



P.O Box 986 Uhuru Gardens, 00517 Nairobi –Kenya.

Email: mrice_daycarecentre@yahoo.com

Cell No: +25471846384279.

Introduction and Background

Mary Rice Day Care Centre was started around February 2007 in Ngei 1- lower- Langat a, adjacent to Kibera slum to focus on the needs of physically and mentally challenged children. This was under the initiative of two Christian Brothers. To identify the children, the brothers were guided by one of the women leaders from Kibera. In addition, Mary Rice is *a transitional* day care centre where children with special needs are offered opportunity for social integration and rehabilitative care not available to them at their homes. After successful transition of the child and her/his demonstration of improvement in self care, social integration and creative skills, we try to look for well wishers/organizations that can assist with sponsorship to mainstream schools or vocational training centres depending on the child's abilities as well as gifts. Currently our facilities can only accommodate a maximum of 12 children.

Vision

Our vision is in line with that of our Congregation, and that is to be BROTHERS TO All. We envision to educating parents and supporting the physically and mentally challenged children to attain self-reliance through basic social skills based on their challenges.

Mission

We are fired and challenged by the gospel values of Jesus and driven by the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice (The Founder of Christian Brothers) to the marginalized, hence we seek to enhance the human dignity of the physically and mentally challenged children through basic social Educational Skills.

Aims and Objectives

- Provide basic social education to children with special needs within Kibera slums.
- Encourage the parents/guardians to be more involved in their child's development, through workshops and seminars.
- Provide challenged children with the playing materials to help them develop creative skills and to be physically fit.
- Give the children with special needs hope and help develop self confidence through affirmations.
- Sensitize the local community to become aware of children with special needs and the crucial need to ensure that these children are accepted and embraced in the society.
- Encourage family members to network with other families so as to share their experiences of living with children with special needs and possibly build support for themselves to provide basic needs to their children.
- Introduce the children to self care activities, like, toilet training, gardening etc.
- Facilitate the parents/guardians to feel sense of ownership of the project as well the daily programs through taking up responsibilities in cooking.

Project Activities includes;

- Coaching the children individually in writing, drawing, bead making, gardening and other creative activities from Mondays to Fridays.
- Occupational therapy services.
- Provision of porridge, a nourishing meal for lunch and snacks in the afternoons.
- Informal assessments, interviews and enrolment of eligible kids whom the facilities we have can care for.
- Capacity building to the parents/guardians through term workshops/seminars.
- Inclusion of parents/ guardians in our programs like cooking for their kids at our centre and accompanying staff and their children during outings.
- Recreational outreaches/trips like excursions.
- Outdoor activities such as swinging, football, basket ball, rope skipping and also indoor games like visual aids (watching entertaining & educational cartoons meant for kids), role plays, singing and arranging pieces of puzzles.
- Home visitations & school visitations.

- Monitoring and ensuring that the parents follow to the latter doctors prescriptions for their kids on drugs.
- Promotion of children rights by formulating child Protection policy document and having a coordinator on that area who does the assessments and alerts the project management on any cases of Child rights' violation that might arise at the centre.



(Feeding program)



(Therapy services)



(Outdoor games)



(Class programs)



(Excursions)



(Indoor activities)

Achievements

We are profoundly glad that our Centre has managed to achieve the following;

- ❖ The children are able to learn and improve their cognitive, communicating, social integration and self help skills through our daily sessions and involvement with them.
- ❖ The parents have developed a sense of ownership to our programs through their active involvement in our daily activities like preparing meals for their children.
- ❖ Through the meetings, workshops/seminars the parents have acquired knowledge and better understanding of their children's needs.
- ❖ Through networking with other partner organization like Liliane Foundation under the mediation of Sisters at St Michael Parish in Langat a, some of our Kids have undergone successful transition and have joined mainstream schools.
- ❖ We have gained motivation and encouragements from the positive responses from the parents/guardians about the vast positive improvement they observe in their children.

Challenges

- The resources we have are limited to certain number of children despite the increasing number of parents asking for the admission of their children with special needs.
- Our centre at the moment is not in a position to sponsor our children who are eligible to join main stream schools.
- Though most of the parents/guardians continue to involve themselves to the centre's activities some of them are still reluctant to comply fully.
- Currently we are unable to employ the Therapist permanently due to limited funds we have.

Future Plans

- Continue with capacity building programs to the parents through workshops
- Employ the therapist permanently
- Continue networking with Organizations both locally and internationally on how we can together join effort in supporting our children with special needs.
- We are planning to facilitate the parents / guardians to establish Income Generating Activities to help them provide the basic needs for their children.
- Take our staff for refresher courses for continuous effective and efficient services to the children.