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SPUR AFRIKA TRANSFORM NEWSLETTER

In Kibera and Kisumu communities'

A message from the Spur Afrika Deputy Director

Hello Friends,

It is yet another exciting time where we get to hear what Spur Afrika has been up to in the last two months.

It has been both a hectic and exciting two months. With schools on break, we have been up to many edutainment activities geared towards making the seven-week school year end break i memorable for the Spur children.

We are forever grateful for the opportunity to be of service to our Kibera and Kisumu communities, we are highly indebted to you for your support. Receive a warm hug from us for we cannot do this without your prayers, emotional and your financial support. Image Redefined Thank You so much for supporting Hot lunch this season; May Your cups never run dry!

Anybody can say they love you, but when you watch their words and actions do, they align? We are grateful that you have and continue to show your practical love to the Spur family. This is evident in all our smiles.

Keep wearing that beautiful smile, it is the best make up for this hurting world.

Wish you a lovely two months ahead and look forward to catching up again soon.

With Warm wishes

Susan Ojuki (Sue)



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SPONSORED STUDENTS PROGRAM

At the start of this year, we recruited yet another group of 15 needy students to our sponsorship program following a thorough interview process and our due diligence process. During the recruitment process, we met the new parents at the beginning of March to orient them to our sponsorship program. With this year's intake, we now have a total of 120 students in the programme with most of these children in primary and secondary school. It is exciting to report that two of our sponsored children are expected to graduate from university later this year, one is about to graduate from a short tertiary course in June 2022, and another is still a third-year student at Kenyatta University. Two students who sat for their final secondary school exams (KCSE) in March 2022 will be joining university later this year.

Each year, we have candidates at various levels of schooling. This year, we had 13 students sitting for their final primary school exams (Kenya Certificate of Primary School Exams (KCPE) and 5 sitting for their final secondary school exams (Kenya Certificate of Secondary School Exams (KCSE). We are proud to report that this year's candidates performed exemplary well; three of our sponsored children scored 386/500, 373/500 and 363/500 in their KCPE exams. In the secondary school category, two of our sponsored children scored a B+, two scored C plain and one scored C-.



School Break

Our sponsored children had seven weeks end of school year break and we had lined up several exciting activities for them to engage in that were tailored towards building their life skills and enable them to embrace their challenging life moments with wisdom and ease. The children took part in the following set of activities: -

- Our Annual School camps
- Our Cross Over programme (transitioning class eight children into secondary school)
- Holiday Tuition
- Life skills training (Cooking classes, First Aid, Cleaning among others)
- Hot lunch sessions

Our Annual Holiday Camp

Our sponsored children together with staff and volunteers took part in a one-week holiday at the Word of Life Centre, in Kabete, in the outskirts of Nairobi. This was our first camp since the outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic.

The children took part in various learning activities among them competitive games, relationships talks and a night of worship where some sponsored children gave their lives to Jesus Christ.

Parents, children, and Staff Joint Meeting

We had our annual parents and children meeting in April where we reviewed the previous year (2021). We in addition set our annual goals for the year (2022) and renewed our agreement with them.

Dr. Simiyu (Spur partner Doctor) and Mrs. Amani Gaceri (a volunteer counselor) were present to talk to the Spur family about general health and psychosocial issues. These joint engagements help in holistic growth and development of the children.





Crossover 001

In 2021, Spur Afrika started a transitional program for the children who have completed their primary school level with the aim of helping them transition smoothly to secondary school, hence the term “Crossover 001”. This year’s Crossover program ran through March to April 2022.

Twenty-nine (29) children went through the Crossover 001 program: learning about different life skills among them vision boards, first aid, values and beliefs, spiritual growth, leadership, journaling, focus, resilience, personal hygiene, and personal responsibility.



The children also spent one afternoon doing community service in the neighborhood with the experience being an eye opener as the children got to hear stories of people that were going through challenging times but still wake up and show up for their communities and their families. The Crossover 001 program ended in mid-April where the 29 children graduated after a fun hike to Mt. Longonot, Rift Valley, Kenya.



Hot Lunch

Even though the Covid-19 pandemic is in many ways behind us, its t is still being felt. Unfortunately, some of the parents/guardian’s s lost their source of livelihoods and are still facing tough times financially.

When schools are closed, it is challenging time for some of the children as their families are not able to afford regular meals (especially lunch). Spur Afrika therefore runs a school holiday program, dubbed Hot Lunch, where we serve hot meals twice a week to the children at the Spur Afrika center.

We are grateful that during this holiday, we were also able to extend the hot lunch to the parents too. We are very grateful to Image Redefined Team for making this possible and for having a motivational talk session with the children.





MENTORSHIP AND COUNSELLING

The long school break provided us with an ample time for guidance and counselling program for our sponsored children.

One on One mentorship Meetings

Our committed volunteer mentors took the opportunity to catch-up with their mentees. About 30 mentors spent time with their mentees in the past two months. Some mentors went as far as providing their mentees with g various forms of gifts to motivate them to work hard.



Group Mentorship

Some of the sponsored children do not have a particular mentor assigned to them, the Spur Afrika staff therefore organizes regular group mentorship sessions to be able to offer support and guidance, as we seek to find more mentors to take up the one-on-one mentorship.

Some of the Spur girls, twenty, got a treat in celebrating a birthday together with one of the female mentors and her friends at the Rowland Scouts Camp. The girls had so much fun talking about career growth, relationships, home life and resilience. Our girls were also given a care pack (sanitary towels, undergarments, toothbrushes, and pastes) each before sharing a cake together.



Individual Counselling

Aside from mentorship, Spur Afrika has two professional counsellors who volunteer to offer psychological support to the students or parents. Six sponsored children went through counselling sessions in March and April.



Career Mentorship

In March, about 30 of our sponsored children also took part in a career fair that resulted from our partnership with Deloitte. The children had a chance to learn and ask career questions from Deloitte professionals. We plan to have more of such events in the future to help our sponsored make better career choices.





Pic Speak



First Aid session with Kijala during crossover.



A member of Image Redefined having a career talk with our sponsored students briefly before sharing 'Hot-Lunch' together.



Students having fun in our Annual School Camp



Our class eight students pause for a photo after a prayer session a day before sitting for their final exams.



Spur Afrika Kisumu workers giving out toothbrushes and pastes during Oral Hygiene activity.



One of our volunteer Mentor/Doctor giving a career talk during career fair.



SPUR AFRIKA KISUMU

Our Kisumu project is progressing well. In the last two, months our team in Kisumu had several events that included:

Kisumu Day Camp.

In March, three of Nairobi team joined the Kisumu team led by our Director Patrick Achola (Patoh) for a day camp that saw participation of 280 children including our 10 sponsored children. The children had fun games, learned life lessons and Bible study that was crowned with visiting the Impala Park in Kisumu for a day out.



Kisumu continues to grow with many opportunities emerging for Spur Afrika. We are grateful for your support and continue to invite you to plug in as we spread the love. You are also invited to come visit, lend expertise in the various programs being set up or just come and interact with Spur families in Kisumu.

