

Africa's memories

KenToledo Social Service Club Newsletter

Issue 03 – May 2020



Aerial View of Mathare Slums, Kenya

INTRODUCTION

Greetings from **KenToledo Social Service Club (KTSSC)** and **Valter Baldaccini Foundation**.

We are very happy to present our yearly Newsletter for the period of April 2019 – May 2019.

Owing to the challenges that the children in the Mathare slums face, Ken Toledo Social Services Club (KTSSC) has over the years tried to improve their lives through partnership with stakeholders. Over the years, the **Valter Baldaccini Foundation has partnered with KTSSC for an Education Support Program for vulnerable and needy children from the Mathare slums of Nairobi**. Last academic year that ended in December 2019, **the project supported 40 needy children**.

Kentoleto Social Service Club expresses heartfelt gratitude to the Valter Baldaccini Foundation and its donors at large for your continued support for the project. **The children are so grateful since the program has changed their lives** in many ways. They say **THANK YOU** as we pray that God continues blessing you abundantly so that **you can keep being a light in the dark valley of the Mathare Slums**. We thank God for his care and protection throughout year 2019.

Since our last newsletter in September 2019, the foundation through KTSSC continued implementing its education support program for the Mathare Slum Dwellers. In general, we are glad to report that the **project has been a great success.**

Last year, the Valter Baldaccini foundation **sponsored 40 needy and vulnerable children** for their primary and secondary Education. We are happy to report that **11 of the 40 beneficiaries completed their high school education** awaiting to join tertiary colleges and Higher institutes of learning this year. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the Valter Baldaccini Foundation for your continued support of Education Program.

Below are some of the thank you letters from the beneficiaries.

Dear Sponsor, 9/11/2020

Greetings from me and my family here in Kenya, we are fine and I hope that you are doing fine. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank you because you have really given me a chance in life by sponsoring my education. I was really shanded.

As you may be knowing I did my final secondary school exams and I got a good grade C. I will be joining University later this year through the government scholarship.

I will always remember and pray for you all the days of my life.

God bless you all.

Yours
Alice Wangari Nwangi

DEAR SPONSOR, 9/11/2020

How are you? I hope that you are doing fine. Here in Kenya everything is okay and we thank God.

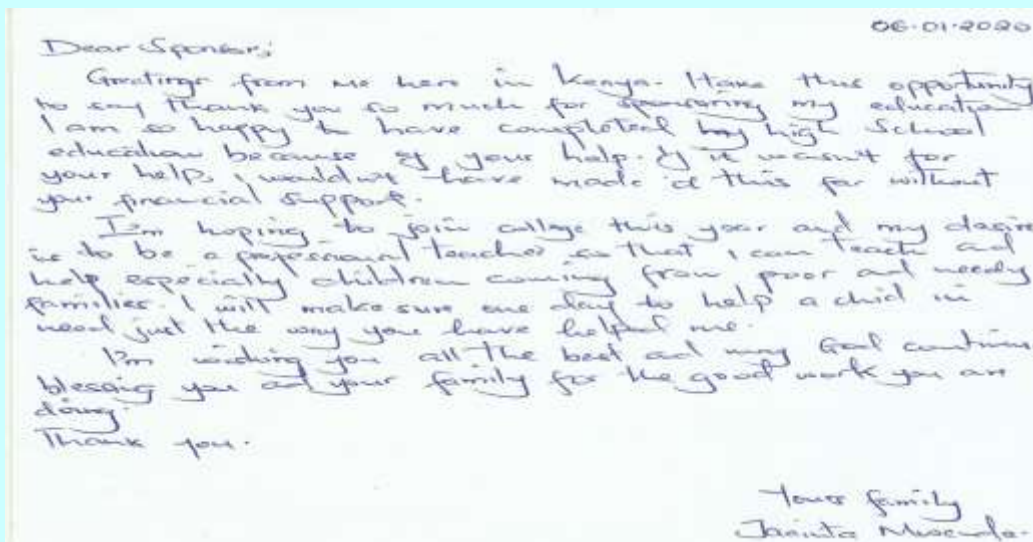
First and foremost receive my sincere gratitude. No word can express my feelings right now but one thing is for sure, I am really grateful for everything.

I am now in form four, the final class in secondary level. I am working so hard to get a good grade. It's tough and really draining but am still pushing.

Today I look back and compare where I am and I see a bright future. It couldn't be possible if not for you.

May the good Lord Bless the work of your hands and may He continue expanding your territories.

Yours
Brian Macharia



See below the list of children who completed their high school education.

HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS			
No.	STUDENT	SCHOOL	GRADE
1.	Alice Wangari	Kangubiri Girls high	B
2.	Denis Muricho	St Pauls Amukura	C +
3.	Derrick Mandela	St Peter`s Abwao	B (Minus)
4.	Diana Awuor Odhiambo	Agai Mixed Secondary	C-
5.	Esther Wangari	Huhurio Secondary	C
6.	Gerald Ochieng	Chulaimbo Secondary School	C(Minus)
7.	Inviolata Amondi	St Augustine`s R.C. Secondary School	C+
8.	Jacinta Mwendu Kioko	Good Shephard Secondary	B
9.	Mary W Mburu	By Grace Girls High School	C
10.	Mary Wangari	Magomano Girls Secondary	C+
11.	Peter Ng'ang'a	Mugumo - in Secondary School	C-

These 11 beneficiaries who completed high school last year paved way to 11 new entries of children. See the table below.

UMBRA NEW ENTRIES 2020			
NO	NAME	SCHOOL	CLASS
1	Antonio Mbugua	Abraham Springs Junior	Std 4
2	Augustine Atondola	Kiboro Primary	Std 5
3	Bernard Mulai Mutiku	St Patrick Kwatombe Primary	Std 7
4	Cecilia Wambui Chege	Kambui girls	Form 2
5	Ian Kuria Chege	Gatumaini Primary	Std 5
6	Lucy Wandii	Kiboro Primary School	Std 8
7	Margaret Katinda Musau	Kamuthini Secondary School	Form 1
8	Maureen Namono	Missions of Hope International Secondary	Form 1
9	Mercy Muhonja	Pumwani Girls Secondary	Form 2
10	Raul Damian	Glory Light Kejop Academy	Std 1
11	Wayne Brooks	Glory Light Kejop Academy	Std 2

This year, **three beneficiaries joined good high schools in form 1 to continue their education.** The three completed their Primary education last year. These include: Joy Wangari, Stephen Mukhwana and Valterino Meshack.

See below some of the photos of the beneficiaries.



Stephen Mukhwana, Form I



*Jane Wambui, class 8
candidate 2020*



Maureen Namono, Form I



*On left is Elizabeth Moraa
& On the Right is Beldina
Achieng*



*Jane Nyambura
completing her high
school education this year*



*Jacinta Mwendu completed
High school 2019. She will
be joining university in
September this year*



Monica Akinyi



Alice Wangari completed High school 2019. She passed well her exams and she is joining the university under government sponsorship



Ian Kuria, new entry 2020



Margaret Katinda Musau, new entry 2020



Antonio Mbugua, new entry 2020



Cecilia Mbugua, new entry 2020



Children ready to go to school for the January – April semester

We are also happy to note that in the course of year 2019, some of the Valter Baldaccini Foundation beneficiaries together with other KTSSC **beneficiaries attended a 3 – day TeenStar Kenya Training**. During the training, **they learned** so many topics like **Early Pregnancy, Relationships, drug and substance abuse, Discipline and Self Esteem**.

See the photos below.



Some of the Beneficiaries during a TeenStar Training 2019 and they having a group discussion during a TeenStar Training 2019



The Mathare Slums of Kenya in the day and in the night

OTHER PROJECTS

We continue to be grateful to all our donors. KTSSC is glad that in 2019, the **Urban – Rural Integration Program, built a permanent house for John Wambua’s family** in their rural areas in Kitui County, Kenya. Wambua is a beneficiary of the Valter Baldaccini Foundation. The Wambua Family was relocated to Kitui in May 2019. They are grateful to KTSSC and its donors for they are doing better than they were in the Mathare slums of Kenya.



Kitui House project 2019 for Wambua's Family who is a Valter Baldaccini Foundation Beneficiary



Miti's Family together with Lions Club Austria Representative during handing over of the new house

In September 2019, with the help of MIVA Austria, KenToledo acquired a **Toyota Vanguard** which has greatly eased the monitoring and Evaluation Process of KTSSC's Projects.



New Toyota Vanguard for the KTSSC Project sponsored by MIVA Austria

NEWS UPDATE

In mid-February 2020, **Kenya reported the first cases of Covid – 19 virus outbreaks.** The outbreak and spread of the disease have greatly **negatively impacted the Kenyan economy** and the world at large. The outbreak in Kenya **led to the shutdown of Schools, businesses and other opportunities.** To those dwelling in the Mathare slums it has been a great challenge on their livelihood. The slum dwellers depend on their daily earnings by doing low-wage jobs like washing clothes and cleaning of houses which are not available now due to the pandemic. **This has made it hard for them to put food on the table hence they face hunger problems.** We have parents/guardians coming to the office every day looking for food support; we thank God because we have friends who have supported the **initiative of by helping with food donations** although not enough.

KTSSC is greatly grateful to all the well-wishers who have chipped in by donating food stuffs to our office for distribution to the needy slum dwellers. See the photos below.



Food donation day 1



Joab Omoto unpacking food stuffs for distribution



Beneficiaries happily pause for a photo after receiving food donations.



Food stuffs packaged for day 2 Distribution



KTSSC Director handing over packaged food stuffs to the needy Mathare slum dwellers



Parents after receiving food donations





Coronavirus has made life for us very difficult because we are not able to get the casual jobs to be able to feed our children and pay rent. I am a single mother of six children. I want to thank those who have helped us feed our families in these difficult moments. God bless you all

Life in the slums is very difficult for many reasons, we have to buy water, pay for the toilet, we have no jobs and there is a lot of insecurity but I am very happy that many children are able to get an education through this program and there is hope that the future will be better, we give a big thank you to those who are working hard to make sure that our children are educated. God bless you all



This girl after staying in the slums with a good Samaritan has been able to reunite her with her parents in the village. She stays in school but now during holidays she stays with her parents

CONCLUSION

We would like to take this opportunity **to appeal for food donations to our families in the slums.** We are facing two very difficult months in May and June according to the Government advisory. We have started mass testing so that is when we will better understand our situation.

THANK YOU!