

to ask for volunteers amongst our staff to take the girls in to their families. In the beginning of the year they came back happy but still wishing if one of their own could have come for them. Their prayers were heard and by the end of February this year we had managed to

join two children with their relatives. These relatives do not have a place to accommodate the girls, but the joy is that the children are very happy to have a relative who can visit them.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- » Rotary International invited our girls to a cinema session in Sarit Center on 5th December. Together with different centres from Nairobi and around we watched a movie about a young talented guy who wanted to impress his father. For most of us it was the first time to go to cinema and we really enjoyed. After lunch in an Indian centre in Westlands the busses took us back to the Eastlands. – We thank you for an exciting day!
- » On 6th December it was a happy moment to Margaret Muthoni and Prisca Mwanbura who received the grace of Baptismal together with Confirmation which marked a new beginning in their life events.
- » The special guests in our Christmas party on 19th December were former PLCC girls. A big number of them celebrated with us and decided to meet and share their experiences during a meeting this year.
- » It was our pleasure to welcome friends from different parts of the world: Barbara Berry-Baily from Chicago, Thorsten Pachnicke with a group of 9 people from the church district of Rant-



Former PLCC girls with their children

- zau-Münsterdorf, Sam Wolff with his wife and friends from Frankfurt, Lieselotte Linder and Heinz Schleier from Berchtesgaden.
- » Intake 2010: 11 girls aged 6 to 11 years are admitted to the centre. In informal education two girls are schooled according to standard 4, two to standard 3, four according to pre-school and for three of them will focus on reading and writing.
- » PLCC got an opportunity to host a meeting organized by children department in our area of operation (Starehe Division) on 11th February where five different centres participated.

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PANGANI LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S CENTRE

A

FRIEND

in need is a friend indeed

Bulletin 21

March 2010

'It is not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what's required.' Sir Winston Churchill

Dear friends,

if you are a reader of our newsletters, I am sure you have been looking forward for this bulleting. We promised to put all our efforts to make sure that the vulnerable street girls in Nairobi have been reached, and sure we have tried our best so far; conducting seminars, visiting the homes of the children, taking care of their health, counselling and to bring 11 new street girls in for rehabilitation.

With all these we feel something is still missing. Cases of some children going back to the streets on weekends, some parents discouraging their children from going to school, cases of rape and psychological abuse among the registered children continue to be in our monthly meetings agendas. This seems to indicate that we have not managed to do what is required. To remove the children from the negative influence environment and give them conducive environment for growing up and learning.

As one way of doing what is required, through Hand Stretch Program we have planned to reach out the street parents/guardians who for one reason or another



have found it hard to change their life style. We are convinced that by helping these parents/guardians to decide to change from making money through begging and prostitution; and venture in to different activities will contribute in making the rehabilitation process successful. But our fear continues to be the peer pressure, environmental influences and lack of role model.

Though we have done our best by reaching out about 250 needy girls while working in different areas of operation, the need is alarming to have a bigger place where all the PLCC activities can

be done. We are through with the selection of a contractor who will construct the half of phase one so the work is in front of us.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we continue to need your support to enable us to do what is required.

Sincerely yours
Mary Mshana

ONE DAY, ONE DAY!



My name is Mary; I am 13 years old and in STD 8. I was brought up by a single mother. I went to a public school but my mother was unable to pay my school fees and provide all the basic needs to the family of eight

children, since she does not have a stable job. I joined Pangani Lutheran Children Centre in the year 2007. Since then, I have noted my life improving because I go to school regularly, I have enough food, when I am sick there is someone to take me to hospital and I stopped going to street to beg.

My wish is to do well in my studies and be able to achieve my goals. My ambition is one day to be able to support my siblings and the community around me.

This year I also joined Confirmation Class which I believe has contributed a lot in improving my life on how I relate to people and feel about myself. Before being admitted in the hostel I could not study well but nowadays I have enough time to do my class and home work and play in a clean environment which I like very much. I also feel I have grown taller than when I came.

I pray that God will continue to bless the works of the hands of our social workers and sponsors who join their hands together to support the needy children like me. I like my friends in the hostel and they like me too. My mom comes to see me on some weekends and brings my young sisters and brothers with her on their way to the city to beg. I like their company but I hate street life. It makes me sad but I have nothing I can do about it. One day, one day! I will grow up work and support them.

HER PERFORMANCE - OUR JOY

The year 2010 seems to be a good one for PLCC, particularly Education Department. The indications were seen in the 2009 Kenya National Examination for Primary Education result. In this examination, Lucy Wangare (one of our own) scored 363 marks out of 500 marks, being the best score ever scored by a PLCC girl in this examination. This enabled her to be selected to join one of

the highly ranked girls' secondary school within Nairobi province (Ngara Girls High



Lucy's first day in secondary school

School). Her performance did not only bring joy to all of us, but also spared us the agony of looking for a good secondary school for her.

Unlike public primary schools' minimal performance, public secondary schools perform very well. Therefore they are highly regarded and joining one is by merit. This is so because public secondary schools are well established with adequate equipment and facilities. Therefore it is every parents' /guardian's dream to have his/her child join a government school.

It is worth to note this, even though the pass mark of this examination is 250 marks, not all the candidates who attain this marks are able to secure a chance in public secondary schools. Those who are not selected to these schools are left with an alternative of joining private schools, most of which are not well established. Other than Lucy, two other PLCC girls attained good marks that enabled them to join secondary school.

However, as much as there were indica-

THEIR PRAYERS WERE HEARD

The year 2010 opened its doors at PLCC with 80% of the girls staying with their parents while 20% being given accommodation in our Pangani House hostel.

As our tradition, last year's Christmas holiday all the girls from the hostel were given opportunity to visit their families to celebrate Christmas together. Most of



Our new girls - still a bit shy

tions of a good year, the opening of schools was not a smooth one. There was a nationwide strike of public service vehicles operators, which made travelling almost impossible. During the first week some of our girls were not able to make it to schools. PLCC staffs were not spared either. We walked long distances, just to make sure we were there for our girls.

The operators were protesting against mistreatment from other stakeholders in the public transport. It took the intervention of the government and normalcy was finally restored.

the children look forward for this time of the year except some few cases of those who have no close relatives to go to.

Last December the situation was obvious. For one reason or another five girls had nobody to pick them for the special season. Going against the children department's wishes the situation forced us



Eunice, Topistar and Monicah visiting one of our staff's mother in the rural area.