

WORLD AIDS DAY 2017

REPORT



THEME

“HANDS UP FOR HIV PREVENTION”

VENUE

ST.CAMILLUS DALA KIYE CHILDREN WELFARE HOME

DATE

1ST DECEMBER 2017

Acknowledgement

I take this chance to thank everyone for taking his or her time to attend and be part of this year's "**World AIDS Day**" Celebration marked on Friday, 1st December 2017 at Dala Kiye ground.

Special thanks go to my fellow Camillian Fr. Festus Lihata the Camillian Delegate in Tanzania who was present to mark this day with us not forgetting the community of Karungu and Gwasii, teachers and pupils from the surrounding schools and the Provincial Administration with Politicians who had been highly committed to this celebration.

I thank Dala Kiye, St. Camillus ART (KARP) project and Mercy Orphans Support group (MOSGUP) for contributing towards the day's success. Special thanks to the We World Kenya Foundation who always support such open days.

Lastly, I appreciate everyone especially the schools that found time to practice plays and songs in spite of the fact that the schools were closed. Thank you all.

Fr. Emilio Balliana

Program Director

Introduction

Since the initiation of St. Camillus Dala Kiye back in 1998, the event of “**World AIDS Day**” has since been marked annually, at Dala Kiye with the organization joining the rest of the world in celebrating the day. This year’s event was marked on Friday 1st December 2017 and the theme was; “**Hands up for HIV prevention**”



The celebration was attended by a number of Guests and participants who included Camillian Fathers, Provincial Administrative, Politicians, and Other partners like Mercy Orphans Support Group (MOSGUP) St. Camillus ART (KARP) Project, Teachers, Pupils, caregivers, foster children and Dala Kiye staff.



The day started at 8.00 am with Dala Kiye staff setting up the venue in preparation for the big day. A Holy Mass was the first activity to set the mood of the celebration. All arrivals gathered to open the day with a Holy Mass which was presided over by Fr. Emilio Balliana who had just arrived from his long holiday in Italy alongside Fr. Reuben Njagi, Fr. Festus Lihata from the Camillian delegate in Tanzania, Fr. William Augo, Deacon John Kariuki, Br. Bonaventure Muswi and Br. Paul Kabito. Fr. Emilio started by thanking all the participants for taking their time to attend the occasion despite the unpredictable political nature within the country. He also thanked Fr. Festus for joining in the Eucharistic celebration and welcomed him to Karungu. Fr. Emilio also thanked everyone for attending and informed the congregation that the celebration was to help people know that the disease is real and is affecting everyone. He said that Migori, Homabay, Kisumu and Siaya Counties were still leading with HIV prevalence hence much more effort was still needed in creating more awareness on how to control and reduce new infections. The main message from the Holy Mass celebration was to embrace the love of God and have him closer that way, his presence could be felt. Everyone was encouraged to love the sick and continue caring for them. Just as the day's theme, all youths were called upon to step up and prevent new HIV infections. The ceremony was made visible through the display of a Banner, distribution of caps with write up information related to HIV/AIDS.





After the powerful Holy Mass celebration, the day's activities started with the foster children opening the celebration with a welcoming song. Thereafter Dala Kiye coordinator took to the podium to welcome everyone officially to the day's event. He explained the meaning of the theme saying "all people young and old have a responsibility and a crucial role to play in ensuring that there are no new cases of HIV infection within the community. Homabay and Migori counties are still high on HIV infections. We need to do more in lowering it." He concluded by inviting everyone to visit the VCT tents so that they could know their HIV status.

After the host had welcomed all, Speeches were delivered amidst entertainments performed by children from different schools, caregivers and the local band. The chiefs present led by senior chief of East Karungu Location, Mr. Jared Otieno, delivered an educative speech informing the gathering that they should take care of themselves and their families because HIV/AIDS was still killing many people. Other than that, being that it was a holiday, the chiefs advised the children to be responsible as they would stay away from school for a period of more than two months. Other guests who delivered speeches were Dr. Okumu of St. Camillus Mission Hospital, teachers and the area MCA who promised to support any initiative within the ward that is towards improving community lives.

To conclude the speeches, a series of entertainment followed, there were plays and dances. The famous Wachara Ramogi dancers showed their artistic skills on the podium entertaining the guests with beautiful traditional songs and dances. This was the pitch of entertainment where pupils from different schools presented their items in form of songs, poems and plays. The pupils from Nyamanga primary presented a song that was educative. The song reminded everyone that HIV could affect anyone, whether a child, an adult, a man or a woman.



The same was also heard from the OTZ group (a peer club group comprising of children leading a positive life). The group presented a play based on their pledge and the three pillars of living healthy that is: zero missed appointments, zero viral load and zero missed drugs. This was such an educative moment.

The caregivers were not left behind. Despite their old age, they were able to entertain the gathering through a number of activities such as tag of war between Sori caregivers and Sidika caregivers, where sidika emerged the winner. Pale balancing also took place and the winner came from Sidika as the runners up came from Rabuor caregivers. A one hundred meters race also took place between caregivers and the fastest caregiver came from Sidika followed by Agolomuok then Rabuor caregiver.



At 1 pm, people took a lunch break. All the children, caregiver groups and the community present at the occasion were provided with a bottle of soda and a half loaf of bread each. Invited guests and teachers were taken for their lunch meal at Chombo Blue Waves Hotel in Sori town.



After lunch, people resumed for entertainments as the ball games were also going on. There was a football match between Rabuor Junior FC and Sori Junior FC, where Rabuor won with one goal to nil. Another match was between Dala Kiye Foster children versus Kiranda Junior FC, where Foster children won with one goal to nil. On the junior category, Dala kiye Foster boys went for finals against Rabuor Junior. This match was tough and it ended at nil – nil. The two teams went for a penalty shootout where Dala Kiye foster won with four goals against two. On the senior category, Nyamanga FC engaged in a strong match with Rabuor FC, and the match ended 0-0 during normal time, that forced them to go for penalty shootout, where Nyamanga FC thrashed Rabuor FC five goals to three.



The VCT sector turn up was lower compared to last year. This could be attributed to two things; either the cases were reducing or people still had stigma in knowing their HIV status. From 67

people who were tested, 46 were male and 21 were female. All turned out negative which according to this year's theme is a plus.

The occasion came to an end with award giving, which took place based on the performance in each of the categories. The award giving was presided over by Dala Coordinator, Mr. George Anyanga while inviting other guests to present the awards to the best participants of the day.



After the presentation of awards, the occasion came to an end with a word of prayer from Brother Paul Kabito.

**Report compiled by,
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