

ANNUAL SPRING REPORT 2014

The children and the community of the Mathare Slum are living a better life because of your donations. They thank all of you.

PCA thanks you for giving them a chance to change the direction of their lives.

The construction of the LC Education Center is complete. 510 children attend school, with a waiting list of more. The school while able to sustain a portion of the yearly budget needs some continued financial support. To this end PCA solicited a well funded US based charity, which has agreed to support it.

Our focus for the past 14 years has been to build the school. We established a clinic 3 years ago, which requires our attention in order for it to receive medical accreditation. Construction standards for medical clinics must be adhered to in order to receive this accreditation. This is one of our goals for the coming year.

PCA IS FOCUSING ON TWO URGENT NEEDS OF MATHARE CHILDREN.

One: Malnutrition.

In a 3-month period we delivered over 4,000 kilos of "First Food", a vitamin and mineral reinforced oatmeal, (commonly used to fight famine) to over 2,000 school children in Mathare. We decided to try to give the children a breakfast of this food because last year the clinic's statistics indicated a high rate of malnutrition amongst the children and newborns. Sachets of First Food were also given to the clinic. These sachets were then distributed to mothers for their babies.

Should we raise the necessary funds to repeat the First Food order in 2015, Gertrude's Children's Hospital is prepared to assess the impact of the food on the health of the children. It will be the first such study completed on any group in this slum.

Two: Reduction of Violence against Children in Mathare.

Following the bombing of the Westgate Mall, circumstances have created an uncertain future, particularly for the people who live in Math are, who struggle at the best of times. Young children experience violence around them and learn to be violent. Gender relations are at best tolerated, at worst, exploited.

Young children (many of them girls) are used a "mules" for the illegal alcohol trade. Girls marry older men for food. Trafficking among impoverished young girls is a growing business in Mathare. Girls may not walk about after dark for fear of being assaulted or worse. Young girls become pregnant and without knowledge on how to cope, put their newborn babies on the dumps scattered though out this slum, others do not know that they are pregnant.

To combat this we support a health education program in primary schools. This program is taught by Mathare Secondary School scholarship graduates, who are trained to open up the students to discuss the myths and misconceptions of gender issues, health protection, disease prevention, substance abuse, violence against children and females.

This young population is the most abused, exploited and abandoned. This program brings them a new way of thinking, new information and how to seek help, i.e. options, choices.

Fortunately, PCA is well known and trusted. As a result, our programs seem to be widely accepted in this very poor and often violent community.

Other Activities of 2014

- Salaries for 2 teachers for 1 year.
- A Biology Lab for the only two secondary classes in Mathare.
- 150 children who had never seen animals went on a day field trip with the East Africa Education Trust where they saw many different animals in their natural habitat.
- Purchased 3 sewing machines & irons.
- Sponsored a young Math are to Rotary in Nairobi.
- Carol Waters (Volunteer) set up another sewing group (15 women) making and selling reusable sanitary napkins.
- Carol Waters knitted and donated woolen hats for children ages 2 and 3.
- Met with a Scholarship NGO & obtained 22 applications for Secondary School.
- Distributed 2 Dictionary's For Life to two schools.



Young girl rescued from traffickers



Afternoon nap at school.



Students applying for scholarships



Kids unloading the oatmeal First Food