

TUNZA CHILDREN CENTRE - August Report 2010

The month of August has been such worth-while seasons with the kids over the holiday been that many were mostly home so we had our most times together than during the school times. Even spending a whole day at Tunza was such a fun-filled moment for learning, listening, working and playing with the young kids. It is our utmost desire to express our long awaited environmental growth and neatness of the centre. With the help of the social worker and other Canadian volunteers, we have been able to create a clean environment for learning and growth. The centre is now very organized with division of responsibilities for the helpers and little work is left for Mama Tunza besides management something that we look forward to help her come to grips with. Previously, it was like she was in charge over everything. However, there are still some hurdles to overcome because at times she is a bit stubborn.

The academic performance of the children this time was not badly off understanding the prior challenges before exams. For example, the secondary school boys and girls had been out of school for a month due to lack of fees and they were later to be transferred to another school, but we are yet to get their last term's results until they resume classes next week on Tuesday.

The primary school kids academic performance were not bad and on 30th August 2010, we celebrated the victory of Mercy - one of the girls from Tunza at Musa Gitau boarding primary who gained the top position in school. The rest of the kids also performed fairly well at Kibiko primary. But we are still seeking for support to create a library where they can access text books at least enough copies for them to share. It has been difficult for them to do their assignments due to lack of text books.

In the last two weeks the mood has been a bit difficult because there was an outbreak of malaria that affected both the little and big boys and girls in addition to the social worker and Mama Tunza. But so far so good it is clearing up. There is a need to address the medical constraints at the centre. Even getting better medication and treatment was quite a defy due to financial constrictions. It will be good if they can get a medical trained nurse to work at the centre. Consequently, in the month of August there was quite a dire need to address the psychological, emotional, moral and spiritual needs of the centre (kids).

For the spiritual support, we were able to fully connect with a nearby stable church (NPC - Ngong) who embraced the kids during their one week Daily Vacation Bible School (DVBS - from 9th - 13th August). They were picked every morning by church bus and dropped at noon. During this week the kids were grounded biblically and got the chance to interact with kids from other orphanages and well-being families. We believe that they have already built for themselves a healthy relationship. In addition, they were also given t-shirts each. Collins (one of the counsellors) was the link here since he serves in the church and has been able to bring the children's pastor at the centre and we are planning to embrace the kids in the Sunday children programmes of the church. There is also an upcoming family fun day sponsored by the church and there is a probability of having the Tunza kids on board.

Moreover, we have now managed to fully get devotional materials from the Kenya Christian Students Fellowship offices. The books include topics on: HIV/AIDS, Decision making, Self Esteem, Sexuality as a Gift from God, and What it means to be a Good Neighbour besides other topics. We have gotten 40 copies which we would gladly begin our library with this Saturday.

Fortunately, our holiday was climaxed on Monday 30th through the sponsorship of Uweza Foundation who made our day out with the kids such a colourful event. Many thanks for the financial support. We managed to take 56 kids plus one helper (Mike) and Mama Tunza to the Nairobi City Park. We got a 62 seater passenger bus for transport from Kibiko to the park and back conveniently. We also managed to pay for the park fees and we had enough snacks and drinks for the kids.

Moreover, we had a beautiful programme for the day. In the morning sessions up to lunch hour we divided the kids into two groups with the help of two other professional counsellors (Susan and Anne). The topics for the morning sessions were: Relationships (family relationships, requirements for healthy family relationships, boy/girl relationships, what values to embrace to pursue purity of life, creating relationship boundaries), Self Confidence (self esteem and believing in self and its advantages), Self Management and Self Control (controlling the minds, what to watch and time management).

In the afternoon, the programme included: Team building activities and sporting activities where the kids were exposed

to competing games and awards given for the winner as well as the kid who participated in many games was awarded with a book.

The games were meant to compliment the morning sessions topics. We also enhanced the essence of unity and brotherhood in the team building activities. We culminated the day with in house rules on the way forward as we look forward for another moment like that. The kids were very happy and appreciated the sponsorship and made a request to have such events at least every holiday if possible. Thank you very much for your continued support we would not have made it without your support. God bless you abundantly. However, as the schools resume tuition next week on Monday, the kids have constrains of shopping back to school, shoes, uniforms, stationeries, text books and school fees.

Report compiled by:
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