where they learned about the expectations and responsibilities placed on them. Engaging plenary sessions encouraged open discussion, allowing students to ask questions and deepen their understanding of the Centre's goals. Later in the day, a guided tour of the Head Office campus was held. This included visits to notable sites such as St. Bakhita and St. Michael's, showcasing the area's rich history and spirit. The tour not only helped students become familiar with their physical surroundings but also fostered a sense of belonging and community within the Centre.



Centre Orientation and Mass



Staff at Orientation Day

The reputation of the Catering and Hospitality course at OLMVTC is growing thanks to the partnership with Kenya Wine Agency Ltd (KWAL) and the INUA program. KWAL has been working with MPC through the vocational training centre for several years. Each year, more aspects are added to give students better exposure to real-world industry situations. Currently, there are 3 catering cohorts at the Centre. Cohort 1, comprising 24 students, has been placed in various hotels across Nairobi. Many of these hotels are five-star establishments like Hilton, Novotel, Serena Hotel, and Hyatt. Their placements will last for three months.

The other cohorts will start their upskilling program at St Therese’s in Karen. Meetings were held among KWAL, MPC, and St. Therese’s staff, including a lunch for students during which they shared their experiences from the first month. An online meeting with Hilton Global was also held to provide updates on the INUA program and its activities. Another online meeting is scheduled for the end of March.



KWAL/Heineken, MPC and St. Therese

Staff development training was led by Sr Anne Itotia, the Director of Mission Talent Integration and Youth Empowerment. The session emphasised team building, cohesion, and unity, with a focus on harmonising these qualities into the Mission of the Sisters of Mercy.



OLMVTC Staff training



OLMVTC Staff with Sr Anne

OLMVTTC partners with other MPC institutions to foster empowerment. The Centre hosted a careers day for the 2024/2025 Form 4 leavers of St. Michael Secondary School. Each staff member introduced their course and explained how it could benefit students interested in joining the Centre. The aim was to raise awareness of the opportunities at OLMVTTC to help students develop skills for self-sustainability. The event attracted many students, and some visited the office afterwards to inquire about specific courses. Overall, it served as an effective marketing strategy for the college.



Careers Day for former St Michael's Students

The current students displayed enthusiasm and eagerness to learn during both theoretical and practical classes. The practicums help deepen their understanding of the material covered in class so far.



Hairdressing and Beauty



Housekeeping



Dee jaying



Plumbing and Masonry



Special Needs

Transformations

Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

In an effort to strengthen family sustainability and improve the welfare of children, the Social Office facilitated economic empowerment initiatives for 10 families. This intervention aims to promote financial stability, self-reliance, and long-term economic independence for families caring for children with disabilities. The small business workshops focus on managing various types of shops, including those selling cereals, general goods, beauty products, second-hand clothes, snacks, and dressmaking supplies. These workshops help caregivers establish reliable sources of income, enabling them to better support their families while ensuring consistent attendance at the Centre and improved care for their children.

In February, beneficiaries of this initiative included Lucy Mueni, Ezan Mwangi, Sasha Achieng, and Shamira Abdallah.



Mini shop for Lucy



Tailoring Ezan



Beauty for Sasha



General for Shamira

Learning activities were carried out successfully across all classes with the help of teachers, caregivers, and volunteers. Key academic and developmental tasks included creating schemes of work and lesson plans, maintaining individual portfolio files for each student, and conducting guided learning activities aligned with the Special Needs curriculum. Students also engaged in activities to develop various skills: Social and Communication Skills—students learned courtesy words, respectful communication, and positive social interactions. Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) training emphasised personal independence, focusing on self-care and routine tasks.

In February, the social worker conducted 6 home visits. These visits allowed for an assessment of the living conditions of newly admitted children, follow-up with those with irregular attendance at the Centre, identification of social or environmental barriers affecting different households, and provision of guidance and support to families in addressing challenges affecting their children. Home visits are essential for strengthening the relationship between the Centre and families, ensuring that children receive adequate support both at the Centre and at home.



Arnold Makari visit

At the beginning of February, 111 children attended Songa Mbele, where they engaged in educational, relational, and fun activities, with 88% of children receiving physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, and occupational therapy. The Centre also referred 17 children to the Mary Immaculate Clinic for medical assessments and treatment. Additionally, the Centre has continued its collaboration with AIC Kijabe Hospital for orthopedic services. In February, 10 children visited the hospital to schedule corrective surgeries and to collect KAFOs (Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthoses). These services are vital for improving mobility, posture, and physical support, ultimately enhancing the children's overall quality of life.



A remarkable milestone was observed with Ellen Ayiro, who demonstrated improved standing ability and balance while using HKAFOs, marking an encouraging step in her physical development.



Ellen Ayiro during physiotherapy

Michael Mwendwa, a student in Intermediary 1, has made notable progress in his speech and language development. Michael and his therapist, Tabitha, practise each week. His therapy journey this year has shown steady progress in articulation, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency. Michael's achievements are a source of pride for the therapy team and a beacon of hope for other children, showing that consistent intervention and family support can unlock potential.



Michael with speech therapist, Tabitha

There have been significant achievements in the Foundation II and Intermediate II classes, where therapy exercises have been successfully incorporated into daily classroom routines. These efforts are strengthening inclusive practices that support both learning and physical development. Additionally, 2 parents participated in therapy sessions, during which they were trained in home-based therapy techniques to ensure continuity of care outside the Centre.

The Centre also conducted Autism Awareness Training sessions for parents and other community members, attended by 53 parents, focusing on understanding available support systems and enhancing parents' ability to support their children effectively.



Autism Workshop



Parents with teacher, Casper

A parent meeting for the Foundation II class was held, with 23 parents in attendance. The discussion focused on children's performance and attendance, and on the implementation of home-based programs to ensure that children are maximising the benefits of enrolment at the Centre.

In February, we carried out several capacity-building activities, including mentorship sessions for 10 preteen girls. These sessions covered topics such as puberty, inappropriate behaviour, and personal hygiene, helping the girls build confidence as they transition into adolescence.

Additionally, 21 staff members took part in a Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) workshop led by the Centre's occupational therapist. The main focus of this workshop was to understand the concept of an inclusive society where individuals with disabilities and their families have equal rights and opportunities. CBR goes beyond therapy, emphasising



CBR workshop

the importance of creating inclusive communities through health, education, livelihood, social inclusion, and empowerment. This training improved the staff's understanding of how community structures, families, and institutions can work together to enhance the lives of children living with disabilities.

For children, engaging in hands-on play enhances their learning experience. Sensory and creative activities improve coordination, sensory development, and creativity. In orientation and mobility sessions, children practice head control, trunk management, and support sitting and standing. Pre-numeracy skills are developed through sorting objects and grouping them by colour, shape, and weight. Singing nursery rhymes reinforces early learning concepts.

In social studies, children, especially those in the pre-vocational class, show a strong understanding of weather concepts. In music class, they are introduced to gospel, traditional, and folk songs, which encourage expression, rhythm, and social participation.



The pre-vocational class focuses primarily on developing hand skills through activities like beadwork, mat-making, bottle cutting, glassmaking, and various arts and crafts. These activities help learners acquire practical skills that may support future vocational opportunities.

Intermediate II Class

The Sensory Garden is an outdoor space designed to support children's sensory integration activities. In recent months, the garden has become somewhat neglected due to flooding. To revitalise the area, the ground crew, in collaboration with a therapist, is planting flowers and grass. This effort aims to beautify the space and create a more stimulating and therapeutic environment. This initiative is expected to have a significant positive impact on children with special needs by enhancing sensory stimulation, improving motor skills, supporting emotional regulation, and providing a safe outdoor area for therapeutic play and learning.



Section of the Sensory Garden

In line with the focus on a green environment, the members of the Pre-vocational class, known as the Green Club, engaged in some gardening activities. Earlier in the year, the children planted onions, and by February, it was time to harvest them. Through this hands-on experience, the children actively participated in the entire process of nurturing and harvesting crops.

For children living with disabilities, these practical activities offer more than just farming; they promote independence, confidence, and self-reliance by allowing each child to see the results of their own efforts. The harvesting process also helps strengthen motor skills, enhances sensory engagement, and improves coordination as they handle soil, tools, and crops. Additionally, the activity fostered teamwork and social interaction as the children worked together, supported one another, and celebrated their harvest together. It also introduced them to possible self-employment and livelihood skills, illustrating that small-scale farming can be a source of income and a pathway to future sustainability. The Green Club initiative is impactful; it helps children with disabilities develop practical life skills,



boost their confidence, and feel a sense of achievement and belonging while contributing to a positive environmental impact.

The Green Club



Donations



Hassan Njoroge donation

We would like to thank our donors and well-wishers who provide the Centre with supplies and resources to ensure quality care for the children.

Mary Immaculate Rehabilitation Centre

As the new recruits for the Rehabilitation Centre continues to grow, in February we had 10 new boys start at St Catherine's Primary School. All the boys received new uniforms, school bags, and stationery. The boys were very excited to be starting school.



Two new recruits with Caroline Cullen

St Catherine's new students: Jacob Kamade, Briviannovich, Kelvin Kyallo, Brian Mumo, Ivan Wajala, Jayden, Joseph Mwangi and David Kimani.

Some boys have decided to do the carpentry course at the Centre. We wish Derrick Ongeri, Ali Nassir, Jairus Asila, Enock Matthew, Stephen Macharia, Duncan Luangala, Ian Nganga, Shem Oketch and Evans Marita all the best for the year ahead.

Later in the month, 7 more boys were invited to join the rehabilitation program: Steven Mwangi, Walcot Mwangi, Brian Leon, Dalton Mwema, Victor Kamanu, Alex Maina, and John Henery. All of them have completed their initial interviews for the program. The process also includes a medical checkup for each boy to identify any health concerns. We are fortunate to have the Mary Immaculate Clinic conveniently located nearby.

Over the coming months, home tracing and visits will be conducted to better understand the boys' backgrounds and stories. Occasionally, it becomes evident that these boys are not street children and that their parents are searching for them. Such cases, where parents are looking for their children, necessitate community involvement. Additional efforts are required to raise awareness about the Centre's activities and to sensitise the community about MPC's work.

Cases involving parents seeking placement for their children at the Centre have been managed, highlighting the importance of involving the community in explaining our vision. There is significant work to be done to raise awareness of the Centre's activities.



BA crew members Alyson Crone and Sarah Buchanan brought some timely gifts for the start of the new cohort.

Africa and Andy Stinner visited the Centre and organised various activities for the new recruits. One of these was creating personalised name tags for their beds and dormitories. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed snacks and sodas together.



Later, the boys played friendly soccer matches. Emmah, Andy, Benter, and Africa took a photo with the new recruits at the Centre.

Each week, the boys will take on core tasks such as cleaning, washing, and general kitchen work. They will also participate in all program activities, including caring for the vegetable garden, greenhouse, rabbits, and chickens. In the centre of our garden, we have grown a lively patch of kale and spinach, their lush green leaves thriving in the sunlight. Meanwhile, the children have been actively tidying the dormitories, sweeping and organising carefully to maintain a clean, welcoming environment for all.



Harvested arrowroot from our garden.

The boys received 6 rabbits from IBIS caterers and tablecloths

In February, the Centre received several visitors who brought practical items for the boys as they began this year's program. Donations significantly reduce the Centre's expenses and, more importantly, help foster a sense of care, showing the boys they are valued. It is always a pleasure for the boys to welcome local and international visitors, as they help broaden their knowledge and cultural awareness by spending time with them singing, dancing, playing, and interacting.



Mohammed Omar, Amber and Sarah give the boys snacks.

Derrick and Dennis



Mr Sigh's donations included milk, sugar, and bread. An anonymous well-wisher donated a television, clothes, and school resources, and Mr Suleiman contributed some bread, fish, and scones.

Overall, the boys take time to settle into the Centre's rhythm. History shows that they initially have limited concentration in class and tend to eat a lot due to drug abuse, alongside their carefree street lifestyle. It doesn't take long for the boys to adapt and embrace the wonderful opportunities the Centre offers, including educational classes, counselling, art, crafts, agriculture, music, football, and rugby. The children have been involved in football and rugby.



In February, Paula Cullen and her dedicated team arrived to spend two enriching weeks with our new recruits, laying the groundwork for the exciting year ahead. Throughout their stay, the children had the opportunity to engage closely with them, participating in various activities that fostered learning and growth. We deeply appreciate the unwavering support Paula and her team have provided the Centre, and we look forward to continuing this invaluable partnership.

Boys assembled in Calary Hall

Sponsorship Office

The Sponsorship Office was pleased to host a visit from the KWES Foundation. During this visit, Mr Jansen Sjors had the opportunity to meet several sponsored students and engage with them directly. This meeting allowed the students to share their school experiences and express their gratitude for the support they received. Mr Jansen encouraged the students to remain dedicated to their studies and to work hard to improve their academic performance. He emphasised the importance of taking advantage of the opportunity they have to build a better future for themselves. Additionally, Mr Jansen mentioned that the Foundation is considering the possibility of sponsoring more vulnerable students in the future.



Mr Sjors with some of the sponsored beneficiaries

In February, the Sponsorship Office enhanced communication with donors to support the 282 sponsored students continuing their studies and to review the sponsorship program's progress. Although there were fewer activities this month, they remained crucial to ensuring students receive the support they needed for their education. The Office also followed up on the processing of sponsorship funds to various schools. We ensured that all required documents were prepared and submitted to facilitate payments, thereby preventing disruptions to students' education. The donor report outlines sponsorship activities throughout the year, illustrates how their support has positively impacted students' lives amid the challenges they face, and suggests potential areas for improvement.

MPC Sponsorship Program for February 2026			
Educational Level	Male	Female	Total
Primary	53	12	65
Secondary	77	82	159
Tertiary	8	22	30
Vocational	1		1
Special Needs	14	13	27
Total	153	129	282

Social & Health Services

Social Services

February has become a month dedicated to prioritising both the physical health and uninterrupted education of our students. The Social and Health Service Department carried out 2,615 interventions in February. The composition of these interventions was 67% for children and families connected to the primary schools, with two-thirds from St Elizabeth Primary School. The Transformative Services comprised 20% of the interventions. Uniform aid was the biggest intervention for the month, with 816 pupils/students receiving assistance.



The networking between MPC and Micato Safaris continues to identify vulnerable children at risk. Micato also support children with school fees. At St Elizabeth, 500 children received full uniforms, including shoes and jumpers, and over 300 Sancta Maria children also received full uniforms.

Sancta Maria Pupils wear their new uniforms.

We are pleased to announce that our food supplies, including Amaranth flour for sick clients, especially babies, have been fully replenished, allowing us to maintain a consistent and reliable distribution to those who depend on the supplement to boost their immunity. This ensures that our clients receive essential nutritional support without interruption. Additionally, we procured and distributed essential hygiene materials to 296 girls, providing much-needed assistance to vulnerable students across all our schools. This comprehensive approach reinforces our commitment to creating a healthy and supportive learning environment for every student.



Food distribution at St Catherine's Social Office

The medical referrals to MIC numbered 206, with 55 of them from the Rehabilitation Centre, as the new cohort for 2026 all received a medical checkup.

Due to the low number of children and students enrolling in learning institutions, social workers closely examined the critical transition of primary pupils as they prepare to move to secondary school. Over 120 school profiles were compiled, and a comprehensive survey was conducted to gather insights and understand the challenges these young students face.

In response, we proactively contacted students who had not yet enrolled in high school, offering our support and resources to help them through this significant change. Our aim is



to ensure that every child in Mukuru has the opportunity to access quality education and succeed in their academic journey. With the new education system, some students have chosen the 'sports' pathway; however, there are very few schools in Nairobi that offer this option. MPC is currently seeking a suitable school for Dennis Karani, who has opted for the sports pathway that St. Michael's does not offer.

Dennis Karani, a former G9 student at St Bakhita, in his house in Masai village

Our detailed monthly data highlights a pressing need for specialised support designed for young parents. Currently, we are closely monitoring cases of teen pregnancies within our network, and the results are concerning. Alarmingly, none of the young primary caregivers in these cases has been able to re-engage with their education during this academic term. The main obstacle they face is the lack of accessible and reliable childcare options. Without a secure place to leave their children during the day, these dedicated students are effectively sidelined from their studies, despite their strong desire to return to the classroom. It is vital that we address this significant childcare gap; doing so is crucial to ensuring these young learners do not miss out on their opportunities and can build a brighter future.

At the Child Protection Office, we prioritise the needs of our most vulnerable students in our monthly activities. In February, we handled numerous new alleged abuse cases, including alarming instances of physical abuse, neglect, and emotional distress. A particularly urgent issue in resolving these cases is the glaring absence of emergency shelter options, especially for students who have turned 18 and can no longer access rescue centres. This significant gap in available safe and transitional housing severely limits our ability to provide the immediate, secure environments these young people desperately need to begin their recovery. Addressing this shortage of shelter remains our top priority.

In February, MIC achieved a significant milestone by treating 3,194 patients in just one calendar month, despite it being a shorter month. Notably, 55% of these cases involved paediatric patients, totaling 1,755 children and 1,865 laboratory tests, with 48% being for paediatric cases. As health needs continue to grow daily, MIC sees more families seeking care. Thanks to our partners, supporters, and well-wishers, MIC remains a reliable source of care, delivering essential services with dignity, efficiency, and compassion. For many families, challenges such as limited access to healthcare facilities, distance, cost, and long waiting times at public hospitals often delay necessary treatment. Thus, MIC plays a crucial role in providing affordable medical services right within the community.

The Maternal and Child Health Services continue to increase. The antenatal and postnatal treatments served 257 mothers with 125 free ultrasound scans conducted and 96 children immunised. Maternal health services remain one of the Clinic's most important priorities, with mothers receiving routine examinations, laboratory testing, counselling, and preventive care.

MIC remains committed to ensuring every mother completes her ANC visits and aims for zero children born with HIV. Regular antenatal monitoring helps clinicians detect potential issues early and implement necessary interventions to protect both the mother and the baby. Due to the high number of patients, many mothers spend hours waiting for services. To make these waits more comfortable, one potential solution is to provide simple nutritional support, such as porridge or hot chocolate, to help mothers maintain stable energy levels while they wait.

Post-natal care services remain vital for supporting the health of mothers and newborns. Community health promoters work closely with clinic staff to trace mothers within the community and promote attendance at both antenatal and postnatal appointments.

Nurse Evelyne delivers a health talk to pregnant mothers.



Limited access to diagnostic imaging often impacts families in informal settlements due to high costs and long travel distances. MIC's free ultrasound services, provided by the Pablo Horstmann Foundation, are crucial for supporting early diagnosis and better clinical decisions. In paediatric cases, ultrasound helps clinicians identify internal abnormalities early, enabling quick referrals and treatment. Detecting tumors and internal issues early allows families to seek specialised care before conditions worsen. By offering diagnostic imaging within the community, the clinic helps remove financial and logistical barriers that can delay vital diagnoses for vulnerable families.

MIC had the pleasure of hosting paediatric cardiologist Dr Francesca Perin, who supported the assessment of patients with heart conditions. Patients were evaluated both clinically and via echocardiography to improve diagnosis and management. Additionally, Dr Perin trained our clinical officers in echocardiography, enhancing their diagnostic skills. Overall, 17 patients benefited from these specialised cardiology services.



Dr Perin evaluates a patient

The immunisation program has boosted the number of children vaccinated, bringing the dropout rate below 5%. MIC is actively encouraging the uptake of newly introduced vaccines, including the Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) and Typhoid vaccines. Expanding coverage for these vaccines is especially important in densely populated informal settlements where disease outbreaks can spread quickly. Better immunisation coverage helps strengthen herd immunity in the community and boosts caregiver confidence in the vaccination program.

The program experienced temporary disruptions following government-led demolitions in nearby slum villages such as Mariguini, which displaced several families further away from MIC. As communities gradually resettle, staff, along with community health promoters, are working to reconnect with affected families to ensure that children complete their immunisation schedules.

Tuberculosis continues to pose a serious public health threat. In February, MIC received several visits from Ministry of Health teams to assess progress in early TB detection and paediatric contact tracing. To strengthen community-based screening and improve case identification among children, community health workers remain central to this effort. Through active case finding, household screening, and hotspot mapping, they continue to identify individuals at risk and connect them to care. MIC remains committed to maintaining 95% treatment retention among TB patients through enhanced follow-up systems and adherence support. Additionally, our clinician attended a three-day training on updated Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy (TPT), which introduced a weekly dispersible preventive treatment regimen for children, administered over a three-month period. This new approach significantly enhances paediatric care despite environmental challenges



posed by overcrowded housing; the clinic remains dedicated to reaching every household with TB prevention and screening services.

MoH TB training at Casino

The Continuous Medical Education (CME) sessions were scheduled for February to ensure ongoing professional development for the medical staff. This month, the program covered

- Use and interpretation of C-reactive protein and inflammatory markers
- Infection prevention practices in clinical settings
- Pediatric tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment
- Drug-resistant TB and TB/HIV co-infection
- Preventive TB treatment
- Diagnosis and management of pediatric lymphadenopathy
- Pediatric meningitis diagnosis and treatment

These sessions enhance clinical decision-making and ensure that clinicians stay well-informed to manage complex medical conditions effectively.



Dr Javier Bernabeu conducts CME

The rapid increase in patient numbers has considerably raised the laboratory workload. The laboratory now depends on a single laboratory technologist, supported by a locum technician who assists twice weekly to manage demand. During the MOH supervision, government regulations mandate that laboratory results be verified and certified by two qualified laboratory professionals. This requirement guarantees quality assurance and patient safety, but also emphasises the urgent need for additional laboratory staff. MIC recently engaged with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) as part of ongoing compliance efforts following the addition of new diagnostic equipment. As services expand, meeting regulatory standards will necessitate investment in staffing, documentation systems, and operational capacity. Securing these resources is therefore critical. MIC is registered as a 'mission' clinic with the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC), and we do not charge the fees that private clinics typically charge. MIC's focus is to ensure that the Mukuru community has access to affordable health care. We will continue to advocate our case to the Medical and Pharmacist Board of Kenya.

MIC benefited from the support of a volunteer nurse specialising in chronic wound care. Many patients seeking wound management services come from highly vulnerable backgrounds, including those living on the streets or from public hospitals, where patients are often required to buy their own supplies. Having an experienced wound specialist helps prevent complications for patients.

Also, MIC's medical social worker identifies cases through home-based health care outreach. This month, a mother was identified as needing physiotherapy and recognised the need for adult diapers for a bedridden patient. Supplying these would greatly enhance the patient's dignity, hygiene, and infection control. Physio support, Boniface Okoro Ogega, provides home-based physiotherapy for some MIC clients. One of the patients is a 54-year-old individual with hypertension, under care since 2024.



Boniface on a home visit

Within the narrow pathways of informal settlements and the crowded neighbourhoods often overlooked by larger health systems, MIC continues to bridge the gap between vulnerability and care. With ongoing partnership and support, we hope MIC's impact will continue to grow.

A nnouncements

Activities outside the Departments

The newsletter includes sections dedicated to each Department that summarise the events that occurred throughout the month. The Head Office supports these Departments in reaching their goals. Additionally, there are often other activities and events that take place that are not specifically listed under any Department.

- There was a visit from Manos Unidas officials to discuss the newly proposed project for economic empowerment for the mothers of malnourished children.



Manos Unidas meeting with MPC management

- On February 19th and 20th, a two-day seminar for DKA partners, including HODs, was conducted to explore the project cycle and proposal writing. Mercy Chege from the DKA Kenya office facilitated the session. The training aimed to enhance project managers' understanding of core project management principles and key aspects of project development.



Training workshop in Project Cycle

- Meetings were held with HODs to review overall progress and activities against the MPC's strategic plan, which will conclude in 2026.
- Head Office continued to engage with partners and relevant stakeholders to ensure that organisational initiatives remained responsive.

Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step by Step

Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy

Journeying over 40 Years with the Mukuru Community



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