

For a healthier, happier you!



*Take delight in the
Lord, and He will
give you the desires
of your heart.*

Psalm 37: 4

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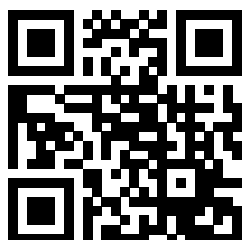
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Our Mission



Our Vision



**All children in poverty thriving
toward their God-given potential.**



Health Feature:

Raising awareness for childhood cancer



*September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (CCAM), recognized by childhood cancer organizations worldwide as a global collaborative campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer and to express support for children and adolescents with cancer, the survivors, and their families. This year's theme is 'Better Survival' achievable **#throughyourhands**.*

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cancer of the white blood cells and brain tumors are the leading types of childhood cancers globally. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the most common types are non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, kidney cancer, and bone marrow cancer. In Kenya, the most common type of childhood cancer is Leukemia, followed by Retinoblastoma (eye cancer) and Wilms Tumor (kidney cancer). The ages of three - seven are the peak age of childhood cancer, but much younger children can still get it.

Causes of Childhood Cancers

The causes of most childhood cancers are not known. Current data indicates that almost 5% of childhood cancers are due to an inherited mutation (a genetic mutation from parents to their children).

Most cancers in children, like in adults, are thought to develop because of genetic mutations that lead to uncontrolled cell growth and, eventually, cancer. In adults, these gene mutations reflect the cumulative effects of aging and long-term exposure to cancer-causing substances. On the other hand, identifying potential environmental causes of childhood cancer has been difficult, partly because cancer in children is rare, and it's challenging to determine what exposure the child had early in their development.



Common Signs of Childhood Cancer

1. Headaches
2. Nausea
3. Difficulty walking
4. Blurred/double vision
5. Persistent vomiting
6. Dizziness
7. Seizures
8. Difficulty handling objects
9. Lack of appetite
10. Fever
11. Fatigue
12. Body swelling

The survival rate of childhood cancers

Only 20% of Kenyan children with cancer survive, in contrast to developed countries, where the survival rate is up to 80%. It is mainly due to late diagnosis, lack of access to facilities with the capacity to make an early diagnosis, and the high cost of treatment for diagnosed cases.

Between January 2007 to January 2009, a study was conducted at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital to investigate the reasons for discontinuation of treatment by childhood cancer patients, whose survival rate was 19%.

The most common reasons given were financial difficulties (46% of respondents), lack of health insurance (27% of respondents), and transport difficulties (23% of respondents).

Some study participants reported they were discouraged from taking their children to the hospital due to negative attitudes of family members and others in the community, owing to the poor survival rates of cancer. Others expressed distrust of the health care systems, and some expressed their fears of the side effects experienced during treatment.

What is Compassion Kenya doing?

We have recorded 29 deaths out of 86 cancer illnesses reported between 2017 and 2022, translating to a more than 66% survival rate.

If diagnosed early, children can survive cancer and live healthily well into adulthood. Compassion International Kenya (CKE) pays the bulk of the hospital costs through the frontline church partners. The National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) defrays other costs for enrolled members. These include consultation

fees, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy sessions. Compassion also provides spiritual ministry and conducts sensitizations on the benefits of health screening, especially among children. We also encourage NHIF enrollment of program participants, so it is easier for all children diagnosed with cancer to seek treatment in public health facilities.

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Contributor: John Mbugua



Destined for More:

*Defining success,
one child at a time*

Audrine Ndilah was enrolled in the program when she was five years old, under the care of Teresia Ndila, her grandmother. Her story is about courage, strength, and hope in the Almighty God.

Growing up, her grandmother did odd jobs to meet their basic needs. However, this was not enough; some days, they went without food. Living with her grandmother, she learned how to pray and have faith in God. She received love from many people and became a role model at a young age.



Teresia Ndila, Audrine's grandmother

Audrine was in Ananda Marga Academy, a school approximately two kilometers from her home. When she was in Grade 8, the school had early morning classes. By 05:00, her grandmother would go with her for morning devotions at Kiembeni Baptist Church and then to school by 06:00. After dropping her off, her grandmother would go to work. Moreover, if Audrine stayed late at school, she would personally go and collect her.

In her last year in primary school, she sat for her KCPE exams and performed well. She received a scholarship from Equity Bank Wings to Fly program and admission to Murray Girls High School in Taita-Taveta, where she devoted herself to her education. Unfortunately, while in Form 2, Audrine developed a back and hip problem and found herself in and out of the hospital. Her deep belief in God's healing and power gave her hope to keep fighting, and eventually, she recovered. Today the story is a testimony to many who witnessed her pain. In Form 4, she sat for her KCSE exams and performed well, scoring a grade of B Plain.

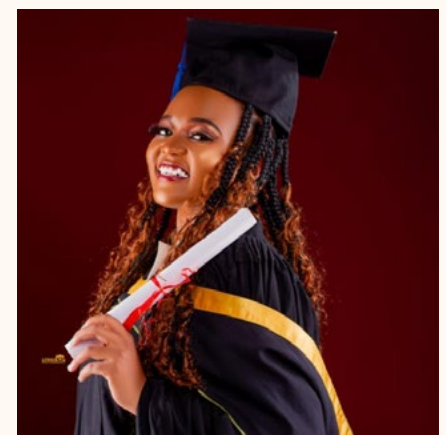
She was admitted to Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture (JKUAT) and pursued a BSc. Degree in Microbiology. To help with funding, Compassion International awarded her a scholarship through the Comprehensive Leadership Development Programme (CLDI).

During the program, she learned several skills, gravitating toward baking, as she was good at it. While in college, she utilized her skills and would sell fried peanuts that she called '*mautamu*'. She did this to make pocket money to defray her living expenses.



Audrine holding a cake she has baked

This year, she graduated with a First-Class Honors degree. We are all proud of her as she has grown into a dependable person who can achieve anything she sets her mind to accomplish. Audrine's story taught us never to give up hope. She has inspired us all and is a mentor and role model to the girls and boys at the program. We wish her success in all her future endeavors.



Audrine's graduation

KEWI offers a program participant an educational scholarship



The Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) was established by the KEWI Act 2001 and is mandated to offer training, administer examinations, and conduct research and consultancy services in the wider water sector. KEWI has earned recognition in the region for producing high-caliber human capital for the water sector. Its vision is to be a world-class center of excellence in training, research, and consultancy in water and related sectors.

One of our program participants, Daniel, received a scholarship that helped pay his full college fee and half accommodation at KEWI.

He is one of the luckiest amongst seventy program participants that was awarded a scholarship for the next one and a half years. In the first week of September, Daniel and the other program participants from our frontline church partners reported to their respective KEWI campuses.

All this was possible through an active partnership with the Kenya Water Institute. The aim was to help program participants that yearn to pursue plumbing and piping courses for their future livelihoods. A special thank you to both parties for coming up with such an initiative to benefit vibrant youths in the country.

“The more we increase the active participation and partnership with young people, the better we serve them. And the more comprehensively we work with them as service partners, the more we increase our public value to the entire community.”
Carmen Martinez.

Contributor: Kelvin.



Applause Please! Simbachai delivers a mesmerizing dramatized solo performance

In a heated battle of the arts, the Simbachai Church program impressed the twenty-sixth St. Jacob's Kaliwa Silver Jubilee Celebration, beating seasoned opponents to come out on top in the hotly contested show. The drama team put on an impressive front, with both their submissions scoring first during the celebrations held on September 10, 2022, at St. Jacob's Kaliwa Secondary School, Teso South Sub County, Busia County.

In the Dramatized Solo verse category, Simbachai program participants staged a piece, *My Fate* which is a fascinating story that explores the relationship between a child and her stepmother and the impact of child abuse, and the lack of child protection on the family and broader society.

Under the Solo Category, Veronica Akakoro emerged first with her Dramatized Solo verse, *"my fate,"* which was ranked the most touchable and teachable to society by the Literature Department led by Mr. Vincent Wabwire.

It also scored the best producer, best female dancers, as well as best choreographer. Victor Odongo, the only male dancer amongst the six, clinched the first runner's up award.

At the celebrations, the Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) Busia County Secretary. Mr. Okisai Moffat said,

"We appreciate the young, energetic ladies and gents from Simbachai CDC. We are determined to ensure our students showcase their skills, positively impacting society through art and education. We are proud of Simbachai CDC for excelling in this Silver Jubilee celebratory contest."

In other categories, the Simbachai program drama fraternity impressed the crowd

with their Dance, Simbachai Mix, which encouraged society to promote harmony, peace, forgiveness, and love as core values. The piece was named the best item in educative response and in promoting family values and human rights.

Mr. George Ochago, the Principal of St. Jacob's Kaliwa Secondary School, said,

"I am so thankful to the Simbachai CDC family for accepting our invitation. Despite the short notice, they rose to the occasion and made the day so beautiful and joyous. We salute their Patron, Project Director, the teacher in charge, and the children who have performed. Competency-Based Curriculum has been raised to a higher level."

Diana Adeng'ero, the Project Director, congratulated the team and the project for providing a rich student experience through talent identification and development. Bishop Joseph Ochili, Executive Director, Project Patron, appreciated the program participants for their sterling performance and specially recognized Victor Odongo, the only male dancer, Veronica Akakoro, the best soloist, and Gloria Amoiti, the best female dancer.



Major Health Screening Exercise for Program Participants at AIC Kanzinwa



On August 11, 2022, we carried out intensive health screening and medical diagnosis of our program participants to check their health and well-being and come up with treatment and immediate referrals for anyone who is unwell. Health is one of our priorities. We keenly monitor for each program participant to ensure holistic well-being.



Child Protection

On September 14, 2022, we had a very successful child protection meeting with over 250 caregivers. We shared our experiences and discussed issues adversely affecting children in our community and how one should go about seeking legal justice for the affected child. A good percentage of caregivers reported that the training was worthwhile and provided them with invaluable information. Due to the favorable responses from caregivers, the project director plans to invite the Kyuso Law Court personnel to the Frontline Church Partner next month. The aim is to explain how the court addresses child-related cases in terms of urgency, procedures for filing cases, key evidence required, and 'the weight' given by the law.

Birthday celebrations for Survival Babies

We joyfully marked the birthdays of several survival babies. In addition, survival mothers shared their moments with their beloved babies, prayed for their little angels, and cut and ate a cake. Moreover, we advised survival mothers on the best practices for raising children. Afterward, several survival mothers confessed that this was an ideal practice and would try to do this for all their children at home. Celebrations make the children feel known, loved, and protected, boosting their self-esteem and confidence.



Caregiver Empowerment Initiative at PCEA Thogoto Parish Program



Due to the rising cost of living, minimal job opportunities, and insufficient incomes, our caregivers struggle to make ends meet and provide for the basic needs of their families. Through Complimentary Interventions, we set up a project to assist them start-up income-generating businesses. The project aims to empower caregivers to become economically self-sufficient and improve the livelihood of their families.

In the PCEA Thogoto Parish Church program, Caroline Gathoni has successfully empowered herself by practicing pig farming. The grant-funded initiative supported Carol with building materials to set up a pigpen and funds to purchase a 3-month-old piglet. After ten months, it gave birth to twelve piglets. It was a great motivation for her, as she was finally seeing the fruits of her labor.

She made her first sale, earning Ksh.24,000, by selling eight piglets for Kshs. 3,000 each. Her business has progressed well, and she is now rearing eight sows, one boar, and eighty piglets in an expanded space.



Carol's pig farm



Carol utilizing the pig waste to feed the bio-digester

Her primary market is a local company, Farmer's choice, to whom she sells mature pigs. She also sells piglets to local farmers. Utilizing the organic waste from the pigs, she has built another revenue stream by selling clean, renewable cooking gas and rich fertilizer to local farmers. It aligns with the funding objective of championing sustainability and environmental protection.

Caroline's business has enabled her to gain financial freedom. She can pay school fees for her five children and cater to their basic needs. Her goal is to become a large-scale farmer, and she is an inspiration to her fellow caregivers.



Carol using clean, renewable gas for her cooker

Contributor:
Chukulisa Roba

International Youth Day Celebrations

On August 15, every year, we celebrate International Youth Day. However, due to the election period in Kenya, the celebrations were postponed to September 21, 2022. The event took place at our offices in Karen.



Youth asking the panel a question

***“Intergenerational Solidarity:
Creating a World for All Ages.”***

A special thank you to our National Director Samuel Wambugu, Victor Malombe, the Head of Legal Affairs of the National Youth Council Kenya, Pastor Patrick Mwenda and life coach, and Brenda Karimi, our alumnus, for gracing us with their presence. We also thank Lydia Sereya, Douglas Moseti, and all who embraced this project and committed themselves to a successful event.

We had a fun and engaging discussion on how to improve our youth development strategies. In addition, we listened to inspirational stories from our youth about their different experiences in our programs. It's always good to create a space for a child to share their stories and have their voices heard.



Youth posing with Samuel Wambugu, our National Director



Our esteemed panelists. From the left: Pastor Patrick Mwenda, life coach; Brenda Karimi, a Compassion alumnus; Samuel Wambugu, National Director for Compassion International Kenya; and Victor Malombe, Head of Legal Affairs of the National Youth Council Kenya.

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.
(Proverbs 31:8-9)



**FOR ANY
FEEDBACK OR
COMMENTS PLEASE
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