

OUR REPORT FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS

We have managed to conduct a number of activities for the last close to six months that include the following

Went on with our school based community outreach program to reach children in the slums with Drug information

This program targets school going children in different schools within the slum areas that we work or operate in



We organized the 2013 student convention against drugs

This program targets the secondary school going children that we have been working with in the last one year, we bring them together and invite different speakers to talk to them about drugs and they too get to share their experiences and challenges about drugs from their school, home and the social environment they stay

REPORT OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT CONVENTION ON DRUGS

The convention took place on 21st September 2013 at our lady of Fatima secondary school from 8:30 am to 2pm with a total number of 300 participants from different secondary schools from the nearby korogocho slums.

The following are the speakers who spoke at the forum:

JOYCE NYARUAI



Joyce Nyaruai, she works as a program officer at the association of media women in Kenya

Born and brought up in the Dandora which neighbor Korogocho slums. She went through a normal life like any other girls goes through but she was determined that she wants to makes her way out of where she was brought up.



She chooses the right friends and abstained from the influence of friends who were engaging in drugs and substance abuse in the area which was making the order of the day.

She encouraged the participants that where you come from does not matter but what matter most is your determination, hard work and the friends you choose and she will keep on fighting for the rights of the girls at any level and in any field that oppress them most, you can make it no matter what.

Photos on the right: Joyce addressing participants at the convention

JACINTA



Jacinta Nyachae,

She is the Executive Director of AIDS Law project Kenya. The organization works towards protecting the rights of those who have been affected and infected with HIV/AIDS including injecting drug users.

She encouraged the participants that the only way to make it in life is to keep off from drugs and work towards developing and achieving our long awaited dreams

SHIRO



Shiro, is a news anchor and a reporter at GBS TV in Kenya. She encouraged the participants to look at pursuing what they have admired for long to be and not be forced into things they do not want. If you take a carrier that is not driven from inner you will end up into frustration and stressed up which in turn make you turn into drugs.

We should make our parents understand that we have rights with regards to choices they make for us and every choice have consequences and if we are not careful we



might end up regretting on the move that we took.

In life there is nothing that will come on a silver platter you ought to work hard for it, and in the dream you have in life prepare yourself for the battle of success for you to attain it.

We should work towards the battle ahead of us which is the success, regret, discouragement and low self esteem should not be in your mind when you want success.



I have achieved my dream carrier because I was focused on what I wanted to do and I was not short changed by anything, since I was a child whatever am doing now is what I wanted to do and desisted from the influence of bad company that used to influence my peers to do drugs and right now some are dead others are living a hopeless life.

(Left) shiro addressing the convention

GEORGE OCHIENG



George Ochieng is the founder and the current Executive Director of Slum child foundation. He was born and brought up in the slums of korogocho, he has been on the fore front to protect children especially in the field of drug and substance abuse.

I shared my story of the kind of life I went through when I was young the challenges I went through and my experience as a street boy some many years ago and I managed to overcome all these and this is the secret I shared with them.



Being brought up a Christian based family my parents taught me and introduced me to God and in everything I did by then and even now I put God first, so everybody should learn to let everything in the hands of God and one practical example was getting the speakers here it has taken God's intervention.

Secondly set your priorities right, work towards them and be aggressive having in mind the goal you want to achieve and if you have the right God given people around you, count on success.



Situation can force you to indulge into many things here and there but if you are a principled person you will overcome the wave of the problem you are going through and a good example is me, situation forced me to be a street boy and other street children forced me to do drugs but I stood to my principle until the last minute, they use to mock me, beat me and cause all sorts of harm to me but I vowed not to take drugs and I made them laugh a little bit by telling them that one day I thought and I

used to share with the street fellows that I know a day is coming that I will dress in a nice suit like the one we see people passing by and they laughed and said stop day dreaming and today is just one very best day I can use as an example to you my brothers and sister from a tattered clothes in the streets of Nairobi to a nice suit standing and addressing you, I feel honored and humbled it is not my effort but it is God doing great things in my life you too can be like me, I stand to be an example to you guys.

There is nothing that differentiate me and you in terms of my background I was brought up in this same slum you come from I went through the same school you went to and even this one am hosting this event am not a stranger, remember if you choose the right friends who are determine to win their races in life they will help you win yours

PAMELLA AKETCH



Pamella Aketch her official name was the former National coordinator for the Federation of African Women Educationalist Kenya chapter.

She came with her daughter to the event to show the participants that if you listen carefully to what your parents tell you, you will make it and her daughter is one such an example (the lady in red court)



she has stood to be the role model of their house because she has made it, another good practical example she gave was me and she said that is proud of me and the simple reason for this was this, in the year 2001 she was my English teacher in the school we were hosting the event and she never knew I would be this great because my school attendance was poor for issues to do with school fees and despite the hardship I was able to finish my schooling and now I stand to inspire a lot of people with my work, she sharing the nice experience she has gone through and what inspired her to drop teaching and the many role model she has natured.

As she conclude she shared a story of three frogs which was a nice one and really stood out for me, there were three frogs who were stuck in a pit and there were frogs outside watching them, so the frogs in the pit told the first frog that we do not see you making it out of the pit why don't you sit back relax and die in peace and that is what the first frog did, the second and the last one started struggling to get out of the pit and they added more energy and the second frog feel tired and was told the same by other frogs but the third frog told the second frog why are you relaxing let us struggle to get out of the pit it is getting dark the

second frog tried and was almost getting out but the frog but gave up and listened to the words of the other frogs outside and died but the last one did not give up and finally managed to get out and every other frog was happy and was asked what encouraged her to get out and said that I was deaf and I was not hearing to anything from you but was motivated me was the cheering I thought you were cheering me to get out, what does the whole mean in summary, when you want to succeed you need not to listen to what people will say but be determined no matter what and you will make it and when you make it many will come to join in you in celebration despite the discouragement they gave you, keep off drugs it will make you feel tired before you finish your journey like the other frog.

NICK DEE THE COMEDIAN



Nick Dee the comedian who hails from the slums of korogocho and went through the normal lifestyle and he is still struggling to make it to the top to make it through comedy.

He shared that the journey is not easy you must be focused with what you want to get at the end of your journey.

Many people think comedy cannot help you in life but the reality is that comedy is nowadays paying and paying big you not need to look for a white or blue collar job to be that person you want in life.

Many people make it as celebrities but they lose focus by others who do drugs and all these led to down fall of their celebrities and this has made a lot of talents being wasted, what you have been told is what has really made me and I know you too can make it.



WENDY GAYA



Wendy Gaya is the founder and the CEO of speak to Africa, a speakers' agency based in Nairobi. She is a speaker, trainer and a coach passionate about helping individual reposition themselves for success.

On the other she is also a consultant to NACADA Authority which the national agency that coordinates issues that relates to drug and substance abuse in Kenya.



She shared with the participants on succeeding despite the hardship and participants were asked to think hard

on the people they choose as role models not just somebody who do drugs, what they choose to make it in life e.g other choose drugs that they think will help them make it, that is not the case.

She went further to ask the participants know their ride that is their strengths / weaknesses, talents and gifts, values, who influence you and who do you influence remember the younger one are looking on us and if we do drugs they will follow the same suit and we will never win the battle against drugs in future

FRANCISCA



Fanscica, works with FEMNET as program officer in the Africa regional office.

She shared her real life experience with the participants and told them that believing in God is the first step towards making it, she believed on the fact that God help those that struggle to make it and he opens ways for those that look unto him for help.



She encouraged the participants to work hard and their people who will volunteer to help with herself as one practical example, she come from a background

that was not well off but she focused on her education and she made it.

Keep off bad influencers and focusing on what you want to achieve a lot of people will come and associate them with you but when you do drugs no one will want to associate themselves with you

JESSE



Jesse is the District youth office at the ministry of youth, culture and sport Kasarani.

Jesse shared the challenges the youths are facing especially in the slums of korogocho and the effort the government it is putting in place although minimal.

He encouraged them to take advantage of such forums organized by slum child foundation the government cannot do a lot because of the huge responsibilities and trying to meet the need of every other person.



Drugs are one of the major challenges the ministry is facing not only in major slums in Kenya but in the entire

country, If you keep off drugs this business will never continue.

PAUL ONYANGO AKA BOSS OF MOG (MEN OF GOD MUSIC CREW) TOP RANKED MUSIC CREW IN KENYA



Boss as is well known belongs to MOG (Men of God Music crew made up of three young men who were brought up in the slums of korogocho)

Boss shared his personal life where at the age of 4 lost all the parents, came to Nairobi and started a life of struggling sleeping under the kiosks eating from garbage and dustbin.



He cited several examples he went through with Mr. George Ochieng the Current Executive Director of slum child foundation when they were young and growing up in the slums of korogocho.

He went as far as giving up because he tried all the things one can try to make it to an extend that he started engaging in crime and doing drugs.

He got saved and released several album with the crew and from the little they got he resolved to joined school at the age of 19years, primary Eight, he said God gave him favor and he did the

exams and got a grade that allowed him to join secondary school



As he concluded he said that one need to humble before God so that God can raise you high, he went to rehab and music made him a millionaire five years later with just doing music and he is brushing shoulder with the top musicians in Kenya something he never imagined and to prove his words he came with Roughtone one of the respected top musicians in the country the third (last) picture on the left as he was addressing the convention

Students watching and listening keen to the speakers while going through Materials on drugs at the convention



Good will support of sanitary towels to participants from Chandaria industries

Chandaria industries donated to us sanitary towels that we gave to the female participants for our pads not drugs campaign, but they refused to acknowledge or be associated with our campaign for the reasons that was not clear but encouraged us to associated them with student convention alone b=not anything dealing with drugs.

Since my heart was to help the female participants I had no other wise other than to accept the donation and issue them to them on the day of the event, although the journey to get them was hard, rough and tight but made several request with a lot of frustration managed to get the donation.



Distribution of sanitary towels to participants



AWARDS

We awarded certificate to all the schools that participated in the event and the participants who have been vibrant in campaigning for drugs in their schools by our guests





Group Photos



Engaging the local youths through a band to create awareness on drugs on the International Children day i.e. 20th November 2013

As part of marking the 2013 international Children day we engaged the youths to join us in a procession to create awareness on this day about protecting children from drugs and getting to share about Article 33 of the Children Right Convention that of late has created a lot of discussion all over the globe.





We went on with our program for pads not Drugs and this time we visited Ngunyumu Primary school where we donated several sanitary towels and shared a word on how to keep off from drugs.

Under this program we try to create awareness to students in primary and secondary schools respectively with a lot of focus on female students keep off drugs by engaging them in sharing about how to keep off drugs and Donate to them sanitary towels. The idea of donating sanitary towels is to try to keep them off from using unhealthy materials that could harm them, since it is a challenge for them to access sanitary towels





Looking for rehabilitation centre for this street family

From time to time we refer drug addicts in different rehabilitation centers that offer them support, and this month we were engaged in a street family challenge looking for referral that has stuck into our face until now still looking for a home to accommodate them

HERE ARE PHOTOS OF THE STREET FAMILY



Meet the husband on the left hand side by the name Thuita and the wife Dorcas all of them are sniffing glue, the first day I meet them in korogocho slum



Day two I meet them and shared with them about taking them to rehabilitation centre, here they come from what they call home, the houses that do not have roof and walls are not pleasing, I was almost shading tears

Here they are in the pictures



Here is the wife Dorcas, a mother of two twin children who stops to chat with me and ask for lunch from me and the little I had I gave it out as we wait for the husband.

She told me where the children are and from her she told me she was taken to Thika rehab and the worse thing was that she was brought back to the

same slum where the husband is and was doing drug and influenced him to take drugs again and since she was idle.



Here is Dorcas waiting for the Husband who appear (partially hidden with the pole) as the walk out to go and look for daily income from the streets.

I asked the wife why wait for him outside not in the house and she told he beats him for stealing things they have consumed or eaten, I think he forget what they eat when he brings home and later blame the wife, she stays here even upto to 10pm as he waits the husband to come so that they can go together in what they call home.



Here comes the Husband who picks the sack they use to collect garbage together with violence and that is normal to her and she is used to, the sack she was carrying in previous photos.



Here is where Dorcas in laws stays

We are still looking for referral centre we can sent them to since the one that are available do not offer good will rehabilitation and again the street family are not given a chance to be there, we have tried the Government one but their stand is the same and they are asking that after they are rehabilitated where will they take them? Our long term plan for this street family if we will be able to get them a sponsor to support them to be in a rehabilitation centre is to help them start a business that will help them in their future life together

with their children, we understand that it is a dream of every man or woman to have a happy family and so is the same for the this street family. We pray that they will be able to get a sponsor

Report compiled by

George Ochieng

Executive Director

Slum child foundation

slumchildfoundation@gmail.com

THE END