



ST. CATHERINES SCHOOL KIBERA

INTERNSHIP BOOKLET



St. Catherine and Kibera

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Classrooms of St Catherine.

ST. CATHERINE GREEN HOUSE PROJECT

About St. Catherine School

St. Catherine is children's home and school in the Nairobi, Kenya slum of Kibera. The slum is approximately the size of New York's Central Park, and its population is broadly estimated between 200,000 and 1,000,000 -- no official count exists. The majority of residents live in 10x10-foot tin shacks with up to 7 other people. It is one of the largest slums in the world.

St. Catherine was founded in 2005 by Pastor James Onyango Owuor. The school serves 170 children, with 27 of them boarding full-time. Many of the boarders have lost their families to poverty, AIDS, or the violence that resulted after the 2007-08 election.

Pastor James and the community at St. Catherine — teachers, volunteers, and sometimes family members — work to give their children a safe place to grow up and an opportunity to be educated. The school's motto is "Shida za maisha hazitanizuia – nitashinda" — Swahili for "I will overcome despite all injustices."

THE SCHOOL

St. Catherine offers a school for baby class, pre-unit, nursery, and primary up to class 8. Though short-lived partnerships with various organizations and inconsistent donations from individuals sustain the children for short periods of time, it is often unclear where the next meal will come from. Until recently, the community enjoyed a lunch-time meal from a donation; that money ran out, however, at the end of 2012.



MENTORING SESSIONS

St. Catherine educates 225 children from Baby Class through Class 8 (the US equivalent of nursery through 8th grade), and provides a home to 24 children.

Voluntary teachers are very much needed as currently the school cannot afford teacher's salary remunerations.

Basic computer skills program has been initiated as a branch of the schools sustainable green house project.



PROBLEM EVALUATION

Problem statement

As it is, children at St. Catherine are subject to hunger, poor living and learning conditions, and lack of educational resources. The children often come to school without having eaten breakfast, causing them to be tired and unfocused during the school day. Their classrooms are about 10 feet by 10 feet, with naught but a shabby chalkboard at the front of the class. Pupils are often sent to other classrooms to borrow chalk from other teachers. Needless to say, text books, notebooks, pens and pencils, and other schooling necessities are in short supply.

Additionally, teachers at St. Catherine often stay no longer than a few months, for a variety of reasons. In some cases they are promised a salary that they don't receive on time, because the promise of a donation fell through. In some cases, teachers are volunteers who are still living with their families, finding something to do to pad their resumes as they look for other jobs. And in some cases, they're fed up with the lack of educational progress the children are making, due to their limited resources, poor health, and, at times, inability to pay tuition

SOLUTION

Those two biggest problems facing the current educational system of St. Catherine — lack of nourishment essential to learn and lack of funding to pay teachers — are the major obstacles standing in the way of the children receiving a good primary school education that will allow them to succeed in secondary school.

The greenhouse, on a plot of land where the school could raise chickens and cows, would eliminate both problems, and come with an additional positive outcome. By allowing St. Catherine to grow fresh vegetables and collect eggs and milk, children would be ensured three meals per day -- and not just the maize and water concoction of ugali, an East African dietary staple with very little nutritional value. Moreover, the school would be able to sell some of its food into the community, supplying a steady source of income for the organization. With that revenue, St. Catherine will be able to pay its teachers fairly and regularly, reducing the amount of teacher turnover at the school. Because of the demand for fresh vegetables, eggs and milk in the community, the revenue stream will be substantial enough to compensate teachers and provide funds to keep the lights on and buy essentials like soap, clothing, and toothbrushes and toothpaste for the kids.

INTERNSHIP JOB DESCRIPTION

- Farming entrepreneurship program. Marketing their farm produce through social media blogging etc..
- Brainstorming of innovative ideas on how to raise funds for the school
- Teaching elementary subjects like maths, English etc and basic computer skills
- Counseling and mentoring
- Kibera slums social work

Tofauti on the move

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