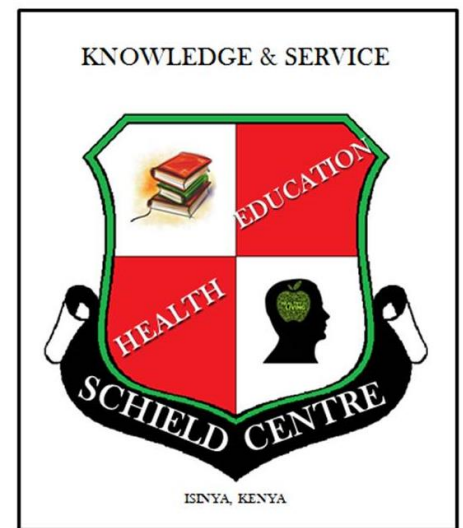


Schild Centre KINDERGARTEN & PRIMARY SCHOOL KENYA

NEWSLETTER FEB 2023



FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER.

G'DAY and HAPPY NEW YEAR from Kenya, we trust you are well. Well last year was a crazy year with terms being squeezed into 1 year – where as usually there are 3 terms.

Looking back over the last 9 years we have come a long way. To give a brief history of Schild Centre, we are a non-profit school which was founded by Patricia Schild – an American woman who in her 60's completed Montessori Teaching and came to Kenya with the vision of opening a school to assist children, particularly those who were needy. Unfortunately she never saw her dream realised



as after construction was commenced she became sick with breast cancer. She ended up dying believing that she had failed in her school mission. The unfinished school was left in trusteeship to Joseph Mboya and remained dormant until 2012, when fundraising began in Australia by Trina Mboya (and her parents) an Australian married to Joseph she decided to do something about the school which shared a boundary with Joseph's property.



Jan 2014 we opened with 3 classrooms, 1 teacher and 3 children. Now in 2023 we have 11 classrooms (one a converted dining room) and 13 fulltime teachers and 4 partime teachers who have other duties. Our student population has fluctuated between 160 and 198. Currently 170. We have had to split grade 1 into 2 classes and employ another teacher as there were more than 40 children with a 98% transition rate from preprimary which has been our best ever.

We had a huge challenge with transport as our 2 vans were completely overloaded and doing multiple trips with starting the picking at 5am. We are so thankful that now we have a 36 seater bus which has been a huge help to us. We thank all who assisted us to get this.... A huge difference!!!



Last year we had grade 8 sit their end of Primary exams which is a big thing here... we are grateful that our children did well as we had 100% transition to high school. Samuel one of our first students who has been with us from the beginning really did us proud getting 374 and the school had a mean of 289 which I thought was bad but actually people here are impressed as it was the school's first time doing these exams. He has been admitted to a Extra county School by the grace of well wishes for which we are very grateful as his mother is not at all capable of doing anything for him. He was initially despondent as he thought that he was not going to get to high school – but I told him – don't worry by whatever means necessary you will go. And now he is there. We are waiting eagerly to see how he goes, he is a dedicated and hard working student. Again big thanks to the generosity of Australians for helping with his fees and school supplies to get him into school.



Our immediate need is a multifunctional room which can be used for library/ music/ computer/ art and craft and science lab... this will also assist us when we are ready to start Junior Secondary which is grade 7-9 in the CBC new curriculum. We also have a small library of about 600 books which we hope to eventually expand to 5000 through book donations. This is currently housed in a verandah. We also have a membership with the National Library in Nairobi where we can borrow 80 books on a monthly basis which is also helping us.

We now have a registered cricket club and are grateful for cricket equipment which was given to the school from a friend in USA, we have friendly matches with a team from a School for Deaf who are close by. We also have a Scouts club – still in the initial stages and now a Red Cross Club which is teaching first aid as a start to the students. We also have spelling bee's, maths competition and am currently doing a drawing competition.



We also have a community program which runs every Saturday where children are picked or walk from the local town and come and spend the day at our place which is adjacent to the school. During this time the children learn, socialise, read stories, do art have spelling and comprehension quizzes, learn music and first aid and are provided lunch. We have trainers who come in to teach the children music, first aid, life skills and guidance and counselling. The parents are happy that their children are in a safe, clean and refreshing park-like environment which is better than the alternative being left to their own devices and unsavoury activities...many are our students but also others from elsewhere come as well. We have seen that for those from our school who



attend regularly it has a positive impact on their grades also. We do have some challenges with this program of costs of food and transport.

We are currently assisting 40+ children with school fees, transport, lunch – and for some , boarding fees. They have of backgrounds. Single mothers – whom have no support. Single mum – HIV+, with mental health and substance abuse in the mix. Orphans, and destitute children whom otherwise most likely would have become herders for livestock....etc. Our aim is to help these children break the cycle of poverty through education and to see that dreams are possible to become reality.

SEEKING SPONSORS

These children are some of the students currently being schooled at Schield Centre, essentially under the radar, or the sponsor has had been unable to continue their assistance to the child. Regardless we find a way to continuing their education until another kind hearted angel is impressed to assist.

Thanks for looking!



Jayden – PP1 – Single mother- thrown out of the house by the father. Now she is a casual worker with 2 children. Mother struggling to pay school fees.

Cost \$60 pm



Rahab – Grade 6 – from a single mother home –has been out of school for more than 6 mo. Because of finances. Average student but eager to learn ready to work hard

Cost \$60pm



Brian – G3 in care of his grandmother – father is a drunkard, mother not there. Disappeared from school 6 months.. Wanted to be in school so we readmitted him into our assistance program.

Cost 60pm



Beth – G2. Eldest of 4 siblings - From a single mother household who is survivor of domestic violence. Mother also has a disability with no stable job, just sometimes gets house help work. Struggles to provide school supplies, uniforms etc for 4 children. If not in Schield would likely not be in school due to location.



Regan – G4 - A bright boy – top 3 in his class, under the care of an Uncle, who has lost all his cows – source of income, due to drought... now unable to pay school fees.

Cost \$60pm



Jeremiah – PP – Single parent home, out of school for more than 6 months... walking in town finding food in garbage bins. Started school Jan 2023 – already seeing positive changes.

Cost \$60pm



Ronald – 1 of 4 siblings to a single mother- domestic violence survivor and with a walking disability and no steady income. Not able to pay school fees. A quiet boy, from a dysfunctional family, but now learning .

Cost \$60pm

If you are interested in helping a child have the opportunity of reaching their full potential and to have brighter future, kindly contact us for further information regarding children who are currently in our program who we are seeking a sponsor on their behalf (\$60 pm for day scholar and \$90pm for a boarding student).

Schiold Blooms is a branch project of Schiold Centre for teen mums. Has taken a little different turn, at the moment – turns out our teen mum did not want to come back to school – but was pushed by her mum. She disappeared just before school started and was found a few weeks later with a young man that she loves – could not be convinced to go home – and refused to come back to school – so we decided to help her learn a skill of her choice – hairdressing. She is currently undergoing this training, we are hoping that this will help her provide what is needed regardless of whether she is in a relationship or not. Her daughter is in our daycare..

Previously we have mentioned Junior Secondary (JSS), this is grade 7-9. This year we were not successful in getting approval for starting this. Unfortunately this means our grade 7's have had to find alternative schools to go to. This has not been easy as there are not many schools around doing this and the private schools have high fee structures. We have been told that in this county about 49% have not transitioned to JSS, this is alarming as the dropout age from school has reduced by 2 years for many of these students. We have a goal of preparing for JSS by the end of the year. This means we need to build a structure which ultimately will house 3 grades, a multifunctional room and a laboratory. We are thankful that the location of Schiold Centre ticks the boxes of a clean, safe environment, with space to develop. We are not close to any liquor outlet, we have access to water, plenty of space for a sports field, a school garden, Actually we have what a lot of schools do not have in this respect, so we trust that in God's time we will move forward in this direction.

Other than student assistance program - our current most pressing needs are,

1. Saturday feeding program \$50 per week for up to 50 children each Saturday
2. Saturday transport cost \$20 per week
3. Junior Secondary - \$5000 per classroom
4. A science lab - \$7,000
5. 2 x Solar hot water for boarding \$1200 each
6. A multi functional room – computer/library/arts and music room.
7. New girls boarding house - \$12,000
8. Reception area and administration building with staff room - \$3,000

Once again we say a **Huge Thank You** for all of your interest, support and contributions to this project. Our Australian contact is Lorraine and Don Pink +61 468 421522 or email: lorrainepink@yahoo.com.au or trinamboya@gmail.com

You can now find us on Facebook – Search: **Schiold Centre**.

May God Bless and Keep You,
Trina, Joseph, Aldino & Elrad Mboya,
Don and Lorraine Pink.



Joseph, Trina, Aldino, and Elrad Mboya