

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

*"We love and care"*

P.O. Box 1100 – 60100

Telephone: 0723456160

Embu, Kenya

E-mail: [ackststephenhome@gmail.com](mailto:ackststephenhome@gmail.com)

## **PROGRESS REPORT FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2020**

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Happy New Year to you all our friends.

A.C.K. St. Stephens's children's home was started in the year 1989. The home is tasked in caring for the needy and vulnerable children in the community by providing basic needs like food clothing, shelter, education, health, life skills, guidance and counselling and recreational activities and facilities.

There are two programs:

1. Residential or institutional care program

In this program the children stay in the home and all their needs are met by the institution.

2. Family support program

In the family support program the institution only meets the school fee and any other item that a child needs for school.

**The major core areas are;**

- Food and Nutrition
- Shelter
- Clothing
- Education
- Psychosocial support
- Health
- Child protection and care

**B. POPULATION** : Currently the home caters for the needs of 89 children 43 residents and 46 family support. The number of **boys** in residents being **18** and **girls 25** while in the family support we had **28 boys** and **18 girls**.

### **C. THE AREAS COVERED ARE AS FOLLOWS.**

#### ✓ New admission

We had seven new admissions in the home year 2020 that is four girls and three boys. The home is not able to admit a large number of children due to insufficient funds and also considering the capacity of the institution.

#### ✓ School visit

School visits provides an ideal opportunity to meet with the teachers and they help to discuss the progress of the child in school. One is also in a good position to know the behaviour of the child, the relationship of the child and other children.

The institution has been attending school meetings as from January to march. During this time all has been well most of the children performed well according to the last exam mid-term exam.

After covid-19 crises we have not been attending to any since the schools closed.

#### ✓ The covid-19 crises

The covid-19 has affected education globally and so that means our children were also not spared by the same. Due to schools closing unexpectedly our children were not able to sit for their end of term exam. After the schools closed also most of the children had to be realised to their guardians which was not very easy.

The institution managed to release at least more than half the number of the resident children and the rest are still at the home. Twenty five children went home that is ten boys and fifteen girls. Nineteen of our children were left in the institution and after a while the children's office department add three more girls bringing the total number to twenty two that is eleven girls and eleven boys.

During this period we had been trying to keep our children updated with the pandemic issues going on in a way they understand best. The institution staff had been also doing special talks and learning where they could in the best way possible. We also ensured that our children keep safe by following the government directives. During the normal time we have been having visitors coming to see the children and socialise with them, but at the moment we don't allow them to interact with the children. All this has not been easy but still the institution has to run.

### ✓ Repatriation and follow up

The final aim of the home is to reunite the children with their relatives. In repatriation we consider the following issues:

- Whether the environment where the child is going to stay whether is conducive for them.
- If the care givers of the child are in a position to provide the child with basic needs like shelter, clothing, food, health, care and protection.
- We also have to make sure that the care giver or guardian of the child is ready to stay with the child.
- We also ensure that the child is psychologically prepared before we take him or her home to the relatives.
- We make sure the child has been taken through guidance and counselling on the life skills especially on how to resist peer influence.
- After repatriation we ensure the follow up of the child is frequent.
- In the follow up it is our role and responsibility to give a hearing ear to the children in case they are facing challenges.
- The home must also continue to support the children's education and also help with other basic needs when need arises.

The year 2020 we have managed to repatriate eight children among them being six boys and two girls. These Seven are the children who joined secondary schools in form one. This is also a requirement from the government through children's department that children should be encouraged to reunite with their relatives to avoid overgrowing children in the institutions.

It our pray that by the end of this year we will be able to repatriate more children and be able to create even more space for other needy children.

### ✓ Home visits

As from January to march we carried out some few home visit. When the schools where closed due to covid-19 we had to take an extra mile and carry out all the home visits. In our schedule only three homes were left unattended and one house hold where we were not able to find the child. During the home visits we took food stuffs to them depending on what we had in our stores. Most of the parents and children were happy despite the long spent time for that holiday at home.

We also did follow up using mobile phone once in a while. We thank God that the children were doing well back at home apart from a few families that couldn't afford to make ends meets but the institution had a way to cheap in and help where it could.

✓ Education

Education provides children with a platform to learn and in turn equip them with skills that help them improve their quality of life. At the institution we offer:

- Guidance and counselling.
  - We also offer life skills like food preparations, farming skills and craft skills.
  - We also enlighten the children on their rights.
- A) Below are those who sat for their Kenya certificate of primary Education in the year 2019 and the school they joined in 2020.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>KCPE MARKS / PRIMARY SCHOOL</b>	<b>SCHOOL ADMITTED TO</b>
Timothy Mugoh	404- Kamuthatha boarding	Kapsabet boys (National sch)
Brian Mwenda	348- Emmanuel pri sch	Nyangwa boys
Elizabeth Njoki	324- kamiu pri sch	Kyeni girls
Kenneth Macahria	324- kamiu pri sch	Kangaru sch
Lilian Wambui	305- Emmanuel pri sch	Nthagaiya girls
David Muchiri	258- Emmanuel pri sch	Kanyuambora sec sch
Victor Mutugi	189- kamiu pri sch	Kiriari day sch

- B) We also had three candidates who sat for their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education and the results are as shown below. At the moment these students have not joined any college, but we hoping they will join year 2021.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>GRADE ATTAINED</b>
Joshua Munene	Kangaru	C-
Jemimah Wawira	Kiangima girls sec sch	D+
Eric Murimi	St James Kegonge	D+

- C) This year 2021, we have got seven children in class eight and below are their names:

- ✓ Caroline Wanjiku
- ✓ Lucy Nyambura
- ✓ Helen Wanja
- ✓ Paul Muchira
- ✓ Faith Kathi
- ✓ Mary Waithera
- ✓ Brian Mutugi

D) We also have got seven form four candidates for year 2021. They are:

- ✓ Norman Waweru
- ✓ Martin Kariuki
- ✓ Ely Joy Mwendu
- ✓ David Muriithi
- ✓ Nancy Kagendo
- ✓ Alice Ngonyo
- ✓ Marion Mwikali

E) Below is another table for those children who have completed their courses from different institutions.

NAME	INSTITUTION	COURSE
Joyce Mawia	Vera Beauty College	Beads And Accessories
Ann Wakio	Embu University	Bachelor Of Education

It's our prayer that for the years they have been in school they will shine.

#### **F) NEW SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Due to the covid- 19 pandemic our national school calendar has now changed. All the school learners are back to school but in different term dates. Year 2020 October all the candidates in form four and standard eight opened school for their second term together with grade four. The college and university students were also not left out in the program of re-opening.

All other classes opened on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for their second term while the candidates and grade four are in their term three. Therefore according to the school term dates no child will repeat their classes because of covid-19 crises. I have here by attached the tabulated term dates school calendar for your reference.

✓ Health

The children's health is a priority for the successful running of the institution. Besides seeking medical attention when illnesses occur, we ensure the children have a healthy well-balanced diet and also take preventive measures to safeguard the children's wellbeing. Every new child being admitted in the home must also go through the following:

- Ensure he or she is given HEPATITIS B immunization and follow up done.
- Ensure they go for an HIV-test and again follow up is done.
- We also do guidance and counselling which is part of their mental health.

We also do deworming to all our children regularly and have health talks especially on personal hygiene and development growth.

✓ ACHIEVEMENTS

The achievement of the home is measured by the successful progression of our children in their education. The following is a breakdown of our children's education progress:

<b>Class/form</b>	<b>No. Of children</b>
<b>Secondary school</b>	
Form 1	8
Form 2	7
Form 3	5
Form4	7
Completed form 4 and waiting to join college	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Primary school</b>	
Class 1	0
Class 2	1
Class 3	7
Class 4	10
Class 5	5

Class 6	4
Class 7	9
Class 8	7
Nursery	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Higher education</b>	<b>No. Of children</b>
University /college	8
Completed	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

It is our duty to see to it that there is:

- Successful repatriation and follow up and seeing that previous repatriated children are adjusting well.
- Successful transformation of our children from their past.
- We educate our children on drugs and substance abuse.
- Proper health training on covid-19 and the measures that should be taken to ensure our safety.

#### **D. ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE**

In the year 2020, we were blessed with fewer visitors unlike other years but still we thank God for this far his Grace and favour has been sufficient on us. We are very grateful to the people who visited us since they played a big role of mentorship, gave our children guidance and counselling, they also interacted and shared motivational speeches with the kids.

On 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020 we were able to have the institution thanks giving at A.C.K St. Stephens's church- Majimbo. The day was a success and we thank the almighty God.

Below is a list of some of the visitors we interacted with both locally and internationally:

- ✓ We had families from within Embu and outside Embu County. Among them all, the Daniel's family from Ishiara, made it possible for us to celebrate Christmas.

They joined us with all their extended families and we feasted together. We really appreciate all for the great time we shared.

- ✓ We also had different institutions visiting us and among them were:
  - St. Anne's girls Kiriari Girls.
  - Embu County Government.
  - Member of Parliament Embu County.
  - Kangaru School.
  - ICPAK- Association and EWASCO.
  - Embu Prison.
  - University of Embu.
- ✓ We also had other organizations and business partners and among them were:
  - Fancy Multipurpose bar soap by Wanjelima Enterprises.
  - Bimas Sacco.
  - Mathai supermarket.
  - S.N. Patel Business people in Embu Town.
  - Golden Hearts Foundation.
  - Coffee Management Service.
  - Jumbo Nuts- kamiu
- ✓ There were also various churches who visited the children among the were:
  - A.C.K St. Marks Kanothi.
  - P.C.E.A –Embu Town.
  - Sacred Heart of Jesus Muthatari.
  - A.C.K Rutune Church.
  - Hope of Faith Church Kianjokoma.
  - St. Felician Sisters.
  - ACK Diocesan Mothers Union
  - ACK Diocesan KAMA.

In the year 2020, unlike other years, we were not able to take children and staff for a trip or workshops due to the covid-19 crises.

### **E. HOME PROJECTS**

These projects are another source of income to the home for sustainability. Year 2020 was very challenging because not much income has been achieved through these projects, so they have not done well.

- i. Dining hall and chairs: The year 2020 we were not been able to hire out the chairs and dining hall. Hosting of any visitor due to covid-19 was prohibited.
- ii. Hostel: Again at the hostel we were not able to host any visitors after the pandemic but before then we had hosted the following people:

- **Fritz Dieter-** He is our friend from Germany. He is always committed to visit us every year and a great supporter of the St Stephen's home. He visited children in the month of February 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 2020.
- **Lee and Linda Hearn's** - A couple from Canada had visited the home from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The purpose of their visit was to monitor and assess the progress of all Canada projects funded by the Great Commission Foundation from Canada and in particular the construction of the children library.
- **Jessica and a Friend-** They visited the children from 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March. Their stay was interrupted by the pandemic and so they had to fly back to Germany before their time lapsed. The management found out that they were insecure here in Kenya due to pandemic crises. We thank God they arrived safely.
- iii. **Gown shop:** The gown shop is doing well we are still hiring out the gowns. The other accessories are still being purchased and now we are planning on how to add more items depending on the market.
- iv. **Curio shop:** The curio shop is doing fairly well and planning on how to purchase more items also depending on the market.
- v. **Farm:** The farm is doing quite well we have two calves now one female the other a male. The two pigs produced piglets and we are selling out in order to get income to feed the others. The poultry farming is doing well though there has been challenges due to sickness of the young chicks.
- vi. **Nursery:** The nursery school was affected by the covid-19 pandemic last year like any other school. We trust God that this coming year we shall have a good number of children.
- vii. **Business centre:** The business centres both at Gatondo and around the home did quite well over the year 2020 and we are hoping even year 2021 we shall have other rooms occupied by tenants.
- viii. **Gatondo clinic:** The clinic is running fairly well and hoping the best is year 2021.
- ix. **Ambulance:** The ambulance has not been doing well year 2020 hopping for the best.

## **F. CHALLENGES FACED**

- At the moment due to the covid-19 pandemic the institution has no enough funds. The institution did not receive local donations as before (food stuffs, clothing, and monies).
- Parents/guardians of the children are not cooperative this has been noted by some of the relatives not taking their roles of discouraging children from seeking casual labours since this is counted as child abuse.
- The girls dormitory seems squeezed and the cases of girls going high so we receive more girls frequently in the institution forcing some of them to share beds.

## **G. FUTURE PLANS**

- This year we are planning to hold some training from different topics such as forms of child abuse and their effects and also tackle on the peer pressure and its effects.
- Our children also need to be encouraged on how to avoid dependency all the times.
- The home is also planning to hold a staff workshop to ensure they know the different rights of children and also to enlighten them on the handling of such children.
- We are planning to come up with other activities that the children can engage in like clubs, revive the scout organization and workshops for children.
- Look for new ways to look for funds e.g. by selling our farm products, more business centres.
- Have parents/guardian workshops once a term and encourage them to take responsibility of the children which has been a big struggle at times.

## **APPRECIATION TO ALL OUR SPONSORS**

The ACK diocese of Embu and the appointed board of management, most sincerely appreciates the great support and commitment given by all our sponsors and donors to the needy and vulnerable children in our institution. We are humbled by their selfless love and willingness to freely give funds in support to these needy children. We greatly acknowledge the continued financial support given in the year 2020 by our sponsors from UK partners, Canada (TGCF), and Germany groups despite the great pandemic of covid-19 globally. We cannot also forget the individual sponsorship from Mrs Susan Korte, Rev Stefan schwarzer, Rev Johannes Beyerhause and Fritz Dieter.

The support of education to our children is very vital because it has boosted the knowledge and self-esteem of most of our children. Those that have taken the opportunity with seriousness have excelled quite well and attained a great future ahead of them. It is out of this support the home has produced professionals like: engineers, teachers, medical clinicians, social workers, Hotel workers and other experts in life skill courses.

We also appreciate the diocesan clergy who coordinate Christians to bring food stuff and clothing to our children. They also give spiritual services to them as well as preparing them for baptism and confirmations. Mothers Union and Fathers in the diocese also sacrificed their time to come and visit the children even when it was very difficult due to covid-19 pandemic.

We appreciate all our friends locally and internationally for the generous contribution to the smooth running of St. Stephens's children home. God bless you abundantly in the New Year 2021.

**Report compiled by: Rev Mercy Muriithi ----- Home Manager**