

ST. CAMILLUS DALA KIYE ORPHANED CHILDREN WELFARE HOME

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DALA KIYE PROGRAM SUMMARY

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THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

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INTRODUCTION

St. Camillus Dala Kiye is a Faith Based, Child Focused and development Integrated Organization founded on Christian Fundamental Principles of Love and Compassion to the needy children. The organization is an initiative of the St. Camillus Mission [Servants of the Sick in Kenya] based in Karungu and the local Christian Community. The institution is situated at the deep southern shores of Lake Victoria in Karungu Division, Migori District, Nyanza Province in the Republic of Kenya.

Dala Kiye Program emerged from the dumbfounding experiences in the St. Camillus mission hospital where patients being admitted were terminally ill AIDS patients and subsequently died leaving behind children. These deaths were/are steadily increasing not only within the hospital but also in the entire community and the number of children whose lives are falling apart are also escalating. These children were/are deprived, devastated, prejudiced and subjected to lead lives devoid of human interests. This prompted the initial inception of St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home in 2000 and was eventually registered in July 2002 with the Department of social Services, Migori district as a Charitable Children's Organization to address the welfare of Children affected By AIDS in Karungu community. Nevertheless the realities of phenomenological and the socio-economic dynamics in the community have made it necessary to broaden the mandate to encompass community development precepts.

The organization is a non- political and non-profit making initiative. The program operations depend on both financial and material resources mobilized from individuals and Non-governmental organizations, nationally and internationally. Through community based needs assessments, projects are designed and developed and sent to donors for considerations. The organization prepares its financial reports as articulated by the donors accordingly to accredit accountability and transparency.

Currently the program is implementing three different OVC projects: -

1. Community Care and support for OVC affected by HIV/AIDS.

This project is designed on the assumption that every OVC has somebody within the community to provide care and support. Hence the project is intended to compliment the efforts of the caring community to provide quality care and support. This was the first project initiated in 2000 and currently targeting over 800 OVCs who have a living and responsible caregiver. In this model the program promotes retaining and maintaining the OVC in the guardianship of their extended families.

2. Foster Family Care and Protection for OVC affected by HIV/AIDS.

This project targets those OVC who apparently have nobody in their backgrounds to care and support them. The project therefore provides an alternative family within the community where \such children are fostered and protected. The project has already put in place 4 alternative foster families; Bethlehem, Madian, Nazereth and Sichem with average capacity of 12 OVCs each. These foster families are within the community with due regard being paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing in his/her own cultural milieu. Currently the OVC reached are 49.

3. Foster Family Care and Protection for OVC With Special Needs.

This project targets OVC who are living with HIV/AIDS and are qualified for ARVs and are apparently under the care of aged or incapacitated caregivers. The project provides an alternative family in which the child will access quality care and protection. Based on the health assessments conducted among the current clients and with the ever-increasing challenging complexities of the needs of HIV positive OVCs, the program has already initiated a facility for Foster Care and Protection for such children.

The physical facilities of the program comprise of the following: -

- An administration block with furnished and equipped offices, meeting room, library, auditorium and washrooms.
- A well furnished and equipped dining hall with a capacity of 300 children and also housing laundry room and stores.
- 6 units of self-contained houses for foster families for children with special needs (Children Living with HIV/AIDS) each with at least 12-bed capacity.
- A recreational facility for sports/games for both the children and adults. These include ball games, athletics and bathing.
- A public Nursery and Primary schools (B.L. Tezza Complex Nursery and Primary Schools) with OVCs forming a greater proportion of the total pupil population.
- A public secondary school (B.L. Tezza Complex Secondary School) with OVCs forming a greater proportion of the total pupil population.
- An elaborate kitchen garden for vegetable and fruit production for feeding program.

Pursuant to the stated goal and objectives, Dala Kiye designs, develops and implements projects that are child and community-focused, participatory and sustainable. All the activities are mainstreamed to rights-based, community needs assessment and destigmatization methodologies. The projects are comprehensively formulated with a commitment to implement the National Legislations, Policies and Action plans for the protection of the rights of children in Kenya. The program is based on a framework of wide consultative process involving all stakeholders. The program implementation team is headed by the Program Director who is the chief Administrator of all the initiatives of the St. Camillus Mission in Karungu.

VISION

Dala Kiye program has a vision of children who are fully integrated into normal life in the Community: a life that provides for the opportunities for deprived and devastated children to identify and explore their potentials and be able to contribute to their own future progress.

MISSION

The program is committed to the mission of mobilizing and engaging community responses to empower Orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS for improved quality of life, increase their chances of surviving the AIDS pandemic and become healthy, productive members of their communities.

AIM

The aim of Dala Kiye Program is to mitigate the impacts of HIV/AIDS in the community.

GOAL

The Program contributes to one prime goal of improving the quality of life through compassionate care and support to children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strategic Objective One:

Strengthening the capacity of the targeted local community to identify, promote and facilitate appropriate strategies to cope with the increasing number of OVCs.

Dala Kiye strives to facilitate processes in the community aimed at positively reinforcing community strengths and exploring their potentials for effective care and protection for the OVCs. The program reaches out in community forums to challenge the social and cultural stereotypes that constrain community development. The program enables the community to identify and maximize their own opportunities for protection and empowerment through such interventions as: -

- Community mobilization and sensitization
- Advocacy.
- Establishment of community facilitation team of volunteers.
- Community capacity building and development.
- Institutional capacity building and development.
- Community resource mobilization.
- Monitoring and evaluation.
- Collaboration and networking.
- Community based needs assessment of OVC households.
- Mainstreaming gender into OVC project.
- Permanency planning.

Strategic Objective Two:

Improving the medical and psychosocial well being of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

The objective strives to provide quality health care services to OVCs and their household members through the following strategic interventions: -

- Nursing Care
- Clinical Care
- Psychosocial Care
- Nutritional Care
- Health Education
- Health Campaign

Strategic Objective Three:

Preparing children to take individual initiatives in self-development and preventing HIV infection.

This objective focuses on effective HIV/AIDS prevention education strategies for children such as awareness building, life skills, behavior change communication, stay alive and advocacy through which children learn how to make informed choices while soberly informed and able to consider the consequences of these choices in life. The key concepts that are being emphasized include consequential thinking skills, abstinence, family values, community norms, child empowerment and hope for a better future. The motto in this objective is 'Choose Life' whereupon the children are empowered through a process of identifying, exploring and maintaining behavior patterns, attitudes and moral obligations that help them shake loose from infection risks of preventable infections. The Strategic interventions in this objective includes:

- HIV/AIDS awareness and education.
- Adolescent education on sexuality and Reproductive Health.
- Peer education and training.
- Guidance and counseling
- Sports and recreation.
- Establishment of clubs/Support groups.
- Resource center establishment.
- Increased ability to protect oneself from infections.
- Reduction in substance and drug abuse

Strategic Objective Four:

Enhancing livelihoods and social support services to the households of orphans and vulnerable children.

The objective endeavors to provide a package of social support services to address the immediate and long-term household needs of orphans and vulnerable children through the following strategic interventions: -

- Sponsorships for basic (Primary) and secondary education support.
- Vocational training support.
- School feeding and nutrition support.
- Clothing/bedding support.

OTHER PROGRAM INITIATIVES

1. B. L. T Tezza Complex Primary & Secondary School

This initiative is contributing towards increasing access to quality education to Over 350 OVCs in primary and over 40 OVC in secondary form the community. The school is registered as a public institution to maximize the efforts of the government in actualizing the children's right to education. Dala Kiye program is providing all the financial, material and supportive administration to the school.

2. Kopala Primary School

This project targets over 300 OVCs with school based feeding programme, school equipment support and materials support for school building.

3. Education Sponsorship.

This project is currently granting education sponsorship to over 35 pupils in various primary schools and over 40 students in various secondary schools.

4. Mercy Orphan Support Group Project.

This group implements Orphan Support Project targeting 2000 Children affected by AIDS (CABA) in partnership with CRS-Kenya and Home Based Care Project targeting PLWHAs in partnership with CACC. Interventions include Quality health care services, psychosocial care, Social support services, Life skills training and community strengthening.