

October Newsletter Vol 9 Issue No. 10 2024

Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends

Thanks to God, my caregivers, and the Mater medical team, in October, I was up and about and able to work for half a day. I could get about with a zimmer walker frame. My fracture is healing well.

Now that I have first-hand experience, I found some of our schools and centres friendly for people with physical disabilities, while the rehabilitation centre and clinic access need specific improvements such as better wheelchair accessibility and more specialized care for certain conditions.

With the changes for junior secondary, which is currently hosted in primary schools, the need for extra classrooms for the next school year, starting in January, is more pressing than ever. Sancta Maria Kayaaba, in particular, is in dire need of more land space for expansion. Their Grade 9 students will have to be accommodated elsewhere. While there will be classrooms available in secondary due to the absence of Form One students, the Government's funding of one million KHS (€7,300) for a classroom is insufficient to build a long-lasting, quality classroom. The teaching has concluded in schools, and in October, the examinations commence until November. Various schools had end-of-year parties before breaking for the Christmas holidays. We celebrated World Sight Day by having testing of sight of vulnerable students. Those who needed treatment received the necessary remedy.

Let's take a moment to celebrate the achievements of our St Michael's secondary students who competed in the Daily Nation (*Kenya's most popular newspaper*) Kiswahili and English competitions. Their success, along with the dedication of their teachers, is truly inspiring. It is a testament to the potential of our Mukuru students, who can now proudly stand among the best in the country.

Inside

Education

Assessments	3
Mercy Day Celebrations.....	3,5,16
Christmas Party	4
World Sight Day	4
Prize Giving	5
Set Books Excursion	6
Motivation Talks	7
Professional Development	7,17
Awards	8
Skills Visitors	9
New Initiatives	10

Transformations

Disability Trainings	11
High Achiever	12
Examination Preps	13
FKF League	14
Instruments	14
Ag, Chickens and Rabbits	15
Team Whistle	16
Chess Games	17
Re-Integration	17
Sponsorships	18

Social and Health

Home Visits	19
Start Ups	19
Flood Victims	19
Staff Training	20
Fire Victims	20
Pablo Hortsmann	21
Clinic Updates	21

Announcements

MPC	23
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We are also grateful to the Sisters of Mercy Province, who regularly provide training for our staff in Child Protection.

The Kenya Government is making significant strides in improving its services for children. A cornerstone of the Government's policy is the rapid reintegration of children in centres and homes with their families. This policy is rooted in the belief that every child has a family that is capable of providing love, acceptance, and care. Unfortunately, some families fall short of caring, and children end up on the streets, vulnerable to all kinds of abuse. Our rehabilitation centre has about 60 boys from the streets preparing to integrate into regular school and back into society and their families. It is heartbreaking to see young boys whose families cannot care for them due to mental health issues or addiction to drugs and alcohol. The various stakeholders are discussing the best options for those whose family situation is not stable enough to care for the child. The staff of the rehabilitation centre and the donors, Paula Cullen and her team, Chrissy Brookes and her colleagues, Christina and Jeff, and friends, are considering the various options, including appropriate boarding schools. We all hold onto the hope that the best choices are made so that boys do not return to street life but take advantage of the opportunities to complete their basic education and training and live a dignified life.

The Government also has a policy to integrate special needs children into regular schools. Public and most private schools do not have special needs teachers or resources to cope with children's needs. When integrated, the children can be neglected and fail to progress. They do benefit from mixing together. However, many find themselves soon out of school again as the schools cannot cope with their needs. Mukuru Promotion Centre runs a special needs centre for over 100 children, Songa Mbele na Masomo. After learning to walk and talk, some children are integrated into public schools but struggle to cope with the big numbers. Some are even bullied. There is still a lot of stigma attached to special needs children. Some believe they are bewitched, and some believe their parents are. It takes time for such attitudes to change. It is difficult to follow up on those with prostheses or other needs who need regular medical review and adjustment. Once they are integrated, they can only be remembered if they have a dedicated parent who will constantly seek services. In the special needs centre, it is easier to look after them, while follow-up in different regular schools is often wanted.

As you can read in the newsletter, various organisations and groups continued to help us. We are particularly delighted with the new partnership with the Pablo Hortsman Foundation, who will develop the paediatric services at the Clinic. The children are the largest cohort of patients at the clinic, and receiving specialised care will hopefully reduce the need for parents to seek medical attention for their children as some of the ailments are preventative. We are grateful to you all for your generous support, which is integral in enabling the services to continue. Your contributions make a significant difference. We also want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Department heads and staff, who face numerous challenges in their efforts to provide the best possible service to everyone who comes to the Centre.

God Bless

Sr Mary Killeen
Director



E_{ducation}

P_{primary Schools}

The primary schools are gearing up for the close of school with end-of-year assessments for all grades prior to the December holiday break. The final Grade 6 KNEC assessments KPSEA started on the 25th of October for 779 pupils. For the first time, no security personnel were deployed at the examination centres, and no certificates will be issued; rather, a report will be sent to schools and candidates.

Primary School	Boys	Girls	Total
St. Catherine	87	95	182
St. Bakhita	88	63	151
St. Elizabeth	142	115	257
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	97	92	189
Total	414	365	779

The Government released 4 million KHS to primary schools short of Grade 9 classrooms, with St. Elizabeth being one of them. This funding is specifically allocated for the construction of new classrooms. Schools have been given 2 months to complete the activity as classes commence in January 2025. An inspection was carried out by Mr Moses from the NG-CDF; however, Sancta Maria Kayaaba Primary School does not have the space capacity as part of its playground was grabbed by land grabbers in the early 2000s. The land issue has not yet been resolved. Fortunately, both St Catherine’s and St Bakhita have 2 classrooms available.



Grade 9 classrooms construction at St. Elizabeth



Final Mass Celebration at St. Elizabeth Primary School.

Mercy Day celebrations were held in October this year at Huruma Girl’s Secondary School as the schools were closed on 24 September, the date when it’s celebrated around the world with the Sisters of Mercy and their ministry partners. This year, Mercy Day was filled with joy, reflections, and a renewed commitment to the spirit of Catherine McAuley, the Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Students were not only encouraged but also inspired to emulate the works of Catherine McAuley by showing compassion to the less fortunate during the festive session.

For the first time the headteacher of St. Bakhita organized a highly successful end-of-year Christmas party for students at St. Bakhita, St. Michael's, and the OLMVTC Centre, supported by MPC on 23rd October 2024. All students sitting examinations were held in prayer especially the Grade 6 and Form 4 candidates during the Mass. Many families, who had faced the challenges of floods, demolition, and relocation throughout the year, were not forgotten. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Team Pankaj and MPC for providing the food for the celebration. Sr Mary, in her address, emphasized the message of Christmas, a message of hope and unity, for everyone. The students, with their entertaining performances, added a touch of joy to the day. It was a day of celebration, unity, and joy, enjoyed by all.



Students enjoy their meal during the Christmas party

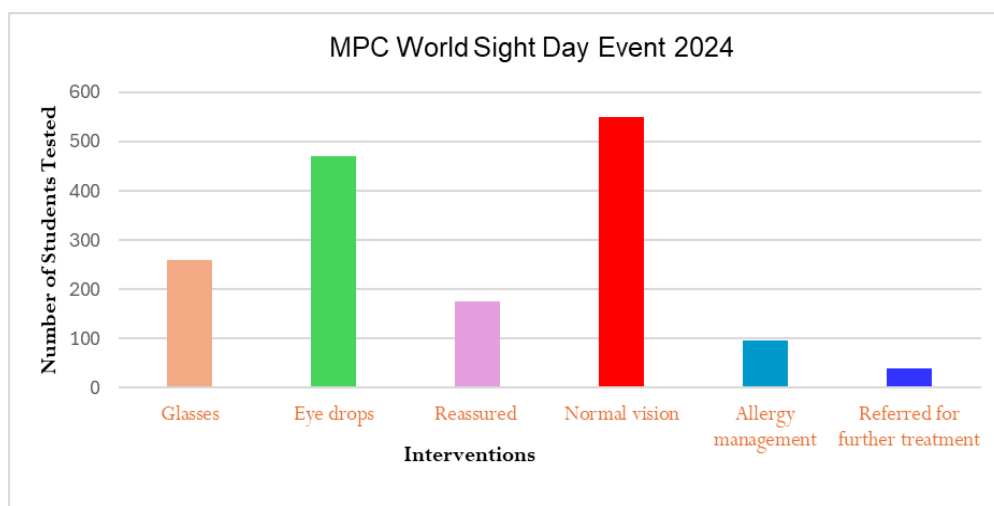


Students entertain their peers during the Christmas party



World Sight Day was celebrated in October at the Head Office. There were 1,588 students screened by the Optometrists Association of Kenya Team, with 35% children with normal vision. Those found with stigmatization received glasses, while those with mild eye problems received eye drops, and a small percentage were referred to a specialist. We hope that 16% who received glasses will see an improvement in their learning.

Eye screening at the Head office site for all students.



St Michael's Secondary School

The 554 students received the results of their end-of-term three and mock examinations, with many who need to improve, especially the Form Fours, if they want to gain entrance to university. The KCSE national examinations commenced on 30 October and will conclude on 22 November 2024. The supervisor from Highway School, Mr Abeyo, conducted the KCSE rehearsals, demonstrating his commitment to ensuring that all the candidates were well briefed and understood all the regulations.



Mr. Abeyo Supervisor

A special blessing and Mass was celebrated for the Form Four students before their final examinations.



Fr Binu blesses the exam rooms

Fr Jose Binu emphasized the need for students to carry out thorough revision, composure, and prayers to tackle the KCSE and achieve optimum results. He later blessed the candidates, exam materials, and the rooms.



Students being awarded for various achievements in 2024

Before the end of the term, St Michael's held a Prize-Giving Awards Ceremony on 24th October to acknowledge outstanding efforts and achievements in academic and co-curricular activities. Overall, 227 awards were present to students across class subjects and cocurricular activities received awards. Form One student, Emelda Wairimu who had been undergoing chemotherapy top her year group.

Mercy Day celebrations were held at Huruma Girls High School for all 12 affiliated Sisters of Mercy schools, including Mercy Commercial College, Miguta and Nguutani, Our Lady of Mercy South B and Shauri Moyo and Huruma Girls, through the Mercy Education Office. Each of these schools sent 5 to 6 teachers with 50 students.

Students and staff gathered not only to deepen their understanding of Mercy, compassion, and service to all, but also to inspire personal growth and learning. The event was a catalyst for our collective journey towards a more compassionate and merciful world.

The day began with a Mass, and several principals shared some thoughts on emphasizing the importance of Mercy as a guiding principle in life. Students performed skits that depicted various scenarios of compassion and understanding. They also sang and danced, creatively highlighting the values of kindness and empathy. For instance, [specific skit or song/dance details]. Sr Mary Kanyi concluded the ceremonies with closing remarks to encourage everyone attending or working in Mercy Affiliated school to carry lessons learnt into their communities.



Participants from different institutions

Two teachers, Mr. Biko and Madam Rose, led a group of students on an educational trip to Pentecostal Evangelisation Fellowship of Africa (PEFA) Church South B to watch live performances of St. Luke's Gospel and Kiswahili set books to gain a greater insight into the different plays. The trip aimed to reinforce students' understanding of biblical and Kiswahili literature, providing a memorable and educational experience outside the classroom.

The program began with a live performance of St. Luke's Gospel, which the students thoroughly enjoyed. It allowed them to dynamically experience biblical stories and themes. They noted that seeing the texts in action helped them connect more deeply with the material. Many shared that it made both the Gospel and Kiswahili literature more accessible and engaging.



St. Luke's live performance at PEFA church



The Social Office organised some mentorship sessions for Form Two and Form Four students. The Form Two students focused on techniques for handling peer pressure and steps for ensuring a productive long holiday break.

Sr. Dorcas, Salome Masha and Mr. Harrison Eteye



Form 4 participants

Sr. Mary Kanyi, the coordinator of the Provincial Mercy Education Office, organised a motivational talk focused on leadership and career choices for achieving sustainable professions. After the presentations, students were divided into groups to discuss the topics raised. These discussions were instrumental in helping them share their successes and challenges in high school while exploring their dreams.



Team Building Day



Group discussions



Staff enjoy the programs of the day

St Michael's staff attended a team-building day on 19th October, at Eden Spot, Ruiru. The day not only focused on team dynamics but also provided the staff with the opportunity for personal growth in terms of morale, communication, collaboration, teamwork, creativity, and innovative methodologies. The team-building day was filled with different activities that were a little out of the ordinary, making the exercises a little more challenging.

Keeping informed on the latest developments in Child Protection is a crucial commitment MPC has throughout all its Departments, as the majority of our services involve children. The knowledge of staff must be up-to-date and at the forefront, as they play a vital role in Child Protection, encountering children daily in the schools and social offices.



St Michael's staff and Mr Leaky after the Child Protection refresher course.

The safeguarding training seminar was conducted by Mrs Catherine Karuna, the Sisters of Mercy, Kenya Province Human Resources Officer who has been delivering the workshops for several years at MPC on behalf of the Province.

The national newspaper group, the Nation Media Group (NMG) conducts monthly essay writing competitions in English (Daily Nation) and Kiswahili (Taifa Leo), where schools are asked to organise students to write stories and submit them from January to October within the 8 regions in the country. In September, six students appeared among the top ten in the English competition in Nairobi Region, a remarkable achievement that we are all proud of. The Kiswahili version, two appeared among the top ten at positions 1 and 3, showcasing the talent and dedication of our students. The winner is prized with 4,000 KHS (€30), and the school and teacher receive 4,000 KHS. All winners are then invited to NMG head office for a grand competition, with the best receiving 50,000 shillings (€370) and a Christmas party at their chosen hotel. St Michael's Form Four students, Immaculate Awuor, won the Kiswahili competition, and Christel Lukumbuka who came third.



Emmaculate Awuor receives her award, best Kiswahili creative writer.



Mr. Mbogo with the best creative writers.



New grass on the MPC playing field progresses

The rejuvenation of the playing field continues to grow under the watchful eye of the gardener. By the beginning of the new academic year it will be ready to host a few games and physical education lessons.

Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

October was the month to ensure that all registrations for both the NITA (96) and KNEC (50) examinations, with 146 candidates sitting exams in November and December, were completed and submitted. The Centre continued with regular classes, including catering, hairdressing, front office and practicals. One of the requirements for the KNEC exam is students need to plan, produce and serve dinner for 15 people according to the KNEC requirements.

Representatives from KWAL, Heineken, Hilton Garden Inn, and Kwetu Curio Collection by Hilton visited OLMVTC to discuss the exciting potential expansion of the INUA program. Launched with the skills catering class, the program aims to offer additional qualifications and work experience to students after graduation, enhancing their employability. Their visit was an important step towards a promising future for our students.



Presentation

From left: Millicent Maroga and Frank Ford (Heineken), Eric Githua (KWAL) and MPC Board member Frank Laurence, Sr Mary. Liz Tapawa (Hilton Garden Inn), and Millicent Chepkemoi (Kwetu Curio Collection) meet Frank Ford.



From left: Rion Teegan, Dinah Mwendwa (MPC), Liz Tapawa (Hilton Garden Inn), Jackie, Frank Ford (Heineken) Judith Munge (KWAL), Sharon Okoth (KWAL), Frank Laurence (MPC Board Member), Millicent Chepkemoi (Kwetu Curio Collection by Hilton), Sr. Christine (HoD), Eric Githua (KWAL).

Thanks to KWAL, management and students visited Kibondeni College to better understand the current syllabus and possible improvements to the Inua program. The aim was to enhance their skills for Module 2 for KNEC.



KWAL interactions with Catering Students



MPC Meeting Presentation

Our catering students had the opportunity to serve tea at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, a significant event that allowed them to showcase their talents to the community. This experience not only raised awareness but also provided authentic opportunities for them to demonstrate their skills and gain invaluable confidence. We are thrilled to share that a previous student who completed the catering course was placed at Tamarind Hotel and was employed at the end of her placement, a clear indication of the growth and potential the OLMVTC students possess. Congratulations Evelyn Matika.

Long time supporters of MPC, DKA Austria, visited the Centre and interacted with students in all the classes and were very impressed with the courses on offer and their relevancy.



DKA visitors are served dinner at the Pride Restaurant



Transformations

Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

The Songa Mbele na Masomo, a unique and pioneering educational centre, was initially established to cater to children who had dropped out of school and those living with disabilities. It stands as the sole Centre of its kind in Mukuru slum, a testament to its crucial role in the community. A few years ago, the Centre transitioned to exclusively serving children with disabilities, a decision made in response to the inadequacy of mainstream schools in this regard. In October, the Ministry of Education officials visited the Centre to upgrade its official status, a significant milestone that will ensure parents can access the necessary government support. The process of upgrading the Centre's status is underway and may take a few months to complete.

The Centre has made significant strides in breaking down barriers to education for children with disabilities and their parents. Thanks to the support of many donors and well-wishers, the Centre is able to provide educational resources and nutritional support that enhance children's learning of numeracy and literacy skills at various levels, as well as daily living activities. The children are showing steady improvement at their own pace, and the therapeutic services offered provide additional support to help them reach their milestones. This progress is a testament to the Centre's impact and the potential for further growth and development.

Continuous staff development in multidisciplinary services is a cornerstone of the Centre's commitment to providing the best care and a stimulating learning environment for the children. The therapists have undergone first aid training, and the parents have participated



in a workshop on 'Learning difficulties and intellectual disability' sponsored by Mathare Day Care Centre and facilitated by Elizabeth Waithera. The social workers attended a day hosted by Cheshire Disability at Matumaini Rehabilitation Centre in Molo. The teachers also benefited from a workshop sponsored by the Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya (AOSK) in Limuru at Kisima Centre for Children's Institutions, focusing on caring for children with disabilities.

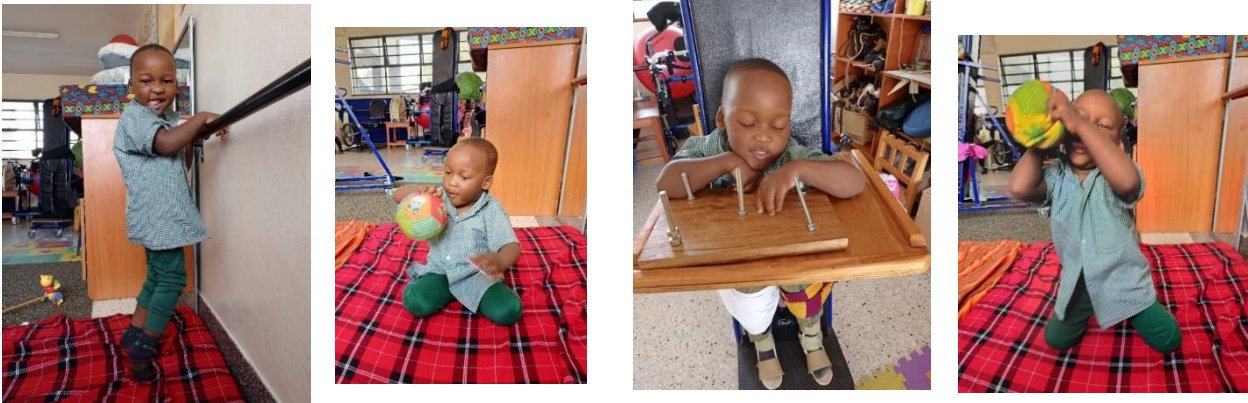
Intellectual and Learning difficulties training

Cheshire Disability Services Kenya (CDSK) conducted its monitoring and evaluation exercise meeting management and the finance team to assess the progress of their activities at Songa for 2024.



Phelix Ondanyi and Scaver Mwakio from CDSK meet with MPC team

This month's high achiever was Rashly Momanyi, a 3-year-old boy diagnosed with spastic cerebral palsy and hemiplegia. He was first integrated into the Daycare Unit but quickly moved to Unit 1 due to his outstanding achievements in personal hygiene and communication. He can now play sitting on his heels or standing on his knees and has mastered fine motor activities such as holding and throwing a smooth ball. His progress is truly inspiring and we are all proud of him.



Rashly Momanyi during therapy sessions

Accidents do happen; they are a part of life. However, the Centre is fortunate to have the Clinic not far away to refer medical cases to, and the outcomes have been successful. In October, 15 cases were referred to the Clinic, ranging from injuries due to a fall to convulsion attacks, drug support, and medical check-ups. The children received the attention they required and were allowed to return to the Centre. The more complicated cases were referred to other specialist hospitals.

Donations from well-wishers and supporters boosts the services at the Centre. Celebrating 24 years of service to Kenya, Safaricom visited the Centre, and 76 families received donations of provisions and clothing.



Donations received from Safaricom Co. Ltd

Exam mood and a spirit of hard work have been prevalent in October as we prepare for the KPSEA national and end-of-term exams. The social workers, with their unwavering commitment, have been working diligently to ensure that the home visits have been completed in preparation for reintegration in December and the business start-ups for the most vulnerable families. Their support has been instrumental in our preparations, reassuring us and instilling confidence in our efforts.



Year 1 boys sitting their end of term exams

According to the boys' internal assessments, at least 85% are highly literate and prepared to return to the regular school system and catch up to their peers. The boys' ability to understand and speak English has greatly improved, and we are particularly hopeful and optimistic about their strong interest in mathematics. The teachers have made sure to give the boys extra attention so they may achieve their academic goals.

As the saying goes, *'a problem shared is a problem halved'* helps the boys learn from each other. The counselling sessions emphasize the need to speak about issues and not bottle them up, especially as the boys will be reintegrated with families in December after the 12-month residential program. The fear of the unknown and the fact that some boys express a preference to remain in the Centre rather than return home are other issues that are being



Mr. John Ogicho conducts a group session

voiced. This sentiment is familiar to many of the boys as the Centre has provided stability, education, friendship, safety, and love over the past 12 months. The sessions help the boys to process the expected anxieties of reintegration.

After scheduled classes, the boys eagerly engage in various games and activities, a cherished part of their day. The Nairobi County Governor hosted the Sakaja Soccer Tournament, and the Rehab Centre bravely entered a team to compete. The winning team would receive football equipment and a million shillings. The Rehab team had a promising start, winning both their first league games and their playoff game, before being eliminated by Highway

Secondary School in the quarterfinals. Their strong start gives us hope for their future performances.

The team's next focus was the FKF league event, a competition regulated by the Football Kenya Federation that pits the young players against other up-and-coming football teams. The boys, who boast the finest squad in Starehe Sub-County, have shown unwavering dedication to the FKF league, maintaining their dominance and making us all proud.



MIRC soccer team takes part in the Sakaja Cup Tournament



FKF League Competition

The number of boys who can play a musical instrument is one of the most significant achievements at the Centre. From the piano to recorders, violins, drums, and singing, supported by the teachers at the African Education Fund (AEF) Reuben Centre and Sammy, the theory teacher, the boys are developing their talents and providing another avenue of expression. It is such a joy these days to hear the boys practicing lovely melodies in the evening to master the instruments. The Centre is very grateful to Paula Cullen and her Team who have been the drivers behind this program.



Music practice at Reuben Centre

Under the guidance of Samuel Waweru, the art classes come alive with creativity. The boys not only discover the potential of art as a source of income but also as a means to live sustainably. Their talents in woodcarving, candle making, and crocheting are honed, and they use these skills to create unique, distinctive products that they sell in their local area.



Art classes



The agricultural, rabbit, and chicken projects at the Centre continue to be fruitful. The rabbits are certainly producing prolifically and will need a bigger space to accommodate them. The chicken numbers are also multiplying, and they have the potential to supply some outlets in the area.



Preparing the ground for drip irrigation



Healthy looking rabbits



Chickens

In October, we received 48 additional tablets from Pro Futuro as a reward for our excellent performance in integrating tablets into our classes. We are deeply grateful to Calary Church, Wicklow, Ireland who provided the first sets of the tablets for the Centre. Fast-forward seven years, and the agency has acknowledged and rewarded the Centres with new tablets. The decision was made to ensure the life of the tablets continues and were given to a primary who were ready to use them. The Pro Futuro coach presented the old tablets to St Bakhita Primary School. The school, including the Headteacher, Mr Samuel Nyaga, expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the tablets.



Tablets presented Mr Nyaga – St Bakhita Primary School Headteacher

To mark the end of the school year and bid adieu to our interns and helpers, Americans India and her mother and Kristina and her niece, arranged a hike in the Ngong Hills for the boys. The aim was to scale two hills, but the boys and interns surpassed this and conquered five. The day ended with a delightful picnic, where everyone was treated to a scrumptious spread and enjoyed breathtaking views of the Ngong hills.



Hiking at the Ngong Hills in Kajiado County,

Caroline Cullen's Team, Whistle Foundation, visited the Centre and surprised the boys with a generous dinner of chicken and chips. They also took all 128 Centre blankets to be washed and dry cleaned to assist a parent whose son was a beneficiary of the Centre. The parent had been struggling to rebuild her life after being a victim of the floods and demolitions, and this substantial support was a significant step in her recovery.



Team Whistle with the boys after supper



Newly cleaned and fresh blankets from Team Whistle

The boys also participated in the Mercy Feast Day festivities at Huruma Girls Secondary School, performing various dances and songs.



MIRC boys performing at the Mercy Feast Day with dance and song



Together with St. Bakhita Primary School, the Rehabilitation Centre was able to establish a chess club this month that all MPC schools could join to learn the game. This initiative was met with great enthusiasm from the pupils, who embraced the chess game with open arms. The lessons, held every Friday afternoon at St. Bakhita Primary School, are a testament to their eagerness to learn and grow.



St Bakhita pupils and MIRC students during the launch of the Chess game

The social worker has been conducting home visits to help the boys reintegrate into their homes. Through MPC's sponsorship program, we hope the transition from the Centre to home schools will be smooth.



Nasri Ali's home in Bungoma



Andrew Baru's home in Sirare



Benson Ngigi and Joseph Mwangi
in Mukuru kwa Reuben

The Rehabilitation Staff participated in a Team Building Day at Eden Spot Garden, in Ruiru. The staff eagerly took on the challenges presented by various exercises, which highlighted the skills of our more athletic members. Fortunately, we have supportive team members at the Centre, ensuring no one was left behind.



MIRC Staff taking part in a team building day

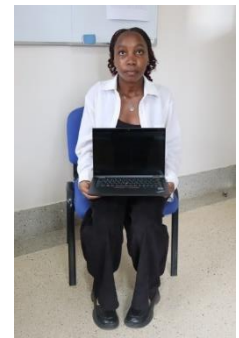
Sponsorship Office



St Catherine's Primary Pupils

Many of the 688 sponsored students had completed their academic year by the end of October after the national examinations. The Office collected thank you letters and report forms from sponsored children for their sponsors. These letters highlight their sponsors' positive impact on their education and personal development and reinforce the importance of support in their educational success.

Tracy Anyona Ndooli, a St. Michael's Secondary School sponsored student, completed her Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) with a commendable B-. She is a recipient of the St. Michael's Macheo Program conducted by Strathmore University, which provides supplementary tuition over three years. Tracy's achievements have enabled her to pursue a Diploma in Business Information Technology at Strathmore University. She has received a scholarship from Strathmore to help fund her studies. Her donor, Sr. Deirdre Mullan, generously covered the remaining expenses, whose support has had a significant impact on Tracy's education. To facilitate her learning, Tracy needed a laptop for online classes, assignment submissions, and coding. Upon expressing this need, Mr Bob Paterson, a staunch MPC supporter stepped in to assist by facilitating the purchase of a Lenovo laptop, greatly enhancing Tracy's ability to study effectively.



Tracy with her new laptop

An anonymous sponsor supported 76 students, targeting the neediest 19 pupils from each of the Mukuru Primary Schools. A mighty effort that lifts the financial burden of extremely poor families that the floods and demolitions have added to their dreadful situation. This person has been supporting children through the sponsorship office for a number of years but wishes to remain anonymous.



Jane Mmboga

Jane Mmboga has been a teacher at Sancta Maria Primary School for 5 years and is the primary breadwinner for her family, supporting her 3 siblings, 2 at university and 1 at high school. She was approved by the Ministry of Education to join the inclusive learning program at the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE). Due to her family's financial circumstances, she was unable to cover the total fees for the two-year course. Jane has committed to pay 40% and a generous sponsor will cover the balance.



Social & Health Services

Social Services

The various social workers carried out 2,216 activities in the month of October even though the schools closed for the year at the end of October, with students breaking for their long school holidays. The Social & Health Services Department, through the five offices, carried out 336 need support activities for both the students and the needy families that came to seek help, as well as the amaranth program for clients and malnourished children.

Over 30 families who were victims of floods and demolitions were severely affected and were provided with essentials such as bedding and household items crucial for their recovery. These families were also given business start-up kits and house rent to establish sustainable sources of income. The business start-ups were monitored by social workers on the progress to ensure sustainability and long-term support for these families. Over 80 home and hospitals visits were also conducted in October.



Home Visit



Flood and demolitions victims receive household items



Business Start Up Parent and demolition victim from Sinai Village

The assessments for sponsorship applications commenced, and students from primary schools were informed about the processes and regulations and how they could apply. The social workers verified situations through home visits, and some 241 students have enquired about sponsorship so far.

The Child Protection and Safeguarding office maintained its proactive approach, following up on alleged abuse cases and conducting a mentorship program for teenage mothers. Additional mentorship sessions were held in schools, and a three-day staff training course on child protection and safeguarding was conducted. MPC's commitment to child protection and safeguarding is unwavering.



Sr. Teresia addresses new staff at the Child Protection and Safeguarding Training

The medical social worker at the Clinic followed up on the active cases of sick children who needed close monitoring to check on their progress, attend clinics and take medication. The number of medical referrals for the month was a significant 259, highlighting the urgent need for our services. The major challenge has been some parents of terminally ill patients giving up on their children as well as being unable to sustain their families, especially when the sick child needs constant caregiving.



A fire incident in Mukuru kwa Reuben that affected one St. Michael's parent. The family received bedding and household items.

M^{PC} Clinic

A total of **1,799** patients accessed treatment services at the Clinic in October. The pediatric consultations were **803** patients (56% female and 44% male), with respiratory cases, particularly asthma and bronchitis, leading to the most common disease treated. In the mother and child unit, **113** immunizations were carried out; maternal services had 80 females assisted in antenatal and 8 in the postnatal Clinic, while immunized mothers were 25. The laboratory tests carried out were **1,091**, of which **351** were children.

The Spanish organization, Pablo Hortsman Foundation and MPC spent time discussing a partnership that will greatly enhance the services at the Clinic. The formal signing of the partnership will be signed in November.



Sr Mary, Christine Moral, Paloma Browo and Daniella Guenero

This month, we are thrilled to welcome our newly hired Pediatrician, Dr John Maina Wambugu, who will be leading the Pediatric consultations. The Ministry of Health had previously recommended hiring a pediatrician, a suggestion we were unable to implement due to financial limitations. However, thanks to the generous support of a new donor, Pablo Hortsman Foundation, a Spanish organization, we can now provide the specialized care our children deserve.



Pediatric Clinician examining an infant.

The Clinic received some donations in October, including a large supply of **Paracetamol 500mg** from Slovak Aid. The Clinic is grateful to Slovak Aid for considering the Mukuru residents as the beneficiaries. MEDS (Mission Essential Drugs Supplies) donated several dust coats, scalpels, and waste bags.



Paracetamol donation.

Dust coat

The Clinic staff attended a team-building day sponsored by MPC. The day allowed us to develop trust, collaboration, and teamwork by focusing on our strengths and abilities in the context of numerous challenges. These are important values that we encourage to be upheld as part of our organization's culture, as they help motivate and strengthen the spirit of teamwork.



MIC Staff enjoying themselves at the Team Building Event

The Clinic waived 259 cases due to the new pediatrics and maternal services. One of the most notable cases was that of a very sick young boy named Obama, who was found on the streets. He has a brother who ran away, leaving him alone, maybe for fear of the unknown. Obama's unique case, his journey from the streets to the Rehabilitation Centre, where he was treated, given food, and has fully recovered, is a testament to the positive impact of the Clinic's services.



Obama having a meal at the observation room



Announcements

Activities outside the Departments

- ✚ Absa Bank paid a courtesy visit to MPC during Customer service week, to express their appreciation for being a longstanding client with the theme being 'Above & beyond'. They marked the occasion by bringing along a cake for the Head Office staff.



Mercy Onyango and Susan Wavinya from ABSA bank with MPC staff

- ✚ Local companies donated wooden pallets, tiles and chairs. The items will be utilized in the welding and plumbing course for practicals.



Donated items

- ✚ Long time supporter and former Country Director of DKA Austria, Wolfgang Bohem, who is always generous with his time visited the Centre and led sessions with the HODs.
- ✚ If anyone is travelling to Nairobi soon, could you please get in contact with Paula Cullen on cullen.paula8@gmail.com to assist with transporting musical instruments to MPC.
- ✚ Save the date 21st May 2025 – 40th Anniversary Celebrations at the Head Office campus.