

# MAJIMAZURI

Students show off their talents in different areas such as poetry recital, dancing, acting and art. This initiative has a positive impact on the children, raising their self esteem, and develops leaders in the community



## reflecting on the progress a note from wanjiku

Dear friends,

I send you warm greetings from Maji Mazuri! Our hearts are grateful for your continued generous and thoughtful support. Your support was vital in initiating projects that touched the lives of children, families and the community in aspects of education, health and livelihood.

I want to take a moment to reflect on the progress and developments at Maji Mazuri, during the first half of this year, and highlight some of the key successes that we achieved in this period so that you can celebrate with us.

One of the things that keeps us going and motivated is the collective effort and unwavering assistance of all the friends of Maji Mazuri.

There is lots to celebrate and these successes have been feasible because of your big-hearted contributions. There are also many we have not highlighted.

We hope the gifts you have unselfishly given us will return to you tenfold in abundant success. Thank you for your support.

Wanjiku Kironyo.  
Program Director

### Highlights of the first half of 2010.

- Headstart school in mathare - areas of note talent showcase, sports and sex ed workshop
- Maji mazuri youth and teenz group - new graduates
- Kiserian projects - school, biogas digester and clinic
- Upper matasia school - connecting to the world
- Maji mazuri children's centre - new craft shop and a posho mill that powers.

## Headstart school areas of note

The Headstart School continues to grow in students and staff. One area of note this year is talent development. The teachers are engaging the students in weekly activities for the purpose of talent identification and development. Every Wednesday afternoon, the students and teachers gather. Students show off their talents in different areas such as poetry recital, dancing, acting and art. This initiative by the teachers has had a positive impact on the children, raising their self esteem, and consequently, their grades. The students are also more aware of the opportunities that are available once they have identified their fields of interest.

One other way the school is encouraging holistic development is sports. Every Friday, the teachers and students walk for a long distance to a police depot field which is spacious and allows proper interaction. The teachers and students engage in games such as football, relay and netball among others. This walk and the games have created a bond between the teachers and students, facilitating better interaction and a good working relationship. It is through this relationship that the teachers are able to reach out to the students.

This month, the school held a workshop for the older girls to talk about one of the dangers facing young girls in the slum areas, sexual harassment. The girls were able to discuss this topic, share and ask questions, which shows that it is a challenge they are facing. The workshop was important in order to provide them with more information.

## Maji mazuri youth new grads & teenz group

The youth group training centre has so far trained over 100 youth from Mathare Valley, equipping them with computer and entrepreneurship skills, which they use to advance themselves. This year, two youth members have graduated with a Diploma in Web design from the Nairobi Digital Design School. This is an achievement! They are currently on internship at one of the leading web design companies in Nairobi.

The youth members have also been using the training centre as an opportunity to interact with youth from other groups in Mathare and surrounding areas, an interaction which has led to exchange of ideas and collective community effort towards having positive impact in the slum areas. The youth have also been using football to reach out to the young people. Maji Mazuri youth group now boasts of a dynamic football team that is leaving its mark in Mathare.

The Teenz group membership has grown to 60. This year they visited the Nairobi National park and the safari walk, among other activities.

## Kiserian project school, biogas & clinic

The Rotary clubs in Ohio District 6670 have continued to support Maji Mazuri Kiserian tremendously. Currently a clinic is being built on site courtesy of the Rotary Club of Cincinnati as well as a biogas digester which has been supported by a Rotary International grant to the

farm. These projects are both underway. The biogas digester is one of the ways through which Maji Mazuri is embracing the going-green campaign. We plan to use the methane produced from the digester for cooking and lighting complimenting the existing solar power. The Kiserian High School has also grown in enrollment and in activities that the students engage in. Mary Wairimu from Maji Mazuri Kasarani has joined the high school.

## Upper matasia school connects to the world

The Upper Matasia High school was happy to receive a donation of ten computers through the fundraising efforts of Richard Morris, a friend of Maji Mazuri from U.K. The computers will go a long way in connecting the students to the world wide web and allowing them access of useful and much needed information, the computer skills will also give them an added advantage after they finish school.

## Kasarani centre crafts and posho mill

Maji Mazuri Children's Centre Kasarani acquired a posho mill courtesy of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Ohio and have been using it to mill maize into flour for the children. The posho mill has also extended services to outsiders as a means of generating income.

The centre also recently opened a craft shop, to display the work done by the handicapped children under the guidance of Teacher Carol.

# People coming together to make a difference

By wacera

Maji Mazuri held two workshops for staff and students during the first quarter of this year, facilitated by the director. One workshop was for the male members of staff, and the other for the female students and members of staff. The aim of these workshops was to sensitize the staff on the challenges facing both men and women in the society and show how to deal with them. It was also a platform for team building.

Maji Mazuri recently launched a new Web 2.0 site after the collective efforts of the web team comprising of: Kevin Corcoran, Lark Bui, Wandia Chiuri, Naomi Van Stapele, Taylor Harper and the Maji Mazuri Kenya Team. The new design website is dynamic and will have a wider outreach and better communication of Maji Mazuri activities because it is being regularly updated. We would like to appreciate the team's efforts towards making this dream a reality.

We would like to thank the following visitors who have taken their time to visit with us during the first half of this year.

- Friends of Rotarian Hans Berkel, Dan, Steve, Charlie, Jack and Lee who visited Maji Mazuri Centre in Kasarani, Mathare & Kiserian.
- Wandia's friend Sarah Feldman who visited the projects and donated a flip share video camera.

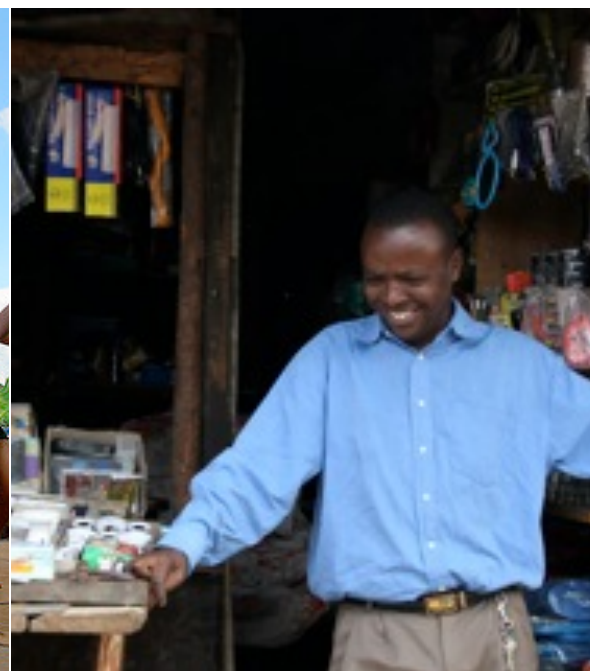
**“We would like to thank the following visitors who have taken their time to visit with us during the first half of this year.”**

**maji mazuri**

- The Tour d’Afrique team, who donated bicycles to Maji Mazuri at the Indaba camp site
- Nelleke Nijhuis from Holland who is currently working with the youth, training them in life skills as well as the Mavuno Microfinance.
- Marriane Nijhuis who worked with the Maji Mazuri Multimedia team of reporters, and bought five data enabled phones for the multimedia work.
- Carolyn and Kurt Wacker from Ohio who visited the projects courtesy of Crosscurrents International while they were here on a conference.
- Brittany Jackson, a volunteer who came through Kevin Corcoran, Maji Mazuri USA.
- The Mount Pisgah team, who visited the Maji Mazuri projects, and ministered through puppet shows and taught the children hygiene skills. .
- North Avenue Presbyterian church team led by Kristina Robb-Dover who visited Maji Mazuri in Mathare, Kasarani and Kiserian.

**Equip. empower.**

alleviating poverty by empowering people to bring about change in their own lives through talent development and community development.





“You can become a vital part of this dynamic and growing movement for systemic change. Through your participation, we can successfully accomplish the audacious Maji Mazuri mission of alleviating poverty by empowering people to bring about change in their own lives.”

maji mazuri



**Get involved  
give hope. get love.**

We are looking for people who crave a challenge but also have a passion for helping others. Through your participation, we can successfully accomplish the Maji Mazuri mission of alleviating poverty by empowering people to bring about change in their own lives.

**Become a sponsor  
for a child in need**

One mission of Maji Mazuri is to support and empower hundreds of

orphans and vulnerable children to lead successful and productive lives. By helping a child get a good education we give them a shot, a chance to experience the fullness of life. Please sponsor a child today. If you need additional information contact us at [info@majimazuri.org](mailto:info@majimazuri.org).

**Make a donation  
and make a difference**

Maji Mazuri Center greatly appreciates any form of donation you can provide. There is a great need for many different types of items including medicine, clothing, books, wheelchairs, shoes etc. If

you have specific supplies you think could be helpful, please contact us. You can also make cash contributions on our web site [majimazuri.org](http://majimazuri.org).

**volunteer  
lots of opportunity**

There are many volunteer opportunities available for compassionate and dedicated people. No experience is needed... only an open mind and a willingness to help! For more information on volunteer opportunities at one of Maji Mazuri Center's projects, please contact us or visit [majimazuri.org](http://majimazuri.org).

