

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

"We Love and Care"

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2018 PROGRESS REPORT

The following report covers the progress of the Home for the year 2018.

Areas covered in the report are:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Programs:**
 - i. Institutional Care (Resident) Program
 - a. Admission
 - b. Education
 - c. Repatriation & Follow Up
 - ii. Family Support Program
- 3. Academic report**
- 4. Triumphs**
- 5. Challenges faced**
- 6. Future plans**

1. INTRODUCTION

2018 has been another fulfilling year at St. Stephen's as we continue to rehabilitate, educate and hopefully extend the life expectancy of the vulnerable children of Embu district. With your invaluable assistance, we have successfully changed the lives of a multitude of children, who would otherwise have faced poverty, despair and, ultimately, a much too early demise, into educated, productive, contributing members of their community. Children, who spent their days roaming in the streets and living in the back alleys, with little or no hope of anything better, have now grown up to become nurses, secretaries, architects, teachers, agriculture specialists, carpenters, mechanics, welders, and an assortment of other skilled workers; adults, who are not only self-supporting, but also support the economy of their community.

Sadly, there is no end in sight for the need of places like St. Stephen's, so we pray that you will continue to support our ministry, so we may continue our work of:

"Giving God's Children a Chance"

At the present time, the home provides for the needs of ninety (90) children, sixty-eight (68) in the Resident Program and twenty-two (22) in the Family Support Program.

2. PROGRAMS

The Home has two programs:

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

i. Institutional Care (Resident) Program

Almost every child is enrolled in this program before being admitted to various schools for rehabilitation. Children in this program are provided with the basic needs of: food, clothing, shelter, education, and health care, as well as loving care and protection.

a) Admission.

From the beginning of this year, we had four new admissions; of these admissions, some were children whose parents had passed away, or who were deemed mentally unfit to care for them. So far, we have managed to do seven home visits.

b) Education.

Education in local schools helps our children interact with other children from the community. Every new child must be introduced to formal education. We also teach life skills and do guidance and counselling. The children are also taught farming skills and craft work.

3. ACADEMIC REPORT

Last year (2017) nine (9) students from the Resident Program sat for their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (K.C.P.E.). The results and the schools they were admitted to are indicated below.

NAME	MARKS	SCHOOL
Rosaline Kagendo	300	St. Anne's Kiriari
Triza Njoki	250	St. Agnes Kiaganari
Caroline Mwende	250	St. Agnes Kiaganari

Humphrey Kimani	387	Moi Mbiruri
Dennis Kimathi	214	St. Joseph Wachoro
Eric Mwangi	347	Nguvui Boys
Kelvin Murimi	370	Moi Mbiruri
Silas Macharia	186	Kathunguri Secondary
Christine Mukami	189	St. Magdalene -Thigingi

This year (2018) we had three (3) candidates who sat for their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education.

NAME	MARKS	SCHOOL
Kennedy Kiganya	283	Kirimari Sec Sch
Barbix Maina	384	Moi Mbiruri High
Daniel Kamau	176	County Mixed Day Sch

The following candidates will be sitting for their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education: 2018

- Juma Nzioki
- Simon Gitari
- Joyce Mwende
- Titus Mbugua

c) Repatriation and follow up.

This year, we have been able to repatriate two boys and three girls from the Residential Program to the Family Support Program. We are still hopping to repatriate more children by the beginning of January.

ii. Family Support Program

a) Education

Last year 2017 we had a total of three (3) students who sat for their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E) exams:

NAME	GRADE
Patience Wanjiku	D
Joyce Mawia	D
Madeline Karimi	D

This year we had two (2) candidates sitting for their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education:

NAME	MARKS	SCHOOL
Philip Rogers Mugambi	376	Chavakali High
Faith Joy Ngatha	321	Mayori Sec Sch

We also have two (2) girls sitting for their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education: 2018

- Rehema Gakenia
- Fiolena Wanjiru
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4. TRIUMPHS

The following is the breakdown of our children's education status in both programs:

CLASS/FORM	NO. OF STUDENTS
SECONDARY SCHOOL	
Form 1	11
Form 2	7
Form 3	4
Form 4	6
TOTAL	28
PRIMARY SCHOOL	
Class 1	6
Class 2	9
Class 3	4
Class 4	5
Class 5	6
Class 6	6
Class 7	7
Class 8	5
Nursery	2

TOTAL	50
HIGHER EDUCATION	NO. OF STUDENTS
University	7
College	5
TOTAL	12

5. CHALLENGES FACED

- Unsupportive parents, relatives, and guardians, which leads to delayed repatriation.

6. FUTURE PLANS

- Undertake additional tutoring sessions, especially for children who have learning difficulties, to ensure their success.
- Intensify our home visits and work towards repatriating our children to reduce the length of time they spend in the institution and thereby create room for more children to be admitted to start their rehabilitation journey.
- Encourage parents, relatives and/or guardians to take responsibility for their children, since the children need parental love and guidance, as well as learning the life skills that a family home provides.

"We thank God for how far He has brought us"

FRIENDS, GROUPS AND INSTITUTIONS WHO VISITED THE HOME

This year we have been blessed with many visitors, both locally and internationally, in our Home. They have mentored, conducted counselling, and interacted with our children at different times. Others have been able to use our hostel facility for accommodation. The following is a list of some of the visitors we interacted with for different reasons and activities.

HOSTEL, DINING HALL AND CHAIRS PROJECT

1. On 29th -30th January We hosted the 23 Korean visitors in our hostel, as they conducted training for clergy in our diocese.
2. Fritz Dieter and his team of 5 from Germany came on a friendly visit from 8th – 10th February and used our hostel for accommodation.

3. On 15th February, Friends from England (a couple) came and donated t-shirts and writing materials to our children.
4. From 29th September to 1st October, Kenya Brethren Team, (10 people) were hosted for 3 nights .
5. From 29th July to 4th August, there was a retreat for ordinards and they used our facilities.

VISITORS

1. On 2nd March, the Diocese of Chelmsford: Two Bishops and their Archdeacons visited the home. Encouraged the children to realize that they are loved by God. The Bishops together with our Diocesan Bishop planted commemorative trees in the Home. The fellowship was crowned by dinning together with all the children in the institution and the senior clergy in the Diocese.
2. On 19th March, the ELCT (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania) 25 Mama Bishops from the whole province visited the institution as part of their ministry in our Diocese.
3. On 21st April, youth of Diaspora Kathangariri Catholic Church, came to interact with our children, cooking and eating together with them.
4. On 5th June, the National Cereals Board team of 12 people came.
5. On 16th June, the nominated MCA Hon. Sicily Warue (Wamaviriri) and a large team from the county came for a visit.
6. On 26th June, the Joy Bringers from Full Gospel Church, Embu, 30 people.
7. On 10th August, the director, manager and the staff members from Jumbo Nuts, Kamiu, visited the children for social responsibility.
8. On 24th September, Nawiri Sacco: CEO, Chairman and his team. The branch manager and operation manager came to facilitate social corporate responsibility.
9. On 16th October, seven Curates from the Diocese of Chelmsford visited the children.
10. On 27th October, A team of 200 University of Embu students came for a “**Feed A Child Campaign**”. They fed the children, did the cleaning-up and shared motivational talks and entertainment for the whole day. It was a day well spent, with great interaction between the children and the university students.

DIOCESAN VISITORS

1. On 14th April, 80 KAMA department members attended. They brought foodstuff and money. We held a Holy Communion service, which was conducted by our Chaplain Rev. Benson

Njiru, assisted by the priests who were present at the service. The children were well nourished spiritually.

2. On 11th August 2018, Mother's Union department came to give their talents week activities. About 297 mothers came. They brought money, clothes and food stuff. We also had Holy Communion service celebrated by our urban dean Rev. Catherine Gicovi, and our chaplain Rev. Benson gave a very inspiring and encouraging sermon to the members and children.
3. Deanery visits: the Home acknowledges that some of the Deaneries in our Diocese have been able to visit us, while others are scheduled to come.

Deaneries from our Diocese that visited the children at the Home

- i) Kiriari and Muchagori Deanery- 20/7/2018
- ii) Kanja and Ena Deanery – 8/9/2018
- iii) Rung'ganga and Kithimu Deanery- 22/9/2018
- iv) Kaugwiri and Kagumori- Deanery- 13/10/2018
- v) Kaithege and Kathunguri Deanery- 8/11/2018
- vi) Manyatta and Mukangu Deanery- 30/11/2018
- vii) Kangaroo and Kamiu Deanery- 15/12/2018

The board of management and the fraternity of St Stephen's appreciates all the groups, institutions and individuals who have generously supported us. They have not only sustained us physically, but spiritually, they have mentored our children and staff. May the good Lord continue to bless them abundantly.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES: JESSICA ALBERLE

The institution appreciates the voluntary services rendered by one of our friends, Jessica from Germany. She stayed from 12th August to 8th November and has been a great blessing to us all.

1. She bought a pair of leather school shoes for all our residential children.
2. Donated a washing machine.
3. Donated a dairy milking cow.
4. She bought 100 plates and spoons to be used when we have visitors.
5. She also supported rearing of chickens. Project to kick off by January 2019.
6. On 31st October, she facilitated a farewell party for all children and staff, to bid us goodbye.
7. She also left her guitar as gift to the children who love music.

She was a volunteer with a difference, very friendly, jovial and concerned about the welfare of the children. We wished her God's blessings.

CORPORATE SUPPORT

1. This year eight (8) children benefitted from the county ward bursaries. Two (2) from college got Ksh. 10,000 each and six (6) from secondary school received Ksh. 8,000 each.
2. The Department of Kenya Forestry donated 350 trees for planting at Gatondo farm. The trees were planted immediately after school closed.

OTHER HOME PROJECTS

POSHO MILL: It is doing well despite our frequent customer, the Terni hospital, having bought their own machine. But it remains useful to the institution and community at large.

GOWN SHOP: Most of our visitors who have come to the Home have been able to donate to our gown shop and this year we have been able to serve about six weddings. Other accessories have also been bought.

CURIO SHOP: It has also been doing well and this year it has brought some income to the home.

FARM: The acquisition of a second dairy milking cow has been a benefit to the institution. Children are able to get some milk to drink and the rest of the milk is sold to bring some income.

AMBULANCE: This year it has not done very well, as the hospital that uses it most of the time have bought their own ambulances to cater for their needs.

GATODO CLINIC: There is an increase in the number of clients. The staff are still working hard to advertise the clinic and also improve services.

CARPENTRY AND NURSERY SCHOOL: These two need some improvement. They have not been doing well.

APPRECIATION TO ALL OUR SPONSORS & DONORS

The A.C.K. Diocese of Embu, under whose auspices St. Stephen's Children's Home operates, notes, with a lot of gratitude, the work done by all our sponsors and donors and salutes them for their willingness to support the children in the Home. The board of management also sincerely appreciates the great support given by our sponsors from UK, Germany, and Canada. They have made the children, whom they support, feel loved and cared for, as they build their future. The support of education is very vital and it has boosted the knowledge and self-esteem of most of our children, who have been working diligently on their studies. We cannot forget the individual sponsors, who voluntarily support the Home for various needs and requirements. We also appreciate the Diocesan Christians, that is, mothers and fathers, who have been able to bring their harvests, clothing and other farm products to support the needs of our children. We wish all our friends, locally and internationally, God's richest blessings in all their endeavors. You have given generously to support the needy and vulnerable children in our Resident and Family Support Programs. May our good Lord abundantly bless each one of you.



"Wishing you a blessed and prosperous New Year 2019"