

# WORLD ORPHANS DAY 2019



## **THEME:**

*“Humanitarian action in the world- children rights first”*

## **VENUE:**

ST. CAMILLUS DALA KIYE CHILDREN WELFARE HOME  
GROUNDS

## **DATE:**

TUESDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019

## **Introduction**

Tragically, millions of children all over the world have become orphaned for various reasons; war, famine, displacement, diseases or poverty. As Dala Kiye, most children we work for and with were orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS pandemic. To make sure that they are not entirely forgotten, there is a day dedicated just to them: World Orphans Day, which we mark on 7<sup>th</sup> May every year.

This day is special as it draws attention to the plight of orphans. On this day people are encouraged to actively participate in helping raise awareness, support and fund all these motherless and fatherless children across the world. A noble cause if there was one at all.

Society has learnt to care for orphans, the first orphanage was built by the Romans, and the Jewish law required that orphans be taken care of until the age of 18. Today, the Kenyan constitution insists on anyone below the age of 18 being a child and should be looked after. We have also adopted the act of placing orphans under public guardians. But as much as all these interventions have been put in place, over the years the numbers of orphans have grown at a very alarming rate. Most orphans live in an abusive environment, cruel hardship they have to endure in certain orphanages, still calls for more vigorous real interventions.

This year's theme was "*Humanitarian action in the world- children rights first.*" Of all the interventions humanitarian organizations have in perfecting the well being of children, the main focus should be on their rights.

## **The Celebration**

This year's event started a little behind the program because of the rains but a good number of participants who comprised of school children, caregivers, teachers and other invited guests assembled at St. Camillus Dala Kiye in the morning hours ready to mark the day.

An opening prayer was done by Fr. John Kariuki, Dala Kiye administrator who after praying spoke a few words of wisdom to the orphaned children present. He encouraged the children to work hard at school and achieve their dreams, he reminded them that despite being orphans there are people around them who mind their well-being and care for them. He then concluded by saying disability is not inability. That all the special children or all children living with any form of disability are created in God's image and are loved by those who have come out to help.

Dala Kiye coordinator, Mr. George Anyanga later took to the podium to welcome everyone at the event. He gave a brief overview of the interventions that Dala Kiye is in with her main donor being We World Kenya Foundation. He then briefed the participants on the day's program and other logistics. Through his talk, George highlighted the importance of celebrating World Orphans Day, one of them being to raise the challenges faced by orphans in the community and the need for stakeholders to formulate joint strategies to address the plight of orphans and vulnerable children in the community. This he said would only be possible if all the children were to get access to education opportunities and adequate care and support. Before he handed over to the master of ceremony, he encouraged children to learn on how to live responsibly and ensure they work hard at school.

The able master of ceremony coordinated entertainments with speeches for the better part of the morning hours. There was a superb short play from St. Mary's Kiranda boys which moved the audience. The little boys demonstrated the hardships orphans go through in the hands of those who are supposed to be their guardians. Most of the time, these children are mistreated and denied basic care and access to formal education. Other entertainments presented by the children were songs, modern dance, acrobatics, choral verses and skits. The caregivers were not left behind; they presented songs and plays according to the theme of the day.



As per the tradition, when it was time for lunch, the children were treated to soft drinks and bread as the caregivers and invited guests joined in the dining hall for a lunch. In the afternoon, the tradition of football games kicked off with B.L.Tezza and Rabuor football girls opening the pitch. B.L.Tezza took the victory home scoring 2-0 against the mighty Rabuor girls. Football boys later followed where the battle between Rabuor boys and B.L.Tezza boys ended in Rabuor losing to B.L.Tezza in a score of 1-2. A new game of balloons was briefly played between Rabuor and B.L.Tezza students and B.L.Tezza won. This was a victorious day for B.L.Tezza students.



As the day was coming to an end, all those who emerged victorious in the games and performances were given a token of appreciation in terms of bathing soap, bar soaps, shoe polish, exercise books, document files and balls.

Christine Vera from B.L.Tezza Complex Secondary who is also the Nyatike Sub County Children's Assembly deputy president crowned the day's event by delivering a powerful speech. Vera who joined other children in BOMAS Kenya for a leadership conference 2019, talked of all the problems orphans go through which are often overlooked by those who should be helping them. She condemned bitterly the act of mistreating children just on the basis of them lacking parents and requested guardians to always do good in caring for such children. To finish her speech, Vera encouraged all pupils and students to explore their talents too as much as they are into formal education. The day were closed by a word of prayer from a B.L.Tezza student and all the participants left at their own pleasure.

**Report Compiled by:**

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