



KIBAGARE GOOD NEWS CENTRE

JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER



***Giving Hope and Restoring
Dignity So That They May
Have Life and Have It to The
Full***

Word from the
Director: Sr Emmah



Sr Emmah identifying some needy children in the slum

It's now 37 years since the St Martin School Kibagare opened the doors of its mabati [iron sheets] shed to the Kibagare slum dwellers. It opened its doors with a mission of bearing witness to the good news of Jesus Christ. Its mission was to give acts to the invisible Jesus by easing the pain and sufferings of the slum dwellers. Its opening was a sign of courage and dare shown by the late Sr Martin Wanjiru, ASN. What followed was the practice of hope, faith and patience, which in them are great virtues in a Christian life, mixed with daily struggle and fight against so many difficulties. St Martins School Kibagare started with almost nothing but big hearts full of love.

It started with a desire to love and express the love in simple acts of mercy and concern. It started as a feeding program for 50 hungry slum children. It had to live from day to day hoping and having faith in the divine providence. As each

day passed, the sisters and the workers were able to see and thank God for sustaining their mission another day.

With time and according to the needs, St Martins School Kibagare has created more programs all in a bid to strengthen its mission. What had started as a simple mabati structure has been replaced by permanent blocks in order to accommodate 700 students that are under our care.

Of recent, the beneficiaries of St Martins Primary School come from mainly from Kibagare slum and very few from the neighbouring slums of Kangemi and Sodom.

So far, St Martins Primary School operates five programs:-

- ✓ St Martins Nursery and Primary Schools [since 1985]
- ✓ St Martins Secondary School [since 1992]
- ✓ St Martins Catholic Church [since 1980]
- ✓ Outreach program
- ✓ St Martins Dispensary [since 1982]



Children admitted in St Martins Nursery School

Education

Pre school children keen in
a lesson



Since we started formal education officially in the year 1985, we have seen fragile bodies and minds get moulded into mature educated adults. Education is a major force towards the social and intellectual lives. It is the only pathway to the integration into the vast developing wider community. Our major desire is to see the children actively involved in the lives of their family members and societies fully without any limitations. In time we have noted that apart from the day to

day care that we give to our children we have to be a part of their future planners. We have to actively be involved in their dreams and aspirations. We give them career guidance and motivate them to focus on their future.

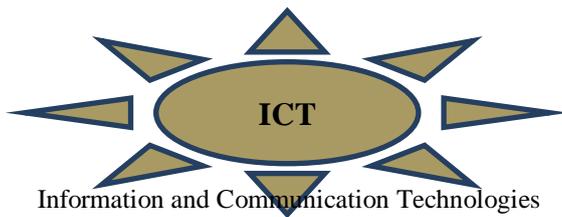
Since the centre opened its doors to the destitute, we have come across many cases of child abuse and substance abuse. With this situation persisting to this current moment, we feel that we not only have to offer psychosocial and emotional support but also reassurance for the uncertainties of the future. They come to us wholly and we take and deal with them in a holistic manner. We try to address their problems effectively and empathetically and together we rise above with them.

Most of the sisters and two staffs are knowledgeable in



counseling. The teachers have been receiving short courses and

seminars on guidance and counseling; together as a team we are able to journey with them. If some cases prove to be complicated, we try to use external specialists.



The Best Things That Have Taken Place in St Martins School:

Introduction of E-Learning in our school

In the school there have been two computer labs, one in primary and the other one in secondary. In lab there were computers, some in good order while others were not functioning.

The way tables were arranged made the room to be congested and there was not enough space for free movement. There was no



proper internet and there were only two teachers who could teach the students on basic computer knowledge.

In the month of May 2017, internet was installed. The computers that were not functioning were repaired and twenty five [25] of them were replaced.



The tables were better arranged and as a result there is enough space for free movement in the room.

To crown it all the teachers were trained on the following: -

Leadership training to sensitize the leaders on the importance of integration of ICT in education.

Skill builder training to train and equip teachers on how to use the English platform

Materials for other subjects are found on internet. This is done through Google or YouTube and teachers know how to get there. Teachers and the pupils are very excited about this new technology. St Martins School is very privileged to have such facilities because in Kenya there are very few schools which have computers where ICT is taught. With E-learning in our school, education will improve.



Teachers' computer resource centre

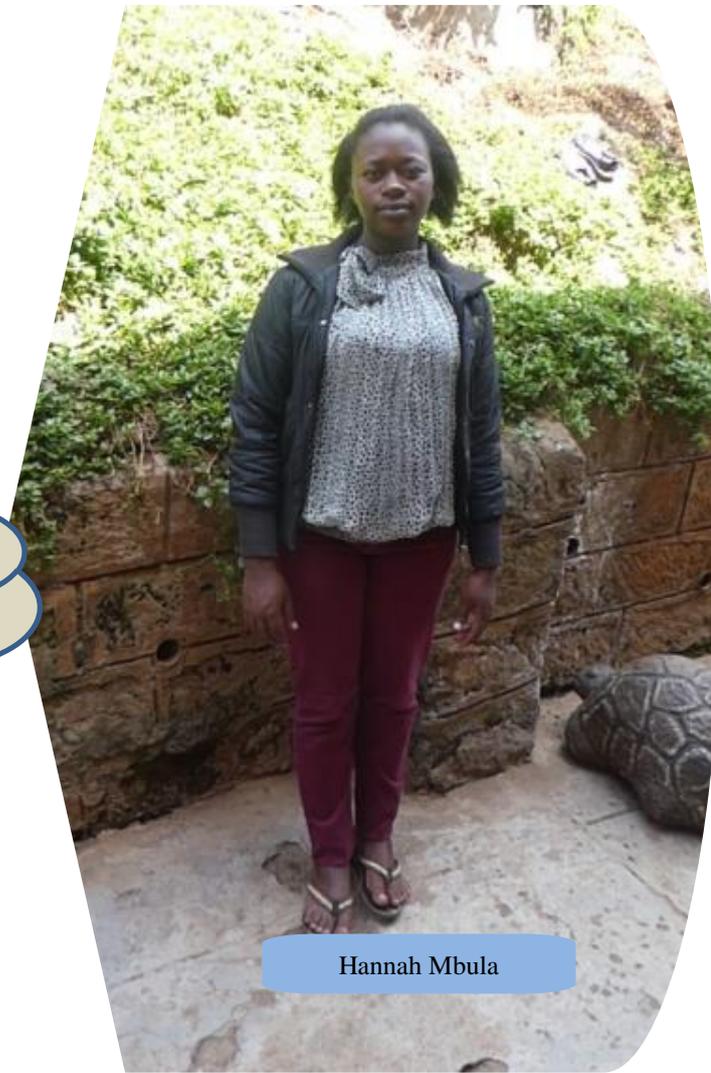
St Martins Secondary School



After primary education, some of our students join St Martins Secondary School. From there are always some who achieve access to the university and actually 20 of them from last year will join local universities and colleges.

How sponsorship gives hope to our underprivileged children for a brighter future.
The Story of Hannah Mbula
.....

Hannah Mbula did her primary school education at St Martins Primary School Kibagare. After sitting for her Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exams, she qualified to go to a good



Hannah Mbula

secondary school. She had a sponsor who paid her school fees from Form one to Form four. Hannah worked hard in her studies and was always position one in her class. After form four, she sat for her Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examination. She qualified for university admission. She has been admitted to Eldoret University. She narrates about her life history.....

.....“We are five siblings in my family and one niece whose mother passed on. I count myself very privileged that I have a sponsor who pays my school fees. I have four brothers; the first born should be in form three this year. He was in and out of school when he was in form one and two because of lack of school fees. The whole of this year he has not been in school and stays home. My mother could not afford to pay school fees for him. Another brother of mine stays with my grandmother at our rural home. His learning depends on Government bursaries and the little money that my mother can afford. His twin brother is in form one. He was supposed to join form one last year [2016]. My mother could not afford to pay school fees for him and he only joined secondary school this year 2017. If I had not got the support I could have been struggling like the rest of my siblings. This is how helpful you have been to me. My mothers’s salary does not sustain each one of us, but you have been the reason why I have a hopeful future as a prominent person and have a story to tell through your assistance.”

Feeding Program

Some of needy hungry children that come for Saturday feeding



Children enjoying Saturday lunch

Feeding was the initial basic need identified in 1980 and today it still retains the same position. From Monday to Friday we feed 700 children in primary school. As part of the feeding programme, we provide porridge at break time, and a healthy lunch which could be the only meal they would have for the day.

On Saturdays we feed 1700-1800 every Saturday. These children are the orphans and vulnerable children from Kibagare and neighboring slums.

For the last six months we have experienced severe famine which has been declared a national disaster. In some parts in Kenya, people and animals have died of hunger. Most of the people in Kenya rely on agriculture and livestock for food. Last year the rains failed and the animals starved because the grass and the other fodder dried up and most people are relying on relief food.

In places like Nairobi and Central Kenya, food has been available but scarce. It is being imported from the neighboring countries like Tanzania, Uganda and even from abroad. How we are affected like here in Nairobi is that cost of food is very expensive. A sack of maize which was costing kshs 2,500 – 3,000 is now costing kshs 9,000. A sack of beans was costing kshs 6,000 and now is costing kshs 10,000. The cost of green grams was kshs 7,200 and the present price is kshs 11,700. Rice which was costing kshs 5,000 and now is costing kshs 6,500. Maize flour a packet of 2 kgs was kshs 60 and the cost today is kshs 200. At times the government maize flour cost is kshs 90 but it is rarely available.

With the increased cost of foods it has been very difficult to get enough funds to feed the children. The amount of money that is required to feed and maintain a child in school per year is 550 USD. Please join us in providing food and education to our orphans and vulnerable children so that their future will be bright.



St Martins Dispensary

The dispensary is within the Centre. It caters for the pupils and students in St Martins School. There is a nurse who treats the pupils. The dispensary is of great help to the school because it often times children get injuries when they play.

The main diseases that are treated are colds, bronchitis and pneumonia during the cold weather, cuts, wounds and warm manifestation. When complications occur the students / pupils are referred to the hospital.

St Martins Catholic CHURCH

St Martins Catholic Church is also within the Centre. It caters for the spiritual needs of our children, workers and the Kibagare community.

The Dominican fathers are in charge as the centre chaplain. We have two masses on Sundays; one for the students and one for the Kibagare community. Different groups in the school have prayers at different days of the week

We have a very strong pontifical missionary children [pmc] who dance during the mass and they were even selected to welcome Pope Francis while he visited Kenya. We also have very strong choirs; secondary, primary and community and strong membership in the Catholic Women association and Catholic Men Associations.

The children also attend catechism, baptism and confirmation classes. We also had a very colourful wedding for one of the staff members in the month of April.



"We are the friends of Jesus, Let us make more friends of Jesus..... We are missionary children, come let us follow him friends.....".

St Martins pmc



Gabriels' wedding

Outreach program: Nilinde Nijjenge

Until last year the Assumption Sisters were only supporting the student and pupils in Kibagare school. The pupils come from very poor families in the slum. After school in the evening they go back to these poor homes.

We came to realise that helping the children alone was not enough; in June last year we started a project called Nilinde Nijjenge [Guide me so that I can help myself]. The project aims at promoting human dignity through social economic empowerment of households and support for orphans and vulnerable children. So far 850 households and 2300 children from those households have been identified.

How the children in these households have benefited;

- All the children in St Martins have been tested for HIV. The 18 children in St Martins Primary School who tested HIV positive were referred for care and support
- Children were assisted to get birth certificates
- The children were taught on life skills
- Children have been enrolled in National Health Insurance Fund
- Support for early childhood education by paying school fees for some children
- Vocational training



A children group therapy session

How the guardians have benefited

- Trained on good parenting
- Trained on wash and sanitation
- Sensitized on child rights
- Tested for HIV and those who test positive were referred for care and support
- Trained on voluntary savings and loans to enable them to become self reliant
- Enabled caregivers to start income generating activities; they were given e.g. goats, chickens, jikos (small cooking places), etc



Guardians given chicken for Income Generating Activities

One of the older Orphan in vocational training as a mechanic

It is my hope that by next year visible improvement of the lives of households will be observed.

MAJOR CHALLENGES FACED IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS

1. **Famine:** For the last two seasons, the rains were not sufficient; we didnt have a good harvest leading to severe famine and now we have utilized all the funds we had. We are in great need of funds in order to sustain the children and the project
2. **Renovations:** St Martins school buildings were built over 27 years ago and many of them have never been renovated. Some of them are in deprovable conditions especially the classrooms and the dining hall and need to be repaired
3. **Need of an extra classroom;** there are 40 children in one small room and they are very congested. There is an urgent need of an extra classroom to accomodate them
4. **Borehole:** The water level of the borehole has gone down and there are times we dont have water. The borehole was assessed and we require to drill another borehole costing 30,000 usd or 27,272 euros
5. **Secondary school sponsorship:** After children graduate from class 8 several of them cannot join secondary school because their guardians are unable to pay the school fees and hence they go back to the slum and engage themselves in the slum lifestyle.

Your love and money have broken the culture of poverty and given meaning to many lives. Together we can give one more child a new lease of life. Get a Child completely from the slum by Sponsorship.



HOW YOU CAN HELP!

As a program dedicated to serving the poor, the Kibagare Good News Centre relies entirely on the financial support of local and international Donors.

For further information about how you can help to improve the lives of the children,

Please contact us at:-

Kibagare good news centre

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