

A.C.K. ST. STEPHEN'S CHILDREN'S HOME

"We Love and Care"

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2015 PROGRESS REPORT

This report covers the progress of the Home for the year 2015 from January to December.

Areas covered in the report are:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Programs:**
 - i. Institutional Care (Resident) Program
 - a. Admission
 - b. Education
 - c. Repatriation & Follow Up
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1. INTRODUCTION

2015 has been a year full of changes. We said goodbye to our founding manager and our accountant and welcomed our new manager, administrative assistant, and accountant.

We would like to acknowledge and appreciate the support accorded to us through these changes. We are grateful to our sponsors, friends, and community partners and above all to God, who has faithfully given us His favour, peace, and love. It is our prayer that He will continue to guide us as we take care of His children.

We believe that every child is a gift and should be afforded every opportunity to succeed in life. Our main objective at the Home therefore, is to facilitate the success of street and orphaned children through rehabilitation, education, and spiritual guidance in a healthy, caring, and loving environment.

We presently have ninety-nine (99) children: fifty-nine (59) children in the Resident program and forty (40) in the Family Support program.

2. PROGRAMS

The Home runs two programs:

- i. Institutional Care (Resident) Program
- ii. Family Support Program.

i. Institutional Care Program

Under this program, children's education levels are assessed by our teachers and assisted to enrol in schools. During this process they undergo counselling and are provided with basic needs such as: food, clothing, shelter, health care, and protection. Most of these children are then gradually repatriated with their families. Unfortunately, not all children have responsible relatives, and thus some children remain in this program. There are fifty-nine (59) children (24 boys and 35 girls) in this program.

The following is covered under this program:

a) Admission

This year we had fourteen (14) new admissions. Five (5) of them were referred to the Home by the District Children's Office. Some reasons that necessitated these referrals were incarceration of parents and negligence.

b) Education

Two (2) candidates, in this program, sat for their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (K.C.P.E.) in 2014 and joined secondary schools in 2015:

NAME	K.C.P.E. MARKS	SECONDARY SCHOOLS JOINED
Simon Gitari	321	Nyangwa Boys Secondary School
Juma Nzioki	302	Kanyuambora Secondary Boys

One (1) candidate, in this program, sat for Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E.) in 2014. His results were released in 2015:

NAME	K.C.S.E. GRADE	COLLEGE JOINED
Joseph Njoroge	C-	To pursue diploma in community development in 2016

In November 2015, four candidates, in this program, undertook their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (K.C.P.E.) exams:

1. Joshua Munene
2. Jemimah Wawira
3. Alice Njambi

We are waiting for their results to be released later this year.

One (1) student sat for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E.) exams:

1. EUNICE WAWIRA

Her results will be announced in 2016

c) Repatriation and follow up

Our achievement as an institution is marked by the successful integration of the children in the Residents program back in the community. We are currently in the process of repatriation before the New Year.

ii) Family Support Program

Admission into this program is twofold:

- ✓ Repatriated children are placed in the Family Support program. This is done following a series of home visits by the Social Worker, then supervised visitation by the child with his family, and subsequent enrolment of the child in a nearby school. Home visits are then carried out to ensure adaptability.

- ✓ Identification of needy children living with their families. The Home then provides the family with support to ensure they develop independence and become self-reliant. This is done by connecting them to available resources and educating them on budgeting and healthy living. The Home ensures the children are enrolled in school

During the April holidays, children in this program are invited to the Home for a week where they access guidance and counselling programs, tutoring and get the opportunity to share any concerns they might be facing.

We have got forty (40) children (16 boys and 24 girls) in this program.

The following is covered under this program:

a) Education

Two (2) children, from this program, sat for their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (K.C.P.E.) exams in 2014 and were enrolled in the following secondary schools:

NAME	K.C.P.E. MARKS	SECONDARY SCHOOL JOINED
Rehema Gakenia	230	St. John's Kianjuki High
Joyce Mwendu	316	Mayori Secondary

Six (6) children sat for their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E.) exams:

NAME	K.C.S.E. GRADE	COLLEGE JOINED
Margaret Wangari	B-	Embu University- Bachelor Of Education
Ann Wakio	B-	Laikipia University- Bachelor Of Education
Edwin Muriithi	C+	Kirinyaga- Computer Studies
Martin Mugendi	C-	To Enrol In College In 2016
Appophia Waithera	C-	To Enrol In College In 2016
Stephen Murimi	D+	To Enrol In College In 2016

This year we had two (2) candidates, in this program, who sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (K.C.P.E.):

1. Eric Murimi
2. Faith Nyaguthii

We also had one (1) child who sat for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E.):

1. Antony Mutegi

3. ACADEMIC REPORT

If our children are to be successful in life, education is vital in their rehabilitation. The Home ensures that all children are enrolled in school. The following is a breakdown of our children's classes:

Class/Form	Number of children
Nursery	10
Primary	52
Secondary	19
College/ university	7
Awaiting enrolment or exam results	11
Total number of children	99

4. STAFF MEMBERS

The Home currently has fourteen (14) members of staff:

- I. Manager
- II. Administrative assistant /Chaplain
- III. Accountant
- IV. Social Worker
- V. Matron/Housemother
- VI. Teachers (2)
- VII. Cook
- VIII. Secretary
- IX. Driver/Housefather
- X. Carpenter
- XI. Compound cleaner
- XII. Care Taker
- XIII. Farm attendant

The clinic has five (5) staff members:

- I. Clinical Officer
- II. Nurse
- III. Lab Technician
- IV. Attendant/cleaner
- V. Watchman

5. **PROJECTS**

Several projects are undertaken by the Home in our continuing endeavour to be self-sufficient.

These projects are also used as learning tools for our children. They include:

✓ **Nursery School**

In addition to being a platform for accessing new children's educational abilities, the nursery school is also open to the communities, who bring their children in and pay a subsidized fee.

The nursery school had twenty-two (22) children: ten (10) from the Home and twelve (12) from the community.

✓ **Clinic**

The clinic has now been operational for five (5) years. The clinic staff has established good rapport with the community members thereby increasing their consultation numbers. The clinic also employs a former resident of the Home, who is trained as a Clinical Officer.

✓ **Workshops & Salon**

The Home operates a carpentry workshop and a hairdressing salon. As well as offering services to the community and providing income for the Home, they also function as training facilities for our children on weekends and school holidays and look after many of the Home's repair and maintenance requirements.

✓ **Posho Mill**

The posho mill provides grain-grinding services to both the Home and the surrounding community.

✓ **Farms**

The Home operates a farm with cows, pigs, goats, chickens and rabbits. In addition, two other properties are cultivated with food crops for use by the Home. All these operations are used to

reduce the operating costs of the Home, as well as give the children valuable training in crop growing and animal husbandry. These skills are very useful to them when they are repatriated.

✓ **Hostel & Dining Hall**

The hostel offers comfortable, reasonably priced, self-contained, accommodation to sponsors who are visiting their sponsored children, as well as seminars and meetings of the A.C.K church. The Home's dining hall is also rented out for weddings and other large functions.

✓ **Curio Shop**

During weekends and school holidays, craft classes are provided for the children and the items made by them are sold in our curio shop.

6. TRIUMPHS

In 2015 we celebrated the following:

- ✓ From December 26th to 31st, 2014 the Home celebrated its 20th anniversary. Our newly consecrated Diocesan Bishop: The Rt. Rev. David Muriithi Ileri, together with the local community, and a large group of UK partners attended the occasion. During the festivities, the newly completed second storey of our staff houses was officially opened and dedicated.
- ✓ Two of our children: Lydia Karimi and Ann Wanjiku graduated from the Kenya Medical Training College on December 03, 2015 with a Diploma in Clinical Medicine. This has been a long journey for them and we thank the Lord for their achievements.
- ✓ The successful progression of our children from one class to another in their education.
- ✓ The smooth transition of new staff members in their roles.
- ✓ Successful enrolment of our children into different public schools.

7. CHALLENGES FACED

Problems encountered include:

- ✓ Public teachers' strikes throughout the year disrupted learning progress as the children were sent home during these occasions. For some of our children who struggle with schoolwork, this had a considerable negative impact on their school grades.
- ✓ Unsupportive parents and guardians, leading to delayed repatriation and in turn, long rehabilitation periods, which jeopardizes their successful reintegration with their families.
- ✓ Lack of capital to facilitate more admissions in our programs.

8. FUTURE PLANS

We have the following plans for the coming year:

- i. Completion of the electric wiring overhaul, thanks to our U.K. sponsors, which will eliminate power outages and also reduce our electricity bills.
- ii. Intensify our home visits and work towards repatriating our children to reduce the problem of children becoming "institutionalised".
- iii. Undertake additional tutoring sessions, especially for children who have learning difficulties, to ensure their success in school.
- iv. Increase our advertisements for the clinic, by carrying out more mobile clinics, to ensure solvency and self-sufficiency in its operations.

The Board of Management, staff, and children of St. Stephens wish you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous 2016.

Please do visit when you get the opportunity and see our work with the children.

God bless you.