

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

“We Love and Care”

P.O. Box 1100 – 60100

Telephone: 0723- 456160

Embu, Kenya

E-mail: ackststephenhome@gmail.com

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2021

A. INTRODUCTION

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 facilities. The home also embarks in bringing up a holistic child. Thus,

The home is founded on **the mandate** of being a church based, charitable institution dedicated to serve the needy and vulnerable children through nurturing them to become sustainable in life.

The **vision** is to have a sustainable home that nurtures a God fearing person with the requisite integrity and able to positively cope with the world challenges.

The **mission** of the home is to facilitate the rehabilitation, care and protection of needy and vulnerable children through provision of basic needs in a Godly, healthy, caring and loving environment.

Therefore, focusing on the mandate, vision and mission, the home operates with two programs that gives the children an opportunity to develop mentally, emotionally, spiritually, economically, socially and physically. The programs are:

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 home also provides food items in very extreme cases.

B. POPULATION

Currently the home caters for the needs of 90 children 44 residents and 46 family support. The number of **boys** in residents being **21** and **girls 23** while in the family support we had **24 boys** and **22 girls**.

C. THE AREAS COVERED ARE AS FOLLOWS.

✓ New admission

We had nine new admissions in the home year 2021 that is six girls and three boys. Among them we have been able to reintegrate three girls. The home is not able to admit a large number of children due to insufficient funds and also considering the capacity of the institution. The home also has its own criteria for admission in consultation with the county children department office.

✓ School visits

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.

As the institution we have been attending school meetings and academic clinics. During this time all has been well such that most of the children performed well according to the last exam mid-term and end term results.

✓ The Covid-19 crises

We really appreciate the far God has brought us as a family of St. Stephen. None of us has been effected directly by covid- 19 and we have every reason to tell our Almighty God thank you.

We also thank God that all our children are in school and our teachers in various learning institutions helping us by making sure our children observed the covid-19 measures.

At the institution we also provide the necessary requirements needed for to our children and also make sure the children eat a well-balanced diet. Our children also get the best medical services at our clinic and in cases where we need special treatment we consult the specialists.

✓ Repatriation and follow up

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

- Ensure the child appreciates the family they come from and the importance of being in a family set up.
- The environment where the child is going to stay must be conducive for them.
- The care givers of the child whether they can provide the child with basic needs shelter, clothing, food, health, care and protection.
- Make sure that the care giver or guardian of the child is ready to stay with the child.

- Ensure that the child is psychologically prepared before we take him or her home.
- Make sure the child has been take through guidance and counselling about life skills e.g. how to resist peer influence.
- After repatriation we ensure the follow up of the child is done frequently.
- Give a hearing ear to the child in case they are facing challenges.
- The home must also continue to support the education and provide other basic needs where need arises.

In the year 2021 we have managed to repatriate six children among them being one boy and five girls. Among them one was readmitted back and we are still finding the way forward.

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

✓ **Home visits**

This year we have carried out various home visits though not many. This is because most of our children have been in the institution due to the short holiday breaks of only one week. We considered children remaining in the institution instead of going to their guardians. Therefore much of the visits have been done in schools.

We also did much the follow up for the family support children and where need be, we visited their homes to talk to them and their guardians as well as delivering foodstuffs to them.

✓ **Education**

All our children are entitled to quality education and we make sure they attend school and follow up is done. Education provides children with a platform to learn and in turn equip them with skills that help them improve their standard of life. However education is an integral element in the rehabilitation process.

- I) Below are those who sat for their Kenya certificate of primary examination year 2020/2021 and the schools they joined in 2021.

NAME	KCPE MARKS / PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDED	SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMITTED TO 2021
Paul Muchira	291- Emmanuel pri sch	King David Kamama Boys
Lucy Nyambura	253- Kamuthatha pri sch	Embu county Secondary School
Hellen Wanja	252- Emmanuel pri sch	St Catherine Nthagaiya girls
Mary Waithira	234- kamiu pri sch	Waiting to join beauty therapy course
Caroline Wanjiku	209- kamiu pri sch	Mugambaciura secondary school
Faith Kathi	173- kamiu pri sch	S.A Gikuyari secondary school

- II) We also had seven candidates who sat for their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education and the results are as shown below. At the moment these students have already joined various colleges and universities.

NAME	SCHOOL	KCSE GRADE ATTAINED
Alice Grace Ngonyo	Alliance Girls	B+
Ely Joy Mwendu	Karima Girls	B+
Marion Mwikali	Nguviu Girls	C+
Martin Kariuki	St Lukes Day Sch	D
Norman Waweru	Mugambaciura Day	D-
David Muriithi	Gitare Mixed Sec Sch	D-
Dorcus Nancy Kagendo	St Lukes Day Sch	D+

- III) Below are the continuing students and those who joined universities/colleges the academic year 2021/2022

NAME	SCHOOL	GRADE	SCHOOL ADMITTED	COURSE
Joyce Mwende	Mayori sec school	C-	Embu college (continuing)	Diploma in social work
Juma Nzioki	Kanyuambora sec school	D+	Jeremiah Nyaga institute (continuing)	Certificate in Electrical installation
Jemima wawira	Kiangima sec school	D+	Jeremiah Nyaga institute	Certificate in ICT
Alice Grace Ngonyo	Alliance Girls	B+	Jomo Kenyatta university JKUAT	Bachelor of Financial Engineering
Elly Joy Mwende	Karima Girls	B+	Kenyatta University	Bachelor of Economics
Marion Mwikali	Nguviu Girls	C+	Mt. Kenya University	Bachelor of Public Administration And Governance
Martin Kariuki	St Lukes Day Sch	D	Tenri Vocational Training	Craft Welding
David Muriithi	Gitare Mixed Sec Sch	D-	Jeremiah Nyaga Technical Institute.	Certificate of Craft In Plumbing
Titus Nbugua	Kanorori vocational	Grade 3	Jeremiah Nyaga institute	Certificate of craft in plumbing
Dorcus Nancy Kagendo	St Lukes Day Sch	D+	Ena Vocational Training	Certificate of Craft Food And Beverage
Joshua Munene	Kangaru school	C-	Embu University	Diploma in criminology
Silas Macharia	St. Michael	Form 2	Tenri Vocational Training	Artisan Plumbing
Dennis Kimanthi	St. Lukes Sec Sch	Form 3	Ena Vocational Training	Mechanical In Motor vehicle

IV) This year we have got nine children in class eight who are preparing to sit for the KCPE in March 2022. Below are their names:

- ✓ Omar Juma
- ✓ Harrison Munene
- ✓ Jane Wanjiru
- ✓ Faith Kawira
- ✓ Mercy Murugi
- ✓ Elizabeth Njeri
- ✓ Faith Ann Nyakio
- ✓ Ann Karuithia
- ✓ Lisper Mwende

V) We also have got 4 form four candidates preparing to sit for KCSE in 2022. These include:

- ✓ Triza Njoki
- ✓ Roselyn Kagendo
- ✓ Eric Mwangi
- ✓ Humphrey Kimani

VI) Those who have completed their courses and *awaiting graduation in 2022*

- Eunice wawira - Bachelor of Peace and Justice
- Simon Mwangi – Bachelor of Hotel management
- Simon Gitari – Certificate of Food and Beverage

VII) Below is the list for those children who graduated from different institutions.

NAME	INSTITUTION	COURSE
Antony Mutegi	Embu College	Diploma in Social Work And Community Development.
Martin Mugendi	Nyeri Polytechnic	Diploma in Electrical Engineering
Fiolena Wanjiru	Cooperative College University	Diploma in Accounting and finance

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

✓ **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 well-balanced diet and also take preventive measures to safeguard their wellbeing.

Medical history and check-up is done for every new child being admitted in the home. The necessary medication, vaccines are also give and follow up is done. We also deworm our children regularly and have health talks especially on personal hygiene and developmental growth. We also do guidance and counselling and in every two months we engage professional counsellors.

✓ **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:

Class/form	No. Of children
Secondary school	
Form 1	6
Form 2	8
Form 3	6
Form4	4
Completed form 4 and waiting to join college	5
Total	29
Primary school	
Class 1	4
Class 2	0
Class 3	1
Class 4	7
Class 5	11

Class 6	7
Class 7	4
Class 8	9
Nursery	2
Total	45

Higher education	No. Of children
University /college	13
Completed and Waiting to graduate	3
TOTAL	16
GENERAL Total NUMBER	29+45+16= 90

- Successful repatriation and follow up and seeing that previous repatriated Children are adjusting well.
- Successful transformation of our children from their past life histories.
- In the month of February we were able to educate our children on drugs and substance abuse.
- In December there was an education workshop for both children and staff, everyone learnt a lot especially on goal setting among other things.

D. ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE YEAR 2021

1. The year 2021 began well and we thank God that all our children were able to come back from the long holiday.
2. On 3rd January 2021, we held a thanksgiving service at the St Stephens church Majimbo, to acknowledge the doings of the lord. Despite the alarming corona virus pandemic our good lord kept us safe and secure.
3. We are grateful that we received the Bursaries from the Manyatta CDF Education Fund, through our area **MP Hon John Muchiri**. The money was sent direct to all our children schools each with the allocated figure and it helped in paying part of term two school fees to the children who do not have sponsorship.

4. VISITATION AND DONATIONS

We, the St Stephens fraternity welcomes all the well - wishers may it be individuals or cooperate groups to visit our children. Therefore in the year 2021, we have had individual visitors coming to give their donations to the institution as well as different groups from the church and other organizations.

= Diocesan Kama Visit:

We are grateful for our 82 fathers in the Kama department who gave themselves willingly to come and celebrate Easter with us on Saturday **3rd April 2021**. They were able to donate **25bags of maize and 1.5bags of beans**. They also supported the institution with some money to run the institution programs. May our good lord bless them all and the entire leadership of Kenya Anglican Men Association. In their visit, they were able to talk to our children on the issues of “having positive minds in our lives”. It was quite encouraging to the children and staff. We also received a *He goat* from Mr. Evans Muchangi from Muthatari parish that day.

- Diocesan KAYO visit

A delegation of youth leaders from every archdeaconry, interacted with our children led by the coordinator and the chairman. We appreciate their generous donations, financial support and school stationaries.

- Diocesan Mothers Union Visit

We are also grateful that the **133** mothers in the mother’s union department came to visit us during the talent week in the diocese. They came willingly and supported us with **15bags** of maize and **1.5 bags** of beans. Clothes, bananas amongst other food stuffs. These mothers were to able motivate our children and enlighten their minds with issues on lifestyle of girls and boys during the period of covid 19 pandemic.

- Diocesan Deanery visit:

We also greatly appreciate all our deaneries led by clergy for the support and mentorship they have offered to our children. The following areas were addresses during their visits and we thank God for great transformation which we have witnesses from our children.

Kiriari and muchagori 19/6/2021- **Effects of peer pressure influence**

Kithimu and Rung’ang’a 18/9/2021- **Grooming / Self- hygiene**

Kaugwiri and kagumori 20/10/2021- **Boy/Girl Relationship**

Manyatta and Mukangu 13/11/2021- **Effects of media / Technology**

Kanja and Ena 20/11/2021- **Drug and Subsistence abuse**

Kathunguri and Kaithege 27/11/2021- **Time management.**

Kamiu and Kangaru 11/12/2021- **Self-identity /Esteem.**

Other visitors who have given donations in kind

- Moi High Mbiriri
- Kimangaru sec school
- St. Ann Girls Kiriari
- Kangaru girls
- Kiaga Girls
- Chuka university
- Embu college
- University of embu
- Kirinyaga university
- Maathai supermarket
- Jumbo Nuts
- Sonnie in Action
- Khannett Enterprise
- Life Transformation Centre- Mbui Njeru

We thank our friends within town Kutus wholesalers and Kenstar suppliers who volunteered to be providing children with breads every week.

5. **Correspondence with our sponsors:** After the children closed the school they were able to write letters and Easter cards to our sponsors. Those who were in form four wrote later after the completion of their exams.
6. **Renovations:** We were able to do some renovations at Gatondo and we now have four tenants who are residing there. Right now it's only one small stony house without tenant. These rooms are able to bring some little money for sustainability of the home.
7. **Home and school Holiday: -**
 - We released the children for the long holiday on 3rd April 2021 after our visitors left in Easter. The remaining children were 23 and we kept safe. All went on well and the other children came back on 8th May as we had planned to open schools on 11th May 2021.
 - We have been keeping children in the home for all the short holidays July, October, and December. In these short holidays we have been involving them in cultivating and planting in our land at gatondo. They have also been working on other duties in the home for good maintenance.

8. HOME PROJECTS

a) Hostels Utility:

- From **18th -21st May 2021**, we were able to host 30 candidates who were being retreated in preparation for the **lay readers licensing**.
 - From **2nd to 6th August** we hosted 21 candidates for a retreat in preparation of their **ordination**.
 - From **10th to 12th** we had **CCMP clergy workshop** where 30 participants attended every day for three days.
 - From **15th to 26th October 2021** we hosted the **Kumbamba** team from the province and they were a great blessing to our home.
- b) FARM:* The farm has done well this year because we have been milking two dairy cows whose milk we are able to sell and consume in the home. We have also sold two calves this period. The farm has also brought income through the piglets which we have sold. Thus we can say there is some great improvement.
- c) Nursery:* Though the class had decreased in the year 2020, this year 2021 it has done extremely well. We have enrolled 33 children compared to 17 children in 2020 class. We have also engaged two teachers instead of one in our ECDE classes. This also opens up for the children in the community to come and interact with our home children for the sake of social aspect.
- d) Business center:* The business center is doing well. All our rooms are rented out and giving us some income to sustain the home. Our desire is to construct more business premises if we get funds.
- e) Gatondo clinic:* The health facility is not doing well. It has been on the decline and the management is trying to get ways of sorting out the challenge.
- f) Gown shop:* Since the time corona came, the weddings have not been taking place in large numbers. So our shop has not done well this year.

CHALLENGES FACED

- This year the school calendar was quite long due to the change of education system which was implemented in order to catch up with the classes lost in the year 2020

during covid 19 crisis. Hence, we have experienced high budget rate all through from school to the home so as to sustain and maintain the wellbeing of our children.

- Lack of funds to put up some rooms to rent as shops so as to help the home get some sustainability.
- Parents/guardians of the children are not cooperative. This has been noted where by some relatives have been finding employment position for their children. This act is counted as child abuse.
- The girl's dormitory is full and the children cases are forced to stay pending till repatriation.
- Relatives resisting to stay with their children when time comes for repatriation. This is because they do not want to let them have their rights of inheritance from their parents.

FUTURE PLANS

- 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.
- Do a funds proposal to the national or county government.
- Come up with the celebration of St Stephens's day, and source funds for the projects.
- Engage the children office and department of gender and culture, to train our guardians and relatives on children's inheritance and their right in the family.

CONCLUSION AND APPRECIATION

We sincerely acknowledge the support we have gotten from all our friends in various ways. Those who have made physical attendance in the home to talk to our children feel appreciated. We also appreciate our International sponsors who have been walking the journey with us every year and supporting our children's education and all other required needs. We acknowledge our friends from: UK partners, Canada, Germany, Mr. and Mrs. Korte, Rev Johannes and Stefan. May our good lord bless all the churches and friends whom you link with for the support of the St. Stephens children home.

To all our local donors within Embu County and beyond we appreciate their love and commitment to feed us when required. Also the institutions and business community in Embu County we acknowledge their support to us.

Without forgetting our mother the ACK diocese of Embu. The spiritual services given to our children by priests whenever they visit, has highly transformed our children morally to a higher level. The chaplaincy services from our home chaplain is also of great spiritual empowerment to

the institution at large. Both the staff and children have benefited spiritually from the services given every week.

We appreciate all who have been giving us moral, financial and spiritual support the whole of this period.

Many blessings to all our well-wishers and a prosperous New Year 2022

Report compiled by

Rev Mercy Muriithi

Home manager