

MZABIBU

A special publication of Grapesyard Organization

2015 Newsletter



Leveraging on Success stories to Inspire others

Early Child development at Grapesyard

Grapesyard 2014 KCPE Results

Community service at Grapesyard

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.

Core values: Compassion ▪ Confidentiality ▪ Credibility ▪ Commitment

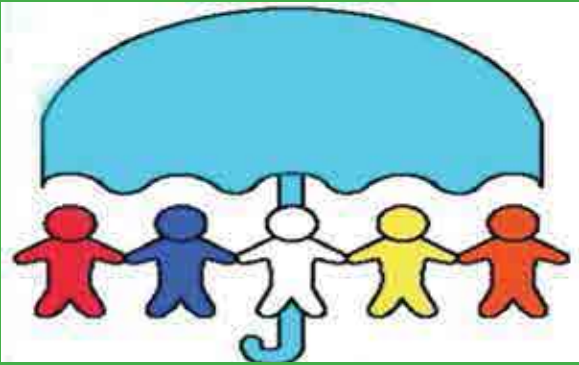


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About Grapesyard Organization

Founded in 1999, Grapesyard turns 16 years. The focus is care and support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).

OVC are largely children at risk of missing out in protection, education, nutrition, personal growth and self attainment. In 2015 the Organization projects to support more than 1,500 children for primary and secondary education, feeding and Psycho social support, and protection.

More will join college and professional training. Feeding will benefit approximately equal number while children home and guardianship will care for more than 100 children. Child sponsorship will benefit more than 300.

Running Projects:

- i) Grapesyard Education Centre: This project is located in Korogocho slums. It offers quality primary education for children living in Korogocho slums. The centre reaches out to over 1,000 daily with education, food, child sponsorship and home visits.
- ii) Grapesyard children's centre (Alice Village): It is a home for orphans and vulnerable children.

Located in Nairobi County, Njiru Sub County, in Utawala area, the centre is home to 100 children.

- iii) Early Child Development Centre (ECD): Grapesyard ECD centre is located within Grapesyard Education Centre.
- iv) "I keep a Child Alive". In partnership with Supermarkets, the organization rolled out donation tins project. The project aims at inviting the participation of public in care and support for children. The project will continue to run in 2015.
- v) Mzabibu Newsletter is an annual publication of Grapesyard organization by the Director's office. It aims at increasing the organization's visibility; document success stories and lay down future plans. We anticipate attracting sponsors for the publication in future.
- vi) Grapesyard Self Help Group: It's membership is drawn from teenage mothers within Korogocho slums. Objectives are running a vocational training center and Income generating activities initiatives to empower members.

Staff Matters

Staff mobility remains one of our major challenges. Three of our staff left the organization for Civil service while one retired from employment.

We view this as a natural process and we continue to employ, train and mentor others to take over so we carry forward our commitment to the communities we serve.

As a result, Mr. Edger Pamba has been promoted to the position of

Head teacher. Mr. Dancun Mayi and Madam Felgona were promoted to Deputy Head teacher and Senior teacher respectively.

Three teachers and one guard joined the organization to replace those who left.

The new team has the support and expertise to sustain and even improve quality of education, care and support for the children. As we welcome the new faces. We also congratulate those who left for their contribution towards the success of the organization. We wish them well

in their future endeavors.

On staff development, Director is pursuing Msc, Project Management at Jomo Kenyatta University College of Agriculture and Technology. Edger Pamba and Dancun Mayi are both pursuing under graduate BED Education at Mt. Kenya University.

Other staff members attended various training workshops on Early Child Development and Organisation Development and Systems Strengthening among others.

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

We appreciate the following organizations and well-wishers who partnered or collaborated with us in 2014 for care, protection and support of children at risk:

- Twins International, Italy
- Njiru Sub County Children office
- Ministry of Education,
- Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services,
- National Aids control Council,
- Patricia Pollock, John Pollock and Amy Blumenthal
- Ford Foundation East Africa Office
- Bethel Grove Bible Church, Ithaca,
- Eucharist Church, San Francisco,
- Do Good Lab, San Francisco,
- Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO)
- Girl Child Network
- Njiru CCIs Network
- Olympia Gym
- Mara Farming
- St Gregory small Christian community
- Sharon Boyle and Aimee Seheult
- Management University of Africa (MUA)
- United States International University(USIU)
- Cooperative Bank of Kenya - Kariobangi
- Barclays Bank of Kenya – Kariobangi
- Camel Catholic School - Utawala



TWINS INTERNATIONAL AND GRAPESYARD

Twins International runs Alice Children for programs in Kenya in collaboration with Grapesyard Organization. The partnership started in 1997. Twins remains a major Donor for all the organization's programs. Despite the huge support, there are still specific and recurrent needs within the organization not supported. Also the ever rising demand for services cannot be satisfied by one donor. We also partner with other Well-wishers to bridge the gap.

Nonetheless, we appreciate very much Twins support as we look forward to celebrate ten years of partnership. We have also enjoyed a warm working relationship as well. But the biggest gainers have been the children whose lost dreams have been restored. From Administrations costs, Child sponsorship to shelter, children lives have been touched for the better.

Thank you Twins.

Early Child development (ECD) at Grapesyard

The centre was founded in 2009 for teenage and single mothers as a day baby care centre, quickly developing into Nursery. It aims at achieving holistic child growth and development. It serves over 400 children.

Children enrolled in the beginning class are expected to be at least 3 years of age. Consequently graduating at 6 years. During this period, children become increasingly aware of changes in their environment, trying hard to understand what is going on around them. And in the process they ask themselves 'why', 'what' and 'how' questions.

Early Child development offers children a strong foundation of learning. In 2014 those who graduated to class one were 95 children, while 78 did so in 2013.

ECD is profitable to the child and parents in a number of ways:

- The child has a better environment to shape their morals and behavior considering the circumstance in the slums they come from.
- The child's language is developed to be able to communicate with people even outside their own tribe.
- The child's nutrition is boosted by the school lunch programme.
- Children with health problems (sick) are able to be noted early before the problem worsens.
- The child interacts early with others under the supervision of the teacher.
- The parent has time to engage in gainful daily activities for the good of family, parents get professional advice from the teachers about their child's development.

Director's Message



Edmond Opondo Oloo, Executive Director

May I take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the year 2015. The year that we look back from our inception and give thanks to our Almighty God for the strides we have made so far. The journey has been full of potholes but we take cognisance that you and our other partners have made us reach this far.

We need to be very much aware of our past and take note of our current position in order to make us plan for tomorrow. The journey that started sixteen years ago with very little hope have proved worthwhile and now we are proud to share with you in this 2015 newsletter the success stories. We hope this will inspire

you more and make you realise how your prayers and support can achieve this. As we reflect back, we believe as an organisation that there are no traffic jams along the extra miles that we are yet to venture on.

Despite numerous challenges we are facing owing to the global financial crisis, Grapesyard has remained steadfast in its focus of facilitating, providing and promoting access to education, health and healthcare services to children in the informal settlements and economically challenged communities in Kenya. This is evidenced by the fact that the number of children reached so far with the entire

programme stands over 1500 as compared to 150 children that we managed to reach in the year 1999. The improvements in our infrastructure in Grapesyard School in Korogocho and Grapeyard children's centre (the orphanage) in Utawala also indicates the positive growth with the organisation. We hope we will soon eliminate all the remaining temporary structures which pose health hazard to children particularly in korogocho. The capacity of human resource has also steadily gone up and capacitated to meet the needs of the organisation. Today the staff population stands at 42 from 3 in 1999. We

have also seen an increase in the desire of the staff to advance their education by going for further studies. Ninety five percent of the staff are trained in their respective fields and a few already pursuing their diplomas and degrees in their respective field of work.

We are proud with the children who have gone through our programme. A number of them have attained their academic degrees and diploma certificates and are now responsible citizens. We continue to pray for the students in high school and technical institutions to continue working hard and be responsible as well.

The journey has been up and down and more so characterised by scarce resources to implement the massive but import activities. We continue to emphasize on the need for child sponsorship to allow more children access school and other basic care and support. We lobby the local companies and churches to conduct their Corporate Social Responsibility in our organisation as a way to reaching out to children and just inspiring and supporting them. We look forward to more companies joining the list of those that would conduct CSR in 2015. We are also happy to associate our self with colleges and universities to help build the capacity of students in CSR of which students are expected to practice once they are employed.

The year 2015 will throw a big challenge to the organisation. A number of our children are finishing secondary schools and technical trainings institutions. They are expected to fully exit the programme save for the ones that will qualify to join universities. The most vulnerable are the ones who were brought up in the children home as they have to be integrated in the community and find work to do. We hope our partners and friends will be of assistance to help them secure employment.

I would like to thank all our partners led by Twins international Italy and its President Mr Diego Masi for the partnership since 2006. The

Alice for Children programmes which we run together is a testimony of the effectiveness of the philanthropic attitude the two organisations subscribe to. Am also grateful for our partners in USA led by Patricia Pollock and Amy whom we met in the year 2003 and since then have touched the lives of over 100 children through child sponsorship. We recognise our prayer partners all over the world as we seek for more collaboration to propagate God's teaching through children ministries.

We look forward to a more cordial working relationship with all our patners.

Thank you.

Impact of Child Sponsorship:

We are celebrating success stories because of contributors working with us to provide education, food, school supplies and personal effects for the children. The object is to reduce children struggles for basics of life. Those who have come through the program are over 600 children. In the programs now are 1,300 children of which 1,000 are receiving education and food in Korogocho, 100 are sheltered in children home and 200 are in secondary schools across the country. This figure is anticipated to reach 1,500 in 2015 because of poverty and hunger in the families.

With success stories come challenges of sustaining the program both qualitatively and quantitatively due constrained and dwindling budget, amidst raising demand for support. For example year 2014 ended with over 100 extremely needy cases looking for sponsorship support.

Sponsored children are likely to stay in school 1 to 1.5 years longer than their non-sponsored peers. An extra year of schooling could have long-lasting impact on a child's future employment possibilities as an adult.

They are also likely to finish secondary education than those

who were not enrolled in the child sponsorship program.

Feeding makes the difference in class attendance in Korogocho slums:

"Mum, am going to school. Today is rice and Cabbages", shouts Brandon, a class 4 child in our school. This was in response to his mother's demand that he remain at home that day to mind his younger sibling as she escorts her six month old bay for routine monthly clinic.

Feeding in school attracts children for education because



empowered and self-reliant people able to take charge of their lives. This leads to a healthier community in terms of social problems. Contributors worked with us to provide education, food, school supplies, personal effects and healthcare for the children. The immediate output is reduced daily struggles by children. Those who have come through this program are over 600 children. Demand for our services is anticipated to reach 1,500 in 2015.

With success stories come challenges of sustaining the program both qualitatively and quantitatively due to constrained budget, amidst raising demand for support.

food is a problem in the households. The high enrollment in 2014 (1,050) was a direct consequence of child sponsorship and feeding programs. Children with siblings in school have formed a habit of milling around the school at 1pm so they too can have food spared for them by the older siblings. When they come of school going age, they demand to be enrolled in Grapesyard. Equally, those enrolled keep coming for education by extension, but for food in particular.

In effect, several lives are positively transformed. While education promises knowledge and bright future to hundreds, food provided the much needed energy and good health to cope with learning demands. Stunted children common in poor communities

is also kept at bay. Together with education, school feeding especially in the pre-school section aided children growth and development. In 2014, the centre served over 252,000 plates of food directly. Close to 24000 food plates were served indirectly as pupils saved part of their rations to younger siblings at home.

For parents, food in school means they do not need to be at home prepare lunch for children. Instead they go out to fend for supper for the children, only returning in the evening. For Mama Brandon above, she has enough time to concentrate on her hawking work from 8am to 6pm because children are in school whole day. This means higher earnings prospects.

For entire community, retaining more children in school means

“The high enrollment in 2014 (1,050) was a direct consequence of child sponsorship and feeding programs”



Honor and Sacrifice

There is a story told about Martin Luther when he was a young boy in school, probably 12 years of age. Their teacher used to bow before the pupils every time he entered classroom. So, the young Martin Luther decided to ask him one day to explain the meaning of his paradoxical gesture. Martin's reasoning was that it is the pupils who needed to rise up and bow as soon as the teacher entered into the classroom as a sign of respect. The answer that was given was as vague as the behavior; "I am honoring your future". Working with children is greatly noble that it requires a call or vocation. It may cost one to reverse the cultural and traditional perspectives, since when you work with children, you may not know that destiny might honor the child to become the king! Like, Luther's teacher, Grapesyard Organization might

be raising a reformer; there are so many professionals, and successful business men and women. You may not be realizing what you are doing, but every time you bend down to place your ears close to the mouth of a child who is trying to explain something, you are bowing before this kid! So, why are you doing this? May I ask on behalf of the little ones, "You are honoring their future"

Let me talk about one other man, St. Francis of Assisi. A man born in riches but opted to honor a beggar with his most valuable coat. It is said that St. Francis, ran away from his home against the father wish, who wanted him to pursue education and join the aristocrats. However, this did not give Francis the fulfillment and meaning to life, so he took his priced coat bought to him by his father to a beggar in the

streets and wrapping the coat around the beggar he told him, "When you see my father disown me, take me as your son!" We can never be St. Francis, and may not have the grace to sacrifice as much, but I believe each one of us has a price gift from God that we can deliver to the needy. St. Francis father was an earthly father and had little understanding of the will of God, and so he chased his son, only for St. Francis to be embraced by our Heavenly Father, who sent him to take care of the needy including the beggar



who received his coat, and also to preach the gospel of peace and love. The founder of the order of Franciscan missionaries, his work and vision still lives centuries after he had gone to be with his father in heaven. God never left St. Francis to a life of misery but for his willingness to obey God's will to serve the needy, St. Francis lives on. This message is still relevance to us as people who are in Grapesyard Organization, irrespective of how invisible and less aristocratic your role may be.

The acts of honor are also acts of costly sacrifice.

The success stories

The 16 years of work in the informal settlements has taught us many valuable lessons. The lessons will catapult the organization to the next level. Besides, helping to improve the quality of care and support for children and our interaction with stakeholders. One such lesson is that children can reach their potential given an enabling environment. While some will fall by the way, majority will succeed.

Case one: Vivian Ngala, Bachelor of Commerce, Finance KCA University

Vivian is a beneficiary of child education sponsorship. Today Vivian has graduated from KCA University with a Bachelor of Commencer, Finance degree from KCA University. She wants to take CPA classes to complement her Degree while at the same time embarked on job search. She wants to enroll for Masters Degree program soon.

Vivian met the organization about 9 years ago when she had just lost the father, a few years after the loss of the mother. She had also sat her KCPE exams. She was forced to look upon the older siblings for secondary education, despite the fact that they themselves were jobless. This was also the time Child sponsorship at Grapesyard was taking root. Vivian's plight was brought to us by one of her siblings. She was enrolled in the program with support of Hope Trust Fund and Patricia Pollock. Despite the loss of parents Vivian was determined to pull through education to University level. This she did in 2014.



A chat with Vivian on her path to success reveals that all was not rosy. She had to contend with financial challenges especially college fess, bus fare, upkeep and personal effects. She says many times she was on

the verge of giving up. However she drew a lot of strength and inspiration from her late father who wanted her to be a TV news presenter. During school holidays she would accompany the father to his Shop in rural market. She helped the father in the shop during the day till evening. She says this inspired her to persue Business Management course and the Degree program.

Her advice to the girls still in school is that they can achieve their dreams through self belief, determination and putting God before anything else.

Case two: Denis Osanya, BED Psychology

I feel great that God has enabled me to pull through education to University level. I have just cleared from Maseno University. Thank you, Mr. Edmond Opondo Oloo and Grapesyard for laying the firm education and moral foundation that made me to go all the way. I look back 15 years when I joined Grapesyard School with a lot of appreciation. The foundation that I got taught me to work smart in class. I also chose my friends well. One sad thing though, is that I lost very many friends as I advanced. They felt that we shared nothing in common after they were left behind. My challenge now is to reach out to those who are still alive. For I believe our destiny as human beings remains the same. Despite their education, they can still succeed and lead positive change we need in our communities together.



As I face the future my childhood dreams of being a doctor is still alive in me especially because my KCSE grades qualify me to

pursue the course. I hope to persue medicine after landing a job to finance it. I look forward to be a responsible man that extends a helping hand to the needy in my community.

My advice to the young people is that your dreams are valid. The poverty, the moral decay and breakdown of law and order in Korogocho will only stop you if you give in.

Long live Grapesyard.

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Case three: Collins Atito, Drama and Theatre Studies, Maseno University

Collins is a 4th year student. He is an alumnus of Grapesyard Education Centre in Korogocho. Atito did his KCPE in year 2007 and joined Aquinas High School in 2008. He later joined Maseno University. He is looking back his primary education years at Grapesyard with a lot of appreciation, noting that Grapesyard nurtured his dreams and made him responsible. He is thankful that he acquired education because of the financial support he got from the organization. Lunch in the centre proved valuable for him because meals were not guaranteed at home.

About life in Korogocho, Atito says it is one that makes ‘men out of boys, women out of girls’, because weaving through it is a maze. In high school,



Atito says he met and interacted with children from diverse cultures and background. This made him realize how pathetic Korogocho life was. He decided to work hard and succeed in school so as to pull himself and his family out of poverty. “Hardship in Korocho has planted in me the desire to initiate

change”, says Collins. He is looking forward to his Graduation day and land employment. And so, he says, it will enable him giveback to the community .

Case Four: Pamela Adhiambo, Trained primary school teacher

Grapesyard School is the place to be for Korogocho children. Quality learning, discipline and hard work that I got there will go a long way in my life.

I am now on fish business and a trained primary school teacher thanks to Grapesyard sponsorship program. After college I was employed as a classroom teacher in one of the private schools in Kiambu. I was there for a few months. Soon I realized that the salary wasn’t good enough to support me, my baby and siblings now that I was totally independent. I also wanted to advance



my teaching certificate to Diploma and later Degree for a better salary and future. This was not going to be possible with my earnings as a Primary school teacher. I therefore teamed up with a friend who was already in the business because I learnt the returns were good. So I quit my classroom work.

But I like teaching very much because it enables me to nurture children and develop them into useful human beings. I get satisfaction in this career because it is a direct way to give back to the community for its role in my life.

I am about to enrole for a Diploma course in teaching and later Degree in education before going back to chalk. I hope to do this in 2015. At this point I will employ someone to help me manage the fish business.

Fresh Primary school teachers like me need to work hard and stay focused on their careers because reward is plenty. For me, I chose to remain focused with my life because Korogocho is a difficult environment where I should not live for long. It is not a healthy place for my children to grow. However it made me appreciate little

favours that came my way and grow stronger.

After class 8, I stayed at home until the middle of term two. I had given up ever proceeding to secondary education because my parents were very poor. One afternoon I was called to school by Director to inform me that he found a sponsor for my secondary education and I needed to prepare to go to school in two days time. The support was to continue to my career training.

I am very grateful to Grapesyard, The Director, Charles, Amy and my teachers because they made me realize my dreams of being a teacher. I want to continue working hard to succeed in life and make them proud. Because of them I am now a mentor to many teenage girls in Korogocho community. I am also looking forward to giving back to the Organization directly. I thank Grapesyard because of my support and for many needy children. Many of the needy children that I have referred to the organization ended up with support.

Case Five: Maxwell Ouma, Trained primary school teacher

He cleared Primary teacher (P1) training from Kamweja teacher's College in 2012 after successfully going through the prescribed training curriculum. His secondary education as well as teacher training was fully supported by Grapesyard Organization.

“I had given up ever proceeding to secondary education because my parents were very poor.”

Having lost his father earlier in life, the family turned to their mother, a house wife, for support. The family went back to their rural village in Ugenya where he joined Humwend Primary school to continue his education. But life was not any easier in the village too. The mother

and her children tilted the family land, about ¼ ha, but with unreliable rains and infantile soil, harvest was poor. She also helped others in tilting their farms for a small fee of about 50 a day for family upkeep. Being the firstborn, Maxwell joined the mother in contributing to the family food basket by working in homesteads for a little money.

Maxwell did well in his KCPE and at this point, he approached the organization through another beneficiary.



He explained his plight and sought help to proceed to Secondary education. He was successful and was sent to High school. In secondary Maxwell remained focused, but the family baggage did not leave him. It made him to achieve a grade C+ at KCSE, not enough to join Government

sponsored course in a public University for further studies. Again Maxwell successfully sought help to join primary teacher training. He has since graduated and taught for two years in one of the Academies in Nairobi's Eastland's area.

A chat with Maxwell in November 2014 revealed a man determined to pull through life despite myriad challenges. He has joined a cooperative Sacco where he saves money regularly so that he can borrow for his University education. Being the first born, he still supports his family financially. He meets school fees for a younger sister in secondary and a brother in University. Settling down to raise a family is not his immediate plans but sees a brighter future for their family.

He encourages those who are lucky to get sponsored not to waste the chance, but count themselves lucky. Many others are not.



Case five: Geoffrey Odhiambo, Simba Colt Motors.

Geoffrey’s story is special in that he is the first child from our children home who has become self-reliant. After the loss of his parents in Kisumu, Geoffrey turned to street life for some months before finding help. He joined Grapesyard Children Centre in 2008 when the home was founded. His obedience and ability to settle down faster than the rest saw him become the first leader in the home.

After Secondary education the organization supported him to take a course in driving before landing casual job with Simba Colt Motors. This has made him self-reliant. Since he is the first born in the family, he has taken up the support of his siblings who are in high school.

I am very thankful to Alice Village and Grapesyard in general because it resurrected my lost hope.

Grapesyard School rebrands.



As a project run by Grapesyard, the community school in Korogocho slums is now known as Grapesyard education centre, beginning 24th October 2014. We anticipate that the identity crisis experienced earlier will now lie to rest. The major operations of the centre will now be transacted with ease.

We are confident that the new development will increase growth of the centre both as an education and community resource centre.

We anticipate that Grapesyard Education Centre will sustain the recorded successes and provide even better services to children, youth and the larger community through rights based programming. Besides offering affordable quality primary education, school based feeding programme, child sponsorship, the centre will also initiate new programs in 2015. Key among them being Early Childhood Education (ECD) teacher training centre and an expanded youth programs.

Long serving staff



My name is Mrs. Felistas Wambua. I work with Grapesyard Organization as Early Child Development teacher. I have been with the organization for the last 16 years, when it started in November 1999. The centre was started to give education to children who

were out school. Around that time there was sudden increase of street children and families. With it was also an increase of insecurity in the area.

With an initial 30 children and two teachers, the centre has grown to serve over 1,000 children. The past was thorny. My salary was Ksh 1,200, but which also came in bits. This is not the case now. The school infrastructure was filthy. There was no toilet for the children and their teachers. The classrooms were former tenant rental rooms that had been abandoned because of insecurity in the area. They measured 8ft² and few as well. The rooms were used by passersby to relieve themselves and rape chambers at night. The beginning of each school day was marked by cleaning human waste and blood from the rooms.

Many times I contemplated quitting but the love for children

kept me going. I liked my work too. I have learnt that teaching job is a call, not just a career.

A visit to the centre now gives a picture different from past. Pressure by the children for education still persists. This makes me realize that success comes as a result of commitment to "PUSH". P-Presh, U-until Something Happens. So up to this far I can say God is Ebenezer who has brought Grapesyard from dust to something.

Thank you.



Grapesyard Education Centre

From humble beginnings, the centre has grown tremendously to become not only the center of choice in Korogocho slums but also the best performing centre in Ruaraka area.

In terms of infrastructure, the centre has improved from the initial two rooms to the current twenty three

that comprise of spacious classrooms and offices.

The improvements will go a long way in providing an ideal environment for both teaching and learning experience.

At the founding stage, the centre's environment was both dangerous in sense of security. It also posed a health hazard because of poor sanitation. The sewage trench that

snakes through the centre was prone to overflowing thus posing health risks to children, besides being an eyesore. This has been improved and the frequency of overflow reduced.

The number of staff in school has also been on the rise and the school now has a total of twenty four personnel. This consists of twenty teaching staff and four



support staff. The dedicated team is at the service to over 1,000 pupils and parents. In terms of success stories the centre has a number of them. This ranges from high enrolment to admissions to National Schools and University.

For example our former students; Denis Otieno has cleared from Maseno University, Collins Atito is pursuing media studies in Maseno University. Our former students are also performing well in many high schools across the country: Boaz Nyagaka is doing us pride in Kisii High school, Onyango Carlos and Gordon Odhiambo in Butula Boys High School, Wesley Omondi in St.Mary's Yala High School, Jimmy Joel in Sawagongo High School and Sharon Adhiambo in Nembu

Girls. The students returned grades between A and B+. This is just but mentioning a few, many are out there flying the Grapesyard flag up.

The success of these students is a revelation of what small but consistent efforts can do to a community. Their families are bound to benefit because education is the only tool that can have a long time positive effect to a community. Grapesyard School is still steadfast in providing quality education to the pupils.

Our performance has improved over years with 2014 being the best year. Of the 28 candidates, all scored above 300 except two who scored 294 and 290 marks. This is way above pass mark which is 250.

All children in 2014 class joined secondary education.

The centre has a number of clubs that play a role in socializing the pupils.

Our scouting club has been part of public holiday celebrations. This has helped to boost confidence in the pupils. Considering that they hail from Korogocho, this kind of exposure is very important. Music and drama club has also offered exposure to our children because they have been able to interact

“The success of the children is a revelation of what small but consistent efforts can do to a community”

with other children from different backgrounds. Case in point in 2012 and 2013 the club managed to participate at national levels, a feat that made the community proud of their children.

The school has achieved the above in a difficult environment. The classrooms are largely made of Iron sheets, putting the lives of children at risk. They are congested, compromising pupil and teacher class interaction and compromises quality and learning experience. There is no space for

expansion. SO that classes can be split into streams. The school is in the midst of residential blocks and children mix with tenants during school hours and with it is the problem of bad influence and mis-conduct issues. Sanitation and infrastructural facilities are under intense pressure due to large school population. The list is endless. However the board of Directors is so supportive and continues to improve the infrastructure. A four classroom block complete with toilets is under construction for use in 2015.



One of Our School Clubs: Scouts



“Leave this world a little better than you found it” This slogan by Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting is what inspires us at Grapesyard Education Centre. Scouting (or the Scout Movement) is a movement that aims to support young people in their physical, mental and spiritual development, that they may play constructive roles in society, with a strong focus on the outdoors and

members administered first aid to pupils in our community school, engaged in community cleanup exercise, in Korogocho slums and planting of trees at Chief’s office and in our school compound. Besides, the Scouts club also participated in 2014 Nairobi International Show camping visit between 3rd – 5th October 2014.

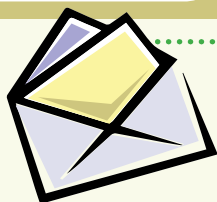
There are a number of activities

survival skills. We are sure that our current and past members have acquired survival skills and play active roles in the community we live. Scout

such as clean up exercise, campaign against drugs abuse and crimes among the children planned for 2015 in Korogocho slums.

The value of time

- If you want to know the value of one year, ask a pupil who has failed the main exam;
- If you want to know the value of one month, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby;
- If you want to know the value of week, ask an Editor who edits a weekly magazine;
- If you want to know the value of a day, ask a man eight children to feed in a day.
- If you want to realize the value of a minute, ask as a person who has missed a train;
- If you want to realize the value of a second, ask someone who has had an accident
- Value time. Never waste any single minute, it can take you to the next level.,”



Our School Letters

**SALTES, umoja
SelfRIDGES,
Tumaini,
Easymatt, Tuskys
and Stanmatt
supermarkets
support "I keep a
child Alive"**

"I keep a child Alive" is a registered trade mark. In partnership with Supermarkets, the organization rolled out donation tins project for funds. This is aimed at inviting the participation of public in care and support for children. In 2014, the organization raised funds through the project. The funds were used for buying clothes, shoes, beddings and general upkeep for the children.

While we continue to seek support of other supermarkets, we take this opportunity to thank all of them who partnered I Keep A child Alive"

We thank the following shopping outlets for supporting children work: Total Petrol station shops, Sweet World, Mathai, Ngong Hills, Waiyaki Way, Bidii, Power star, Kimsa, Rangers, Nafuu and Naguna's.

All others not mentioned here.



NEMBU GIRLS HIGH SCH.,
P.O BOX 21153,
NAIROBI.


2/11/2014

GRAPEYARD SCHOOL,
P.O BOX 2395/00100,
NAIROBI

RE: APPRECIATION

I am Sharon Awino, your candidate in the year 2012. The reason for writing this letter is to thank you for what you have done.

Without your help I could not have been where I am now. You have really taken a great part of my life which is education. Believe you me, I am not going to let you down. I am going to work smart and you won't regret for what you are doing. No much to say but May God Almighty shower His plenty blessings upon you. Thank you

Yours Faithfully,

Sharon Awino

Family support

After interacting with orphans and vulnerable children through student Community service, Elvis Kivoto asked his parents to come see the children home where he was attached. And his father Eng. Mutii Kovoto, obliged. Soon after, the Kivoto family mobilized their friends, Eng. Njuguna Gatitu and Francis Gitau to donate to the children in November 2014.

Mr. Ernest Ndenga, his wife together with their Children Amira and Jada also visited the children and donated foodstuff and toiletries to the children.

Dr. Nicholas Letting, the Vice Chancellor of Management University of Africa (MUA) and Mr. Maurice Makoloo of Ford Foundation gave financial support towards Grapesyard Education Centre 2014 prize giving ceremony.

Not left behind are Korogocho community who besides gracing the ceremony also gave cash towards the event held in March 2014. Judy Ngayu of MUA and Ayub Varvani helped 4 children in Korogocho meet their primary education school fees in 2014.

Others who supported children included Mr. Marco de Milato of Twins International Kenya. He supported the prize giving by donating trophies for various award categories. He is currently sponsoring a child for primary education in our school.

Patricia's passion for Children, Women makes a difference in Korogocho slums:

I am yearning to come back to Grapesyard and Korogocho soon, hopefully in 2015". Those were words of Patricia Pollock on phone to Grapesyard when she visited Uganda late 2014.

Soon after the visiting in Uganda, she secured sponsorship support for 6 more primary school children at Grapesyard Education Centre. This brings the number of children under her support to 39. The feat was possible though her own efforts, her husband John Pollock, Amy Blumenthal and Bethel Grove Bible Church. Not left behind were Church's Sunday school children who baked cakes to sell in support of their peers in Korogocho.

Under this program 17 children successfully completed secondary education after sitting for 2014 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE).

I am yearning to come back to Grapesyard and Korogocho soon!!!

Grapesyard Education Centre 2014 KCPE Results

INDEX NUMBER	CANDIDATE NAME	GENDER	ENG	KIS	MAT	SCI	SSRE	TOTAL
20407055130	OKOTH ONYANGO COLLINS	M	80	87	83	74	80	404
20407055129	ODHIAMBO OKOTH COLLINS	M	87	80	81	71	79	398
20407055142	RIAKO OCHIENG WYCLIF	M	76	80	81	74	77	388
20407055145	SHIKUKU OTONDO ROBINSON	M	66	75	83	74	79	377
20407055128	OTIENO ATIENO IRENE	F	87	79	72	68	69	375
20407055135	OYENGA OWINO FREDRICK	M	75	76	72	66	69	358
20407055132	MWASHUMBE WADERO SHELDON	M	79	69	80	63	66	357
20407055146	ODHIAMBO OWINO ANTONY	M	76	72	56	69	76	349
20407055131	OMONDI OCHIENG COLLINS	M	65	69	78	68	67	347
20407055140	ADHONGA OTOM MORICE	M	68	65	81	63	69	346
20407055133	OTIENO BILLY CLINTON	M	64	68	65	66	75	338
20407055148	ESTHER JOAN ATIENO	F	62	70	66	66	65	329
20407055173	OUMA DANIEL OTIENO	M	73	65	57	66	66	327
20407055137	CANDY EUNICE JAVELLA	F	76	57	66	61	60	320
20407055134	ASHLEY BRITNEY OCHIENG	F	65	68	57	66	64	320
20407055152	NJERU MURANGERI DAVIS	M	51	63	71	69	65	319
20407055157	OKAL ONYANGO NICHOLAS	M	68	72	60	61	57	318
20407055138	OOKO OWINO FRANK	M	77	56	65	64	55	317
20407055144	OWAGA OKUMU IAN	M	55	66	60	64	71	316
20407055135	WAMALWA NANYAMA EBBY	F	74	72	46	61	57	310
20407055153	LUMUMBA OWANO VALENTINE	M	59	70	57	55	62	303
20407055139	OCHIENG OTIENO TELVIN	M	60	61	63	60	59	303
20407055154	ODONGO AKOTH MORIN	F	66	66	56	60	53	301
20407055137	MOENGA KENGAYA CHRISTINE	F	65	69	63	58	45	300
20407055141	OBONYO FATH AKINYI	F	66	62	54	68	48	298
91680400729	AKINYI SYLVIA	F	69	55	51	60	60	295
20407055143	ONGGALE MAKOKHA SHARON	F	67	68	53	50	56	294
20407055150	AKINYI ADEMA MITCHEL	F	58	56	62	50	61	287
20407055151	OLOO OCHIENG BRIAN	M	66	60	48	53	56	283
20407055149	OMUKHWESO KOKOYO PETER	M	59	57	34	58	65	273
Subject			68.63	67.77	64.93	64.00	64.50	
Position			1	2	3	5	4	
Class Mean			329.94					

Alice Village 2014 KCPE Results

INDEX NO	NAMES	ENG	KIS	MATH	SCI	SSR	TOTAL
20409088020	Guya Vivica Awuor	82A	61B-	60B-	63B-	75A	341
20409088033	Ondiek William Ayuko	76A	68B	48C	68B	75A	335
20409088008	Abok Elizabeth Adhiambo	79A-	64B-	66B	60B-	65B	334
20409088041	Kelvin Mundia	70 B+	59C+	65B	56C+	64B-	314
20409088010	Winga Cynthia Akinyi	77A	61B-	48C	58C+	61B	305
20409088046	Abala Victor Okeyo	70B+	61B-	47C	47C	57C+	282
20409088063	Muchiri Irene Njeri	69B	44C-	43C-	47C	65B	273
20409088077	Otieno Wycliffe Omondi	74A	58C+	35D+	44C-	55C+	266
20409088069	Oduor Christine Awuor	66B	39D+	40C-	50C	56C+	261
20409088057	Omondi Diana Apiyo	68B	53C	43C-	24D-	56C+	244
20409088097	Omondi Immaculate Adongo	59C+	49C	44C-	36D+	53C	241
20409088042	Nkayieni Samuel Kiria	52C	27D	40C	50C	61B-	230
20409088076	Matoke Valentine Okimo	54C	48C	44C-	34D	38D+	218
20409088098	Kamau Dennis Nderito	58C+	31D	34D	45C-	50C	218
20409088116	Agwenge Jackline Aoko	31D	30D	35D+	18E	37D+	151
20409088117	Gateete Daniel Kamande	27D-	34D	36D+	24D-	26D-	147



THE BOMA HOTEL, It's Food Wagon Comes Knocking At Alice Village.

On 20th September 2014, staff from The Boma Nairobi visited Grapesyard's children home in Utawala and donated food and non-food items, conducted a cleaning exercise, medical checkup followed by a football match against the homes children and fraternity.

The exercise is part of an outreach program that sensitizes staff on social responsibility and underscores the fact The Boma Nairobi which is fully owned by the Kenya Red Cross Society indeed provides hospitality with a conscience.

Student Community service, Practicum attachment at Grapesyard

The Management University of Africa (MUA), United States International University (USIU) and Daystar University worked with Grapesyard in 2014 to provide opportunities for its students to undertake student community service work. Mount Kenya University also sent its students for practicum experience.

A part from gaining useful life lessons, students were able to meet part of course requirement by the

universities.

The overriding reason of working with universities is to produce all round Community work professionals or otherwise who are in touch with real social issues in the communities. In 2015 we expect to provide opportunities for more students.

Case one: Fazeela Mubaraka

My name is Fazeela Mubarak, Management University of Africa

(MAU) Alumni. MUA made me want to give back to society in a way that would go a long way into improving lives especially for the underprivileged of our society. MUA had just completed a highly successful corporate social responsibility activity at Grapesyard Organization's children home and it was now time to embark on my field practicum attachment cum community service as part fulfillment for my under graduate degree program. Grapesyard gave me the platform to do just that through its project sites, Grapesyard Education centre in Korogocho and children home in Utawala as a volunteer.

I started volunteering in May 2014 through the guidance of Mr. Charles Guda; I managed to mentor girls for classes 6 and 7, advising them on the future opportunities for pursuing their careers. The girls are so intelligent, were always co-operative and eager to always learn more. I was always met with enthusiasm from the children, countless smiles and not less than fifty handshakes in every visit that filled my heart with bliss.

Also, with the assistance of the management, we managed to have a workshop for the girls where they were educated on the basics of sexual harassment, prevention and what to do in a worst case scenario – this was done through an NGO called Art and Abolition.

During my stay there, I came across a girl Yurub - intelligent but at risk of being married off due to lack of finances to pursue her education further – the only way this could be avoided was if she stayed in school and that's how I started to fundraise



USIU student prepares firewood.

gained skill and experience in my field of study but also learnt to listen, give, and appreciate all that I have been blessed with for the Purpose of God's Glory. I have gained not only knowledge but the best understanding of life through you. It was through your warm hospitality that I have gained another father, mother, brother, sister, aunt and uncle; that I can relate to and look up to.

While at the organization, I acquired skills in community mobilization, participation, empowerment, not only from the organization but the Korogocho community at large, all of which are very essential towards sustainable development. I strongly believe that with these assets and understanding I am now able to set goals and standards in my career as a community developer.

*Long live Grapesyard.
God bless you all.*
jkittah@gmail.com

Case three: Elvis Kivoto, USIU

USIU community service plays a very vital role to not only the students who do the course but also the wider public. First, it enables a person to be responsible in the society we are living in. The community service took me to Grapesyard

The work I did in the organization was hands on - manual. I helped in carrying firewood to the kitchen, washing boys toilet, farming, washing utensils, chopping firewood, slashing, collecting rubbish and other chores the organization thought was important

for her fees and her brother as well. Having never done this before, I am grateful for the optimism of Mr. Guda and his encouragement for seeing me through this. As fundraising is clearly not an easy task, I was like a headless chicken running from one place to another when I finally resolved to fundraising through friends and family.

Finally I would like to appreciate the efforts of the management in improving the livelihoods of so many children in the slums, giving them hope for a better future, the sponsors who contributed, Safina Charity and Art and Abolition for their support.

Case two: Julie Kittah, Daystar University

I am a Daystar University student admission number 09-1926. I undertook community development practicum training from 18/7/2014 to 18/10/14 at Grapesyard Education Centre and Grapesyard Children's Centre (home).

I would like to acknowledge

Grapesyard Organization for allowing me to do my internship at their organization for a period of three months. I also wish to pass my gratitude to the entire team at Grapesyard Organization for their warm and kind gestures towards me during the entire period. You open heartedly welcomed me into your community and in one way or the other mentored and directed me through the entire process. May God's favor be upon you.

Again, I want to applause all the little angels that I got to interact with at Alice village and Grapesyard School for their immense cooperation and genuine friendship with me. You are special gifts from God, therefore stand firm and show the world who you are, create your own dreams, fulfill your mission and purpose in life and accomplish your heart desires; in all let the Lord direct you to the way, the truth and the light.

My stay with all of you has been both an overwhelming and a learning experience that I will forever treasure in my heart. I have not only

for me to do. This was important for me as it enabled me to apply group work activities USIU has taught me. By working closely with the staff members in doing different chores, I was able to meet my goals. More than that, it has enabled me play a vital role in shaping the lives of children.

One Saturday, I went to the organization with my father and was amazed that Italians come to the organization to do community service and internship. I questioned myself why locals did little to support the less fortunate. The children were happy when they saw us and made me know how humble and open the children were when visitors came as this reminded them that they are not enclosed in four walls to suffer but have the opportunity to mingle with the outside world.



Community service as a whole is important in challenging the society to appreciate the people who are different and learning new things from people we thought were less important to the society. In Grapes yard, I saw innocent children who

face hard life but are always happy and jovial of the little things we take for granted. The children stay as a community and are always there for each other in times of happiness and sorrow and are eager to recover lost opportunities.

Alice Village throws lifeline to children

“Sons are a heritage from the Lord; children are a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate.” - *Psalms 127:3-5- NIV.*

Grapesyard Children’s Center has so far assisted 131 orphans of which some have completed

their secondary education.

Currently the home accommodates 100 children, rescued from diverse social backgrounds such as street and dumping site, neglect, physical and mental abuse and from imprisoned parents.

The care and support improved children health and gave them access to education and acquire skills training and hence hope for

self attainment in adult age.

There are 45 who have been integrated in the communities after rebuilding their lives. One child has completed full cycle and he is now in salaried employment. One did KCSE 2014 awaiting results year, 8 children are in SOS Technical Training Institute for skills training on: electrical and electronics, food production and beverage, hair dressing and beauty therapy, fashion and design among others. Those currently in High school are 13, while 16 completed primary education last year. Once rescued into the home,

counseling and other forms of psycho social support are put in place on individual child basis for complete recovery. This happens even as the child is enrolled in primary school or reintegrated into the community.

Betty finds family through adoption

Betty Awiti, not her real name, was a victim of child neglect. But now lives happily having found a family through adoption. It is alleged that her mother would leave child with a neighbor in Dandara in the evening to go to Koinange Street for sex work. This is how the mother earned a living for needs and child. She would leave in the evening and return in the morning or after several days. This had now become normal to her neighbors. One fateful evening, she left for the city centre as usual, leaving Betty with the neighbor never to return. The neighbor was a jobless widow with four children of her own. Under pressure to provide for five children, she approached the area Chief with Betty for help. Betty was eventually rescued by Njiru Children officer and brought to Grapesyard Children's Centre where she lived for about 3 years. At the home, Betty would proudly tease fellow children that she is going out to hassle.

This perhaps was in reference to words of her mother to her neighbors as she left for work. Grapesyard worked with Children's office, an adoption society - Little Angels Network for three years to find a family for Betty. We wish Betty well in her new family.

Gideon Keno's story

I am a continuing beneficiary of Grapesyard support, from its Children home called Alice Village. I am 18 years old, now in Ramba Boys High School form 4, my last year in Secondary education. I lived in home for two years, between 2009 to 2010. Before that I lived with my aged and ailing Grandmother due to neglect by my mother. The home rescued me when I had dropped out of school to help my Grandmother.

Being in the final year of secondary education makes me very excited because I am about to realize my dreams. A dream of becoming a successful responsible man.

Despite returning grade C- in my form three final exams, I have an inner drive that I will post better grade in 2015 KCSE enough to secure me a Government sponsored slot in the University. The C- grade is not my best performance because I had series of setbacks in form three that affected my concentration, key among them being frequent sickness. I am very thankful to Alice Village and Grapesyard in general because it resurrected my dreams in life. I hope at one

time to give back through whatever means, but would wish to give donations, help in fund raising to support that would result into many more needy children likehimself being helped. ”



Improved health strengthens Children class performance

As Kenya's urban slums expand at rapid rates, and in the process, inhabitants face challenges of food security, basic health services, water, and sanitation. Nairobi's slums are desperately crowded: they occupy less than 6 percent of Nairobi's residential land, yet they are home to 60% of the over 3million population (Source: African Population and Health Research Center).

The slum areas are not formally recognized by the government and thus lack basic services. The result is that children in the slums have "higher mortality and morbidity rates than children in other parts of Kenya, according to the Center. Those lucky to celebrate 5th birthday still fall sick more often because of poor feeding habits. The result is that those in school cannot concentrate in class besides missing lessons.

The Organization offers partial healthcare support for children most at risk in collaboration with **Twins International, Neema Uhai Ruraka and Metropolitan hospitals**, 368 children were attended to for various health conditions.

Besides health support, feeding program at its education centre

hopes to meet balanced diet needs among the children. There are more than 1,300 children under food support program. Feeding and Healthcare support helped to reduce cases of sicknesses among the children. The number of class absenteeism has reduced significantly and class performance has greatly improved. Grapesyard Education centre is operating at grade B- up from grade C before initiation of feeding and healthcare support programs.

Faith braves the Surgion's knife

The story of Faith Auma of Grapesyard Education Centre highlights the fact that poverty in the slums makes it hard for children to access quality healthcare at the right time to solve many of their health problems.

Faith is 10 years old when she finally got medical help at Metropolitan hospital, Nairobi. She was born with a birth defect known as Cleft Palate. The condition is corrected surgically before age of 18 months. For Faith this did not happen because parents did not understand it. Because it was not life threatening they did not seek medical advice. She was enrolled in school when she became of age and her teachers too did not understand the problem. In class Faith is a bright pupil but she was a lonely girl, because every time she attempted talking, other pupils would imitate her. This really made her sad and most of the time she kept to herself.

Faith's problem was discovered by a social worker who had just

been engaged by the organization and advised the parents to seek medical advice at Kikuyu Mission Hospital which they did. However the visiting surgeons had just left. They could also not afford the procedure in a private hospital.

Help for Faith came when the social worker visited Metropolitan Hospital Nairobi in April 2014 and talked to a Surgeon who advised that the Hospital could conduct the surgery for free. On 16th June 2014 Faith was admitted at Metropolitan Hospital awaiting the operation the following day 17th June 2014. This was successful and Faith is now under speech therapy program at the same Hospital. She is also doing fine in school.



Our Staff



Edmond-Diretor



Charles
(Program officer)



Stephen
(Fin. & Admin. Officer)



Amy (Home Manager)



Edgar (Head teacher)



Dancun
(D.Head teacher)



Phelgona
(Senior teacher)



Kolly
(Senior teacher-Pre-sch.)



Jany
(Social worker)



Joyce
(Nurse aid)



Emmily
(School clerk)



Gloria Mwale
(Secretary)



Zadock (Teacher)



Gloria (Teacher)



Peninah (Teacher)



Maureen Atieno (Teacher)



Triza
(House mother)



Mary
(House mother)



Nancy
(House mother)



Guya (Teacher)



Willis (Teacher)



Felisters (ECD teacher)



Eunice
(ECD teacher)



Morine
(ECD teacher)



Brenda (teacher)



Wanjala (teacher)



Maurice (teacher)



Bernard (teacher)



Eunice Aluoch
(Teacher)



Robert (Driver)



Paslida (Kitchen)



Benter (Kitchen)



Elisha (Security)



Omollo (Ground)



George (Ground)



Abdi (Security)



Zablon (Security)



Grapesyard Organization

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