



Maji

MAZURI

Children's Center

P O Box 45603 Nairobi, Kenya • Tel/Fax : 2714869, 3003274

Cell : 0722-466971 • Email: mmc@sedsmmc.org

MAJI MAZURI END YEAR REPORT PERIOD JULY TO DECEMBER 2009

INTRODUCTION

Greetings to all the friends of Maji Mazuri!

We have come to the end of the year 2009. 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 as we come to the close of the year.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this newsletter and see what you have helped us achieve.

God Bless you all!

Wanjiku Kironyo.
PROGRAM DIRECTOR.



Happy Holidays!

MAJI MAZURI YOUTH GROUP AND TEENZ

The Youth Group which is under the Talent Programme of Maji Mazuri in collaboration with DUARA, Maji Mazuri's Dutch partner, has been active and has had new members after the old Youth Group Members graduated to the Alumni membership so as to make way for growth and revitalize the Group.

The current Youth Group has been busy with cleanups, debates and lifeskills training activities under the guidance of their coordinators, Jeremia Mwangi and Samuel Karanja.

The Youth Group also got registered with the Youth for Conservation to get more involved with the Ministry of Environment's government of Kenya initiative to clean up the Nairobi River. They are also part of the wider Mabatini Ward Coalition of Youth Groups in the Mathare area.

Maji Mazuri also collaborated with Nairobits Institute, which is an Information Technology College that has been giving scholarships to Maji Mazuri Youth members for a long time to study web design and programming. We have had 8 youth graduate from Nairobits this year. This year in September, Nairobits sought to partner with Maji Mazuri to open up a youth training centre at the Youth Office in Mathare along Juja Road and this effort was also in collaboration with DUARA, a long time partner of Maji Mazuri from Holland. Maji Mazuri contributed in labour and facility as well as coordinating the effort of setting up the Training Centre and DUARA financed the setup while Nairobits contributed the 7 computers and the trainer as well as their curriculum and maintenance support.

A media lab team was also incorporated from the Youth Group to be taking short videos of things happening in Maji Mazuri for them to be uploaded on the Maji Mazuri website, this will help our friends and well-wishers see more in video. This team has been sponsored and facilitated by DUARA, who bought two mini digital video cameras for the work.

The Youth Group also went for a camp to Mombasa for a team building camp from the 17th to the 21st December and they were accompanied by Samuel Karanja the assistant coordinator and a member of the Alumni group. The Camp was also sponsored by DUARA.

HEADSTART SCHOOL MATHARE

Headstart School also under the Talent Programme has been doing well since moving to its own plot of land early this year bought by DUARA 2 years ago.

It has also been registered as a CBO to enable it gain access to free government grants for text books, school stationery and feeding programme. Headstart was also registered under the Starehe Constituency non formal schools in Mathare to facilitate joint exams and a sharing forum for the informal schools in the area.

Other than the temporary structures built late last year and this April, Headstart has added another classroom to accommodate the growing numbers. The children stood at 200 at close of the end year term.

Mrs Alison Baumann donated Grade 6 and 7 text books to the school in August during her visit with Ashley Carr, Anne Hendricks and Moira Knott, all friends of Ashley Carr.

They also donated hundreds of story books for the school library donated by fellow teachers in several schools in USA and Taiwan where the teachers teach.

This year after our plea in the January to June Newsletter for well wishers to help sponsor the salaries of two new teachers in Headstart, our DUARA partner rose up to the occasion and helped sponsor all the Mathare Staff salaries for the next one year. We are truly grateful to DUARA.

MAVUNO

Mavuno registered as new members 6 people who do not live in Mathare area. This was in a bid to expand the membership outside of the Mathare area, from where all the members of Mavuno reside.

A new structure was introduced by the Mavuno management where the members are encouraged to save Ksh 200 for 6 weeks before getting a soft loan for their businesses.

MAJI MAZURI KISERIAN PROJECT

Kiserian School and Farm were also doing well inspite of the severe drought that hit the area for a good part of the last 3 years. Many children have had to move with their parents because of finding pasture for their cattle.

The Kasarani Children who board at the School are also doing well in their studies and two of them have this year done their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education, marking the end of their primary (Elementary) education and will be proceeding to High School next year. these are Victor Ouma and Mary Wairimu. Their results will be out sometime after

Christmas. They sat the exam with 13 other children who will also be proceeding to High School next year.

During the term the children were able to enjoy the environment in Nairobi away from their school by visiting the Museum. They also attended the Nairobi International Trade fair.

The High School will be growing another class next year to grade 11. The girls have finished the year well and have been very active in class and extra curricula activities. They have also been learning a lot as they helped in the farm.

The farm is doing well with the new 500 chicks having grown into mature egg laying chicken. Their produce continues to generate income for the farm.

The cows and other farm animals continue to do well also.

The Power hybrid system financed by the Rotary Clubs in District 6670 in Ohio USA in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Muthaiga here in Nairobi is now pumping water from the borehole using the solar panels in spite of some setbacks with the wind turbine. This was a relief to the staff and children because of the drought and the high cost of diesel.

UPPER MATASIA SCHOOLS

The Upper Matasia Schools also closed the year well with both schools doing their Kenya Certificate of Secondary and Primary Education National exams for Elementary and High school students. The Elementary candidates who will be proceeding to High school next year were 19 and the High school candidates were 25.

At the High School, the Scouting Club was registered and allocated a Scouts Master who visits them once a week from Nairobi.

The Elementary School had a visiting volunteer teacher, Ashley Carr who taught the Upper Grades English Composition and reading. She also in conjunction with her teacher friends donated hundreds of library story books to the schools.

The children also had an opportunity to visit the Giraffe Centre and Museum in Nairobi as well as to a Geothermal plant in Naivasha, Olkaria Power station.

On staff matters, the staff welfare association declared a dividend and by the close of the year had a total of Ksh 400,000 in members contributions saved.

MAJI MAZURI CHILDREN'S CENTRE KASARANI

Maji Mazuri Children's Centre had a sad year after losing 3 of its children this year, Robert Mwanje, Rosemary Waithera and Rachael Wairimu during the cold season in July and August. It was a sad occasion as especially Robert and Rosemary had been at the Home for over 3 years. They continue to be dearly missed.

The Home has also received local well wishers who have been donating foodstuffs and cash as well as taking time to play with the children and help the workers at the centre take care of them. Among the visitors have been Parklands Baptist Church who visited and sponsored the children to a free medical camp as well as donated a lot of food items and clothes, Akili Africa Limited who visited and donated food items and cash worth Ksh 50,000, Groots Kenya who were mobilized by Teresia Wanjiku, a long time social worker of Maji Mazuri in Mathare and they donated food stuff and played with the children. The Alice Maina Foundation also donated food worth Ksh 20,000 in memory of Carol Maina's (Carol has been working as a volunteer for Maji Mazuri since 2002 and recently graduated from the USIU after being sponsored via Maji Mazuri) mum who passed away mid this year. St. Claire Catholic Church also donated lots of clothes, food items and a cash donation of Ksh 40,916 raised by their Nursery School children. Other organizations that have helped out the centre this past six months are Cerebral Palsy Association of Kenya who sponsor a child with CP. They also sponsored the children to a free medical camp. Rotary Club also invited the children to a Christmas lunch. The Red Cross society was resourceful in linking up Akili Africa to Maji Mazuri.

Ashley Carr, Alison Baumann and Anne Hendricks also took the time to paint the severely mentally handicapped children's classroom with bright colours to stimulate the children's senses.

OTHER MATTERS

The Maji Mazuri Teachers had a two day in house seminar which was facilitated by Ashley Carr, Priscilla Echaria, Naomi Van Stapele and Nderito Gikaara. The teachers learnt a lot.

The Maji Mazuri Children's Centre Workers Savings Society was able to give Ksh 137,000 worth of loans to 10 members of staff. It had a total of over Ksh 200,000 in members contributions.

In the months of September and October, the Director, Mrs Wanjiku Kironyo was privileged to visit with our partners, friends and well wishers in the USA. She made a 3 state tour starting in Ohio where the base of Maji Mazuri's long time partner, Crosscurrents International and the 20 plus Rotary Clubs in District 6670 that support Maji Mazuri are based. She was privileged to meet many friends in her speaking engagements at some of the Clubs as well as many Rotarians that help Maji Mazuri and made the Dayton Daily News of 1st September 2009. Rotary District 6670 has managed to raise a substantial amount of funds for the various projects finished and ongoing in the Kiserian Programme. Many friends from Trinity Episcopal Church together with Bill and Marina Shaw of Crosscurrents International helped sell a lot of crafts from Kenya which raised funds for the various projects of Maji Mazuri. After leaving Ohio, she went to Georgia, home of Maji Mazuri USA where she was hosted by Kevin and Lyny Corcoran, who conducted her to the many churches in the Atlanta Area whose congregations have helped sponsor many children in Maji Mazuri as well as the Mavuno Microfinance and have helped raise a substantial amount of funds for the Maji Mazuri Community Centre in Mathare. Wanjiku had the opportunity to meet with very many friends of Maji Mazuri in Atlanta in her speaking engagements who included Michael Corcoran, Kevin's brother who has helped Maji Mazuri in the design of the soon to be built Maji Mazuri Community Centre in Mathare. She ended her tour in New York where she had been invited and hosted by Lauren and Matt Fogarty who have been long time supporters and friends of Maji Mazuri. Wanjiku also took the time to meet with friends and well wishers of Maji Mazuri in New York and made new contacts there. The Director was well taken care of by all of our partners who saw to it that she lacked for nothing in spite of the economic crisis being experienced by many in the USA. To all who facilitated her visit to the USA, we take the opportunity to say a warm "Asante" and may the Lord bless you all.

Each year we are always privileged to host Maji Mazuri well wishers and supporters from all corners of the world and this year has not been different.

We would like to thank the following visitors who have taken their time to visit with us on volunteering and working trips most of whom are repeat visitors, during the second half of this year.

Ashley Carr, Anne Hendricks, Moira Knott, Alison Baumann, Billy Stachan, Ilse and Bram Roberts, Naomi Van Stapele, Marcelle Senden, Bill Senden, Mathew Farmer, Rachel Lindsey, Becky Jones and Kevin Corcoran and the Peachtree Presbyterian Church Team.

To all those who have been supporting us and kept up with our activities through various ways by making visits, sponsoring children, donating funds for our many projects and keeping us in your prayers, writing to us via email and being engaged with us in any way, we say thank you and God Bless!

PICTORIAL



Upper Matasia High School students doing science experiments



Down in Mathare Valley



Sunflowers at Kiserian Farm



Staff getting into Truck to go for seminar



Staff at the Seminar



Canter Truck Garage



Upper Matasia Academy Sports Day



Youth at Training Centre



Groots Kenya members donating food to MMCC



Interviewing training centre candidate



Kasarani MMCC Kids making mats