



MZABIBU

5th edition

2014 Newsletter

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF GRAPESYARD ORGANIZATION



Vision

A healthy educated child in the informal settlements and economically challenged communities

2014

Mission

To facilitate, provide and promote access to Education, health and healthcare services to children in the informal settlements and economically challenged communities in Kenya

Patterning with Community for Better Childcare

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About Grapesyard Organization:



Grapesyrd celebrates 15 years of commitment to serve orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). The OVC are at risk of missing out in education, good health and self attainment. In 2014 the Organization supported more than 1,000 children with primary and secondary education and professional training. Feeding benefited equal number of children. The children home reached more than 100 with guardianship. Child sponsorship benefited more than 300.

Board of Directors made of men and women steered the Organization in 2013 with dedication and visionary leadership. Grapesyard employs 40 members of staff composed of Executive Director, two Programme Managers, an Accountant, Social workers, teachers and support staff. Despite harsh economic conditions facing both Kenya and international community, the organization is looking into the future with optimism.

Vision: A healthy educated child in the informal settlements and economically challenged communities.

Mission: To facilitate, provide and promote access to education, health and healthcare services to children in the informal settlements and economically challenged communities in Kenya.

The organization has activity Sites in:

- Korogocho slums, Korogocho Location, Ruaraka Sub County in Nairobi County: Primary school, Child sponsorship and feeding.
- Mihango Location, Njiru Sub County, Nairobi County: Children home.
- Nyanza region: Secondary education sponsorship.



Grapesyrd School Main Tution Block

STAFF NEWS

Grapesyrd enjoys youthful and mature age workforce. Some of our staff come from or have been recommended to us by the communities we work and we have never regretted. In all departments, the staff have rendered their best amidst a difficult circumstances ranging from financial to social set up where we work. The organization celebrate and salutes all of them. With their humble efforts they are empowering and shaping children's future.

We continue facing challenges of labour mobility and some of our best staff has left to join better paying jobs. We view this as a natural process and we continue train and mentor others to take over so we carry forward our commitment to the project and the communities we serve.



To this the organization employed a new social Worker: Janny Marangu and we welcome her to Grapesyard family. Janny joins the management team.

The Executive Director's message

Welcome to our 5th edition of Grapesyard newsletter focusing on the role of the community in child development. We specifically would like to thank you for the lead role you have always taken to identify and partner with our organization in response to supporting the orphans and vulnerable children. We hope you will continue to partner with us especially now that we are setting new targets to achieve by the year 2019.

We cannot under look the responsibility the community has taken over the success of the children around them. All children are defined by the community they live in hence successful children must be surrounded by a community that exhibit the successful traits.

For us as a community to fully respond to children issues and well being, we need to focus on their environment, cultural activities, the social environment as well as spiritual well being of the entire community. We may not want to forget the political aspect as both popular and unpopular policies that affects children are addressed using political processes.

Grapesyrd as an NGO may not succeed in changing the physical structures and the entire environment of Korogocho. This is simply because it's not our focus. But we envision a healthy educated child in the informal settlements and economically challenged communities. This we are very sure that we will succeed. In order for us to succeed, we need a capacitated community that understands their role in child development. We need action

in terms of behavior change towards hope, hard work and behavior change communication.

The physical environment should be harnessed to be child friendly. As the community plans for their surrounding, space should be left for recreation for children as this will give them time to play, reflect and refresh their minds. It will allow the children to develop ambitions in life which will enhance their growth. When we take care of the small environment, then this will afford the children and the community a healthy living.

The social environment needs to be friendly in order for the community to succeed in child development. The children need peer educators within their communities. They need people to look at as role models and people they can easily reach and relate to within the community. The community needs to provide good and responsible caretakers to their children in the community. This will ensure children have confidence within their community and as they plan they will always think of how to improve on their environment.

The church should be at the forefront to minister to the needs of the children and ensure all children understand the reason God created them and what God expect children to do. In this we shall ensure that children are not just physically and emotionally supported but also spiritually fed. The bible emphasize that my people perish because of lack of knowledge. We shall therefore as a community be held accountable if we fail in providing the spiritual needs of



Edmond Opondo Oloo, Executive Director

the children in the community.

Intellectual development is a process that starts at birth and continues through life. With a child the developments are noticed more and can be seen in stages or age groups. In each stage as the child grows he or she will develop more advanced motor and reasoning skills. As parents we can buy toys and other items that are designed to help our children develop intellectually, and help guide them when learning.

Therefore as a community helping our children through each of the stages above is one prime responsibility of parents, but being a parent doesn't end there. Parents are there for their children when they wake up with nightmares, when they feel sad, and to share in their excitement. Parents are also there to guide and help their children learn from mistakes made. If we all do these then we have a promising future community.

Alice for Children, a trusted partner in child care matters, is an Italian Charity for Children at risk. Its programmes are managed by Twins International based in Milan Italy. It has a Kenya office, operating as Twins International Kenya. Local programmes are implemented by Grapesyard Organization and Outreach community Church. Some of the projects are Alice Village in Embakasi Utawala and Alice home in Kariobangi north. Other programmes are distant adoption and Volunteer hosting programmes. Partnership between Twins and Grapesyard started in 1997 with education and feeding support for 300 children in Grapesyard School. Today the programme supports more than 1,000 children in both Utawala and Korogocho slums through feeding, shelter, distant adoption and education support.

Twins International sends volunteers from Italy hosting in Alice Village. A senior volunteer is at hand in the home to help bridge the language barrier that exists between local staff and Italian volunteers.

OTHER PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS.

In its efforts to secure a better future for the children at risk, Grapesyard works hand in hand with other players in childcare service. We appreciate the following organizations and well wishers who partnered or collaborated with us in 2013:

- Twins International and Twins Kenya
- Patricia Pollock, John Pollock and Amy Blumenthal, all of Ithaca
- Bethel Grove Bible Church, Ithaca
- Eucharist Church, San Francisco
- Do Good Lab
- Njiru Sub County Children office
- Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium
- Girl Child Network
- Njiru Sub County CCI Network
- Sharon Boyle and Aimee Seheult

Grapesyard School is located in Korogocho which is one of the largest slums in Nairobi, Kenya. It was started in 1999 with 30 children enrolling. Now the school has a population of over 900 children and its performance has improved over the years. In last year's KCPE the school had 28 candidates and all performed well with the highest student scoring 406 points and the lowest 290. Grapesyard School came as a result of witnessing to the community around Korogocho. It was not easy to reach the adults and that is when a formal school Grapesyard was started to help the community educate their children. Then there was only one public school in the area and could not accommodate the growing population of children.

As the school was started we saw pressing needs that the children in the community were undergoing and that is when Mathew 25: 35 – 40 came very clearly to our vision. By then we were not aware that the school could grow to what it is today with the words: *“For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in; I was naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you looked after me; I was in prison (hospital), and you visited me.”* These verses really motivated us to look into the community's educational, spiritual, physical and emotional well-being.

Through the children we have been able to reach not only the parent but the community as well and have formed bible study groups in the area. We can now reach the community easily because of what God is doing through the work He started. Proverb 22: 6 encourage the training of children in the way they should go and as they grow old they will not depart from it. This we have seen in the children who have gone through Grapesyard School. Every morning Monday to Thursday we have devotion in the school and Daily Guide is used and all the staff and children participate and on Fridays we have Pupil Pastoral Instruction (P.P.I.) where children are ministered to in several topics from the Bible.

Through the work that God has enabled us to perform a lot of transformation has taken place since the day we entered Korogocho. The number of children who are attending school has really increased and we are also able to reach the community through various groups that have been formed. When we join hands together in prayers we are sure that the threats within Korogocho will be history in future. God bless you.

Rev. Victor Okeyo. Email: vicokeyo@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY REACHES OUT TO CHILDREN, INSPIRES THEM

Receiving visitors in the organization and especially groups inspires children and staff in a special way. These are people in communities from within and beyond our work area: from Children in the neighborhood visiting the home to play with their peers, neighboring schools coming for joint Exams in our school and the churches around us coming to inspire our children spiritually. All these happened because one person shared their feeling about children at risk. It brought to light the power of one. Valuable things happen when each one of us decides to do something about circumstances around us and the impact massive: strengthened confidence and improved academic grades among the children. This will in the long run trickle down to communities where they go back as role models and agents of change. In the short term donations in cash and in kind went a long way in boosting psychosocial support for children.

The organization welcomes community members to visit and mingle with children in the children home and in our community school in Korogocho so that children can feel loved and part of the larger society. It helps them to heal from their past life experiences and regain lost hope.

Special appreciation goes to the following groups:

- Metropolitan Hospital, Nairobi
- Cooperative Bank back office staff based at the headquarters
- The Hotel Intercontinental front office staff
- Barclays bank Kariobangi branch
- Cooperative bank of Kenya, Kariobangi branch
- Management University of Africa (MUA)
- Carmel Catholic School, Utawala
- ACK St Timothy Church, Utawala
- Ford Foundation, East Africa Regional Office and Mr. M. Makoloo
- Olympia Gym
- St. Gregory Small Christian Community
- Smart
- Mara Farming

And all others whom we cannot mention by name individually. We value your support.



Cooperative Bank Staff Joins Children in a folk song



Well wishers donate to kids

NAIROBI METROPOLITAN'S SHOPPING OUTLETS REACHES OUT TO CHILDREN

As part of their contribution in caring and supporting the Children, small and medium Supermarkets, mainly working in the Estates, throws out lifeline to children. They support initiatives that open a chance to members of the public to support children. The next time you go shopping in your Estate supermarket ask them how you may support the children and you will be amazed how simple it is a task. Act now and join the work of caring for children.

The following supermarkets particularly stood out in supporting child care initiatives:

- SALTES supermarkets,
- Umoja Selfridges
- Tuskeys
- Etc

Alice Village, a home for Children

By Amelia Miseda, Home Manager

Grapesyard Children's Centre is a home situated in Utawala objectively to accommodate children who are at risk and shape their lives by providing parental warmth, a key component in life transformation. We achieve this by offering standard education, quality and balanced diet, promoting good health, observing play time and offering counseling lessons to children.

Children are admitted reflect the diversity of the Kenyan people because social issues knows no region, tribe and economic boundary.

So far the home has served 121 children since its establishment, with 20 having been integrated into communities.

The home has embraced gender equality by offering opportunities to both girls and boys. At present there are 52 girls and 48 boys totaling to 100 children. Due to capacity constraints, the home does not take children below the age of 3 years and children with physical disabilities.

Adequate care is administered under the support of the Director, Home Manager, Programs Office and House mothers.

The Problem:

Children at risk come from diverse social backgrounds like abandoned, street children, orphaned, children with mothers in prison, sexually abused and HIV affected and victims of



severe mistreatment by step mothers. Sufficient love and passion is needed to turn around the trauma children faced. In all, our social workers did their best, together with visiting Child Counselors. All the 100 children in the home were reached with Counseling. More emphasis was on the 10 children who rejoined their families. Nonetheless complete healing is a process that runs gradually. Here we have gaps and we call upon individual well wishers who are experts in child psychology and Counselors to join us on voluntary basis to support the children.

Our Solution:

The home provides a soft landing environment basically to repair their broken hearts and restore hope by giving each one an opportunity to explore and grow their talents to the fullest.

Education

It's the only investment a parent or care giver can offer to a child today for future stability. More emphasis has been laid to education at the home because it holds the background of the child's future. All the children are enrolled at a nearby government institution, Mihang'o Primary School spread all over from Pre- School to Standard 8.

Health and Nutrition

Health is a vital segment in monitoring the growth and development of a child right from birth to school going age. Special attention is accorded to all children during admission and screening is done immediately to observe their overall status purposely to administer management

Daily routine checkup is performed by a community health worker who is at hand to monitor, counsel and dispense medicine as per the doctor's prescription.

Children enjoy a variety of food in every meal spiced with a glass of milk and fruits in season daily objectively to promote growth and development.

Entertainments

Birthday celebration rocks the air every last Sunday of the month just to put a smile on the face of a child who never knew what happiness was. At least their faces brighten up during such occasions and they gradually forget the pains and sufferings they went through.

Debates, singing and dancing competitions are some of the extra curriculum activities children undertake basically to explore and develop their skill and talents.

(iv) Child re-integration:

All the nice things happening in children home counts to nothing in a child's life if no sound exit plan is in place. Imagine this, you were once sleeping hungry on a cold floor not knowing whether you will see the next day, then things change to a situation of guaranteed square meal thrice a day: a glass of milk daily, a variety of fruits, one type each day, good breakfast, 4pm tea or porridge, own bed with good beddings etc. After three or six years you find yourself



with none of these. What will you do?

This is the question children exiting homes asked themselves during exit. Although it is argued that a child is better off growing up in the community setup, it is agreed that some find it extremely difficult to survive in the same environment. This is where the homes come in handy. With a sound aftercare plan, most children achieve their potential out of the children homes. However their stay in the homes is supposed to be as short as possible.

Alice Village reintegrated 10 children in 2013. The next batch of 17 children will exit the home in December 2014. We appeal for resources to help us completely turn around the lives of the exiting children. We need to strengthen then post-exit support for children so that they do not see the exit as a punishment. There is need to establish links with community child support structures at the grassroots where children go back to. Support to help us achieve this is most welcome.

Alice Village:

A beneficiary's Letter

After six years of being in Alice Village, as Grapesyard Children's Centre is popularly known, where I was sponsored by Twins International in cooperation with Grapesyard Organization. I am very thankful and grateful for the compassion that was given and being in Alice Village really made me feel at home. I am grateful and always will be, because not everybody will be given such a chance easily. It takes heart for somebody to help or sponsor one in any way that is why I thank God for the two organizations.

Living in Alice Village as an orphan helped me get shelter, education,

food and clothing. It has taught me to be a responsible person. I lived in peace and in good company, fellow orphans and mothers. What guided me through is what I call 12 core living values namely love, honesty, simplicity, peace happiness, cooperation, humility, respect, responsibility, freedom, and unity. If one has all these, he has nothing to worry.

The four years in secondary school was helpful to me since I learnt a lot, high school is no joke it takes hard work to go through the system, because it is not easy being faced by many challenges such as peer pressure, influence, it is not easy to cope with the peer pressure. In my four years course have seen many students dropping out of school, some committing suicide because of poor performance and pressure at home, but I decided to take heart and have hope for I have come from far for me

to back down.

Life outside school and outside the home is not easy, because now you have to work to get food and other supplies. Compare this to when I had everything in the orphanage. But I am grateful because the home prepared me to face the future.

All in all I am proud to be a member of the home, the first child exit the home to join secondary education. Alice village is still my home and I will serve in any way. I will quote the Volfair's that life is thickly sown with thorns and I know no remedy than to pass quickly through them, the longer we dwell on our misfortunes the greater their power to harm us.

By Odhiambo Geoffrey Otieno.

Feeding:

Grapesyard School served more than 210,000 plates of food in 2013 to Korogocho slums children. The programme will serve more than 250,000 plates in 2014.

Since getting a meal in many households in the slums is a problem, school based feeding went along way in complementing education intervention. In 2013, new admissions were more than 200 from both neighboring Government and Community primary schools and besides, it fostered a warm working relationship with communities.

The impact of food in school is massive: Admission seeking children are many, retention rate is above 95% and the diet served boosted the children nutrition for good growth. Parents have been freed from looking for and cooking lunch for their children

during school days, instead they are able to concentrate on gainful activities for the family. In the end there is hope of breaking poverty vicious cycle. Empowered families' nature and uphold children rights, giving children a chance to exploit their potential.

Because of feeding, education, which is our main focus, is ongoing and returning impressive academic results within the Sub County and County levels. This is because children have the energy to concentrate and cope with school work.

However there are gaps: The school lacks dining hall needed to prepare and serve food. This exposes children to health and sanitation risks. Children are served and take lunch in polluted open air. Food store is small and storing large quantities of food for over 900 children is a challenge. An open trench often with raw human waste each morning is even a much bigger health risk. The trench has to be

cleaned before each learning day begins and at least thrice during the day to make the school compound habitable.

There is the ever increasing demand for food. Children want to take some food home for their younger siblings because food is a problem in most Korogocho slums households. This calls for families outreach programme aimed at economic empowerment. The current budget is not even enough for over 900 beneficiaries for it were meant for 700 children. We welcome new partners and well wishers to come on board to bridge the feeding gaps mentioned. One way of addressing the issues is by giving full sponsorship to at least 400 children out of the more than 600 without support, its costs US\$ 225 per child per year. Alternatively, a child can be given food support only. Feeding one child in our centre for one year costs Sh 3,760 (US\$47).



Green Bag impacts Children life Positively

Children well being has continued to be of great priority to Grapesyard Organization. The organization's main purpose and reason for existence is the child. For this reason, we have maintained support for the child in all ways so that we can develop and have an all rounded healthy child.

One thing we have in place to ensure the child develops well is psychosocial support and counseling. The Organization has trained counselors who are able to handle children's psychosocial needs.

Sometimes all that a child needs is someone to listen to them and be given the opportunity to express themselves. The child needs to feel important and that he too can be listened to.

Children have a lot to say. Many a times they suppress their real feelings due to fear of punishment or being judged. We can get a lot of information just by letting a child speak and express themselves. A lot of damage can be avoided or a bad situation salvaged on time if

we learn to let the child be heard.

Grapesyard is a strong advocate of this and children here have learnt to speak freely and express themselves through their counselors. They feel empowered and can do anything to brighten their future.

The Organization attributes all these to one tool popularly known as the Green Bag. This is a counseling tool by the Life Words-Pavement project. Grapesyard workers, teachers or counselors are trained to use the Green Bag to offer counseling services to children. The bag contains pictures, bible stories and many other child friendly materials that a child can relate to.

Many children have been reached throughout the world using this tool but, 25 in Grapesyard in 2013.

By Loice Odhiambo,
Programme Officer



The Nyanza Program

Nyanza is one the western side of the country, Kenya. It constitutes Siaya, Kisumu, Migori and Homa Bay counties.

A past study (2010/2011) by the University of Nairobi estimates that Nyanza province has the highest number of orphans countrywide. According to researchers, which also involved researchers from the University of Boston, the province has slightly over 500,000 orphans, representing more than 25% orphans countrywide. This study is corroborated by Statistics from the ministry of health that estimates HIV/AIDS prevalence in Nyanza at 15.3%, the highest in the country and is a direct contributor to the number of orphans in the region. Besides Nyanza, other regions in the country are equally affected and according to the International Children services, the number of orphans and vulnerable children represent a grave predicament for Kenya. The organization argues that the child welfare crisis in the country is directly related to the HIV/Aids epidemic.

Grapesyard organization mulls over scaling up of care and support for children in Nyanza beyond its current Secondary school education sponsorship.

For the last three years, the organization supported more than 50 children to successfully complete secondary education. Some of them return encouraging grades as indicated below.

One of the of programmes that we intend to scale-up in Nyanza is secondary school scholarship and full child sponsorship programme from Primary level to post Secondary education.

In 2013 secondary education support run with the collaboration with the local secondary schools. We intend to develop a 5 acre land which is already in place to run children programmes.

Pining child Sponsorship to its Community roots

Sponsoring a child for education or for whatever cause means taking up the role of a “missing parent” in a child’s life. From time immemorial African communities had a way of taking care of children left behind by the dead parents. Some ensured that the orphans or the vulnerable children were educated and mentored into a successful mature person able to take charge of their lives. It meant that someone was there to provide food, clothes, shelter and education. It also went further in meeting the child’s spiritual development. But because of the Urbanization, the breakdown of society’s social values and attacks on the family unit, many children today roam villages, town streets. Today we witness increased street families and street urchins because our society has turned a blind eye to the orphans and vulnerable children. If each one of us reached out to at least one child, if each one of us stuck to our old African way of life, if each one of us were responsible in our behaviors, perhaps there could be few or no such thing as street families and street boys or ‘chokora’ as they are known. But all is not lost if we can joins people of goodwill who are in the frontlines reaching out to children at risk. You and I can do something in our big and small ways, for efforts combined will deliver the much needed hope for the child at risk.

This means you and me can be a sponsor. Identify a needy child in an informal settlement and help provide the basics. Grapesyard will make this easy for you. We can identify, do follow-ups and mentor the child to realize their full potential.

At Grapesyard we see this as most viable solution to reaching the disadvantaged children with education, food, etc. One person take up a child basic education needs, another one takes care of food during the day, another take care of the uniform etc. In the end one child will have given an opportunity to be educated and mentored into a responsible person.



MUA Community in a clean-up exercise.

By working with several contributors both local and International, we reached 200 children with full sponsorship program at Primary, Secondary and post secondary education levels. .

We seek to scale up our sponsorship to children many vulnerable children with help; this will in the long run meet many of the gaps we experience. Out of Over 900 children only about 200 are sponsored. Leaving out a massive 600 children without support. The number will increase in 2014 as the school continues to attract children.

We invite Kenyans borrow a leaf from the individuals in Western and American nations by remotely adopting a Kenyan child, for we are one. One step today towards this end will go a long way in a achieving a just society in future.

Patricia Pollock helps slum families educate their children:

Since 2005 when Patricia and others visited Grapesyard, Children have benefited a lot from her efforts. Patricia played a key role by taking the lead role of sponsoring a child in Korogocho. Her footsteps were followed Janet Smith and the late Gerlinde Skaggs. As a result, five children were under support, among them, the late Kevin. Kevin has since become a case study for the plight of many children affected by HIV/AIDS pandemic in the informal settlements.

At the same time Patricia and her friends started the school feeding programme by supporting provision of porridge to the children at 10am, three times a week. Later, they supported serving of ‘githeri’ (cooked maize mixed with beans) at lunch time to children to retrain them in school for education.

Tailoring and dressmaking training was also started to empower women living in Korogocho slums.

New flush toilets were also built with support of Bethel Grove Bible Church through the lobbying by Patricia. Along with the toilets, the construction of Septic tank and installation of water tank turned sanitation in school for better.

To date more than 60 children have successfully gone through secondary education because of Patricia’s husband, John Pollock together with Amy and church members of Bethel Grove Bible Church joined Patricia to carry the children cause forward. Patricia got most of the support from the church where she congregates, including Sunday school children who baked cakes to raise funds for support of fellow children in the slums.



Edmond, Amy, Patricia and John going through activity photoes

Bethel Grove Bible Church is a non-denominational Bible Church located in Ithaca, NY. It is committed to encouraging each other as Christ-followers to love Jesus, love others, and engage the world. It is worth to note that Grapesyard children and Korogocho slums community have experienced the love. While we thank God for the lives of those who volunteer to support children, we also pray to God to preserve them and expand their territories so that they can reach out to more vulnerable children.

HIV/AIDS WATCH: MOST AT RISK POPULATIONS (MARPS)

(Story source): National Aids & STI Control Programme - NASCOP

Kenya will join the rest of the international community on Monday, December 1, 2014 to mark the 26th National World AIDS day on the backdrop of high new HIV infections among girls and women aged 15 to 24 compared to their male peers where infection rates are considerably lower. All Kenyans must to join the fight against HIV and AIDS to reverse the trend towards zero new infections. Women and children continue to suffer with the virus despite progress made in preventing mother to child transmission of HIV. Only 38 percent of children born of HIV are accessing lifesaving medication hence there is need for concerted efforts to curb 13,000 new infections annually.

HIV in Kenya is experiencing a mixed and geographically heterogeneous HIV epidemic with characteristics of both a ‘generalized’ epidemic among the mainstream population, and a ‘concentrated’ epidemic among specific most-at-risk populations.

Who are MARPS?

MARPs are groups of people who are disproportionately at higher risk for acquiring or transmitting HIV. This is because they engage in behaviors that predispose them to acquiring HIV. The primary MARPs in Kenya include Sex workers and their clients, Men who have sex with men (MSM), Prisoners, People who Inject drugs (IDUs). Others include truckers, fishing and beach communities.

Why focus on MARPS?

MARPs have the highest risk of transmitting and acquiring HIV/STI due to increased frequency of high risk sex (unprotected anal and vaginal sex, multiple partners, frequency of partners) and drug-related HIV risk behaviors (e.g. sharing of needles, flash bleeding, viping etc).

MARPs experience barriers to accessing services because their behaviors are criminalized and stigmatized making them marginalized and hard to reach.

MARPs account for one third of new HIV infections in Kenya which is estimated to be about 100,000 per year. (KAIS 2008)

News from the field:

By C. Guda, Programmes Officer

Grapesyard Social workers stumbles on worrying challenge to the fight against HIV/AIDS: coming from Korogocho slums is worrying, if a new research conducted.

It revealed Commercial sex workers in Korogocho slums shun condom protection for men who are willing to pay a higher fee. They claim use of condom during sexual intercourse offers low fee. The amount is higher when one uses no protection.

Well aware of the risks the sex workers seek prophylaxis treatment within 48 hours after exposure. To avoid being detected, the workers claim they were raped and in return get HIV/AIDS prophylaxis treatment. They move from one clinic to another to get enough medicine that can last long.

This came hot in the heels of another worrying issue, where women were grinding HIV/AIDS drugs which they mixed with formalin to produce illicit brews.

The news is worrying because one thing is certain: their bodies will develop resistance to the available ART treatment, further compromising their health.

Fast action forward: We urge the relevant Government agencies and all others concerned with the fight against HIV/AIDS to investigate this further with a view to putting in place measures to stop the practice.

THE BENEFICIARY

Hey, my name is Denis, 4th year, Bsc. Psychology student at Masono University. I am looking forward graduating within this year 2014. I am a former student of Grapesyard School and proud alumni of the school. One thing about me is that I always remember where I have come from. I joined the school at a very tender age in 1999. Just a mere class 3 the other day. Grapesyard opened its gates for its newest member. I made my first step in the school as a shy, naïve and confused lad who did not know what he wanted in life. I had only heard people saying they wanted to be this and that in an instant I also wanted to be the same and as a result I had changed my career preference countless times. Grapesyard gave me the foundation that I needed to climb up the ladder.

Back then life in Grapesyard was not as good as it is now. There were just a few classrooms measuring 8ft by 8ft, one toilet for both the teachers and pupils, no playground and the enrollment rate was low. We were less than ten pupils in our class and at games time it wasn't easy to have friends to play with. We wasted a lot of time during lunch time because we had to go back home for meals and at times found no one at home but life had to go on. Growing up was not easy as there was no role models to emulate. The neighborhood was full of changa (local brew) dens and at times we were forced to shift our attention from the teacher in class to the noisy drunkards or the fighting couple. Coming from a less privileged family, my parents could not afford to take me to the more expensive schools I could have wished for and with this in mind, I had to work hard in order to find my way out of the slums.

Today I look back with great joy, like a warrior I have had a fight literally with what life had to offer. The fight, just like other kids from the less privileged families, I had to fight against the high child mortality rate caused by preventable diseases like diarrhoea, malaria,

malnutrition while at the same time competing with fellow siblings for attention from my parents. I am glad for the Grapesyard of today for the efforts it has made towards having as many children from the vulnerable backgrounds beat all odds to go to school. The school feeding programme is a good step towards healing and comforting the less fortunate in the community.

Fifteen years later, I stand before these innocent kids as a volunteer staff, I realized how much how my teachers had to sacrifice for me to be where I am. Whenever the kids make mistake they look at you with great innocence hoping you would show them the correct way. When I look at the uniform, the same checked uniform I used to wear, I put a smile on my face and assure the children that the future is bright.

I have since grown to come to become confident, transformed and even empowered, thanks to Grapesyard. The school helped build the foundations to grow in all aspects. I am proud and grateful to the teachers and the Director for immeasurable efforts in encouraging me daily. Madam Felisters for her memory verses that helped me develop Godly character, gain leadership competence and clarify my God given talents.

To the current pupils of Grapesyard School, you are the change that is expected in this nation and in the world. Grapesyard is the home of confident future world leaders.

To the entire Grapesyard Organization and the donors, thank you for making Grapesyard what it is today. May God bless you all

Long live Grapesyard

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EMERGING ISSUES

For the organization to move forward, the following need to be tackled:

- ◆ Child sponsorship needs to be scaled up to reach more children with support.
- ◆ Child reintegration programme needs support to make it more robust.
- ◆ Grapesyard newsletter publication for 2015 period needs support.
- ◆ School playground needs improvement to safeguard the life of children.
- ◆ A dining hall is needed to boost feeding programme.
- ◆ The trench running through school compound needs to be covered with culverts to improve hygiene.

- ◆ Medical facility for the school need to be put in place.

Grapesyard turns 15



Year 2014 contains a mixed bag for Grapesyard Organization. First the organization is marking 15th Anniversary. Born in 1999, Grapesyard remains steadfast to its vision, that of a healthy educated child in the informal settlements and economically challenged communities in Kenya. As we look back fifteen years, we thank the community for walking with the organization. We also take pride in the fact that some children whose future prospects look bright came through Grapesyard. Some of them have made it to the University and middle level colleges and are ripe for national building.

The Organization is also celebrating KCPE 2013 results, its best ever. Nonetheless this only capped a sustained good performance since the founding of the school. We look forward to celebrate with the Korogocho community. As we look back fifteen years, we take note of the community's good will and support with appreciation. With faith and confidence the communities saw in the organization the ability to positively change their social circumstance through education for their children. The organization took up this challenge and have since 1999, consistently rolled out programmes necessary to empower the children. The programmes have led to children academically competing with the children from well do social backgrounds. Some graduated from Universities in 2013, others will in 2014 and the years to come. Many others have successfully gone through the middle level colleges for Professional trainings. The groups are set to be useful citizens and role models in their families and communities. Through them the organization is slowly transforming the



communities, one family at a time.

Amidst the excitement is a low of dwindling funding fortunes due to global economic recession. By close of 2013, the organization had lost 40% of funding levels amidst high demand of services from the vulnerable groups. Despite the setback, the organization remains steadfast to its vision, mission and values as follows:

Compassion: Empathize with the community's socio – economic difficulties by appreciating their little and humble efforts to care & support orphans and other vulnerable children.

Confidentiality: Light up the lost hope of the communities through educating them to become confident in all their positive efforts to live a meaningful life.

Credibility: Earn meaningful credit as a true community based initiative through transparency and accountability.

Commitment: Serve the community and commit to the project activities to attain the desired goals.

Korogocho Children defies poverty hurdles, Excels in 2013 KCPE

In the heart of Korogocho slums lies Grapesyard School, a community school that is home to over 900 children. Children who have seen it all despite their tender age. They come to the education centre each morning having slept on empty stomach or missed breakfast. They come from homes in the heart of Korogocho slums which are made of recycled iron sheets or mud thatched and measuring not more than 8 by 10 feet. These are homes to family unit members numbering between 7 to 10 people. Most rooms have no electricity and piped water. The sharks are unplanned, with no sewer system or latrine.

Gender based violence is routine in the slums, women being the most victims. Children have to contend with physical and psychological abuses.

Some have taken up caring roles for their ailing parents and siblings single handedly while the society looks the other way. HIV/AIDS

took its toll on the community because of illicit unprotected sex and scanty information about the disease.

Lack of employment opportunities in the City drove many young and active members of the Korogocho population into idleness, with many turning into substance abuse abdicating their parental responsibilities to women.

A casual look at slums Children walking to school, reveals little of their academic potential until one sets foot in Grapesyard School. The school has consistently posted good academic results. In 2013 the school achieved a mean grade of B+ up from B- in 2012.

The most notable of the school achievement is its KCPE 2013 results. The School posted a mean grade of 347 out of a possible 500 marks and 100% pass with highest score standing at 406 marks lowest being 290.

INDEX NO.	MATH	ENG	KISW	SCI	S/S	TOTAL
20407055052	86	77	89	75	79	406
20407055051	83	75	82	80	79	399
20407055055	83	78	85	69	84	399
20407055050	87	77	81	73	79	397
20407055053	78	75	82	73	79	387
20407055065	84	72	72	75	69	372
20407055054	75	66	78	69	76	364
20407055049	65	75	79	73	71	363
20407055056	81	69	67	71	74	362
20407055057	75	70	75	69	69	358
20407055059	64	65	82	71	71	353
20407055058	62	75	79	64	71	351
20407055062	65	69	71	77	67	349
20407055063	73	59	69	78	69	348
20407055064	81	67	75	62	62	347
20407055066	65	67	77	69	67	345
2.04071E+11	68	73	63	66	69	339
20407055069	62	72	70	69	65	338
20407055060	64	74	73	64	61	336
20407055067	71	72	66	59	67	335
20407055068	78	68	58	64	64	332
20407055061	46	77	73	68	60	324
20407055071	60	63	66	57	61	307
20407055075	49	65	66	61	65	306
20407055072	70	71	57	50	57	305
20407055074	56	68	64	54	61	303
20407055073	52	65	59	54	64	294
20407055070	57	66	56	47	64	290
Subject mean	69.29	70.36	71.93	66.46	68.71	
Pst	3	2	1	5	4	
Mean	347					

Children healthcare

Korogocho children have found a new friend. A friend who for the next one year will provide basic healthcare to them through support of Evans Scott Foundation of California, USA. The care is exclusive for 85 vulnerable children learning at Grapesyard School in Korogocho. Penda Health provides high-quality, affordable, outpatient healthcare through a chain of health clinics. On 17th October 2013, Penda and Grapesyard launched the medical care support with a one day Medical camp in Grapesyard School for the Children. Children and their parents turned up in large numbers beyond Grapesyard School seeking treatment. All could not be treated; others were referred to Hospitals such as Kenyatta National Hospital for specialist attention. The force behind the large turnout is poverty and ignorance which is deeply rooted in the communities. One understands why quark health workers thrive in the slums because people go for any form of treatment as long as their pockets can afford.

As an organization we learnt our lessons, lessons of community health outreach programmes that aim at empowering the people with Knowledge and treatment.

We hope to find supports who will help us engage the communities further with more Medical camps and eventually a medical facility for comprehensive care and support within the Korogocho slums. Some of issues that we will be seeking to address is safe motherhood birth.

The overall goal of the partnership is boost children academic performance as a result good health and improved school attendance.



Metropolitan hospital donates to children

World Friends joins Grapesyard School to empower children.

On 26th February, 2014 a programme was launched at the school, namely: Health education and health monitoring and Life skills programmes

The programme involves World Friends and Grapesyard organizations empowering children with life skills. Lessons are held once in a week i.e. every Wednesday at 2-3pm. The discussions topics with children: covered life, family, education, health and Values. Monitoring of health issues being the priority, arrangements are being made for an additional day in a week. One day for health education and the second day for monitoring of health of the children in school and few home visits for cases concerning health.

ADMIN REPORT

Grapesyard Organization has 40 staff members comprising 17 males and 23 female staff- 16 in Utawala and 24 in Korogocho project sites. The organization currently has asset base of over Ksh 45 million, with an annual budget of Over Kshs29 million.

Grapesyard has continued to maintain prudent financial management methods so as to fully account for all the funds bestowed to its operations.

Continuous internal audits are carried out by stake holders to confirm utilization of funds. External audits are carried out every year and filled with NGO Coordinating board. The

reports are available for any interested stake holders.

Nonetheless, the organization still faces a lot of challenges in running all its programmes and it is continuously fundraising in different ways.

Friends, well wishers and other interested parties are invited to join the organization in putting a smile on the face of children in at risk.



G4S CSR AT GRAPESYARD SCHOOL



Grapesyard Organization

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