
REHEMA DAY CARE CENTRE – NEWS

A NEWSLETTER OF REHEMA DAY CARE CENTRE

VOL. 1 NO. 3 – 2003

**P.O BOX 35550 NAIROBI KENYA
EMAIL: erastusomu@yahoo.com**

A call of help, Rehabilitate and Minister

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty you gave me a drink.....” Matt. 25:35-44

INTRODUCTION

Rehema Day Care Centre (R.D.C.C.) is a Christian Oriented Project established under the Assemblies of Christ Evangelical Holiness Church. IT is a Welfare Project aiming at assisting the less fortunate in the sprawling Korogocho slums at Kasarani Division, Nairobi in Kenya. Since the Centre was established approximately 14 years ago as a Kindergarten, it has gradually and successfully grown up to the lower Primary Level (Std. 1-Std. 3). Our dream is not yet shattered nor blurred, and neither have we hit our target. But we envision to run a well established Institution that will provide the people in the vicinity with knowledge, empowerment and marketable skills.

Living in slum areas is a nightmare, especially to those who understand the difficulties and hardships faced by people in such places.

Today in Korogocho, there are people who lead miserable lives. They spend the nights on street corridors and you may wonder how they survive. They sleep on cartons for mattresses and sacks or ganny bags for sheets or blankets. Most often they regret and even curse the days of their birth. One of the many questions they do ask is, if life is really worth living. Most of them become very weak, they even emaciate in body as a result of starvation and frustrations; and to clear the stress they indulge in substance abuse like glue sniffing.

Try to imagine how these people lead a helpless life. With the introduction of R.D.C.C. many people have changed their attitudes towards their own character and life. These people have realized their potential and are willing to unleash it. Please, assist us where you can to help improve the lives of many other slum dwellers. These people are also human and God’s creation, and only need love and understanding.

It is our responsibility to assist others in time of need and therefore we need to embark on doing something.

Arise and make a change in the lives of others to prove that dwelling in the slums is not a mistake.

Let us assist them to develop a sense of vision and insight, for they will definitely become productive being in the society.

REHEMA SCHOOL

Currently Rehema has a population of about 250 pupils; that is from Baby Class to Standard 3. The school is one of the best schools around in the Provision of Early Childhood Development. In fact, since the Centre introduced Primary Education, through the inspiration of a few individuals, the academic standard of the School has been encouraging.

The major challenges we face are the insufficiency of learning and reading materials. We have a few books in the school, but the number of children keeps on increasing.

However, we are forced and struggle to train and teach our students with the available books and resources. The Head Mistress Miss Patroba Mgesi says that reading is vital and the person willing to learn can't do it without the necessary educational resources.

'If they do not catch up now it might be too late and life may prove difficult and hostile for them' she says. Meanwhile, the School needs your help to make education a reality for these helpless innocent slum souls of Korogocho. R.D.C.C. comprises of all manner of children. There are some of them who come from poor families whose survival is only by chance and grace. Most of whom their parents are illiterate, jobless, casual laborers, night guards or even street beggars.

Others are those who were in the streets and were later rehabilitated into the Centre, and who entirely rely on the Centre. At the same time, we have children who were orphaned from the effect of the deadly AIDS epidemic. At the start of the year we were in fear of all these children joining the government schools following the introduction of the free Primary Education by the new government. On the contrary, that is when even more children joined in for the love of the Centre. Though at the core of the slums, the look on the pupils' faces suggests that we are not crippled by the many disadvantages of the area but rather we are determined to lay a strong foundation for a better tomorrow.



REHEMA STAFF

It is said that “United we stand and divided we fall” The unity of Rehema staff and competence in their work has contributed a lot to the good performance and progress of the School. The staff is ranked from the position of the Manager, Six Teachers, Carpentry Instructor, Tailoring tutor, Clerk, Cook and Caretaker. Apart from their teaching profession they have the motivation and compassion for the welfare of the children to help them attain the wholesome growth i.e. spiritual, social, mental and physical- Luke 2:52 (Holy BB)



MORNING ASSEMBLY

Since R.D.C.C. is Church affiliated, we also incorporate and encourage Christian Teachings. Every morning the children must gather for assembly in the Church hall where they sing hymns and spiritual songs. The teachers share with them the word of God and Bible memory verses. They have time to pray together and are given any announcements from the administration. The teacher on duty also takes time to instruct the children and check on cleanliness and impose strict discipline.



KINDERGARTEN

The Holy Bible reminds us to show a child in the way he should be and when he is old, he will never forget.

The Pre Unit (Kindergarten) teacher is very busy demonstrating to her pupils counting with her fingers. Her only worry is that the Class is too congested for their comfort. Sometimes it is difficult to teach a yawning Class for the situation at home forces some to come to school on empty bellies. The Headmistress Miss Mgesi says that almost a third of the pupils are without School Uniforms due to their financial strains at home. This is also because our tailor left since she got a better paying job. We also lack tailoring incentives like cloth. Another area of concern is on teacher's salaries. This has not been timely nor consistent; the reason being that all our pupils cannot afford higher fees and the few who pay don't honor it on time. Again out of the



faithful parents, a few of them opted to join the Free Government Schools. This has really led to delay in teacher's salaries at times to the point of having accrued salary of two to three months. "Despite all this, I still do enjoy my class and the work I do" Says Miss Mgesi who is the Headmistress and the Kindergarten teacher as well.

NURSERY

This is the Nursery Class teacher; Rose says the room is too small for her children. Moreover, the desks in the class cannot accommodate the number of children in this class comfortably.

"Children should learn when they are relaxed both body and mind, but for the body, this is not so with my class" explains teacher Rose.

We are all looking forward to that day when all shall be well with Rehema.



BABY CLASS

Children need closer attention to make them achieve the best in their work. Teacher Epines who handles the Baby Class says, "that her children are very delicate and need to be handled with care". Unfortunately in this class there are no desks. Since the children have to learn, they kneel on the floor and make their sitting benches into tables whenever they need to write. This causes a lot of discomfort when learning and distracts some in their class work. Also, we have inadequate teaching materials making learning slow and ineffective. "Our call is not to turn back for we are going to endeavor it even through thick and thin" Says teacher Epines.



PRIMARY SCHOOL

As mentioned earlier, Rehema started as a Kindergarten. It has now introduced Primary Education, which runs up to Standard 3. The pupils are proud of the School and consequently devoted to work hard irrespective of their circumstances. They believe that by facing, overcoming and improving the present challenges, they will meet and live their future in joy. "A bird in the hand is worth ten in the bush", therefore we also appreciate all well wishers who have given a hand in support of Rehema Primary through its rise to its Position today. Rehema Primary is now 3 years old and is still growing. Remember we rely and depend on you.



BREAK AND PLAY TIME



After the Morning's first learning Session it's time for break and the kids are just excited of the tins that were donated to them from a Korean lady. It is time for them to have a drink and some snacks to relax their minds.

Too much work and no play makes Jack a dull boy



Therefore apart from the snacks, the children indulge their bodies in games to exercise and relax their mind. Though the school has no play field, there's time to play along the footpath alongside the school with their teachers in close watch to ensure their safety. We believe that in the future we shall acquire our field for the children's physical recreational purpose where they will play out of worry and danger. Thanks to a Mr. Paul Cowley who gave us 3 balls.

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES.

Rehema poultry project has lasted now for a period of 1 year. Since then we have seen the project grow and benefit everyday. We have the first lot of graded chicken, which were taken for experiment and did exceedingly well and there are now layers. This has helped to generate income through eggs' sales and upgrade the orphans' meals.



Since we had hens that were now laying eggs, we decided to acquire a few cocks for the purpose of mating. Thereafter we constructed an artificial incubator and brooder. Therefore the second lot of chickens consists of those whose process of laying, incubating and brooding was done at the Centre. These ones have also grown and are approaching maturity.



Alliance for youth Achievement has played a vital role in improving our projects. Just recently they helped us acquire some other 250 chicks which are still young. They have also assisted in expanding and improving the poultry housing system. It's our prayer and concern that apart from being an income generating activity, this project will expand to the highest position in the area in terms of its supplication of poultry and poultry products.



CARPENTRY



Other than the income perspective this project targets at offering courses to the youth and impart in them the skills that will mould and make them useful, dependent, and responsible members of the society. Somehow this has not been effectively achieved since we suffer from inadequacy and inefficiency of machines and materials. This has really caused us to lag in our work for at times when we have more students we are forced to share materials and hand tools.

We have also been unable to deliver and meet the demands of the market. Otherwise we can't forget to thank those who have assisted us to acquire certain Machines like the lathe Machine and Bend saw (AYA) which have actually reduced our cost of production.

Again the workshop we have cannot contain or serve our purpose satisfactorily. Even though our work is pleasing, admirable and appealing to the eye our competitors are still on the advantage. We want to fulfill the desires of the public and to raise our hopes to hit our target. We therefore dream to become a major institution and salvage our youth and make them honorable members of the community.



TAILORING

Our Centre has suffered a major blow on the tailoring section. The reasons of which were earlier mentioned like lack of incentive i.e. enough sewing machines and material (Cloth). Our tailoring instructor/ tutor has left us because we were unable to pay promptly and satisfactorily. Lack of enough funds has caused us to close many willing students outside who are without a career.

The same has also contributed to the fact that most of our pupils come to school without uniforms especially those entirely dependent to the school. We would therefore be very glad to accept any kind of support from a well-wisher to upgrade our Centre.

THE GIVER IS BLESSED –Acts 20:35

We don't give to receive for God's love a cheerful "giver" 2 Cor 8:1-3

V 2-3. The idea of the word is that to give a lot you must have a lot. But notice what happens in the Macedonian churches, they were not rich, they were poor and in extreme poverty and in the midst of severe trial. That doesn't seem like a fertile land for generous giving. In mathematics we learn of equations and calculations like $1+1=2$; Here is the equation for a successful Christian giver;

Trial +Poverty +Joy = Generosity

What a challenge! We normally look up to the rich, but this church gave in spite of their poverty and they enjoy it. Christian giving is not so much an issue of ability, but rather availability. A lot of what is given by believers does not come from wealthy pockets, but from those with an average possession who gives to us generously. How can we give when in poverty? We need to think on ways to give and look seriously at what God has given unto us. Sometimes we can deny ourselves certain things in order to save. We can do without a newspaper, a meal, a new dress or sofa set and give out what we have saved to those in need. The key in the above equation is joy. If joy is eliminated from the equation you will have dependency. But with joy, those who were considered needy become givers. Joy comes from knowing and trusting our God to provide. When our trust is in His provision and we aren't worried about tomorrow, we relate ourselves to give joy is free! It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit of God and can grow in our lives.

CONCLUSION

As a charitable organization ROCC has realized the need of Korogocho and have tried to help them. The Centre however is faced with financial challenge. The Centre has not been in the position to provide enough reading materials, staff allowance, acquisition for dressmaking, sewing machines, and tools in carpentry. We then call for well wishes to assist us financially to sustain our work. Please assist where you can and God will bless you.

Your donations and contributions will be highly appreciated.

THANKS GIVING

One classroom building
Books and toys
Water cans
Children sponsorship
Bend saw machine
Three balls
Raising poultry and housing

NEEDS/PRAYER REQUESTS

Construction of Std 4 room next year
Salaries for 11 staff
Child sponsorship
Buy machines in carpentry and tailoring
Acquire a field
Classroom desks
Library materials:

- Books on human health
- Primary text books (std1-std4)
- Christian literature and counseling books community Care/health and education books
- Tailoring, fashion and design books
- Carpentry design books
- Writing materials for school and stationery
- Blankets and utensils

We need your prayers

For further information contact
Pastor Erastus Omukhango
P.O Box 35550 or 62006 Nairobi Kenya
Email: erastusomu@yahoo.com