

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

"We love and care"

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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

As we embrace our vision we are called: To open doors to deserving children facing difficult circumstances, especially those that are relegated to streets; foster their rehabilitation into conventional undertaking in a Christian upbringing, through institutional care, family support interventions and enrolment in learning institutions.

This enables us to fulfil our Mission which is :To facilitate the rehabilitation, care, and the protection of the street children, orphans and vulnerable children, through provision of the basic needs of food, shelter, clothing, education and medical care in a healthy and a loving environment.

This is the St Stephen children home we own through our **Core Values by looking after the children with:**

- Godliness.
- Compassion.
- Integrity.
- Passion.
- Teamwork and
- Accountability.

Thus: The New Year began with a thanksgiving service on **1st January 2023** in our church St Stephen Majimbo. The service was grace by our **15 UK partners** who had visited the home from **the 29th Dec 2022 to 9th January 2023**. We had an opportunity to share and celebrate Eucharist sacrament together with them. All the children had been invited even those in the family support program together with the alumni's.

Our home continues to runs within the two programs:

1. *Residential or institutional care program*

In this program the children stay in the home and all their needs are catered for by the home.

2. *Family support program*

In the family support program the institution meets the school fees and any other item that a child may require for school, other basics needs are catered for by their relatives. The home can also provide food stuffs to the ones not able to in those families.

Quality Care is provided in both through:

- Quality Food and Nutrition
- Quality Education
- Quality Health
- Psychosocial Support
- Quality Shelter and care
- Child protection among other needs

2. **POPULATION**

The current population of the children in the residential care program is **43** that is **20 boys** and **23 girls**. In the family support program we have we have **43** children that is **22 male** and **21 female**. All this make a total of **86 children** who are taken care of by the home.

3. **THE AREAS COVERED.**

✓ *New admission*

Mostly we receive children from the children's department around Embu County. The year 2023 we enrolled **10 new** admissions in the home as from January to December comprising **seven girls and three boys**. These children were referred by Runyenje's Children's Office and Embu West Children's Office.

✓ *School visit*

This is a follow-up program that is very important in reorganizing and improving education.

School visits provides an ideal opportunity to discuss the progress of the child in school with the teachers. This program also provides us with a good position to know the behaviour of the child, and the relationship of the child with other children.

We have been attending school meetings as from January to the closing of term three. All our children have been doing well in their respective schools.

✓ *Repatriation and follow up*

In the matter of repatriation we believe that, “East or west home is the best” and this is why we reunite children with their families. Most of our children are repatriated after sitting for their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE). In repatriation we must consider the following things:

- The environment where the child is going to stay whether it is 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 we do follow up of the child frequently.
- Give a hearing ear to the child in case they are facing challenges.
- The home also continues to support them in education and other basic needs when need arises.

In January 2023 we managed to repatriate **3** children among them being 1 boy and 2 girls. They all joined secondary school. All those who have been repatriated are doing well with their families.

✓ *Education*

- i) *Education provides children with a platform to learn and in turn equip them with skills that help them improve their quality of life. Education can be formal or non-formal.*
 - Our children go to school whereby they are taught by professional teachers.
 - They go through Guidance and counselling in schools.
 - We also offer life skills like food preparations, farming skills and craft skills.
 - We also enlighten them on the children rights so that when they join with their relatives or foster parents they need not to be misused.
- ii) *Below are those who sat for their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education in November 2022 and the School they joined in January 2023.*

NAME	KCPE MARKS / PRIMARY SCHOOL	SCHOOL ADMITTED TO JANUARY 2023
David Mutugi	271- kamiu pri sch	Ena vocational training mechanic
Pauline Muthoni	236- kamiu pri sch	Kiangima Girls
Britney Wachera	235- kamiu pri sch	Kiaganari Girls
Purity Wakuthii	235- kamiu pri sch	Kiaganari Girls

iii) *At the moment the following children are in vocational training centres/ colleges /and university.*

NAME	INSTITUTION	COURSE
1. Denis kimanthi	Ena vocational	Motor vehicle engineering
2. Triza Njoki	Ena Vocational	Hotel hospitality
3.Norman Waweru	Ena Vocational	Plumbing
4. Christine Mukami	Tenri Vocational	Hotel Hospitality
5.David Muriithi	Jeremiah Nyaga institute	Plumbing
6.Titus Mbugua	Jeremiah Nyaga institute	Plumbing
7. Joshua Munene	University of Embu	Diploma in Criminology
8. Joseph Njoroge	Chuka University	Bachelor of Community Development
9.Barbix Maina	Zetech university	Bachelor of Journalism
10.Humphrey kimani	Zetech university	Bachelor of Journalism
11.Marion Mwakali	Mount Kenya university	Bachelor of PR and Governance
12.Elly joy Mwendu	Kenyatta university	Bachelor of Economics
13. Erick Mwangi	Egerton university	Bachelor of Commerce
14..Alice Ngonyo	JKUAT University	Bachelor of Finance Engineering

iv) *Achievements on the 2023 graduates:* The following children finished their courses and graduated as indicated in the schedule

NAME	INSTITUTION	COURSE/ DEGREE ATTAINED	GRADUATION DATE
1. Eunice Wawira	Catholic University of East Africa	Bachelor of Peace and Justice	27 th October 2023
2. Fiolena Wanjiru	Co-operative University	Diploma Accounting and Finance	1 st December 2023
3. Joyce Mwendu	Embu College	Diploma in Social work and community development	1 st December 2023
4. Nancy Dorcas Kagendo	Ena Vocational Training Centre	Certificate in food and beverages(hospitality)	April 2023

v) *PROGRESSIVE ANALYSIS IN EDUCATION*

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

LEVEL OF EDUCATION	NO. OF CHILDREN
Nursery class	5
Primary school	33
Secondary school	30
College/ university	14
Graduated 2023	4
TOTAL	86

✓ *Counselling and mentorship program*

Over this period our children have been taken through counselling sessions for different days on the topics- below:

- Overcoming trauma
- Self- awareness
- Effects of media technology
- How to relate with the guardians
- The value of education

4. INTERNATIONAL DONORS VISIT

A) The team leader *Rev Maz Allen of the UK partners* visited the home from **29th December to 9th January 2023.**

They did the following activities:

- 1) Painted the Dining Hall and Family room
- 2) Improved our water services by buying the borehole water pump.
- 3) They repaired all the electricity in our institution which needed attention
- 4) They bought school toughie shoes for all our learners.
- 5) Interacted with our children widely
- 6) Climaxed their visit by making a party for all children

- 7) Planted commemorative trees together with our bishop.
- 8) The institution also awarded an appreciation certificate to all our donors and sent for those who were not present.
- 9) We held a very colourful farewell party celebrations on 7th January 2023. The diocese was well represented by: Our Lord bishop, A.S. Ven. Toto, Provost Rev Obadiah, Mission secretary, Education department, and MU/ Kama office were present.
 - The BOM members lead by our chairman were also present.

B) In the same year, another UK team of 15 teachers from the diocese of Chelmsford, visited our institution **on 25th October 2023**. They got interested with our children and three of them volunteered to sponsor 3 children's education. These are the children on the list of those who don't have sponsors. We thank God for his doings.

5. LOCAL VISITORS:

- i) **Diocesan Kama:** On 1st April 2023 the diocesan Kama members visited the children and gave some donations of food stuff.
 - They brought 7 bags of maize and Ibag of beans. Also gave a contribution of Kshs. **179,350/=**.
 - They also mentored our children with a very powerful message.
 - 109 Kama members attended.
- ii) **Mr. Robert Njoka (Tanners)** visited the home on **20th April 2023** and supported our children with the school leather shoes totalling to **94pairs**. May God bless him and his factory. He also paid term two school fees for three children (**Kiangima (12,550/=)**, **Mayori (19,928/=)** and **Kangaru boys (19,000/=)**).
- iii) **Diocesan Mothers Union:** The mother's union team in our diocese visited the home on **5th August 2023**. They turned up in a very great number totalling to **341** members. They donated money amounting to **Kshs. 346,200/=**. Food stuffs maize, beans, bananas, second hand clothes and other farm items.
- iv) **The deanery visits** have also taken place this period and the clergy involved have been so instrumental to the motivation of our children by handling different topics. They have also supported the institution with the following amount indicated as per the seven archdeaconries:

1. **Kagaari (Ena & Kanja) = 30,000/=**
2. **Nginda (Kaugwiri & Kagumori) = 16,000/=**
3. **Kigari (Manyatta & Mukangu) = 14,500/=**
4. **Kianjokoma (muchagori & kiriari) = 20,000/=**
5. **Nembure (Runganga & Kithimu) = 41,000/=**
6. **6. Karungu (Kathunguri & kaithege) = 30,000/=**
7. **Cathedral (kangaru & kamiu)= 55,000/=**

TOTAL AMOUNT KSHS. 206,500/=

- v) Several groups like:
- *Subaru Forester Nation,*
 - *National wide children officers in training,*
 - *Ewasco team,*
 - *Loving Charity group,*
 - *Embu branch KCB,*
 - *Embu County Administrative police*
 - *University of Embu*
 - *Kirinyaga university*
 - *Biashara Sacco* - among others have also visited the home since January and we greatly appreciate their donations and motivational talks to our children.

This year different individuals and institutions have also visited and talked to our children.

6. PROJECTS:

- a) **Nursery school:** Our ECDE class has done extremely well. The year 2023 we had 42 children comprising of - Play group= 17
- PP1= 15
 - PP2= 10 **Total 42**
 - Our **PP2 graduation** took place and it was very colourful. The 10 pupils graduated ready to join grade one in January 2024. The wish of parents was to continue in the same institution unfortunately we were not able to accommodate the primary school.
- b) **Business Centre:** The premise has been vacant from April because Emmaus Proprietor closed down. So far we are looking for a tenant.
- c) **Gatodo premises:** The North Grand partners are doing well with us. They cleared the payment of equipment Kshs. 225,000/=. They also paid rent in the month of June as per our agreement.
- d) **Farm:** Our farm is doing fairly, well. Though we lost one cow through still birth, we are now milking one. All the piglets were sold and the one we were waiting for to give birth also gave birth to 7 piglets and only one is remaining
- e) **Hostels, chairs and Hall:** -
- Our hostels had occupants within this period **by 38 Lay readers** who were on training and retreat **from 22-26th May 2023.**
 - **On 29th and 30th November** we hosted Embu county children department care reform training. The workshop was attended by 45 children and 25 adults. This also gave some income to our institution and they promised to partner with us further trainings.
 - **From 10th to 15th December** we hosted the ordinards for a retreat in preparation for their ordination.

7. SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

- Over this period we are very grateful for our chaplain Rev Zack who has been conducting fellowships, mentoring and counselling sessions to our children.
- Also seven of our children were confirmed our bishop this year, six girls and boys were enrolled as brigadiers' while eight of our children participated in the Sunday school children festivals in the diocesan level.

8. CHALLENGES

- i) Lack of a sustainable project to cater for the needs of the home
- ii) High cost of living leading to money factored by donors not able to meet all the children needs required for their education
- iii) A good number of our children don't have sponsors so we are struggling with them.
- iv) Guardians neglecting the orphaned children causing them to be on the streets, hence landing to the children homes
- v) More space for accommodating girls who are in need of care and protection is required.

9. CONCLUSION AND APPRECIATION:

On behalf of St Stephens's fraternity, we greatly appreciate all our well-wishers and friends internationally from UK partners led by *Rev Maz Allen* and Germany friends coordinated by *Fritz Dieter* and the church under *Rev Johannes Beyerhause*. They have supported the education of our needy and vulnerable children continuously and more so the year 2023. Thank you very much and may our good lord continue to supply all your needs according to his riches in glory.

All our local friends from different organizations and institutions we value their prompt visits and the food stuffs they brought to the children.

To our mother the diocese, we thank our lord Bishop, clergy and all the departments in the diocese who have been there to mentor our young children with spiritual nourishment. We acknowledge the support from deaneries, mothers union and kama departments who committed themselves to be visiting the children annually during their talent week. God bless them all for the moral, financial and spiritual support.

Wishing you a blessed new year 2024 full of God's favour. As you have given may you also receive in abundance.

Report prepared by

Rev Mercy Muriithi – Home manager