

The Mathare Children's Fund



2016 in perspective...

Dear Friends,

At Mathare Children Fund panairobi (MCFp), we are changing the equation for; former street children, teenage mothers, and students in schools, GBV related clients, Mathare community and its environment who need support to better their lives.

Through exceptional interventions, mitigation strategies and participatory based solutions, we are continuously working towards helping the community, children, teenage mothers and their families understand their current situations and take concrete steps to reach their full potential. As we look into the minds and hearts of all those we serve, we see hope. As we work together to discover their talents and reclaim their lives, we see their bright future.

Thank you for helping us tackle all these issues with impact and urgency, so we as a society can deliver on our promise to create a better world for all children and the community in Mathare.

In closing, we would like to thank all the help from friends of MCFp for their active participation and support in this partnership. We anticipate and count on your support in 2017 and promise to take the MCFp to a new level of ambition, commensurate with the vision and mission set out. Asante sana as we say in it in Swahili.

Enjoy our report, 2016.

Signed

Cathal Conaty

Signed

Susi Kerschbaumer

Sponsorship Programme



2016 saw MCFpanairobi enroll 28 new children all below 12 years following intensive case work and follow-ups over 7 months. 60% of these children are girls living under very precarious conditions where sexual abuse is rampant that we have been forced to place them in boarding schools. 12 of those have been placed in a boarding school and arrangements made to have them board the whole year until the December holidays.

On the other hand we let go of students who finished in college or are in college but under government scholarship. Those still in college but under government scholarship still get services from the project as beneficiaries.

Currently we have 103 children at all levels of education, from nurseries/kindergarten to University/college/vocational training; these have been placed in over 62 schools and institutions of higher learning all over the country.

The program continues to be hugely successful:

Special School – 5

Kindergarten – 9

Primary School – 46

Secondary School – 27

Colleges - 16

2016 saw 9 students sit for Kenya Certificate of Primary Education of whom 3 are children with special needs; all these students have been admitted in High schools around the country. 2 of these students were admitted in National Schools.

5 students sat for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education. 4 of them did well to be admitted to colleges while one will be going to a vocational school.

Those in colleges, 5 graduated from colleges, two finished their Diploma in Pharmaceutical Technologists and are awaiting the Pharmacy & Poisons Board Evaluation results to get certification, 1 in Certified Public Accountant, 1 finished his MBA and 1 is graduating from the Police Academy in February.

MCFpanairobi will continue to scale and reach out to more children, providing educational access and opportunity thanks to your support which will allow us to plan with confidence that 110 children will gain access to education in 2017.



During the holiday programme, a total number of 7 life skills trainings were conducted during the April, August and December holidays. These mainly dwelt on identifying gaps on violation of children rights and who to see in-case of any violations within their communities, understanding oneself, self-awareness and self- confidence, reproductive health issues, disregard of the environment and its effect.

We had also a workshop for the parents/guardians in August on parenting following a request from them during our April meeting. It's an agreed concern that parenting is becoming a problem and parents/guardians do not know how to handle their children.

To improve on the programme, we embarked on an Impact Assessment to identify and improve on gaps. This is still on-going and hopefully we will get a report by end of the first quarter in 2017.

Thanks to all the individual sponsors on GlobalGiving, those that send money straight to our bank accounts in Salzburg, Boston and Nairobi, Allan River Foundation, MacArthur Foundation among others for your continued support of the sponsorship program.

Teenage Mothers Programme/Gender Based Violence

63 teenage mothers were served in 2016. Together with the 63 teenage mothers are their kids –64 in number all below 5 years.



From the tailoring class, 70% have gained employment. This has been possible with the partnership of a factory (EPZ) that produces cloths for big brands in Europe and America. Some have moved out of their mud/iron sheet rooms to a better walled house with easy access to water and

toilets while others have taken in relatives to support them.

No cases of pregnancy has been reported in the 63 teen mums. This is a great improvement from 1.4% of the teenage mothers who got pregnant in 2015.

2 teenage mothers have reported to the university this year after they went back to school and passed their exams. They paid from income they generated from working in hair salons during the weekends and holidays.

We introduced a life skills training schedule and from this schedule of trainings we now have a manual that we will use for training the teen mums on life skills.

Our MOU with Mathare Youth Polytechnic came to an abrupt end following arising issues between the polytechnic and a local NGO over ownership of land and the premises. These resulted to a lot of fighting between gangs supporting both sides that we had to move the teen mothers due to their security. This has resulted to an increase in expenditure as we enrolled them in a private facility to enable them finish their training in beauty and hair dressing. Plans are underway to relocate the training in our office block.

On Gender Based Violence (GBV) - There was a reduction in the number of GBV incidences reported this year compared to last year. We are yet to understand why this is the case.

MCFp continues to play a lead role in GBV issues within our district. To enhance the Kasarani GBV Networking Group, we were able to acquire funds from Horizont 3000 to do a Systematization training with more than 28 organizations. We hope to implement the plan of action we came up with in 2017.

Livelihood Support Programme

Tours

Our Guided Walking Tours were ranked number 1 sightseeing tour in Nairobi on Trip Advisor and received the most Sustainable Tour Operator, 2016 by Luxurious Travel Guide based in the UK.



Our guests were from all over the world from Mexico to Australia with more than 400 guests doing the tour. This is an increase of more than 127% in terms of guests and an increase of 275% in profits compared to 2015. Tours continue to

provide a good income for the tour guides plus providing some income and potential donors to the MCFp.

As MCFp, some guests who have done the tour have ended up being donors to the various programmes we run, which we appreciate.

Challenge continues to be the frequent movement of young people in search of greener pastures that are potential tour guides and training by the National Museum.

Heart Bags



Heart bags are selling well. Sales have increased from last year by 51% with 640 bags sold in 2016. The bags are also listed in three high-end shops.

With training of more teenage mothers in the production of the bags, we hope to increase the out-put and thereby improving their lives in the process.

There has also been improvement in the product over the last one year with better

quality checks.

The biggest challenge we face is shipment of the heart bags to overseas market and sales and marketing within Kenya.

Social Enterprise - Reusable Sanitary Pads



Having been a dream for the last 3 years with a pilot project done in 2015, DKA Austria and Soroptimist finally came through for MCFp in April, 2016 by agreeing to fund the Re-usable Sanitary Pads for 3 years.

This afforded us to recruit a Production Lead, who had been in this field for more than 5 years; 3 teenage mothers who had been trained in tailoring, capital expenditure in form of machines and the necessary

equipment, the legal registration process (Social Business Enterprise) that is on-going and an in-depth Market Research that is on-going that will inform our strategy moving forward.

One of our biggest achievement has been the growth in self -esteem of the teenage mothers that are employed permanently. They are able to feed their children and save for a rainy day. Other achievements include:

- Sales of over 1,700 kits that are equivalent to 8,400 pieces within Kenya and South Sudan
- Trainings to over 1,000 female users in reproductive health and menstrual hygiene management
- Rolling out of a Reproductive Health and Menstrual Hygiene Management training manual informed by issues raised by beneficiaries of the training
- Improved re-usable pads emanating from feedback from the end user. This has seen the pads generate more customers and positive feedback after the improvement.

Following a not so successful recruitment process with the sales and marketing person, we have reviewed the process and hope in 2017, we will be able to employ a Sales and Marketing person (preferably female) to ensure we that we spread our wings and increase our sales.

Another challenge has been the slow process in the registration of the project as a Social Enterprise with the necessary authorities

Jangwani School of Hope (Community Library)



Our community Library has continued to benefit more than 20 children every evening and over 70 during April, August and December school holidays.

Plans to bring in an element of sports into the project for children who use the library has seen one of our staff members trained in volleyball and cricket. The challenge remain the lack of a sports field since majority of playing grounds in slums have been grabbed.

2016 so more innovative ideas from Challenge Aid which involved several other Schools of Hope, namely: debates on topics that affect students in schools, inter competitions between the schools in areas like drama, music, dances among other activities. They have also

introduced annual award systems where the best students are awarded for good performance in schools.

2017 is the last year that Challenge Aid is funding the library but we hope the library will be self-sustaining by the end of the year.

Students Councils/Parliament



This project set out to Increase Student's voices and expressions as responsible citizens who are aware of their rights, their influence and their responsibilities within their schools leading to better performance due to a better learning atmosphere.

With the help of CHS – (Christiane Herzog Shule) and Wendy Osorio, this Child Protection and Rights initiative that targeted 5 pilot schools saw more than 3248

students participate with more than 234 leaders elected. 38 student leaders trained and 8 of these student leaders (student presidents) travel for an exchange visit to Germany. The trip to Germany was the highlight of the project. In Germany, the student leaders learned a lot on how CHS student leaders conduct their roles and responsibilities.

The 38 student leaders trained in conflict resolution, leadership skills, and communication among other areas and will be champions to this project when we embark on the second phase.

A proposal has been forwarded to the Austrian Embassy for perusal to try and implement the project in schools based in Mathare after more than 140 schools went on strike in the second semester, destroying property worth half a billion shillings in 2016.

After the trip to Germany, MCFp was able to be invited to observe democratic elections in 3 schools where student leaders were elected, taking over from the previous student leaders.



Following the training of the student leaders, we have seen the use of the skills acquired to tame their fellow students from burning of the schools during the last semester in 2016 when more than 147 schools went on rampage. This earned one of the student president, an award from the school board for saving the day.

Other notable highlights



- The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria – Minister Kurz paid a visit to our offices in October, 2016 and is following MCFp in Facebook



- The Austrian Ambassador, His Excellency Dr. Gunther has paid several visits to the project and continues to be a friend of the project



- Horizont 3000 provided funds for a Systematization training for 29 organizations as part of the Policy Dialogue training that one of the staff member participated. It is hope that in 2017, the CCI and GBV networking groups will start a systematization process looking at ways of improving the leadership

and networking processes based on a critical reflection and interpretation of lessons learnt from that practice



- GlobalGiving ranked us as one of the Top Most Ranked and vetted Organization in 2016. This is a sign you can trust MCFpanairobi with your funds and donations.



- We received the Luxury Travel Guide 2016 Global Awards as the best tours in Nairobi. The LTG is based in the UK



- 5 staff members got scholarships worth \$3,345 for capacity building in different areas that would improve our services in MS-TCDC (Training Centre for Development Cooperation in Eastern and Southern Africa)> This was possible through our network links with Women Empowerment Link and

Action Aid

- 2016, saw us renew our MOU with Aktion Regen (An Austrian organization) to implement their Reproductive health and Family Planning trainings under the Pananairobi Rain workers group where two of MCFp staff have been trained in this area
- We continue to offer leadership in different forums and networks, mostly Charitable Children Institutions (CCI), GBV networking group and Nairobi Child Protection Team. This led to the German Development Cooperation (GDC) in the Health Sector in Kenya which includes Technical Cooperation (GIZ) and Financial Cooperation (KfW) to invite MCFp as a lead organization to participate in presenting a proposal in Mathare GBV Database and Survivors Register, a project initiated by a volunteer within the project. We hope to get positive feedback later in 2017

ASANTE SANA!!!

for making 2016 possible...