



MZABIBU

A special publication of Grapesyard Organization

7th Edition

2016 Newsletter



Grapesyard Organization
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**Lighting Up
Lost Hope**

About:

Grapesyard Organization

Grapesyard turns 17 years. Care and support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) remains its focus. The organization is preoccupied with child protection, education, nutrition, personal growth and self attainment. As a consequence, the Organization had introduced a support group for children living with sickle cell anemia in Korogocho and its environs.

Running Projects:

- i) Grapesyard Education Centre: This project is located in Korogocho slums. It offers quality primary education for orphans and children from economically challenged communities. The centre reaches out to over 1,200 daily with primary level education, feeding, child sponsorship e.t.c.
- 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): The centre serves Baby class (three years), Nursery and pre-school categories. The centre is located in Grapesyard Education Centre.
- iv) "I keep a Child Alive". In partnership with Supermarkets, the organization rolled out donation tins project. It is aimed at inviting the participation of public in care and support for children. The project will continue to run in 2016.
- 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. This publication in 2016 edition is continuation of the past ones.
- vi) Grapesyard Self Help Group: Its membership is drawn from community with an aim to empower group members through income generating activities.

STAFF

news

Staff Welfare:

Grapesyard Organization offers an enabling environment from which staff come together to meet their financial and spiritual needs individually and severally.

Grapesyard Organization Staff Welfare fund:

The fund was established in 2007 with the sole objective to empathize with all staff members in times of need such as birth, wedding, farewell and death. Membership is compulsory upon employment. Advisory committee is the governing body of the fund. The committee is elected from the membership during annual general meetings. It consists of Chair Person, Vice Chair person, Secretary and Treasurer. Farewells, births, deaths and wedding are some of the staff issues that are covered.

Panzi Scheme:

The object for which the scheme is formed is to promote the economic interests of its members. In particular to promote thrift amongst its members by affording them an opportunity for accumulating their savings and deposits and create a source of funds from which loans can be granted at fair and reasonable interest rates. It was formed in January 2014 following increased staff needs for loans. Membership is drawn from Grapesyard staff. It is voluntary. It operates under the principles of democracy, honesty and openness.

On leaving employment member savings is wholly refunded.



PARTNERS and Collaborators

We appreciate the following organizations and well wishers who partnered or collaborated with us in 2015 for care, protection and support of children at risk. We congratulate and thank them for contributing towards children development.

Twins International, Italy
 Ministry of Education, Kenya
 Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services,
 Children Department and Njiru Sub County children office,
 National Aids Control Council,
 Kenya AIDS NGO Consortium (KANCO)
 Ford Foundation East Africa Office
 Bridges Mentoring Network (BMN),
 Tumaini Scholarship Program
 Uchumi Supermarkets Ltd
 Management University of Africa (MUA)
 United States International University (USIU),
 Osaka University, Japan - Prof. Richard Miller and Prof Zane Ritchie
 Barclays Bank Of Kenya- Kariobangi
 Cooperative Bank of Kenya – Kariobangi
 Pergamon Group Ltd
 EDARP, Donholm and Baba Dogo Clinics
 Parklands Baptist Church- Eastgate Youth Ministry
 The BOMA HOTEL, Nairobi.
 Mara Farming Ltd
 Olympia Gym
 Bethel Grove Bible Church, Ithaca
 Do Good Lab, San Francisco
 Eucharist Church, San Francisco
 St. Gregory Small Community Church, Mukuru
 Patricia, John Pollock & Amy Blumenthal
 Sharon Boyle and Aimee Seheult
 Kate & Ernest Ndenga family
 Millicent Mwangi and Group
 Ryan Jones



10 years of walking together, seeking **EQUITY and EQUALITY** for Slum communities:

The walk that started in 1997 in Korogocho slums between Twins International and Grapesyard Organization turns 10 years. Based on mutual trust and understanding, Twins has remained the single most and notable Partner for Grapesyard Organization program activities. From Children shelter, Feeding, Administration cost to Child sponsorship, Twins support has been massive.

As we celebrate a decade of friendship, we must not lose focus of the myriad developmental problems affecting hundreds of children in Korogocho and other urban slums. Issues such as gender based violence (GBV) meted out on children of sexes, hunger, lack of quality education and advancement opportunities among others must never get out of sight. These continue to be the most significant threats in children lives today.

Concerted efforts are needed to reach out to more children to invest on their potential. This will make majority of them realize their dreams.

Of particular importance are the mentorship programs for age appropriate young people, quality learning opportunities and support both at community and school levels.

While we congratulate Twins International for investing in young people, we also thank it for having faith and confidence in Grapesyard. The partnership will go a long way in contribution towards a just society.



Tumaini Scholarship

reaches out to needy Korogocho Children:

Tumaini Scholarship was founded in 2014 with the aim of enabling a larger number of students to have access secondary education as consequence of many children who dropped out school at Primary level because of poverty in the families. Tumaini Scholarship, in the past 2 years, has sponsored 38 children from Grapesyard School, whom had not met the requirements to access the sponsorship offered by Twins International. The 38 students have been enrolled in various schools across Kenya. The selected schools are those with good academic track record. The schools were chosen according to their geographical location to simplify the management of the Scholarship Program and help Children cope with difficulties brought about by the change in environment. Tumani also monitors closely two students who joined University in 2015.

During school holidays the students meet with Tumaini staff for an evaluation. Together with their parent the academic reports of current and the passed report forms are analyzed. The aim is to counsel the pupil, so as to deal with the difficulties encountered and find an efficient solution that leads to better grades and performance in school. To remain in the Scholarship Program the students are required to obtain a minimum of B grade in end of term examinations to boost their chances of enrolling in the University. Some are offered a chance to join Technical Training Institutions for an artisan course.

Bridges Mentoring Network

identifies with Children



As we close the year 2015, the statement “Lighting up Hope” has a profound meaning to Bridges Mentoring Network (BMN). As an NGO dedicated to promote access to quality education, access to HIV/AIDS awareness and mitigation, ICT and welfare services, we are committed to bring hope to the children of Korogocho. We aim at accomplishing this through instilling the following principles;-

1. Prayer: Teach our children the components of prayer A (adoration), C (confession), T (thanksgiving) S (supplication)
2. Dreams: For each child to know that their dreams are valid, however small or big.
3. Choices: For each child to know that each choice they make has a consequence. That they have the power to choose their path and their destiny.
4. Talents: Each child should nurture their talents, be it in academia, sports or arts. They should strive at sharing that talent for the benefit of others and not to be selfish with their skills.
5. Networking: To teach each child never to burn bridges for you never know when you will need to cross one. Maintain friendships and contacts no matter how small.
6. Commitment: Be committed to a cause, be it education or otherwise. Dedicate time to this cause daily and you'll be certain that positive results will follow you.
7. No excuses: Each child should know that there are no excuses for not doing anything. No matter their background or upbringing, that should not be a hindrance to doing well and accomplishing their set goals.

I keep a Child Alive[®] Initiative

receives a short in the arm from Uchumi Supermarkets

I keep a Child Alive[®] initiative is a Grapesyard Organization's effort in reaching out to members of the Public to help in the care and support for Children. It was begun in mid 2014 in partnership with Supermarket Chains in Nairobi Estates to raise funds towards care for children. So far, the activity has helped in a limited way to bridge budget gaps.

The major Supermarket chain to join the initiative is Uchumi Supermarkets Ltd through its outlets majorly in Nairobi City. This has increased the monthly collections. Besides, the Supermarket chain also donates clothes and shoes to the children. The support has gone a long way in making a difference in children lives.

Director's Message



Edmond Opondo Oloo, **Executive Director**

Lighting Up lost hope

Am proud to see the advancements and achievements that Grapesyard organization is making in the realisation of its vision of a healthy and educated child in the informal settlements and economically challenged communities and inculcating the moral values of compassion, confidentiality, commitment and credibility towards creating a sustainable holistic development of orphans and vulnerable children. This has been made possible with your support. I take this chance to sincerely thank you for the support and partnership.

As we look to mark our 20th anniversary soon, we are humbled by the strides the organization has made since its inception in 1999, coming from ashes and state of hopelessness towards realisation of our dream. We value the members of the communities we work with who have been part of our success story. We recognize the role played by these wonderful communities in developing and shaping children in a

Godly way.

In the current globalised world where mentorship is key in developing successful leaders, academicians and professionals, we are happy with the mentorship programmes already in place to ensure young children are developed in the right way. The number of students from Grapesyard walking through the hierarchy of education and getting admitted to institutions of higher learning is a testimony of results being achieved through mentorship programmes. I acknowledge the contribution of key partners who have come in handy to help us realise this dream. The motivation and the resilience of these children that come from hopeless families have been our inspiration to continue with the good work.

The establishment of the IT lab in Alice Village is timely and it is in line with the digital learning being rolled out by the government. This is going to be an important pillar in creating knowledge management among children. It will also provide a basis for foundation development in the lives of these young children. We

look forward to introduce the same to Grapesyard school in Korogocho and allow the over 1000 children from the slum to experience this unique digital learning. We hope to find partners to help us implement this in Korogocho in the year 2016.

We are also happy on the physical transformation of our Korogocho facilities and now most children can comfortably learn in safe, spacious, ventilated and well built classrooms. We still believe that as we transform the lives of children, we also need to improve their environment. We look forward to continue with the next stage of our infrastructural development and in the process also to provide adequate space for children to play.

As we all contribute towards lightening the lost hope of these children, may I encourage you to do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that change the world. Purpose to be a change agent by creating new innovative ideas to propel us towards realising our vision. The organisation is now in its teenage and needs all of us to make it discover itself and explore more opportunities. Allow me to sincerely appreciate all our partners led by Twins international and the brethren New York Bethel Grove Bible Church. You contributed immensely in ensuring we reach this far. We as organisation may not succeed in changing the physical infrastructures of the Korogocho community but the souls we have touched through your support will remain a permanent mark in their lives of the children. The Grapesyard Board of directors, staff and the entire community, words cannot really express my gratitude towards your immense contribution of our growth. It is only God the father who will be in the position to abundantly reward you.

Thanking all of you and wishing all a prosperous 2016

A Special Publication of Grapesyard Organization

"Who LIGHTS the Lost Hope?"

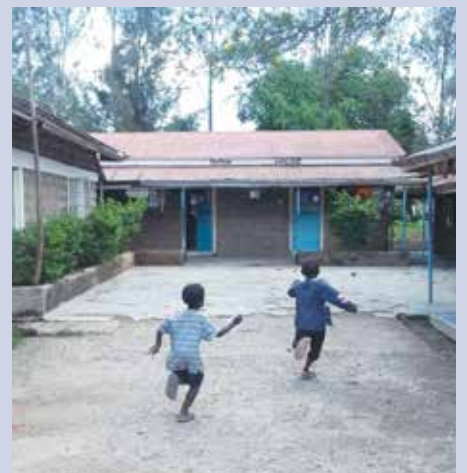
Rev. Gabriel Abanga O

There is always a providential hand in all we do. We may not know why we take some one's child and raise him or her as if they were our own. Sometimes giving them more than what our own may get, because we are instruments and candles in some one's hand. The natural law is that we must provide for ourselves first, but a providential rule twists our intents. Hence this question, "Who lights the lost hope?"

When the children of Israel were subjected to slavery in Egypt they suffered greatly in the hands of their slave masters. However, it is very sad that the Egyptians targeted their new born as a way of curtailing their population growth. There was a decree that midwives should control the rate of Israel's increase in Egypt by murdering their babies at child birth. But God by his providential intervention used the same midwives to save the babies during birth. At this time the children of Israel became very desperate. One woman desperately did an act of faith and placed her precious child by the reeds. It was like she had lost all hope when she decided to place her child in a

basket like raft. Hers was a risk, but faith is more than mere enterprise. Imagine a woman putting her child beside the river, with only one hope, he will live! But what could be going on in her mind, "... may be the current will carry him safe or may be someone who is not a Hebrew may find him and want to save his life..." Once again, we witness God's providence, when pharaoh's daughter came across and the life of a boy Moses was saved. It is incredible that Moses grew up in the pharaoh's house with full knowledge of the royal family that he was a Hebrew! He acquired the royal privileges by virtue of being the legally adopted son of pharaoh's daughters. Congratulations to the daughter of pharaoh for adopting and raising Moses in royalty! But did she know that Moses will be the deliverer; or rather the

one God had planned to use to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt? This is for another day's discussion. However, you are more blessed than pharaoh's daughter if only you knew that the lives that you are given to look after are providentially given to you. You are not the source of the light, but God who is the true light that lights the lost hope!



IMPACT OF CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Retracing, the Roots of our CHILD SPONSORSHIP to Patricia Pollock



for 2016 primary education support.

By working with several contributors such as Patricia, 2016 will realize support for more than 210 children in our sponsorship program. Over 800 other needy children are not supported calling for more partners to come onboard.

Also worth mentioning is one Lay Sion, a cross boundary Masters student in Japan's Osaka University who came to Grapesyard in May 2015 as an intern. She documented children case stories and secured one year support for five children in our education centre.

Talk of Child sponsorship program in our centre feeds the memory to the date 18th May 2005 when Patricia Pollock and her missionary friends who visited Grapesyard. True to her comments then –“A wonderful place to be, full of joy of the lord”, Patricia began on the empathy journey of giving Korogoch children a chance to education. It all started with the late Kevin Omondi who died a few months after securing sponsorship. This was soon followed by a group of five children to get sponsored. The support continued to reach out to more children one year after the other.

In 2015 seven (7) students cleared secondary education with another fifteen (15) continuing at the same level, all thanks to Patricia. In 2016 five (5) will transit to secondary. She has also taken up another 9 children



THE Success Stories

MZABIBU NEWSLETTER, ISSUE 7

Andhoga John Okoth makes it straight 'A of 84 points'

My life as an alumnus of Grapesyard

My name is John Okoth Andhoga, currently an undergraduate student of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Nairobi, Chiromo campus. I was admitted in Grapesyard School in 2001 in nursery when I was five. I hardly remember how I used to progress at that early age, but the poor picture of the institution during those years remains permanently mounted in my brain. Classes had an area of at most 8ft² with a maximum capacity of 30 pupils, each class having only one stream. With time, Grapesyard grew to become the best school within its vicinity, both academically and infrastructure wise.

Since birth, I have been raised in Korogocho, the same slum in which Grapesyard is situated. My early life in Korogocho was never easy as it was full of challenges that I had to learn how to maneuver. Several factors contributed towards my survival in this environment – Grapesyard a major player through its sponsorship, feeding and education programs; for it is through these that I managed to pass through primary and secondary education. I was sponsored while in primary through to high school. The support significantly increased my motivation towards working hard. I thank Grapesyard for their mountain support.

At the primary school stage, I had not realized how pathetic my background was, maybe because I was still too young and because that was the life I knew. When I joined high school, I met students from diverse backgrounds who made me comprehend there was a different life to what I had known. And that I had to do something to change my situation. After receiving a motivational speech from Mr. Pepe Minambo, a Congolese based Kenya motivational speaker, I realized that I had been sleeping on my potential. He made me understand the process a raw diamond that is mined from dirty rocks undergoes to become



amongst the most valuable items on earth. The powerful and hazardous rays it is subjected to before it becomes priceless. I had to make a difference academically. With hard work, I would have a bright future and it was time to build its firm foundation.

To make you understand how sketchy my background is, let me give a brief description. My mother is the sole bread winner in our family, despite my father being alive. Drinking illegal liquor irresponsibly made him not to be concerned with the family issues. He left all his responsibilities as a father to my mother. Though alcohol is the root cause of the sufferings he made us pass through, I find it hard to believe so, for ironically, it contributed significantly to my living. Mom is an illicit brewer, and she has managed to bring all the essential amenities at our disposal by selling alcohol.

Due to extra effort in high school, I scored an A plane with an aggregate of 84 points that made me secure a chance in The University of Nairobi. As a result, other players such as Tumaini Sponsorship program now partner Grapesyard to closely monitor my progress as an under graduate student.

Korogocho girl score

B+ in 2014 KCSE

Njuguna Doris Wanjiru,

19 years old girl

A beneficiary of Grapesyard child sponsorship program. She sat for 2014 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education

(KCSE) and returned grade B+. She was able to pull a first, being the first girl in our programs to produce B+ grade. She lives in Korogocho slums. The parents sell small cooking pans, plates and cups in Korogocho. The daily income from the business is not enough to put food on the table for the family. Doris had no chance of primary and secondary education without Sponsorship support which was offered by Grapesyard Organization. The support was offered because of her gender and poverty. She was vulnerable. The discussion is captured below.



supported by the Government. Besides, I still need entrance money for University. My parents cannot get the money especially so because my elder brother just joined to Eldoret Technical College for Electrical Engineering course using borrowed money.

Social

Worker: Wanjiru, how has it been so far?

Wanjiru: It has been good - my school life was smooth, thanks to my sponsors. I had no school fees challenges. Mentorship and counseling sessions help me remain focused. I am happy that I made it through secondary education successfully.

Social

Worker: You have mentioned mentorship and counseling ...What else made you reach this far yet you grew up in the slum where there are plenty of negative influences?

Wanjiru: The family upbringing and Church helped me realize confidence.

Social

Worker: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Wanjiru: I want to be a Health professional. I applied, for and was selected to pursue occupational therapy at Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC). I have also gained university admission for undergraduate course in Special Education at Machakos University but my priority is to take on a medical course.

Social

Worker: What do you foresee can stop you achieving your dream?

Wanjiru: Getting money for college fees are my greatest fears.

Social

Worker: Why, the Government can give you support for the undergraduate degree program?

Wanjiru: Yes, but I wish to take a course in medical, it is not

Social

Worker: What is your appeal then?

Wanjiru: I wish to request Grapesyard and well wishers to support me get enrolled in KMTTC.

Social

Worker: What is that thing on your head and don't you feel odd in it given that many girls of your age prefer hair-do?

Wanjiru: It's a headscarf. My Church requires all women and girls to cover their heads all the time. I don't feel odd in it because it helped shape up socially.

Social

Worker: What is your view of girls of your age living in Korogocho?

Wanjiru: May have destroyed their lives by engaging in careless lifestyles.

Social

Worker: What do you consider as careless lifestyle?

Wanjiru: Early and unsafe sex to get small favours, attending funeral discos in the slums at night, disobedience to their parents...As result many of them have given births once or twice and contracted HIV Aids virus.

Social

Worker: What would tell them, given a chance?

Wanjiru: Always have hope and obey their parents. They should put all their worries and future in the hands of God.

Social

Worker: What is your parting shot?

Wanjiru: I wish to ask for anyone willing to support my next step on education which is my current priority. And wish to assure them that I will not let them down given another chance.

Wanjiru Eunice Muchiri:
18 years old girl



I am thankful to Grapesyard Organization and Twins International for reaching out to me with help during the most difficult time of my life. There was no one to take care of me and my siblings after my mother was jailed. Nest Children’s home then rescued us and enrolled me in school for primary education. I entered class six while living in Nest. In 2011 Grapesyard Children’s Centre (Alice Village) then offered us a permanent accommodation from Nest children home and enrolled me and my younger sibling at Mihango Primary School.

After my KCPE 2012, I was enrolled at SOS technical training institute in 2013 for fashion and design course. At SOS I did grade tests three, two and one; and then Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) artisan examination in 2015. Before this, I

undertook industrial attachment at Domina Fashion House in Buru phase II for 6weeks. The attachment period though short, helped me put my skills to test, more so in Ladies wear. This also helped me to gain more confidence that will be helpful to me to look for and gain employment. Besides garment, I also acquired skills in modeling and computer literacy.

The course is very important to me because it will help me to be independent and also support my siblings. My dream is to get a university degree in Fashion and Design. That is why I went back to college for KNEC artisan certificate after doing Grade I test.

A past Examination Results: 2014 KCSE

NAME	MEAN	ENG	KIS	MAT	BIO	PHY	CHEM	HIS	C.R.E	BUS	AGRI	GEO	HSC	ART	COMP
Andhoga J. O.	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	-	A				
Ouma S.	A-														
Njuguna D.W.	B	B	B-	B+	B		B-	C+	B+						
Oriare P. N.	B-	B	B	D	B-	D+	C+				B+	B			
Njuguna R. M.	B-	B-	C-	B+		C+	B	-	C+	B-	-				
Laura M.	C+	B	C-	C	D		C-	C	B-					A-	
Njeru B. G.	C+	C+	C	C+	C+	D+	D	B	C+	C					

Feeding makes the difference in class attendance in Korogocho slums

Ironically, our school lunch is a key driver of the impressive class attendance and the enrolment numbers as opposed to its health benefits. Yes, proper nutrition can help prevent a number of health conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and many others.

To reap big health wise, one needs 6 types of nutrition:

1. Protein for healthy muscles, skin and hair and contributes to normal chemical reactions within your body;
2. Carbohydrates are necessary to supply your body with glucose, which is its primary source of energy;
3. Fats help your body synthesize fat-soluble vitamins, such as vitamin D. Healthy fats include monounsaturated and polyunsaturated;
4. Vitamins are essential for health and thus considered primary components of nutrition. Vitamin deficiency can cause osteoporosis, scurvy, a weakened immune system, premature aging and even certain cancers. Consuming too much of a vitamin can also result in serious toxicity;
5. Minerals are vital for proper human health. Essential minerals include calcium, iron, zinc, iodine and chromium. Deficiencies can result in serious health conditions such as brittle bones and poor blood oxygenation. Like vitamins, overdosing on minerals can result in life threatening conditions, health conditions such as brittle bones and poor blood oxygenation. Like vitamins, overdosing on minerals can result in life threatening conditions.
6. Water -the human body is composed of 60 percent water and your brain is composed of 70

percent water. Water is necessary to maintain proper bodily function. Most individuals should aim for eight to ten 8-ounce glasses of water daily. It is possible to overdose on water, and in severe cases, a water overdose can be fatal.

Our lunch program does not serve mineral and vitamins found only in fruits, dairy and meat products. But it consists of maize, beans, rice, cabbages, and green grams. More than 288,000 hot lunch were served to children in 2015.

We also intend to introduce 10am enriched porridge for our ECD centre children. This has been lacking and caregivers have been sending children with tea when they come in the morning. Without flasks, the tea get cold by 10am. This affects the health of the children particularly during the cold season.

In 2015, food played a big role in our enrollment numbers that stood at 1,200 children. The number will rise even higher in 2016.

However, food is not our main focus. We use it to get children remain in class for primary education. This is because food is a problem in the households. Lack of it in school leaves the children with the option of street garbage site life.

Families too realized the benefit of our lunch program. The caregivers are freed looking for and preparing lunch for those during school day. Instead, they use the time to engage income ventures that generate income for the family. Thanks to sponsors who have helped sustain feeding in our education centre.



It is yet another year of success at Grapesyard Education Centre. The centre realized achievement because of the good will emanating from Ministry of Education, City County Education department, Korogocho community and Grapesyard family.

We also recognize the support that was extended to the centre by CFBT and TUSOME organizations. The two Institutions conducted several capacity building trainings for teachers and management staff in an effort to improve numeracy improve numeracy and literacy by the Children. They also donated text books in the two areas.

The school means grade maintained B grade.

Strengths:

- Early Child Development section has transformed into permanent from temporary state. Three new permanent classrooms and a hall have been put up. This goes a long way in improving safety and academic performance.
- A new 3 door flush toilet block has been put up. This has helped improve sanitation in school. Girls who have reached menstruation have two toilets equipped and dedicated to them. This has gone a long way in improving confidence and class absentisms.
- Teaching staff: The centre boasts of youthful and energetic results oriented team. The team has jelled well thus realizing academic stability.

Challenges:

- Despite the notable achievements, our major challenge remains high turn-over because trained teachers serve for a period before joining Government's Teachers Service Commission who in turn post them to Government schools. As a community education centre we cannot compete with the Government in terms of remunerations. Nonetheless, we realize that labour mobility is legal and ours is to replace those who depart

with able replacements.

- Another challenge has been widespread poverty among parents and caregivers. This has hampered child care and protection and hinders smooth learning by the children.
- Lunch program serves too many children. The current food budget was meant for 500 children yet it serves 1,200. The organization has tried to sustain the program through donations from well wishers but which has not been consistent. This forced the School to go out its way to cut down on some of its key activities in order to feed about 700 children.
- School play ground is overstretched; it is about half hectare hold physical facilities and up to 1,200 during school day. This leaves very little space for play during break and physical education (PE) lessons.

Past KCPE Examinations Performance

Grapesyard Education Centre has over the years posted good academic results in Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examinations. A look at the children in school reveals radiant innocent smiles. But the smiles soon fade into sadness, upon enquiry into their social circumstances: lost hope, desperation and helplessness among the children. 'I study hard and try not to miss class, but I don't know if I will join secondary', says "Leila", one of the top three girls in 2015 class eight at the centre.

The un-certainty and desperation is all because of poverty in her family. She is from a single parent family - a mother who is jobless but goes around the Korogocho neighbourhood to wash clothes for a paltry sh200 pay a day. This is also not guaranteed owing to many women going round for the same work. They live in one room shack together with her other 4 siblings aged seven months, 2 yrs, 3yrs and 10 years respectively. And with quarrel some neighbors, catching up with home work and study is not possible. In short the only place for study

for Leila and other children from Korogocho is Grapesyard Education Centre. Food is big problem to get at home. Lighting is by smoke emitting improvised lamps whose oil is also a problem to find. This is a reflection of life in Korogocho households.

Despite the struggle children consistently post credible good results. The results pushed the centre to be one of the top academic performers in Nairobi County. And with this children from poor families have made it to top Government Secondary schools in the country and eventually to University education to pursue careers such as Medicine, Business management among others. Some of the children have also acquired careers in teaching and ventured into businesses for self reliance thereby changing economic fortunes for themselves and their families for the better.

Gradesyard Education Centre KCPE mean Grade since 2003



Top pupils at the centre since 2007.

Year	Name	Marks Out Of 500
2015	Okinda Antony Ochieng'	403
2014	Onyango Colins Okoth	404
2013	Okoth Maxwel Brighton	406
2012	Omondi Wesley	386
2011	Adelide Ondisi	377
2010	Mlambaya Derrick	366
2009	Oluoch Creasey Ouko	344
2008	Ochieng Isaac Otieno	389
2007	Owino Maxwel Owino	378
2006	Otieno Ambrose Otieno	372
2005	Otieno Maxwel Omollo	372
2004	Opiyo George Ojul	304
2003	Atieno O. Otieno	322

Grapesyard Education Centre 2015 Kcpe Results

INDEX NO	ENG	KISW	MATH	SCIE	S/SCRE	TOTAL
20407055055	84	83	74	81	81	403
20405055056	86	81	78	74	78	397
20407055063	85	90	65	82	69	391
20407055057	82	79	71	72	77	381
20407055066	75	76	75	81	73	380
20407055059	80	85	71	77	60	373
20407055058	74	71	75	72	72	364
20407055061	67	79	76	70	70	362
20407055062	80	73	62	81	64	360
20407055060	70	68	78	66	66	348
20407055089	69	80	61	68	65	343
20407055069	73	76	54	72	66	341
20407044068	72	69	72	61	64	338
20407055065	72	73	55	72	65	337
20407055086	73	68	61	65	70	337
20407055067	74	76	61	61	60	332
20407055088	72	70	67	63	56	328
20407055071	71	68	64	63	60	326
20407055072	70	70	62	59	60	321
20407055122	75	65	61	61	59	321
20407055073	63	67	58	68	64	320
20407055064	73	73	58	50	63	317
20407055076	72	54	55	59	67	307
20407055074	73	55	61	58	58	305
20407055081	63	71	40	61	70	305
20407055082	64	73	51	65	51	304
20407055083	52	69	64	54	59	298
20407055087	61	53	64	58	59	295
20407055077	62	54	55	63	56	290
20407055045	80	66	37	50	54	287
20407055085	49	57	55	61	58	280
20407055084	65	59	47	54	50	275
20407055078	50	56	61	54	52	273
20407055070	63	58	33	58	58	270
20407055123	60	51	57	49	52	269
20407055080	60	64	43	56	42	265
20407055075	45	58	46	52	51	252
TOTAL	2559	2538	2228	2371	2299	11995
MEAN	69.16	68.59	60.22	64.1	62.14	324.2
POS	1	2	5	3	4	

School

Election Day:

Grapesyard Education Centre involves pupils in the running and management of the school programs and activities. A day is set aside for the entire school to elect their leaders namely, The President, Deputy President, Time Manager and class Governors. Pupils are allowed to campaign for the various positions. The election is usually done through Secret ballot. The offices are President, Deputy President, Class Governors and Secretaries for Health & Sanitation, Time management and Education.

The Outgoing President and deputy president is Patrick Cluvert and Chelsea Oneya respectively.

A typical school elections day is preceded with a one week campaign period. On the elections day, classes run upto 12.45 pm when all children break for lunch. At 2pm the election materials are delivered to the polling station. Our school playground serves as the polling station. Candidates' agents are allowed to inspect the ballot boxes to ensure that they are empty. Polling then begins. Results are announced 24 hrs after voting.



Alice Village throws lifeline to children.

Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

Since its inception, Grapesyard Children's Centre (Alice Village) 136 orphans have been rescued and helped to retract their dreams. The lost hope has been reincarnated by repairing their broken hearts through psychosocial support and availing opportunities for growth and development. These include provision of balanced diet, counseling, play and education and life skills. The once shattered hearts now beams with hope and confidence - the Lord's grace being sufficient.

The home currently hosts 84 children after the exit of 10 children who did 2015 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examinations. Recruitment is on going to raise the number to 100. So far 55 children have been reintegrated back into the communities though we continue to monitor their progress

After attaining primary education, children have the opportunity to transit to secondary and or tertiary education all the way to University. Year 2014 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations produced one child with A- grade of 82 points. The child has enrolled for Diatrics and Nutrition at Nairobi University.

One girl has completed Grade III course in Tailoring and Design at SOS children village training centre. Three others sat for various trade test examinations also at SOS while 4 children cleared secondary education.

Bridging the Digital divide:

In November 2015, Twins International helped equip and launch a computer laboratory for children. The lab will be useful for helping children acquire digital knowledge through computer literacy lessons in line with Government of Kenya's e-learning policy.

It will also boost connection between children and their distant sponsors through Skype communication.



Child Reintegration: A success story

Reintegration is a process of reunifying a child with His/her parents, extended family or legal guardian. During the process activities are undertaken to equip the child and the family with the necessary capacity, including resources for proper placement and reintegration. In line with the UNCRC (United Nation

Alice Village throws lifeline to children.

Convention on the Rights of the Child) and ACRWC(African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child) both of which Kenya accented to and domesticated through the Children’s Act of 2001, emphasize that the ideal setting for a child to grow is in a family or at least a community settings. Guided by this principle Grapesyard Children’s Centre (Alice Village) facilitated reintegration process to one Mercy (not her real name). Mercy was committed by the court to Alice Village as a child in need of care and protection. The 6 year old Mercy Awuor was in pre unit at Mihango Primary school in Utawala area, Nairobi.

Mercy’s biological mother was a street woman and a habitual drug and substance abuser. She would physically and emotionally abuse her daughter on daily basis. On one fateful day the child was rescued by a child protection agent in Mathare slums in Nairobi where Mercy had been physically abused with her mother and sustained serious injuries on her body. The child was treated and was referred to Alice Village for safety away from abuse. During the child’s stay in the institution, the social worker would take her through counseling sessions in order to help the child start accepting life and be optimistic towards it.

On the other end the child’s mother was taken to a rehabilitation centre located in the outskirts of Nairobi to help her recover from drug and substance abuse and also to be responsible towards her children. Her stay at the rehab bore fruits and within a year she had abandoned the vice. Currently the mother has enrolled to a secondary for her O- level education. Through counseling sessions Mercy was able to understand her mother’s predicament and was very much willing to be reunited with her mother and two siblings. On April 2015 Mercy was reintegrated back to her family. Through constant follow up to determine if the placement was in the best interest of the child, the organization decided to initiate an income generating activity for the family. The family is doing fine and they are happy living together. The child’s mother has fully recovered and has also given her life to Christ. Mercy has already been admitted to school and she is fairing on well with her studies. She managed to be number 9 out of 53 with total marks of 378. Mercy aspires to be a Doctor in future.



Irene, former care beneficiary

My name is Irene, not real name, a former care beneficiary of Alice Village. I am currently a student of SOS Technical Training

Institute undertaking artisan course in Food and Beverage service.

Nest Children home moved me to Alice Village in 2011 since Nest is a short term rescue centre. I lived in Alice Village up to 2014 together with my siblings Eunice, Paul and Michael. Eunice is the elder sister while

Michael is a younger brother. Living in Children homes was brought about by my helplessness after our mother neglected us. She abandoned us in Muranga under the care of our old ailing grandmother. She was to die later while we were in Nest. At the moment we are under the care of my maternal uncle who lives in Muranga as well.

Alice Village is a wonderful place to live. I got all the care and comfort that my mother did not give us. Alice Village made me get back my dreams of being a good person in life. It taught me to work hard, do everything in love and be thankful for every small thing I get. I hope my hard work and determination will help me pass my final artisan KNEC examination. Life in Alice Village has taught me three things- namely 1. Thought (Think about my future). 2. Thankful (be grateful for whatever chance given to me). 3. Get (combine 1 & 2 above to get anything I wish to have).

I am thankful to Grapesyard Children’s Centre and Twins International for resurrecting my hopes in life.



Alice Village 2015 KCPE Results

INDEX NO	Eng	Kis	Math	Sci	S/Score	TOTAL
20409088001	84A	73B+	75A-	74B+	74B+	380
20409088003	79A-	70B+	72B+	68B	72B+	361
20409088059	63B-	64B-	47C	52C	63B-	289
20409088078	67B	54C	58C+	47C	58C+	284
20409088057	62B-	48C	47C	54C	58C+	269
20409088045	57C+	41C-	48C	52C	64B-	262
20409088071	64B-	57C+	39D+	43C-	45C	248
20409088094	54C	48C	53C	45C	38D+	238
20409088088	56C+	54C	44C-	36D+	44C-	237
20409088102	47C	46C	37D+	42C	48C	220

Universities Collaboration

Grapesyard is open to young men and women who wish to either carry out student community service or practicum industrial attachment. This has proved fruitful for both the student and the needy children. Some attachés discovered their hidden potentials while some children landed Sponsorship out it. The Organization also expanded its linkages and networks thus raising its visibility in some way.

Over the years, the organization has attracted foreign and local students to work at its project sites and got

an opportunity to put to practice the knowledge and expertise acquired in class.

In 2015 the organization received 6 students from United States University (USIU). The six helped boost Health and sanitation for children in Grapesyard Education Centre. They also worked in the school library and mentored teenage boys and girls both in Grapesyard Education Centre and Alice Village. The exposure went along way in partial fulfillment of their undergraduate programs requirements. Besides, they forged networks with the disadvantaged children who look at them as role

models and mentors.

Besides under graduate students, the organization also attracts students at Certificate and Diploma levels from various middle level colleges across the country. There were 3 students who landed a three month industrial attachment with the organization.

Our projects expose the interns and attaches to literally every social issue that confront the Society today. It also offered an opportunity for them to give back to community, gain confidence, build character. Three children landed primary education sponsorship for one year.

When you have nothing, you feel like you can be anything:

By Lay Sion, Cross Boundary Member, Osaka University, Japan.

Volunteering in Grapesyard Organization is open to anyone who wishes to discover his/her hidden talents. My internship period though short - two weeks to be precise, made me do what I had never tried before. It gave me a great opportunity to get to explore my own culture background while interacting with the Grapesyard Children, Staff and Kenyans in general.

At the onset as an intern at Grapesyard Organization, I believe there will be a great increase in specific knowledge and be able to develop valuable skills in terms of socializing, fundraising, management, and teaching and improve my communication in English language. Moreover, I believed by engaging myself in Grapes I will build my leadership skills. As we know that in a volunteer organization, more subtle skills are needed to accomplish things. An effective volunteer leader must have a clear and reasoned thinking, to be able to generate good

ideas, speaking articulately, as well as exhibiting enthusiasm and sincere interest in other people. These skills definitely enhance a leader in a work environment as well.

I would also have an opportunity to extend my network and make new contacts. This will definitely help me in my future career and life. And the experience was enriching.

Encounters:

I learnt many meaningful and valuable lessons. Those life-changing experiences will remain in my mind for a long time to come. My life in Grapesyard Organization can be divided into two parts: teaching English in the classroom and documenting children profiles for the Child Sponsorship Program. Charles, the program officer was valuable in this for he showed me how to do it and the important information that I needed to capture. The Social Worker helped me carry out home

visits so as to verify the facts.

Before I started to teach, I observed how the teachers taught in Grapesyard classrooms. I watched Science and English class in class six (twelve or thirteen years old in general). Interestingly, the classes are not divided by ages but the time you enter the school. So you might find fourteen years old student and ten years old student in the same class. This is mainly caused by poverty, disease and ignorance of the parents. Grapesyard is a double stream primary education centre. There are five main subjects that are taught. These are English, Kiswahili, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies (Geography, History and Christianity). There is one teacher each for classes one to three. From class four to eight, each subject is taught by different teachers. Most of the pupils have problems during lessons: not enough textbooks. Only a few of them have own book textbooks for each subject.

Universities Collaboration

The rest have to share the few copies offered by the school and they have to copy the textbook into their exercise books. Their exercise books are old and torn, though the handwriting on the papers are beautiful and tidy; there are hidden treasure inside the trashes because they are what makes Grapesyard pupils do very well in school and national examinations. They are thousand two hundred students in total.

The one thousand two hundred children are taught by twenty teachers. The classrooms are small and there's no electricity in them. Pupils have to squeeze together to share the little space available during lessons. I was impressed by how the teachers handled the pupils during class time. Teachers are very good in leading the students. They would repeat what they say, ask questions, give examples, and double confirm the statement by asking "sawa-sawa?", then the pupils would answer "yes!" confidently. If a pupil answered the question correctly, teacher will say, "give him/her a big clap"; this encouraged one keep trying incase the answer was not right and others to try in subsequent questions. I got touched and motivated by seeing how the teachers guided their pupils. I felt "The thinking that guides your intelligence is much more important than how much intelligence you might have" -- this is why I want to teach.

Involvement:

During composition writing class, I created a topic for students in class six to write about. The topic was "If I were a millionaire". Firstly, I explained the structure of a composition to the pupils. Secondly, I showed some examples to them by reading out aloud a

composition written by pupils from other countries. Then, I wrote down some key words on the board to ensure that everyone understood clearly the topic. After that I gave them thirty minutes to complete the composition.

When I was collecting the paper, I taught them how to write their names in Chinese in order to



explore their curiosity towards the outside world.

After collecting all the papers, I read through all the compositions and selected the best one in the class. I was very impressed by the students in Grapesyard School. They are very talented and would definitely have a bright future if they can have proper education like the other children in developed countries.

Besides teaching in the classroom, I also engaged in making child's profile in order to find sponsors for those talented children. Within one week I interviewed eleven children. I also visited four homes to see their living environment. Visiting the homes made me realize how tough and hard their lives are. They lived on below I dollar a day.

Some only has a mother; some don't even have parents; some have to take care of the younger siblings when also needed care. They live in one roomed house, one bed for parents while the children sleep on the floor. Children, 2 to 3 in number share one small blanket; some an't fit in and tuck themselves in cold.

The houses I visited are extremely simple, some made of iron sheets while some of stone. They all did not have a toilet or bathroom, even kitchen in the house. I could hardly breathe when I entered the rooms. I had to hold my breath all the time. Now I understand what life in slum is and the meaning of struggling in life. It is a World life that no one wanted to explore, but it covers the biggest part of the World. Poverty, diseases, deaths are knocking on their door every minute. Nevertheless, children smile without hesitating; they open their heart straightly to you - a visitor.

They will walk towards you and say "how are you?". And if you replied them, they would be so happy and give you a super smile. Some will extend their hands for a handshake with you. For them, you're a person who comes from another planet, you are so mysterious and they welcome you with warm hearts. Yes, these are African children, the most warmest and friendly spirits that I have ever met in the world. Ironically, poverty "makes" one a pure heart while money tends to pollute it". When you have nothing, you feel like you can be anything because you have nothing to lose; when you have everything, you feel like you have nothing because you have already lost yourself. So, I suggest when one feels like losing his/herself, one should visit

Universities Collaboration

Africa to see the children because they will make you understand the meaning of living by the edge of a sword. I believe true rediscovery is here. And one will realize true happiness. Similar to the other NPOs, Grapesyard Organization is facing some challenges and difficulties such as establishing and maintaining financial stability (fundraising), promoting visibility, improving the organization's system and facilities, demonstrating new approaches (innovation) to solve

social and environmental problems. Volunteering time and expertise at Grapesyard intimately reaches out to the poor to lift them out of poverty.

At the beginning I did not have any experience of working within a NGO. Trying to operate as a non-profit organization I saw the importance of financial support and personal capacity. The dependence on external institutions and people force you to have a flexible attitude and sacrifice.

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During my stay I also experienced the dependence. There was often uncertainty whether and when projects could start. At the beginning the dependence and the uncertainty was annoying, but it taught me to be flexible and patient and to see what other things I could do.

Thank you Grapesyard, forever you remain in my heart.

Everyday selflessness inspires greatness in others:

Be your brother's keeper they said; we couldn't agree more. Our time at Grapesyard Organization: whether at its Education Centre in Korogocho or the Children home in Utawala has been one important experience we would never trade any other for. We did not only get to share and help out but also learnt a lot from the kids and the staff as well. From classrooms supporting the teachers, to Kitchen serving lunch to children, in the compound helping

in cleaning and in the library lending and receiving back the text books, the experience was enriching and humbling too. Mentoring the teenage boys and girls living in the children home was an eye opener to the many issues children worry about in the orphanages. We appreciated the need to grow and develop in a family set up, however poor the situation may be.

our everyday selflessness we inspire greatness in others. With the World the way it is, it is truly an honour that we keep reassuring each other that good deeds and sincere efforts are still available and graciously given. The greatest gift you can ever give is your time. It is the example of fellowship and responsibility to humanity that will inspire to be greater people. It was a great pleasure working with you...

What we humans forget is that in

Parting shot:

'Opportunity is not a lengthy visitor...Grab it when you can.'

USIU team, fall 2015:

Wanjiro Juliet,
Paul M. Musembi,
Wangachire W. Elizabeth,
Mulwa B. Mbithi,
Diba Muro.



Corporate Social Responsibility by Pergamon Group:

As a top ranking Information Technology (IT) solution provider, the group offers a wide range of high quality and affordable products in security enhancement, office automation and business transactions. Currently, the group is providing Business solutions and has country presence in Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.

On 11th January 2015, the company through its CSR outreach visited Grapesyard Children's Centre in Utawala area of Nairobi and donated foodstuff (rice, beans, cooking fat, dry maize, maize flour etc) and school learning materials to the children. It also had fruitful mentorship meeting with teen age boys and girls, giving them basic skills needed to navigate teenage period. We are proud to be associated with Pergamon Group Ltd and wish them well in its work.



Barclays Bank Kenya (BBK) smooth night sleep for Children

Through its Kariobangi branch, BBK has continued to support Grapesyard children activities through its banking services and CSR outreach program. On 19th April 2015, the branch donated 20 pieces of medium density mattresses size 30 x 4 to the children in our home. The branch was also among others who contributed towards Grapesyard 15th anniversary celebrations. The donations helped the home to replace 20 old and torn mattress that were in use by children, thereby making their beds comfortable and promoting a sound night sleep. We cherish your continued support.



Parklands Baptist Church –East gate youth ministries reaches out to Alice Village children

28 August 2015 young boys and girls came calling on Alice Village with a message of hope for those who needed it the most – the orphans. Besides the spiritual message of hope, the youth group also donated food stuff and personal effects to the children. After brief presentations

by the children the group embarked on their mission that also included play therapy. At the end of the visit members of the group had formed strong bond with children. The bond will go a long way in future visits. The visit will greatly inspire the children.

Korogocho community gets a rare medical camp

In the month of October 2015, EDARP through its Baba Dogo clinic in collaboration with Grapesyard Organization conducted a medical camp for the Korogocho community. While EDARP provided medical supplies and human resource requirements Grapesyard did the awareness and provided physical amenities. The turnout was overwhelming. Children along with their caregivers got treated from various ailments. Notably a number of them consented to HIV/AIDS screening and subsequent

comprehensive care plan.

The camp also went a long way in cementing Grapesyard's friendly relationship with Korogocho community who forms her sole clientele.

While we thank EDARP for mounting such a highly successful camp. We also call upon them to follow-up the goodwill both from the Korogocho community and Grapesyard Organization to conduct similar activity regularly in pursuance to its mandate.

Improved **health** strengthens Children class performance

Stephen faces heart condition with Courage

Stephen suffers a heart complication. He is 16 years old and sheltered in Grapesyard Children's Centre (Alice Village). He is in class six at Mihango Vision Primary School in Utawala area. His age sharply contrasts the class level because of the health. He however faces the health predicament with courage. He suffers a heart complication and he is many times in and out of Hospital beds at Getrude's Garden Children Hospital. Even though the condition is delicate, the Doctor's word is that Stephen needs to accept his condition and get more rest and that the two will go a long way in his healing. And therein lay a problem. Seeing his age-mates play football and run around the field entices him to join. This aggravates his complicated health and add to frequent Doctor visit. And so, the caregivers must always keep an eye on his movements, stopping him whenever he gets into the field. This makes him very dull and lonely. At top health, Stephen's academic performance is good, always scoring above 320 marks out of a possible 500.



Faith makes steady recovery after braving the Surgeon's knife

The story of Faith Auma of Grapesyard Education Centre was highlighted in Mzabibu 2015 edition. She was 10 years then when she went in for Cleft Palate surgery at Nairobi's Metropolitan Hospital.

One year later Faith is making steady progress to fully recover her speech ability. She is now able to speak comprehensible words, attend school regularly and regained confidence. She is a happier girl. She is now 11 years old in class 6 at Grapesyard Education Centre; with a big dream of becoming an Engineer in future.

There has been a significance positive change in Faith's life since the operation. Her self esteem has improved since her friends stopped laughing at her. Her friends have also noted that Faith is clearer when she speaks. They can hear what she is saying without straining like before.

Academically Faith has always been on top of her class since Baby Class and she has maintained that position to date.

After the operation Faith was supposed to have speech therapy at the Gertrude's Children Hospital but due to financial constrains it has not been possible. She really needs help to facilitate the speech therapy.

Sickle cell warriors support group at Grapesyard

How many of us can correctly define Sickle cell disease (SCD) without referring to the Internet or dictionary? I believe very few. During our interactions with the community members we got an opportunity to ask the members of Korogocho Slums what it is. The answers we got were scaring and worrying at the same time.

Some members of the community knew there was a certain disease that 'drains' someone's blood but they did not understand what it is, if NOT witchcraft.

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a term used to describe a group of inherited blood cell disorders. People with SCD have abnormal Hemoglobin (a protein in red blood

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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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cells that carries oxygen throughout the body) called Hemoglobin S (sickle hemoglobin) in their red blood cells. SCD is passed by genes from parents to their children.

A person with SCD used to be referred to as a Sickler, but that name is no longer used. They are now referred to as Warriors.

In Grapesyard Education Centre there are 6 SC Warriors, two in baby class, two in nursery, one in class one and one in class 7. Since the community members knew very little about SCD we saw the need to start a support group to sensitize the community about SCD. The group has a total number of 8 active members that include the parents from neighboring schools who have children with SCD. The organization has invited a well known sickle cell warrior who advocates for the persons living with SCD to come and give a motivational talk to the group members.

In the next edition we will demystify the myths surrounding SCD and report on the progress of Grapesyard Sickle Cell Warriors support group.

Korogocho children find mentors



Mentoring young people helps them navigate the many social issues that they go through with confidence. During and after college and school learning, young people are face with many social issues such as relationships, job hunting, etc that they find challenging to navigate successfully.

Yes, all people at whatever age and social status need mentors. Young parents need mentor, a CEO need mentor, and the list goes on. In 2014 Grapesyard initiated a youth mentor program

that aims to boost academic performance, confidence and self discipline. This went on in 2015 and the impact is encouraging.

Success or failure depends on the quality of mentoring one receives. The organization is running mentoring camps at both its community education centre in Korogocho and children home in Utawala. Skills such as writing of VC, attending interviews, interpersonal skills, starting small business and creating networks and linkages are learnt. The camps are followed by remote supervision of the mentees to find out the hurdles they could be facing and how they cope.



Dr. Diana Opollo, PhD (centre) tips John (left) and Nelson to succeed in their careers.