

NEWS IN BRIEF

- » The highest number ever - four out of six girls who did the primary school exams at the end of last year, join secondary school this year.
- » College graduates: We are proud to announce that Esther (journalism), Millicent (front office) and Joyce (Primary School Teacher) successfully finished their studies. Special thanks to those who sponsored the education

of the girls. We pray for them to get a job shortly.



Joyce during graduation

THANKS BE TO YOU

During the last six months we received many guests, more than we can mention in this newsletter. But be sure it was a pleasure to us to get together and share friendship with you. And we want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who get no chance to come to Nairobi and meet the PLCC girls. You depend on

our words and you trust us; you pray for us and you do a lot of activities to support us. You back up our ministry in an invaluable way. You might not know how important you are to us, but we assure you: PLCC cannot fulfill its promise to change the lives of street girls without partners like you.

A HARD QUESTION TO ANSWER?

In the Hand Stretch department is where issues related to the parents/guardians are dealt with we were able by the end of the year to reach out three street mothers for counseling and looking for ways and means of them changing their life style. The department managed to bring once again almost all the parents/guardians together for discussion on how to increase their income per house hold aiming at improving their standard of life. Been able to bring them to the point of acknowledging their setbacks and show-

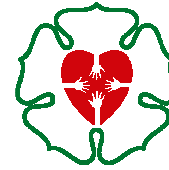
ing interests to change is an indication that there is a possibility of walking together towards success.

A high number of parents do not know the fathers to their children or they do not want to talk about them. In one of the meetings cases of rape in the wearied hours of the night dominated the discussions, in a very sad mood. "Who will save us? We want to have homes but where? We want to have descent families but how?" A young woman of two children asks as tears washes her face.



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Pangani Lutheran Children Centre



F R I E N D
A friend in need is a friend indeed.

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Dear friends,

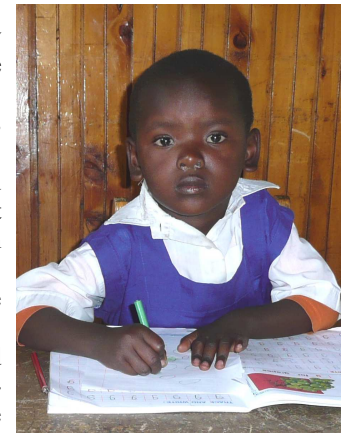
it is another time we would like to share with you the progress in our ministry. In the September bulleting we shared the progress of Ongata Rongai and requested for more people to join hands with us in supporting this ministry. Now the situation in Ongata Rongai stands as a witness that your praying with us was not time wasted the hand of God has been working on our favor.

We are grateful to God and to the family of Notburga Frey together with the Mission OneWorld for their contribution and participation in making sure that the first girls' cottage which has a capacity to accommodate maximum of twelve girls and a mother per house is complete. The challenge remains that we do not have basic needs for the first group of girls to move in. We have opened doors for any one with materials or money which can help in children's house to donate. Please remember that 'No gift is too small'.

PLCC progress generally is encouraging according to the department reports. From the social work department twelve new girls were brought in from the street; amongst them five children had nowhere to call a home. Their parents spend nights along the narrow dark paths of the city. So they were taken to the hostel direct forcing the matron to have more children in a room than it is required. With such experiences within the PLCC ministry indeed there is a need of

a compacted centre which realistically shall accommodate and empower the talents of the vulnerable/neglected children for their life now and in the future.

Though the reality within the PLCC family is exciting on regard to what has been happening, we continue to need your support. The obstacles



that stand on the way of a street child and a child from extremely poor family are greater than before. Their education is constantly interrupted and it is virtually impossible for some of them to learn while staying with their parents/guardians. They need a shelter. Therefore we are extending our hands to you, to ask you to stand with us in bringing the PLCC visions come to pass and to remain an institution that shall provide the desperately needed opportunities and hope for these children.

Remains faithfully

Mary Mshana.

LITURGICAL STOLES



PAWENA, the weaving branch of PLCC now has a new and unique product. We are weaving liturgical

stoles in the liturgical seasonal colors of red, green, blue, white and purple. Our first order was recently shipped to the United States. If interested you may contact PLCC.

We also have many other items such as table runners, table mats, shawls, and purses for sale. Your support of our work is appreciated.

agreed to let her enter the centre. She left behind a life of hardship, which she will never forget.

We took Mary to our hostel. She has never slept on a bed before. This touched us and we were eager to know whether she could talk instead of only shaking her head. And she did! We knew she was suffering inside and felt relieved after joining our centre.



Step by step the girls expand the ability to concentrate

Although she has only been with us for two and a half months, she has totally changed. She speaks, plays with others and if offended she reports to the staff. She even leads the prayers, follows the instructions in informal education class and is obedient. She will have an opportunity for a brighter future and a story to tell.

Please pray with us for the future of this girl and all the others.

Susan Gatonga, social worker

FIRST AND FOREMOST WE ACCEPT THEM THE WAY THEY ARE

We have recently admitted a new group of children from the streets of Nairobi to the centre. I would like to take you on a journey to see what goes on before these children begin formal school.

First and foremost, we accept the children the way they are and take some time to observe them so that we get to know their behaviours. Because of their backgrounds they remain with us at the centre for a period of time, normally one year, before they join school. During this time we are able to rehabilitate them to the level that they are able to attend public schools.

In order to achieve this we undertake a programme of non-formal education at the centre. This is done so that there is relevance to what goes on in the regular schools such as observing a routine that has similarity to public schools. This includes, having the girls dress in a school uniform, attend morning devotions, learn lessons, take tests to chart their academic progress and time for games and sports.

During school holiday the girls converge at the centre for a holiday programme. These activities also help by bringing together all the PLCC children. They come from different schools with experiences they share with each other. The new admits see the benefits of attending school. Thus you will find them working hard and looking forward to the day when they will join regular schools for formal education.

However, this exercise does not always go smoothly. There are a lot of

challenges that we encounter as we carry out this process. Some of them include dealing with children who have never gone to school and are past the normal age of starting school. With such cases we teach them basic skills of writing, reading and arithmetic. Then, there are those who have been on the streets for a long period of time and the temptation to go back is very high. Friends sometimes convince them to leave the centre and return to the streets. Another notable challenge is that some children who reside with relatives in the slums will return to the streets when out of school especially at night. This eventually affects their school performance and sometimes leads to them dropping out. Nevertheless there is hope that there will come a time when most of these challenges will be a thing of the past.

Ronald Bosire, teacher



Teaching basic skills in small groups