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OFFICIAL SPUR NEWSLETTER



# SPUR

# AFRIKA

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## HOMES AND SCHOOL VISITS

Spur Afrika staff have for the last two months engaged in visiting sponsored children in schools and their homes. In June, our nine high schoolers each received a pleasant surprise as a team of three staff members visited them in their various schools across the country. The journey too three days and covered about 1600km of road. All the children in high school are doing fine and are progressing in their studies. Primary school students who mostly study in Nairobi were next to be visited in June and July. Reports from their various teachers suggested that our sponsored children are well behaved and are putting a lot of effort into their education despite a few having some learning challenges.

It was a delight to be able to visit children in their homes and spend some time with them and their families. We were heartbroken by the fact that many of the families seem to be facing different hardships at the secrecy of their homes. Some families are dealing with sicknesses, lack of enough daily food and general basic needs.

A family that one of our children come from recently lost everything in a nighttime fire that razed down 10 houses in their neighborhood. The Spur Afrika community was able to round up support and help the family get back on its feet. Thank you for standing with us always.

Repha Kung' a, who is one of our high schoolers was in July honored as the best sports (rugby) student of the year during her schools' prize-giving day. This is just one of the many students who are finding their talents through extra-curriculum activities. Spur Afrika is keen to encourage the students to explore different areas that their strengths may lie in apart from academics.

## MENTORING

Spur Afrika's dedicated mentors are doing a wonderful job of shaping the lives of our children. Some of the mentors have devised creative ways of spending constructive time with their mentees. Recently we've seen mentors reaching out to the children at home and in school.

Mitchell, a mentor of 3 students (Immaculate, Florence, and Phoebe) met them twice in July, including inviting them out for lunch. Mary visited Gesare's family in Soweto village in Kibera, the family was very happy to have her visit and shared a meal with them. Talia's mentor, Maggie, visited her both at school and at home. Maggie reported that since she and Talia started their relationship, Talia had greatly improved in her social skills.

Vaid met her mentor, Tina, for the second time in July. The bond between them is so incredible that one can easily assume that they have known each other for a long time.

Spur team continues to support these amazing group of mentors in various way to enable the smooth mentoring process.





## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

We engaged ten schools within Kibera in our annual oral hygiene week. The aim for this effort is to teach children on preventative care for their teeth before it's too late and the only option is to get them extracted. Each student then received a toothbrush and paste to take home with them after the brushing lesson.

Final 'Read It Know It' (RIKI) schools competition happened in July at K.A.G primary school. The competition brought together 250 students from 8 schools within Kibera. Participants competed in choral verses, school work, and general trivia questions. In the end, Nazarene primary school was the overall 2019 RIKI winners.

In July we invited 30 parents who are currently enrolled in Spur Afrika's co-sponsored government's subsidized health insurance program (also known as NHIF) we also invited the government department responsible for this program to the Spur Afrika's center and the parents got a good explanation about the program. Officers brought some gifts for the parents and encouraged them to make use of the opportunity that Spur is giving them.

BAM (Business AS Mission) Phase II training happened on 22nd to 25th of July. This saw a participation of 8 young entrepreneurs within Kibera who came to be trained on how to incorporate Kingdom impact in their businesses. Phase III of this training is set to happen in September.

## BINGWA GIRLS PROGRAM

The girls' program had a workshop on 16th to 19th July led by six friends from Project Period in London. The Project Period group aims to empower young girls by teaching how to care for themselves better where menstruation is concerned. Menstruation cups and other forms of reusable pads were discussed Project Period gave 70 menstrual cups to class 7 and 8 girls. The group is set to give out feedback on the use of cups in September. On the last day of the workshop, all the 120 girls received sanitary towels and undergarments.



## TESTIMONIES

The mentorship program has been impactful to Spur students. For instance, Talia and Maggie's relationship has been fruitful. Maggie told Spur that ever since she started mentoring Talia, the girl has moved from keeping quiet whenever they met to gaining self-confidence in expressing herself. The girl has improved from 350 to 398 marks. Talia is working hard despite what she had been through last year when her mother lost her job and they had to move to a cheaper house. She aspires to go to Pangani National Girls high school.

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When Mary Nekesa started mentoring Gesare, it wasn't a walk in the park. Mary had a hard time gagging how best their relationship would work. As time passed by, they became best friends and Gesare invited Mary to visit her family in Soweto village. They established a common ground which has been working for them since. Mary thinks that Gesare is a disciplined and smart student and with good mentorship, the future is bright for her. In July, she bought Gesare a birthday cake to make the girl celebrate her birthday.

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Mitchell Noreh who is both a sponsor and a mentor of 3 children told Spur that she has a good relationship with her mentees. They meet every month to talk about different issues including school performance. They even do fun activities like skating, movies and eat out together.

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During a visit to Emmanuel Ouma's home, her mother expressed her gratitude towards Spur Afrika. She explained to the team that since the organization started helping her son, their lives have changed as a family. She said that Spur was like a guardian angel sent from above to rescue them. She jokingly said that she gradually regained her respect as a parent both in her family and in the neighborhood.

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Baba Francisca is managing his diabetes by using the insulin donated to him by Dr. Simiyu's Kibera Human Development Hospital sometimes last year (2018).

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