

Mathare Care Center

1.Mission Statement and Goals

The overall goal of the project is to improve the quality of life for people living with special needs in poor families in the Mathare slums by:

- Increased appropriate support for children with special needs and their families
- Increased social interaction between families with children with special needs within vicinity.
- Integration of children with special needs and young adults into the wider community.
- Education and life skills development.

2.History

Mathare care center is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that assists people with disability to build better lives through social integration, skill development, and useful representation in all aspects of life.

Mathare care Center was formed by individuals that have been affected by real challenges of having a person with disability, by having a common interest and the same challenges with the rest of the community, the idea of establishing a unique organization with a certain perspective sprung up.

3. Population Servicing

Mathare is a collection of slums in Nairobi, the slum, one of the oldest in Africa, is home to over half a million households all confined within a mere square kilometer stretch of land. survival is a daily struggle only reserved for the fittest. Livelihood bets on a backdrop of poverty, lack of basic amenities among a myriad of social complexities. Mathare care centre works with children and youth with mental and/or physical disability from Mathare slums.

4. Overview of Current Programs

The Mathare care Center several programs:

- Special education, rehabilitation; music, sports,
- New Program: vocational training where the beneficiaries will be trained on hand-on skills like candle-making, knitting and music.
- Research and publications on disability issues,
- Facilitation of equipment to enhance the mobility of the people with special needs
- Healthy meals and nutrition (Feeding program)
- Therapy and massage
- Outside trips and community event
- Educational programs and lecture

5. Statement of Need

Being unable to move and walk like any average person is a disability that makes living impossible in circumstances like the one Kenya has been in since the last couple of decades, Being naturally born with a handicap or being disabled by diseases is cited in statistics from global disability rights now to be 10% of the population (4.44 million people)

In Mathare slums, a child born with special needs is destined for a life of dependency. For the poor this burden is extreme. Disabled children can be a social, financial, mental and physical burden to their families. Through lack of knowledge and skills from the family, the children do not get the appropriate help they need. They do not go to school and hardly leave their homes. This seclusion renders them not able to develop mentally or physically. Families will often favor a healthy child over a disabled child, when it comes to food and attention.

Based on the information above, the conclusion is that many children with special needs in Mathare slums do not get the appropriate support. This project contribute to the improvements of the current situation. The project focuses on promoting awareness of the existing benefits, offer support and influence the government policy by inviting the community, government officials at all levels and law makers in order to achieve the objective.

Strategy

The best way to achieve this goals is through education. Challenging the children to develop themselves and by giving them a chance to come out of their isolation and become valuable to themselves as well as to the community.

Action Plan

- Make contact and links with other providers in the area, such as schools, clinics and homes (government and private).
- Set up an empowerment center for the empowerment of disabled children and their parents.
- Improve the accessibility of the provisions.
- Arrange transportation to provisions (hospitals, clinics and the Special Education Centre).
- Enable people living with disabilities access their basic rights i.e. education and health