

Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

In June, our relentless lobbying efforts continued to press for the Songa Mbele na Masomo Children’s Centre building to remain standing. We wrote to all the relevant Government officials and ministers. We contacted the local assistant County Commissioners and chiefs who were directing the drivers of the bulldozers. We sent relevant staff to many offices. The President did issue a statement that those buildings built on land with legal title deeds should not be affected. This was after some such buildings had been partially bulldozed. We were relieved to read the President’s statement.

We have yet to progress on St Elizabeth Primary School's new toilet blocks and the maintenance of riverbanks in other centres. Our staff, especially social workers, were busy with the plight of over 1,000 of our students whose families were evicted. They were given food parcels at regular intervals, and those families who did not have the means to relocate were given help. We are most grateful to ALL of YOU who assisted. It was very moving to see Kenyans of modest means donating to help fellow humans in distress. Some very poor people sheltered some of those evicted in already overcrowded shacks.

Children whose families relocated too far away to return to school are of immediate concern to us. About 200 are missing out of 6,000. It is not easy to transfer schools here. A child has to have documentation from the old school before admission to the new school. They are charged by both headteachers. Some make them pay highly. As they have just lost their possessions and many have lost their jobs, they do not have the means to pay. Some have gone to the rural areas to the home of grandparents and we hope that they can continue in school. However, the situation for children with disabilities in Songa is even more grim. Many are missing, and the process of gaining admission to special schools is a challenge, particularly in rural areas.

Just as life was beginning to regain some semblance of normality, the country was rocked by massive youth demonstrations. These protests, sparked by issues of corruption, loss of public funds, proposed new taxes, and harsh economic conditions with limited employment

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opportunities for youth, have had a profound impact. The heavy-handed response from the police, resulting in several youths shot dead and scores of casualties, has only added to the gravity of the situation.

The plight of teenage mothers continues to be a matter of concern. Some have families who throw them out. Others are beaten by a parent. It is very difficult for them to return to school and have their baby taken care of. In the culture here, many teachers resent having them in their classes. They feel they are a bad example to others and should be excluded. It is difficult for teachers to manage them with their big numbers in class. We try to raise awareness of the difficulties they encounter and to assist them continue with their education. It takes time for attitudes to change. In some tribes, the baby belongs to the father. Girls are told to go to the owner of the baby. Often, he disappeared once he knew the girl was pregnant. Only about 50% of them complete their basic education. Some may get an opportunity later in life to complete, but very few. We will work to develop our social workers' and teachers' capacity to handle the complexities that arise. Parents also need Counselling, guidance and material help. Some are so angry because this girl was their hope of escaping poverty. They had sacrificed to keep the girl in school. She has given them more hardship, increased their poverty, and left them in despair. That's how they view the situation. Some change when they see the grandchild.

The Government is committed to promoting technical education, a path that can significantly transform the lives of students. While it may be challenging to shift the aspirations of students towards technical education, we are dedicated to this cause. We understand that the costs can be prohibitive for those from disadvantaged backgrounds, including the costs of registration with 3 different examining bodies, individual student costs, and the materials required for the courses and teachers. Despite these challenges, we are fortunate to have the support of sponsors and donors who play a crucial role in enabling students to pursue technical education. These generous contributions cover examination fees, internships, and even travel expenses to various workstations as most of the youths do not have the means. We are particularly grateful to Kenya Wine Agencies and Tamarind for sponsoring catering students, and other donors who support students in various skills. Their support is a wonderful gift that allows students from harsh economic backgrounds to earn a living with dignity. It is heartening to see the inclusion of youth with disabilities and youth from the streets of the Makadara shelter.

We are grateful to Paula, Irene, Claire, Theresa, Adrienne, Catherine, Vera, Kristina, Patsy, Pauline, and their families and friends for the improvements in the Rehabilitation Centre's facilities. The more activities the boys engage in, the more they develop their potential and discover what they are good at. Thanks also to all of you who provide food and other items for use in the Centre and those who volunteer with mentoring and counselling.

Many of our former students have been in jail for various reasons. Some are innocent but have been framed because of what they witnessed. Most have been charged with drunk and disorderly behaviour. At the same time, a number have theft charges and charges of buying and selling without a license or with assault. They often get a prison sentence because they cannot pay the unaffordable fines. Some get a second chance through the kindness of Noreen Walsh, Michael, and friends' sponsored program at MPC. It is not easy for them to earn a living without help. We wish them every success as they try to do a business or get employment. As an organization, we endeavour to make a difference by providing several casual works to clear the surrounding riparian land of weeds and plant trees to help secure the soil.

May God bless you all. Together with you, we enable those in severe distress to continue with their lives with hope. It is a great joy to see students and adults flourish after their traumatic experiences. May we continue to work together to make life better.

Sr Mary Killeen  
*Director*



# E<sub>ducation</sub>

## P<sub>primary Schools</sub>

*St Bakhita, St Catherine's, St Elizabeth and Sancta Maria Kayaaba*

Since the demolitions started, there have been slight changes in the school enrolments as some children move out and others come in for admissions. By the end of June, the enrolments reached over 6,000 pupils in the 4 primary schools: St Bakhita (1,076), St Catherine (1,386), St Elizabeth (2,217), and Sancta Maria Kayaaba (1,420).

Each primary school held its Opening Mass at the beginning of the new term. The ongoing demolitions continue to cause deep trauma to the children as they are not certain whether they will find their homes in the evening. The local authority still continues to mark more houses for demolition. Sadly, a few children died as demolitions of slum houses were taking place, a sewer pipeline was damaged by the bulldozer and caved in, leaving a gaping big hole that the County Government never covered, and children, being curious, explored without realizing the danger.



*Parent / Teacher Afternoon Meeting*

Amongst the devastation for families, MPC, through its Departments, endeavours to keep schooling as normal as possible for the children. The schools were involved in extracurricular activities, excursions and festivals during the term. There were training sessions for pupils and teachers, assessments, and meetings with parents. All MPC schools participated in the zonal music festival. St. Catherine Primary School emerged top in most of their presentations and will proceed to the regional level, which will take part in July 2024.

The Mercy Education Office has organized the "Leadership with Purpose" Prefects training, recognizing the pivotal role of all Mercy-associated schools. The training is not just for the prefects, but it is about them, aiming to empower them to fulfil their roles responsibly and with pride, thereby remaining relevant to all pupils.

MPC prioritizes Child Protection and consistently enhances the skills of all staff. The Child Protection Office takes proactive measures by organizing refresher training workshops for all MPC staff, especially in schools. These workshops serve as reminders of previous training sessions and ensure that policies and procedures remain at the top of all staff's minds.



*MPC Staff Child Protection Training*

The Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers protested for several weeks across the country, urging the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to implement the court's decision that they are qualified and possess teaching licenses, making them eligible for permanent positions. After boycotting classes and taking to the streets to demand employment, the government promised to employ them within 3 months, which will be in August 2024. This promise reduced their anger, and they agreed to return to classes. Many of them have worked as interns for at least a year. The conditions for these teachers are harsh as they are often required to teach multiple subjects far beyond their expertise. They have stated that they will take legal action if the government fails to fulfil its promise by August. The government organized training to upskill the JSS teachers to put them on par with the CBC expectations of the junior school. The four-day training seminar equipped the teachers with current skills and teaching pedagogies to better instruct JSS students.

The Day of the African Child is celebrated annually in June. During this time, people reflect on and advocate for the rights and well-being of children across the African continent. This year's event, sponsored by the Mercy Education Office and facilitated by the Child Protection Office, focused on the theme '*Education for all children in Africa: the time is now.*' All the children celebrated the day with great pride.



Day of the African Child Celebrations at MPC

Day of the African Child Celebrations at MPC





*Pupils on Excursion at Kerugoya Tea Factory*

Schools highly value educational visits and experiential learning and often organize various learning opportunities outside the classroom. These excursions enhance the learning experiences for students by providing practical knowledge that complements what they have learned in school. This hands-on experience adds significant value to students' learning and can improve their assessment performance. For example, St. Bakhita Primary School recently took 380 students to Kerugoya Tea Factory to learn about farming processes. This trip marked the largest number of students participating in an educational outing.

All children in all schools receive a well-balanced diet each day that boosts their immunity. The Feeding Program is made possible with the support of Team Pankaj. The program is essential to the children, as many depend on the meals for survival and as an incentive to attend school.



*Donation of exercise books and school uniforms to school children*

MPC is committed to supporting vulnerable children in school to ensure that they can continue learning throughout the term and the year. After hearing about the floods and demolitions, more than 20 pupils were provided with full school uniforms, and over 150 children received stationery items from a donor. Additionally, each school received 15 balls and 12 first aid kits, thanks to Pankaj Shah.



# St Michael's Secondary School

The residents of the slum face numerous challenges. In the last few years, the people of Mukuru have endured hardships such as the CoVid19 pandemic, two years of drought leading to hunger, floods, and government demolitions. The social issues of poverty, unemployment, lack of equal opportunities, malnutrition, and inadequate housing have a profound impact on everyone in the slums, especially the children and youths. Education is crucial for breaking the cycle of poverty. It takes particular individuals to recognize the unique potential of each teenager from the slums and to provide them with the necessary focus and support to help them succeed. Slums are complex areas with numerous social issues that are often stigmatized by others.

At St. Michael's, we recognize that all students in our care need extra support and understanding to reach their educational objectives. The results from the first-term exams indicate an urgent need for significant improvement in all subjects, particularly in Form 4 and Form 3. Currently, the top subjects in Form 4 are Business Studies with a C grade, and in Form 3, History and Government and CRE with a C+ grade. It will take a combined effort from teachers, students, and parents to assist students in completing their secondary education.

June was a month of remarkable sporting and cultural achievements. Our ball games, including soccer and netball, were played at various venues such as Buruburu Girls, St. Patrick School, Aquinas, Huruma Girls, Wamy Boys, and Highway School. The boys' soccer team's performance was particularly noteworthy, winning one and losing one against the formidable International Schools Sports Association (ISSA) World Champions. The girls, meanwhile, displayed their prowess by winning all the preliminary games, only to face a tough loss to Huruma Girls in the quarterfinals.



*St Michael's Boys Soccer Team*



*St Michael's Girls Soccer Team*



*St Michael's Netball Team*

St Michael's Girls Netball Team performed well, given that they only started playing in May, to reach the quarterfinals beaten by the National champions from Buruburu Girls.

The Sub-County music and culture competition, a celebration of diversity and talent, was hosted at Dagorreti High School. Fifty students from St Michael's presented a rich array of items, including cultural dances from the Luhya and Kama tribes, choral verses in Kiswahili, and solo performances. The students had a live rehearsal before the competition at the Kingstone High School Gala Show.



*St Michael's cultural troupe at Kingstone Highschool*

All five items qualified for the Nairobi Region competition, which will be held in July. The best-performing items were instrumental music pieces and choral verses.

Keeping with the theme of culture, St Michael's sent representatives to the International Day of the African Child, held at MPC Hall. The event stressed the importance of education for all children to achieve social development, independence, health, and well-being. The day is celebrated after Soweto children from South Africa protested to achieve equality and quality education on 16 June 1976, like the European community.



*St. Michael's students actively involved with the theme of the African Day Child*



The June activities continued with professional development sessions for teachers. The subject symposiums enabled the teachers to keep up with the current curriculum implementation and evaluations. The subjects included Geography and History for Heads of Department and senior teachers. Other teaching staff completed further Child Protection training.

*Symposium at Buruburu Girls School*

St Michael's Annual General Meeting was held in June. Parents were reminded about the school policies and programs. Based on their examination results, the parents expressed concerns about the students' performance. The school is fully committed to addressing these concerns and working with the parents to improve their academic results. Some of the poor results are the lack of materials like calculators, geometrical sets, and log tables, which parents cannot afford. Not understanding the subject content goes hand in hand with not being able to complete exercises.



*St Michael's 2024 Parents Annual General Meeting*



The Parent-Teacher meeting was held to discuss the AGM agenda further and focus on school performance, particularly the Form 4 students' results.





MPC Deputy Director Dinah Mwendwa held sessions with teenage mothers, secondary students, and parents on the importance of girls completing secondary education as part of her research project with Mercy Global Action. She raised awareness about the Ministry of Health's campaign 'End the Triple Threat', which hopes to address teenage pregnancies, new HIV infections and gender-based violence by 2027. The campaign will involve local authorities, the judiciary,

government agencies, and men and boys. A United Nations Population Fund report stated that there were 28,932 pregnant girls aged 10-14 and 349,465 pregnant girls aged 15-19 between July 2016 – June 2018 in Kenya. A little closer to home, her research showed that during the CoVid19 pandemic, the social impact resulted in huge increases in teenage pregnancies between March and June 2020, with 12,850 cases in Nairobi County and 80% of the cases situated in extreme poverty.

Over the last 3 years, MPC's Social Services Department recorded 107 cases, and the Reuben Health Centre delivered 186 babies in the same period; however, there were other cases not recorded. As a result of the research, MPC is working on intervention programs to reduce the incidents of teenage mothers and enable girls to attain their secondary education certificate, which is essential for employment. The intervention programs

will comprise culturally accepted sexual education classes,

counselling and support services, community engagement and awareness, and financial support reinforced with advocacy and policy. St Michael's is grateful to Dinah for bringing attention to this alarming and increasing issue to the students and parents. We wish her well when she presents her research project in July at the Mercy International Centre, Dublin, Ireland.



St. Michael's received much-needed materials at the beginning of the second term. We are grateful for the donations of educational resources that will improve the student's learning environment. Vivo Energy donated 9 computers, Turn 'O' Metals Kenya donated essential laboratory items, and Economic Publishers donated 90 boxes of exercise books, over 14,400 pieces. This donation was timely as students lost their books due to the floods and demolitions.



Economic Publishers



Turn 'O' Metals' laboratory donations





## Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

The Vocational Training Centre held its 14th graduation ceremony on June 28, a momentous occasion where a record-breaking 229 students from 2022 and 2023 graduated. The students received certificates of completion, a testament to their hard work and dedication, while awaiting their NITA certificates. Despite the challenging circumstances in the country, with rioting and demonstrations, not all graduates could attend the ceremony. We extend our gratitude to everyone involved in its preparation and participation, making this event a resounding success.



*Some of the 2022 and 2023 Graduands.*



*Invited guests for the graduation*

Special guest, Mr Erick Githuka, Corporate Affairs KWAL gave the address to the graduating class and some tips on what employers are looking for in a new employee. Fr Joseph conducted Mass.

The intake for 2024 is 271 across the 10 courses offered at the Centre, with a slightly higher number of females than males. This is mainly due to the hairdressing and hospitality courses, which traditionally attract more females. Our current cohort is inspired by the previous students and is making significant progress. They are busy completing the different elements of their courses and refining their skills. By witnessing the graduation ceremony, they know that there is a light at the end of the tunnel for them.

All our teaching staff are accredited by different associations in Kenya. The Centre is committed to enhancing our instructors' expertise by keeping them updated on the latest skills and knowledge in their respective fields.

Recently, the Centre participated in a four-day training program facilitated by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Curriculum Development, Assessment, and Certification Council (TVETA CDACC). This training, which we believe is of immense value, offered valuable insights into the evolving technical education landscape, introducing new training concepts and emphasizing competency development.



*OLMVTC staff and Ruben Centre staff after completion of the TVETA CDACC Training*

Heineken representative Frank Ford spent time with the INUA beneficiaries at OLMVTC, catching up on the student's progress. He also managed a tour of the Head Office site, which hosts St Michael's Secondary School and St Bakhita Primary. Standing on the balcony of St Bakhita, he saw firsthand the devastating impact of the demolitions along the Ngong River, distressing sight to behold.



*Frank Ford with INUA sponsored Catering students*



# Transformations

## Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

A couple of weeks ago, bulldozers were brought in to remove the illegal structures on the riparian land of the Ngong River. Following this, there were relocations with no official assistance provided by the government to anyone displaced by the demolition. This included families who were forced to find their own accommodation. In the middle of the month there were riots over the financial legislation bill that was passed by parliament where sadly dozens died. Despite these challenges, the community has shown remarkable resilience. Many residents have left Mukuru and moved to rural parts of Kenya, where living costs and fewer amenities are lower. Due to the threat of further extensive demolition in Mukuru, many families decided that life in the slum was no longer an option, resulting in an exodus. The Centre is still trying to locate some children who have been absent so that they can return to their classes and therapy regime. It is a worrying time for the Centre, and we can only hope that the bulldozers stay away so that it is spared from demolition and the children develop in a safe learning environment.

The Centre has 111 children enrolled across 4 units, with 62% male and 32% female however only 70 children turned up in June. Each child has a personalized curriculum aimed at being fun, engaging, and purposeful. The staff is committed to being flexible, empathetic, and sensitive to each child's needs, doing everything they can to support their success. The Centre has implemented a comprehensive learning program that encourages participation in extracurricular activities such as music and arts to stimulate different aspects of the children and promote valuable social encounters.



*Rand Onyango at physiotherapy room*

The most significant improvement child for June was Randy Onyango, from Unit 3, who is 12 years old and has autism. He has achieved great strides in his concentration, eye-hand coordination, follows simple instructions with reduced hyperactivity and can speak with less repetition. Randy's achievements are a testament to his hard work and the effectiveness of the therapy activities.

In total, 64 children attended 319 physiotherapy sessions, and 29 attended 121 speech therapy sessions. The majority of the children came from Unit 1 and Unit 2. Michael Mwendwa from Unit 2 made notable progress in speech therapy and can now articulate everyday English and Kiswahili words.

The 16 interns from different universities completed their placement at the Centre after three months of supporting the children. They consistently came to assist the children in reaching their personalized learning goals. The Centre is grateful for the placement programs as they allow university students to work with the most vulnerable children.

Training opportunities at the Centre are designed to empower staff, students, and community members with practical knowledge about children with disabilities. Our Sign Language classes, conducted 3 days a week for 2 hours, equip participants with a valuable skill. Parents are offered speech therapy sessions to ensure they can effectively integrate the learnings at the Centre into their home environment. These sessions cover the importance of speech, the brain's role in speech production, common speech disorders, and the symptoms of a child with speech challenges, giving parents the tools they need to support their child.



*Parent training session*

The Centre has been receiving local and international donations of different kinds ranging from food provisions to learning materials.



*Some of the donated items*



*Griffen Matete at 5*

Griffen Matete first came to MPC's attention when she was a baby and we often called her 'baby Griffen'. Over the last 4 years she has improved with her different disabilities. Her skin from birth was very scaly, flaky and fine. She is now 5 years old and continues to receive specialized treatment but the Centre took her for a second opinion at Jalaram Hospital Parklands. They have discovered that she is lacking a particular protein. Her medications were changed and her skin is cleansing better. There are other children who attend scheduled clinics at various hospitals while others go to the St. Catherine's social office to receive nutritional supplements.

# MPC Rehabilitation Centre

The 63 boys residing at the Centre played a crucial role in successfully participating in all the activities in June. The primary focus of the Centre is to provide integrated, holistic education. The boys excelled in their midterm examinations and no longer fear exams. The carpentry class have been working very hard and are confident they will perform exceptionally well. They are not just ready but eager to register for and take the NITA Grade 3 exams, which is a testament to their hard work and the practical educational approach at the Centre.



*Carpentry boys working in the Askea Souvenir shop*



*Year 1 class a reading assessment in class*

The Day of The African Child festival was held at Korogocho Catholic Church, filled with excitement. The day provided a wonderful opportunity for the boys at the Centre to interact with others, sparking a positive energy and enthusiasm. Such events help bring more awareness for children's rights and care reforms. MPC held its own event where students from all the MPC schools attended and further celebrated with songs, dances and music performances, adding to the festivities.



*The boys joined fellow MPC students and expressed their concerns to the government after the demolitions and cost of living.*

The Centre prioritizes sustainability through agricultural programs. The boys are taught various skills, including preparing and maintaining a seedbed, transplanting, and tending to the gardens. Their enthusiasm for embracing agriculture is palpable and inspiring, and they find joy in nurturing living plants, giving them hope for the future.

The rabbits and chickens are receiving proper care, and the produce from the vegetable patches and greenhouse looks very appetizing. The chickens seem content as they continue to lay eggs daily, and the rabbit population is increasing as expected. Taking care of the animals is not just a task, it's a journey of recovery for the boys, boosting their self-esteem and making us all proud of their achievements. The boys' sense of accomplishment in caring for the animals is truly inspiring and makes us all feel connected to their journey.



*Boys planting vegetables and laying irrigation tubes*



*Chickens*

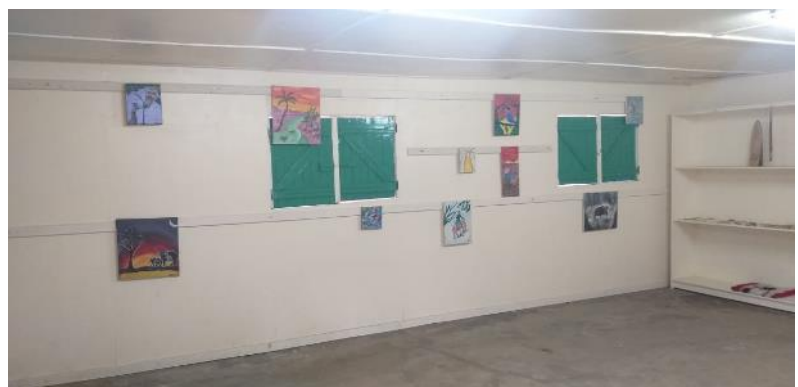


*New born bunnies*

Another sense of achievement is the development of the Askea Gallery and Music Rooms. The room was funded by ASKEA Girls National School Ireland, through Catherine Nolan. Paula Cullen and Friends worked on renovating the room alongside the carpentry boys, who had the opportunity to practice and exercise their carpentry knowledge and skills. The Centre was able to furnish the ASKEA Souvenir Shop, and it is ready to be used for exhibiting the boy's artefacts and carpentry items.



*Souvenir Display completed*



*ASKEA Gallery Exhibition room stocked with the boys paintings and artefacts*



*Souvenir shop Up and Running*

Sponsored by Catherine Nolan's group, the Centre could jazz up the music room with wonderful murals of musical instruments, making it more aesthetically pleasing and infusing it with a sense of music, which increased the boys' interest in attending music classes. Breana Stillman, Australian Soprano, donated Recorders for all the boys to start their music journey.



*Recorders*



*Adding ambience to the music room*

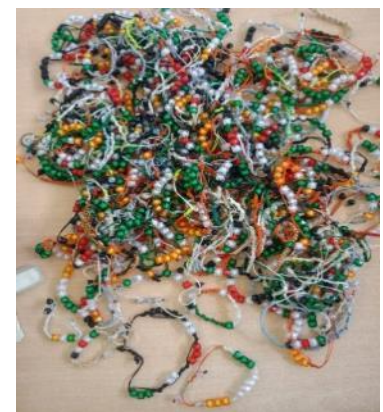


*Artists at work*

The boys' creative talents have shone brightly in the art classes this month. Their paintings, a tribute to their growing skills, will hang on the walls of the ASKEA Exhibitions Gallery. The art workshop was also busy making bracelets for gifts Ireland's National Symphony Orchestra.



*Boys making the bracelets*



*The bracelets*

Paula Cullen and Friends have organized a fundraising event in Ireland for July with the National Symphony Orchestra. The event aims to support the new music program at the Centre by engaging a music teacher and collecting instruments for the program. Additionally, the boys now have a music instructor from St. Michael's Secondary School who will help them improve their musical skills.



*The boys welcomed their new music teacher Frederick Osare from St. Michael' Secondary School.*



Kristina Nwazota, a dedicated volunteer, has not only shown a strong passion for libraries and bookkeeping but has also made a significant impact at the Centre. Her collaborative efforts with Paula Cullen and Friends to refurbish the library, by building new shelves and providing new books and educational materials for the boys, have been truly heartening. The Centre's library was named after Booker T. Washington, who was born into slavery and rose to become a leading African American intellectual of 19<sup>th</sup> century, founding the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute which became the Tuskegee University in 1881.



*Kristina and her family working in the Booker T. Washington*

*Kristina and her family*



To up the ante, the House Parents have set up extra inter-house matches to improve the soccer team's foot skills. The team has been performing exceptionally well in the 8 matches, winning 6, and drawing 2. Now that the boys' team has been registered with the FKF Tournament, coach Benter wants the boys to have a good showing each week. So far, the soccer team has been winning their league matches.

*MIRC soccer team played against Red Cross team and won 5-2*

The Centre extends its sincerest gratitude to all the supporters and well-wishers who have generously contributed their time, resources, and educational materials to assist the boys. During the current cost of living crises particularly, all donations greatly benefit the centre and its services to the boys on multiple levels.



*St Charles Lwanga Small Christian community visited the Centre*



*Emirates crewmember Ness*





*Buffet from St. Charles Lwanga Jumuia*



*Bread from Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School*



*Avocadoes Caroline Mbithe*



*Bread from Kristina Nwazota*



*Fresh vegetables from Team Pankaj*



*Action in focus*



*BA crewmember Chrissie*

*Chrissie repainting the basketball court*



## Sponsorship Office

In June, the Sponsorship Office commenced the vocational training interviews for an extra 40 students due to the generosity of Sr Deirdre Mullan, Mr Salvatore, Kindermission and Spanish Friends. Currently, we are pleased to announce that 41 students are sponsored at Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre through the program, a testament to our growing impact. The largest cohort of students sponsored is at the secondary level (229), followed by the primary level (173).



*OLMVT Interviews*

During school holiday breaks, sponsored students participate in community service activities at MPC, a tangible way for them to show appreciation for their donors' generosity and to learn new skills. For former prisoners, the transition to life after prison can be challenging, as many aspects of their lives have changed. The Second Chance Program offers community service activities to help them effectively reintegrate into society. These programs are not just about engagement and skill-building; they play a crucial role in preventing reoffending after serving time. Community service activities provide former



*Second Chance Group*

prisoners with a sense of purpose and meaning in their lives, a key factor in their successful reintegration. The group was also provided with essential food parcels to help them survive in the harsh economic conditions in Mukuru slums. MPC is grateful to Noreen Walsh and Friends who sponsored this compassionate project.



*Ex-prisoner with her new business sellings blankets.*

Samson Kyalo was rescued as a tiny baby, placed in St Marian's Children's Home in South B, and exited when St Marian's closed. Samson's journey has been one of resilience and determination. Samson, the baby, is now Samson, the teenager. With MPC support, he has overcome numerous challenges. He is now enrolled at Ngong Technical Vocational College to pursue a Diploma in Human Resource Management. Thanks to donors, the power of positive intervention through sponsorship has given Samson an exciting future. His success not only transforms his life but also inspires others in the community, showing the power of support and resilience.



*Samson Kyalo*



# Social & Health Services

## Social Services

The demolitions, now in their second month, have had a devastating impact on the affected families. Many were caught off guard, lacking the necessary funds to relocate.



*Massai Village behind St Bakhita Primary School*

The Department's efforts, including food parcel distribution and hygiene materials at 2 social offices, have been a crucial support for these families. In addition, they have been provided with clothing, bedding materials like blankets and mattresses, and household items. The scenes are reminiscent of communities rebuilding after a military conflict, a sight that should concern us all. People witnessing these scenes are filled with a sense of urgency to help the affected families. MPC is very grateful to the many donors who have provided essential materials.

Over 2,500 interventions were carried out during the month with 25% of them dealing with nutrition and food. Many families have found homes, but many others are still struggling and don't have a place to live. Some stay with friends, while others live in makeshift shanties that pose health risks. They lack access to

clean water and sanitation facilities and face harsh weather conditions. In June, Kenya experiences cool weather. Our social workers at each station work with community members to find the best ways to support these families and help them recover. We are grateful for the support from donors and well-wishers, which directly benefits those in need.



*Sr Barbara at St Catherine's Social Office*

Demolition victims received mattresses, blankets, clothes, shoes, tracksuits, food parcels from different donors. The people were extremely grateful.





*Food parcels and hygiene materials courtesy of Fondo Don Makario's, Raja Foundation and Team Pankaj*

Some of the children at Sancta Maria Primary School received new shoes as most of them had been lost or destroyed. The shoes will help to reduce diseases as the children walk through lots of rubbish and muddy valley ways to get to school.



*Children love their new shoes from Tuawn!*



St Elizabeth Primary School mother and son were left homeless and without clothes or food after the recent fire destroyed their shanty in Mukuru Kwa Rueben.



*St Elizabeth Children received some toys from the BA crewmembers*

The social workers have been providing ongoing support to students in need at the schools. They have been following up on cases of absenteeism, as many displaced students have had difficulty attending school, some having moved to distant locations. The Child Protection Office has coordinated mentorship sessions and offered psychosocial support to students with behavioural and mental health challenges.



*MPC Staff Safeguarding Training*

Additionally, the office has organized training sessions for staff on Performance Management, Self-care Practices, and Safeguarding and Protection Principles to protect children and vulnerable adults.

Furthermore, a follow-up meeting was held for parents of small businesses who had previously received entrepreneurship training to assess their progress and implementation of their new knowledge. The training began last year and aimed to empower young women who own small businesses in the community with financial literacy and management skills. The monitoring indicates that they are all progressing in the right direction.



*Equity Bank Parents Financial Literacy Training*

Through its waiver program, the Clinic has been instrumental in providing affordable healthcare services to marginalized children and vulnerable adults in the Mukuru community. The Clinic has excelled in addressing stomach infections and respiratory issues, which were common among the students due to the living conditions. The Clinic's social worker diligently maintained patient records for those needing medical support and those receiving follow-up care at other hospitals to ensure their cases were current.

Out of the 3 students diagnosed with cancer, one who underwent a leg amputation is now free of cancer cells. There is optimism that once all his test results are in, he will be cleared of cancer. Moses will need a prosthetic for his leg.



*Cancer free Moses Mwalishi*

# M<sup>PC</sup> Clinic

The Clinic, with its effective diagnosis and treatment, attended to 1,905 patients, comprising 1,502 outpatients and 403 clinic clients from our catchment population, and conducted 703 laboratory tests. The under-6s age category makes up 47% of the clinic clients and 20% of the outpatients, with the bulk of those diagnosed with respiratory and gastrointestinal issues. Nutrition is becoming a big issue, with 43% of the clinic clients suffering malnutrition, a challenge we are actively addressing through the Amaranth program at St Catherine's Social Office.

Mary Immaculate Clinic continued its deworming program for MPC educational institutions. St. Catherine's Primary School and Rehabilitation Centre were the beneficiaries in June. The health strategy aimed to promote good health and well-being for school-going children. As part of the deworming program, key health messages about the importance of personal hygiene and hand washing were shared with the students and pupils.

The clinicians attended a 3-day training course on HIV/AIDS. The training was sponsored by the Centre for International Health, Education and Biosecurity [CIHEB] in partnership with Ministry of Health, where they focused on various topics like management co-infections in HIV/AIDS and new updates measure in the prevention of HIV/AIDS through PREP [Pre exposure Prophylaxis] and PEP [Post Exposure Prophylaxis]. This is a very positive initiative as the information is shared to the rest of the staff through CME [Continuous Medical Education].



*Clinicians Training on HIV/Aids*

The Clinic received visits from the Ministry of Health and a consultant from the World Health Organization to raise awareness of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases such as Polio, Measles and Tetanus. The Clinic identified that it would be beneficial for health care workers to receive sensitization sessions on vaccines for preventable diseases to further enhance parents' knowledge of the positives of vaccinations for their children.



# Announcements

## *Activities outside the Departments*

- ✚ MPC will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2025. While there are several planned events throughout the year, the major event will be held on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025** at MPC's Head Office site due to space restrictions rather than Sancta Maria Kayaaba Primary School. **Keep the date!**

