

NEWS IN BRIEF

- » In the beginning of October 08 a delegation from Niederberg visited PLCC.
- » In November 08, Susan Winger, Deborah Shock, Larry Mazer, Markell Winger and Tim Knauss from Allegheny Synod visited our plot in Ongata Rongai and Pangani House. But their main interest was to meet and interact with the girls at the dropping center. We thank you for that!
- » The 2008 new admits' (homecups) outing brought the girls to Nairobi National Park's animal orphanage and Bomas of Kenya on November 19, 2008. The girls spent a wonderful day with their teachers after closing the year in PLCC's informal education.
- » Lilian Akang'o, the cook at the dropping center in Mathare, gave birth to a baby boy in January 09.
- » In 2009 ten new girls were admitted at PLCC. More information about them in the next bulletin.
- » The proposal for the Rehabilitation Centre for Girls in Ongata Rongai is written. Please do not hesitate to require a copy. It is available as a pdf data to be sent by email or a hard copy on postal way.
- » Mary Mumbi, a weaver at PAWENA left PLCC at the end of March. She went to join the Carmelites Sister and left a gap behind. May God be with her and show her His will.
- » We proudly welcome new friends! In 2008 one parish and one individual from USA, four parishes, a school and nineteen individuals from Germany have joined PLCC family.



Lunch break at Bomas of Kenya, homecups, teachers and guests

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**KENYA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PANGANI LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

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PANGANI LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S CENTRE



in need is a friend indeed

Bulletin 19

April 2009

Psalm 18, 49 Therefore we shall praise you among the nations, o Lord, we shall sing praise to your name.

Dear Friends of PLCC,

it is yet another time to share with you the good things which have been happening since the last bulletin. First and foremost I would like to say thank for continuing to hold hands with us to come to this level.

From our calendar of events in 2008 we count it to be a year of success. With a big note of the training and counseling meetings we had with the children, academic performance became better and the number of school drop outs decreased compared to the previous years. Complains from parents/guardians about their children refusing to go to school was noted to be less regardless the food crises in the families.

Success happenings are not without challenges. Though on one hand the academic activities in vocational training institutions, primary and secondary schools have been doing well, on the other hand, cases of children who can not cope with the public schools system and lack of enough accommoda-

tion facilities continue to be a challenge.

Another challenge comes from home visitation reports where a high number of families go hungry. Cases of one meal in a day have become a story of the day. As

we try to reach out the critical cases, we are also limited on what we can offer since our annual budget is also in a crisis due to high prices of food in the market.

The Parents support program (HSP) has not remained safe by the fact that some parents can't afford paying back the loans since the little benefit they get from the sales is only enough to feed their families. Since we count the behavior change among the girls a result of parents' seminars, the program is worthy continue supporting.

Mary Mshana, Director



CHALLENGES IMPACTING NEGATIVELY TO THE PERFORMANCE

Different from last year, this year, Kenyans had a chance to celebrate the new year. However the aftermath of the year 2008's violence after the general election were heavily felt by Kenyans from all walks of life. This did not spare the education sector as well. The effects were clearly seen after the release of the national examination results. There was poor performance in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education examination.



Tuition for the girls during holidays

The poor performance was associated with the time wasted at the beginning of that year, the displacement of both teachers and students and also the destruction of learning institutions. Although last year's poor results may be attributed to the happenings in that year, the fact remains that the quality of education in public schools in the country is not as it used to be. This is

as opposed to private schools. The reason for this is that in public schools the ration of teacher to pupil is 1:100 plus in urban centers and 1:80 in rural areas. This is different in private schools and other children organizations with established schools whereby this ratio is at most 1:25.

There are other challenges that have continued to impact negatively to the performance of the children in public schools, this includes: limited facilities and lack of enough learning resources. At the beginning of this year teachers went on strike which lasted for two weeks. Therefore all public schools going children were out of school for that period. As the strike was on, the privately owned schools continued with their business normally. This puts their children in a better position to perform well, which they have always done.

In KCPE 2008 PLCC had a total of eight girls that sat for the examination. Out of the eight only one managed to get the marks required to proceed to secondary school.

Three of this number were given a second change to resit for the examinations end of this year, while the remaining four, a solution is yet to be found. This has always remained a challenge to PLCC because there isn't a place ready available to accommodate those who can't make it to secondary school.

In secondary school education PLCC had two girls who sat for the Kenya certificate of Secondary Education. Both of them attained grade C minus. Our PLCC girls have to contend with challenges which put them at a more

ONE VERY IMPRESSIVE PLCC PARENT

The year 2009, first quarter, kicked off on a high note!



Margret selling fish

There have been a number of activities that have been implemented. The month of January started with a Micro Finance seminar. The parents/guardians of PLCC were empowered on Book keeping. This came about as we went round visiting our parents/guardians business cites and noted with concern that there was need for book keeping knowledge taught to PLCC parents/guardians. The seminar was positively received with attendance meeting above 50% mark that is 35 parents/guardians of PLCC.

Another seminar took place in February whereby Sales and Marketing was the topic of discussion. We grouped the participants into three groups to discuss various ways they could market different products. This was positively taken as so much knowledge was shared between the parents hence positively embracing the skills and knowledge of sales and marketing. Most decided to diversity their mer-

chandise and goods to capture a wider market for business growth and boom. We also had some time with our facilitators who taught soap making. It was such successful exercise such that the soap that was made ¾ of it got sold right there on the spot and those who didn't attend the seminar come changing requesting to have a refresher course for them out of the same.

One very impressive PLCC parent is Margaret Awino. She took a loan to start her Fish Mongering Business. She had it already paid and as I joined PLCC and was mobilizing to give out loans in December she also came, applied for another loan and now is paying promptly. She is a member of the first self help group. This for me is a very positive sigh and good example the rest of parents MUST emulate and follow.

Challenges faced

Some parents took loans and due to post Elections violence their businesses sunk and are unable to pay their debts.

Some parents start their businesses very early for their businesses are for daily bread winning for their families on table. As such they feel at loss or caught in between.

Some parents/guardians are not easily traced owing to them moving to rent a house in a different area for different reasons,

Mark Nagwaga Savwa, social worker

ONGATA RONGAI - FUTURE HOME

PLCC applied for a water reserve tank at the Ongata Rongai plot to German Embassy in Nairobi. The well is done with the help of ELCA and Sternsinger Germany, so we are glad that we met the requirements and qualified to be supported by the German Embassy for the tank. After signing the contract be-

tween the embassy and PLCC on March 20, we are now able to order the water reserve tank. According to the supplier the work will come into completion within a period of two months.



In 2008 we made a big step forward to reach the target of educating and training of young people financed out of the profit of PAWENA. Our products were sold annually in Kenya 13,2 %, USA 15,5 % and Germany 71,3 %. Our customers abroad are mainly parishes and One World Shops. The order

of the Sunday School Bavaria of course takes a big part of the sales in Germany. We are proud that they like the product and ordered another 500 pieces, which will be delivered in April.

It was again Janice Knausenberger who helped our workshop to look/be more professional. As a multitasking lady she created a logo for PAWENA. This will help us to be recognized. A big THANK YOU to Janice!

KWA HERI, ANNA

Kwa heri means good luck. And this is what we wish Anna Schoen for her future back in Germany. She left Kenya in January after being with us for five months. Anna was working with the homecups (the group of girls in informal education) and also for one month in the Mathare Nursery. Besides of teaching in class, she was very active in the afternoons with sports. As schooling is very much focused on academic, she was the right person to balance this with games. The PLCC family thanks for Anna's commitment

and the love she shared with us. May God bless her.



Anna and Monicah

disadvantaged position to perform well, given that their historical background is also not favorable. We hope that one day God will open a way for us to overcome these chal-

lenges and our girls be among the best performers in education.

Ronald Bosire, teacher

LISTEN TO AND LOOK AT THE GIRLS

Three wishes from different girls:



Concentrating in class

Jane, 9: "I want 1st to love all people, 2nd to love my parents, 3rd love everybody, small and big."



„Kalongo“ is „playing house“, the game that kids all over the world love to play.

Winnie, 12: "I want 1st God to help me in school, 2nd to go to university, 3rd to get a job."

Bibian 14: "I want 1st to learn, 2nd to get a job, 3rd to help my family."



Girls like to be smart!

Idah 17: "I want 1st to become a journalist, 2nd to have a better life and good future, 3rd to take care of other people."

Zaitun, 12: "I want 1st to learn, 2nd to have a bible, 3rd to have money."

PANGANI HOUSE ACTIVITIES

It is with amazing remarks when we look what is happening in the hostel from the beginning of the year. As the house remained to serve as a rescue centre for the PLCC registered children, this year we started with higher motivation compared with the previous years. Local Government children officer from our area of operation paid us a visit and assured us that our service has kept the standard.

As the year picked off and those who had gone to visit their relatives came back, we had planned to have more free rooms. Some of the girls who were housed due to health problem had been cleared to go for December holiday and not come back since the problem which had brought them to the house had been solved.

As per the Centre plans, normally ten girls are admitted every year. While the new admits go through informal education the social workers try to establish the area where their parents/guardians resides. When they find that the place is not conducive in supporting the child, they recommend the child to be given accommodation. For example among the 10 children admitted to the program this year, two were found to be in need of accommodation. So they shall stay in the hos-



An important day for Eunice and Evalyne (2nd and 3rd from right) two of our Pangani House girls confirmed their baptism on December 7, 2008. May God strengthen their believe and bless them.

tel till the social worker recommends otherwise. At the moment the hostel has twenty five girls attending different primary schools.

During their stay, we have found counseling sessions bringing positive results in the lives of those admitted in the hostel. Apart from that, they adapt quickly and their health changes faster. Our priority being bringing positive behavior, our main concerns have remained to bring positive change in their future lives.

So more than providing food, accommodation and medical, through the hostel we have been able to offer counseling to the children and where there is a need to involve the parents/guardians.

It has been in our prayers for the new home plans to succeed so that we may accommodate more vulnerable girls. Behavior change therapy has not been

easy since the outside influence seems to be stronger than the understanding of the children.

Therefore we would like to mention that your prayers for homeless and the neglected children have contributed in making the hostel grow and remain firm in its services. If you do pray we would like to urge you to continue praying. If you do not, please start.

From the matron

MERCY HAS TO KEEP ON HOPING

For some times now, Mercy had been jobless, and she was moving up and down on trying what would work for her family to feed and meet their daily needs. On this particular day, she was planning on how to start making crisps for hawking. Before the idea could materialize, the Social worker called to confirm on her availability for home visitation. She then postponed her going out of the house and decided to wait for 30 minutes for the Social worker to come home. As she was making tea, the only drink to serve for the meal of the whole day, she heard a knock on the door. She rushed to open thinking that it was the Social worker on the door. To her shock, she found out that this was the land lord who wanted her out without any more of her pleadings. To prove his point, he started by removing her belongings outside the house. She had already managed to convince the land lord to give her that day so as to arrange for some place to keep her belongings as well as put the 6 children (4 of her late sisters' children and 2 of her own) in another family. And this is when the Social worker arrived only to find her returning one of the chairs inside the house after the landlord had left. She narrated to the Social worker how life had been so hard on her without a job in the City of Nairobi with a family and with all the responsibilities to take care of. That is when she concluded by saying that she had been saved by a telephone call from the Social worker other wise all her family and belongings would have been thrown outside by the time I visited her. Little assistance of food stuffs assisted in lasting

for that days' lunch, and Mercy had to keep on hoping that some how somewhere God would intervene in her case and she would know what to do next in solving the house problem before the day ended.

Many PLCC parents/guardians go through these experiences and many more serious ones.



Visiting the homes for more understanding

Why home visits:

- » To now the home/environments of the PLCC girls (conditions surrounding them)
- » To visit a child, who hasn't been coming to school / centre
- » When a girl, parent/guardian has passed away
- » To verify information given to the social worker by parents, guardians and children about their lifestyle (needy, needing PLCC assistance)
- » To be able to identify with the girls at PLCC their guardians/parents because of knowing them too well and what they go through each day and be able to understand them better whenever they need our (structures) attention.

Josephine Mumini, social worker