



Maji

MAZURI

Children's Center

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MAJI MAZURI HALF YEAR REPORT PERIOD JULY TO DECEMBER 2008

INTRODUCTION

Greetings to all the friends of Maji Mazuri!

We have come to the end of the year 2008. We would not have made it had it not been for the grace of God and all our supporters and well wishers.

We would like to share with you the highlights of the 2nd half of the year, having shared with you the highlights of the 1st half of the year in the previous newsletter.

In this period we have also seen growth in improvements of our infrastructure especially at the Kiserian and Mathare Projects which will have major development projects taking place in the next year.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this newsletter and see what you have helped us achieve and to all of you we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy new 2009.

God Bless you all!

Wanjiku Kironyo.
PROGRAM DIRECTOR.

MAVUNO AND MAVUNO YOUTH SELF HELP MICRO FINANCE.

Mavuno members have stabilized now and they have been receiving their loans regularly and repaying well.

Mavuno both old and youth have been continuing with their activities well the Mavuno Youth members are also growing and the very first members are now in the second phase of loans.

MAJI MAZURI YOUTH GROUP AND TEENZ

The Youth and Teenz Groups have also been busy with their activities. The youth group has undergone new birth with new members joining and the old members becoming mentors to the new ones. The youth participated in a Community Outreach Programme organized by Youth Alive! Kenya. This outreach programme was meant to sensitize the community on Child justice system.

They also organized a Sports Tournament which invited several other youth groups in the area to participate in. The Tournament was a success.

The Teenz Group were also involved in Dramas, poems and sports activities which were very helpful to them in enriching their hobbies and extra curricular activities. They have also been attending theatre to watch plays in a local theatre in the city centre which allows them to gain more to improve on their acting skills.

The Teenz were also treated to a trip to the Ollorgesale pre historic site by Evelyn and Brandon, Canadian Volunteers they were accompanied by Naomi, Rachel and Marcelle.

HEADSTART SCHOOL MATHARE

Headstart has ended the year well. The Kids Club which is overseen by teacher Judith Odero under the auspices of the Hope World Wide organization located in Mathare has been doing well with the organization facilitating the children's welfare by helping some with Medical treatment and also facilitating the teachers by taking them through workshops. This term they covered first aid and fire safety prevention facilitated by Red Cross through Hope Worldwide.

Some of the Headstart children have also joined the Teenz group Programme.

The Headstart will be relocating next year to the newly constructed temporary school on the plot bought this year through the support of Duara in Holland to save on rent costs before the new Mathare Maji Mazuri Community Centre is constructed next year to house all the Mathare Programme activities.

MAJI MAZURI KISERIAN PROJECT

Kiserian Project has been the busiest with development projects which have continued into this half of the year.

We had visitors from the Rotary Club of Dayton visiting in the month of August and September. They were here to see the projects that they have been supporting in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Muthaiga, the hybrid windmill/solar electric system, animals projects, rain water harvesting system and to plan for their next phase of projects in Kiserian.

The chicken which were taken to the farm in June are now fully grown and laying eggs and the 2 cows, Susie-Mae and Molly delivered in August supported by the Inner Wheel Club are giving 10 litres of milk per milking now being used by the boarding children and the excess sold. The Inner Wheel club also donated rabbits, geese and turkeys as well as the animals' feeds.

The farm also received a tractor for tilling the land and to generate income to till other farmers' farms for a fee.

The Rotarians also donated tree seedlings and seeds to be planted by the ARK Rankau tree planting self help group that meets at the Project once a week.

UPPER MATASIA SCHOOLS

The term was very busy with many successful results. All lessons were started on schedule on 5th May 2008 for all classes.

The pupils have improved in all subjects, and we congratulate the teachers for having devoted their time to see these improvements. The parents have supported their children by supervising homework, although there are a few parents who neglect that duty. We had remedial lessons for pupils who had reading and writing problems throughout the term. Many club activities were conducted including Music, Artwork, Scouting, Science and General Knowledge competitions. A series of educational films were also shown on wildlife, STI and HIV- film. These films were enjoyed by both the pupils and their teachers. In the field, the term was reserved for Athletics. We had the Sports day on 25th July 2008 and it was a very successful day for all of us! We discovered many pupils with exceptional talents in running, jumping e.t.c.

On the Primary school side we managed to paint and decorate Nursery and Pre-unit classroom walls and the area looks very beautiful. The children have appreciated the décor. We paneled the dining hall walls with plywood and the hall became warmer and cosy. We hope to paint the walls in the near future.

Nicholas Oiko, and alumni from the Maji Mazuri Children's Centre joined the teaching staff at the High school in the 2nd half of the year. He was teaching, English literature and History. He graduated on the 19th December 2008 with a B.Ed Degree in English Literature.

The Secondary school graduated its second batch of form 4 students who sat their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education from 21st October 2008 to 10th November 2008.

The results will be out by next year April.

The high school students were also involved in planting trees at the Kiserian farm.

MAJI MAZURI CHILDREN'S CENTRE KASARANI

In November the children were visited by a group of young students from a school in Norway that visits them every year. They donated money to buy a posho mill for income generating purposes at the centre.

The centre has also been privileged by being highlighted in the media in one our leading television stations, NTV where the centre featured in the 9 o'clock prime time news and the Director, Wanjiku Kironyo was interviewed on the 5th December on the Station's breakfast show. This arose from a visit that was made to the centre by Mr. James Gitau CEO of Peak Performance International who has a foundation Roho Kwa Roho (Heart to Heart in Kiswahili) that works to bring awareness to the plight of children affected by HIV/AIDS. He did this in light of a run his Foundation sponsoring to raise awareness and funds for children affected by mental handicap.

The centre has also received donations from K.P Doshi a leading industrialist and Rotarian in the Country, Parkland Baptist Church the Rotaract Club, Tetra Pak and Omaera Pharmaceuticals. Individual well wishers have also visited with the children during the December holiday season.

ADMINISTRATION

There was a staff workshop held in August and it was very successful. Various topics were covered which included dealing with drug abuse, children's rights, relationships, harmony in diversity and stress management.

The Maji Mazuri Children's Centre Workers Savings and Credit Cooperative was also launched during this seminar and had its first AGM meeting. The SACCO is doing well and plans to accumulate savings for a year before any borrowing can be done.

The board members of Maji Mazuri made a visit of all the Maji Mazuri Projects on the 16th of December and saw all the progress that has been made in the end of year review of the projects.

IN GENERAL

In the second half of this year we were very blessed to receive our main supporters **from** USA, UK and Holland represented by Kevin Corcoran from Maji Mazuri-USA Naomi van Stapele, Marcelle Senden and Wendy De Macker from DUARA, Rachael Lindley from Maji Mazuri-UK. This team was mainly here to help plan the Mathare Maji Mazuri Community Centre that will house the Mathare Projects. From this a plot of land was acquired where the new building will stand and efforts are being made to fundraise for the building. This team also supported in the purchase of the piece of land.

The other main team that visited were the Rotary Club members from Ohio USA represented by Pat Edwards and his wife Suzanne, Pat is the current District Governor of District 6670 Fred Abrams who has returned three times after their initial visit last year in May, and is the Project Manager of the Rotary Projects being carried out in Kiserian and his wife Jeri they were accompanied by two other members from the Cincinnati Rotary Club Bob Miller and Steve Haber.

Lorry and Kimberly Shellman briefly visited with us as well and donated some more blankets to the children from Kasarani who are boarding at Kiserian.

We have had a very blessed year indeed and we would not have made it without all of your generous support.

From Maji Mazuri we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

PICTORIAL



Susie-Mae and Molly our new cows at Kiserian Farm



Eggs laid by the Kiserian Chicken



Turkey and Geese for the Farm



Kiserian Goats



Kiserian Rabbits



tractor



Windmill



Solar Panels at Kiserian



Boarders with Blankets



seed presentation to tree planting



Launching Kiserian power



Kasarani used Computers Donation



Kasarani Kids day out at the park



Headstart kids out in the court yard



New Mathare plot



Eggs being packed for sale



Maji Mazuri Board Members



Nicholas with Wanjiku
on graduation