

ACK ST STEPHENS CHILDRENS HOME ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2024

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.

2. THE NEW YEAR THANKSGIVING 2024

We thank the almighty God who enabled us to see the new year of 2024. On 3rd January 2024 we held the children and staff retreat at nice city-Mwea. We celebrated with all our residential and family support children. The children were able to enjoy fun games in the facility and those who were able to swim had an opportunity to do so. They were also taken through words of counsel by our BOM chairman and grandba Mr. karuguti. It was a lovely moment for the BOM executive members to bond with these children as the year began.

Then on Sunday 7th January 2024, we joined with the Christians of ACK St Stephen church majimbo for our new year thanksgiving following the opening of the schools on 8th January 2024.

NEW ADMISSION, POPULATION AND REPATRIATION

Since the year began, we have had two admissions of one boy and one girl. The current population in the residential program is 37 children: **20 girls and 17 boys**. In the family support program, we have 36 children **18 boys and 18 girls**. = total population is 73 children. On the side of repatriation, we were able to repatriate 4 children- two boys and two girls who then joined the family support program.

3. EDUCATION

Education provides children a platform to learn and in turn equip them with skills that help them improve their quality of life.

Those who did KCPE 2023 and the schools they joined

| | NAME | SCHOOL ATTENDED | MARKS ATTAINED | SCHOOL ADMITTED |
|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Felister Wanjiku | Kamiu pri | 240 | St Teresas Kithimu |
| 2 | Martin Njeru | kamiu | 209 | St. James Kegonge |
| 3 | Lewis Karani | Kamiu | 189 | St James Kegonge |
| 4 | Elizabeth Karimi | Kamiu | 138 | St John's Kianjuki sec |
| 5 | Purity Murugi | Kamiu | 133 | Tenri vocational training |
| 6 | Lilian Muthoni | Kamiu | 118 | Ena Vocational training |

Those who did KCSE 2023 and the college they joined and awaiting

| | NAME | SCHOOL- GRADE ATTAINED | INSTITUTION JOINED |
|----------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Timothy mugoh | Kapsabet- B- | Kabarak University |
| 2 | Kenneth Macharia | Kangaru- C- | KMTC- Embu- Certificate in medical engineering |
| 3 | Kelvin Murimi | County sec- C | Kigari Teachers College- DIPLOMA |
| 4 | Brian Mwenda | Nyangwa – B- | Murang’a University Campus |
| 5 | Lilian Wanja | St Martha - D | Achievers college- certificate in social worker |
| 6 | Victor Mutugi | St. August kiriari D | To join vocational centre in January 2025 |

We have the following children who **completed their courses from various institutions** they attended within this period of the year.

- Titus Mbugua – attained a certificate in plumbing
- Lilian Wambui – attained certificate in social work
- Triza Njoki – did craft course in food and beverage
- Christine mukami – craft in food and beverage
- Norman waweru – craft in plumbing
- Denis Kimanthi – Artisan in Auto motive engineering course of (motor vehicle mechanic and driving)
- Joshua Munene – attained a certificate in criminology course

This year we had five candidates who sat for the for KCSE (form four exam)

1. Paul muchira
2. Hellen wanja
3. Lucy Nyambura
4. David Dickson muchiri
5. Faith Kathi

It is our prayer that they will perform well and get grades to enable them get to colleges.

4. PROGRESSIVELY WE HAVE HAD THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

- i) **Board of management retreat:** The beginning of this year we had an opportunity to hold the BOM retreat at Abai Hotel on 13th January 2024. We had the training from the Lumos on the care reform process as indicated in the report. Members were enlightened on what care reforms advocates for and the process taking place on reintegration of the children to family care programs.
- ii) **Local visitors:** During this period different groups have visited our children and given their donations in kind. They have also secured time to give motivational talks to our children. There are others who were able to come and make fun and identify children talents through various programs.
- iii) **Diocesan Kama visit:** We greatly appreciate the leadership of KAMA in our diocese for their great support this year where **115 men** attended. They visited our children on 6th April 2024 and gave a donation of 23 bags of maize and 2 bags of beans plus school fees of **kshs. 207,300=**. During this visit our children experience the fatherly love from these men and this encourages them to feel loved.
- iv) **Diocesan mother's union visit:** The leadership of mother's union organized to visit the home during their talent week in **Saturday 17th August 2024**. A total of **223** mothers attended and they gave a donation of **kshs. 328,800=, 20 bags of maize, 2bags of beans** and other food stuffs like bananas, and clothes.
- v) **Deanery visits**
The following dearies have visited the home and given their donations:
= kagaari (kanja and Ena)=40,000=
= Nembure (kithimu and Rung'ang'a) =40,000=
= Nginda (kaugwiri and kagumori) = 18,000=
= kigari (manyatta and mukangu) = 18,000=
= kianjokoma (muchagori and kiriari) = 30,000=
= karungu (kathunguri and Kaithege) =30,000=
= Cathedral (Kamiu and Kangaru) = 50,000=

We are very much grateful for the support the diocese is giving us through the deaneries ad the various topics they address to our children. This has enabled them to grow holistically. This has also encouraged them to make use of their talents.

vi) **The ordinands retreat:**

From Sunday 28th July to 3rd August, we were able to host the retreat for the 6 candidates who were being prepared for the ordination together with their spouses. We appreciate our diocese for identifying St Stephens as a place meditation, reflection and meeting with God.

vii) **Children department:**

There was a child assessment and training conducted by Lumos in preparing children for reintegration by 2032. Within this period the guardians were called for a meeting to discuss on the same matter and get informed on the process.

5. PROJECTS:

a) **NURSERY SCHOOL:** Our ECDE department is doing extremely well. This year we enrolled a number of children in this pre-school program.

Play Group= 18 children,

Pre-Primary 1 (PP 1) =22,

Pre-primary 2 (PP2) = 9. All **totalling 49 children.**

On 24th October 2024, we held our PP2 graduation which was very colourful. These children were happy to transit from pre-school and get to primary school level (grade one).

UPDATE ON THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

For many years' parents have been requesting the institution to open up a primary school level in the home. This request featured again during the graduation ceremony where the parents expressed their desire to continue in the same institution. Therefore, the BOM sat down and came up with an agreement that it is possible to have a primary school stream. After much discussion we agreed to convert the empty rooms of the workshop block into classrooms.

The process of registration was mandated by management and a school sub committee was put in place to take action of implementation. Our lord bishop was to come and dedicate the classrooms for ready usage by learners from 8th of January 2025. We thank God for the progress since this has been the desire of many parents in the locality and entire community.

The Bom also hired two teachers to team up with the others of preschool for proper and higher standard of learning.

The ministry of education quality assurance officers visited the institution for inspection and also the public health officers and they found our institution worthy to have a primary school. Thus they approved the process of registration to take place.

b) FARM: Our farm has continued to service our children with the selling of piglets. Within this year we were able to sell 13 piglets. We are also grateful the pig gave birth to another set of 14 piglets which we have sold after three months of growth. This has boosted the income of the home.

We greatly also appreciate one of our Bom members Mrs Rosina Gakuo who donated a heifer to our farm. The old cow is still giving milk to the children and selling to the neighbours and staff though it has taken long to calf again.

c)HOSTEL, CHAIRS AND MATTRESSES: In this period our hostel has been occupied by different groups and also the mattresses have been hired for the income to the institution. We anticipate that next year it will do better since we are hosting a retreat for candidates who will be licenced as lay readers of our churches.

d)SPIRITUAL GROWTH: Our chaplain rev Zack has been very efficient in nurturing the children talents and spiritual nourishment. We have had an opportunity to participate in the three diocesan services through his initiative. We also had 7 children who were confirmed by our lord bishop this year while others 5 were baptized by our vicar.

OVER ALL ACHIEVEMENT ON CHILDREN

- Successful repatriations and follow-up and seeing that previous repatriated children are adjusting well is our joy.
- In June we held the care givers workshop and enlightened them on the care reform process which they embraced with gratitude. They learnt more on their roles and responsibilities.
- In August we also held child and youth participation (CYP) workshop which was organized by the officers in the children department in partnership with Lumos. This also enlightened the children more on the gender-based violence in the families and community.
- We also thank God for the successful transformation of our children from the past lives, and this gives us hope for a bright future.

CHALLENGES FACED

- ✓ Some of the Parents /guardians/caregivers of the children are not cooperative. This has been noted by them encouraging their children to leave school and get casual jobs for their earnings which is wrong and is counted as child abuse.
- ✓ Half of our children are in need of sponsorship for their education.
- ✓ Lack of sufficient funds for smooth running of the institution.
- ✓ In order to improve the learning environment of our children we need support of a books and other library materials.

✓ High economic issues in the country. Hence constraints in the little finances we get.

FUTURE PLANS

- To raise the standard of our coming up primary school from grade one to three and also upgrade the pre school in order to attract more children. This is by providing transport for them and being innovative on the learning activities.
- For the home to be sustainable there is need to improve our farm by rearing more dairy cows to give milk which can be supplied to the community and serve our children.
- Conduct guidance and counselling session for our children through a professional at least twice a month.
- Since we launched the strategic plan 2025-2029, we will use it to present our objectives through a proposal in order to source for funds for the home.

CONCLUSION: We thank God for all our friends locally and Internationally for having supported us in all manners for better survival of the institution. May our good lord continue to shower you all with his blessings in your endeavours. Our good and dear friends from UK led by Rev Maz, the church in Germany led by Rev Johannes, friends in Germany led by Mr. Fritz Dieter and all other well wishers we acknowledge your great support to these vulnerable children. May God bless you abundantly. Our Lord Bishop David, clergy and Christians within the diocese of Embu, we thank God for your annual support of food stuffs through the departments of mother's union and Kenya Anglican Men Association.

Words may not be enough to say how grateful we are, but let the almighty God continue to enrich and expand your territories in this coming new year 2025.

Wishing You all a fruitful year full of Gods blessings.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

REPORT COMPILED BY

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