



**Dear family and friends of Macecall family,**

Welcome to our Macecall Family! We are so happy to have you as friends

Thanks to the generosity of compassionate people like you, the Macecall Management does whatever it takes to ensure children grow up healthy in a safe learning environment. In fact last year alone, 8 children joined the family and 4 students graduated in college with different professions.

As you are aware our programs are designed to support the holistic development of a child, in bid to have a complete person who can easily fit in the community and positively impact on the development of their lives and the society at large

Macecall International operates in Kenya and is based in Meru County, Eastern Kenya. However, our support to children is not limited to the county of Meru. Previously children in dire need of rescue have made us reach out to the neighboring counties of Laikipia, Isiolo and Turkana counties.

# NEWSLETTER

## JULY 2020

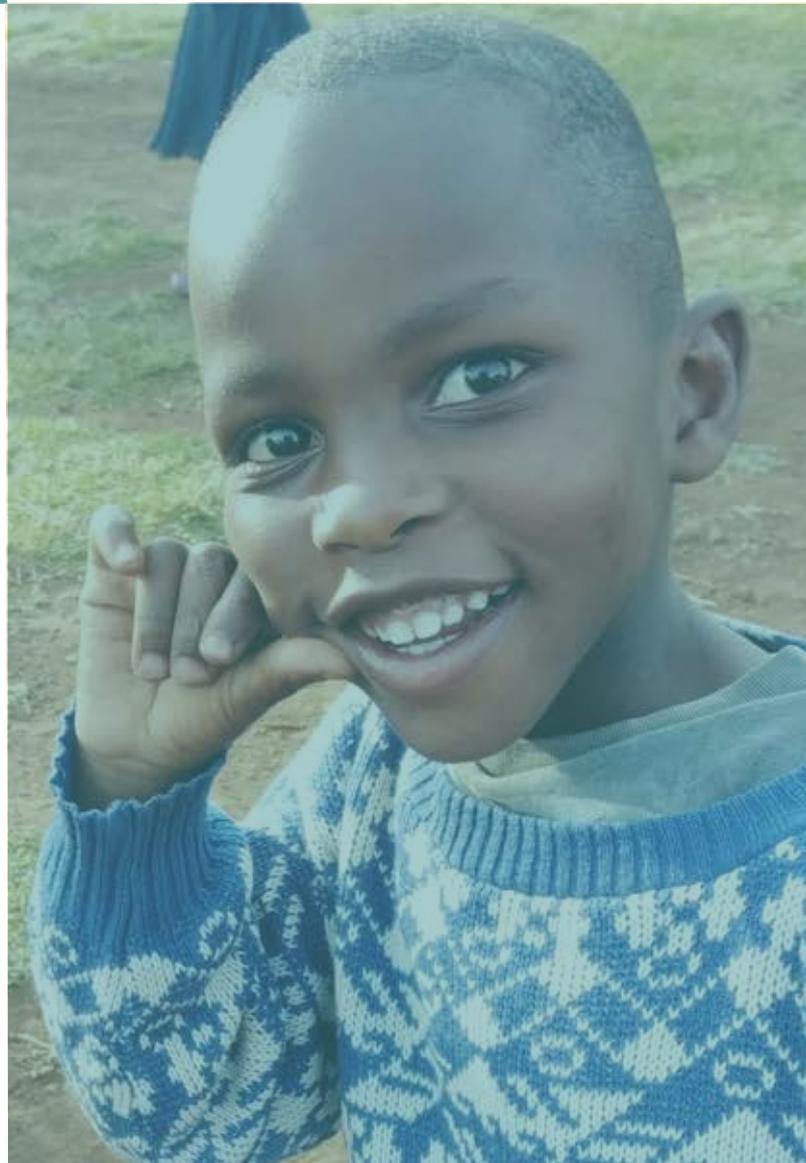
Currently, the home supports a total of 69 children of ages ranging between 5 years to 24 years in this distribution.

## CHILDREN SUPPORTED BY THE FACILITY

AGE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	
	BOYS	GIRLS
5 - 10 years	10	9
11 - 14 years	6	5
15 - 20 years	8	7
21 - 24 years	3	12
TOTAL	36	33
	69	

The home hosts a total of 48 children in the facility as residents. This means that the home takes full responsibility over the needs of these children from accommodation (shelter), food, healthcare and schooling.

The remaining 21 children are supported from elsewhere as non-residents. Some are supported from their homes while others from homes of their relatives. This somehow lifts off some weight from the home in the amount of support needed by these children. For instance, feeding, shelter and healthcare are offered by their families. However this is in exception of any major medical conditions which may require the intervention of the home In this regard therefore the program supports them in accessing education through paying their school levies and giving scholastic materials.



# TRANSITION

We have been going through a period of transition from early 2017. This has been triggered by several factors. The change has been holistic ranging from the approaches we employ in the facility programs, staffing, and new admissions and also very key has been the physical migration from our previous location in 2019.

## REASONS FOR PHYSICAL TRANSITION (KAMBAKIA TO KIIRUA)

The program has witnessed numerical growth in number of children coupled with advancement in ages of the children hosted in the facility and therefore a change was mandatory in July 2019. We needed the following as we moved our home from Kambakia near Meru town to a facility near Kiirua market which is 15km from Meru town.

- Enough space to accommodate our children i.e. spacious sleeping rooms. The previous facility was congested.
- A bigger play ground for the kids.
- A facility with enough rooms and well designed for studying and playing for the babies.
- An environment that is conducive for the growth of a child i.e. A bit distant from the influence of the nearby growing town setting
- Bring together children in one primary school for convenience in academic monitoring.
- Improve their discipline through disconnecting the children with undesirable groups who would have likely influenced them in to drugs and immorality.
- Children to have better education: A good performing school with good study culture. The best performing school in the sub-county.
- Young children to easily access school: A short distance from home to school, no busy roads to reduce danger of accidents.
- Some land where we could set up a kitchen garden for food support and enable us train children on some agricultural skills, i.e moringa herbs, vegetables, potatoes and maize.

## POSITIVE IMPACTS OF THE TRANSITION



The home has benefitted immensely from this change. The following are some of the benefits

We have had good rooms, spacious for sleeping, studying and playing for the children. Some Staff members have rooms in each dormitory i.e. for boys and girls so that they have a good check on children at night.

There is improved privacy as the grown boys and girls have their own sleeping rooms away from small children.

School performance has improved greatly.

We have witnessed a positive behavior change compared to the other years.

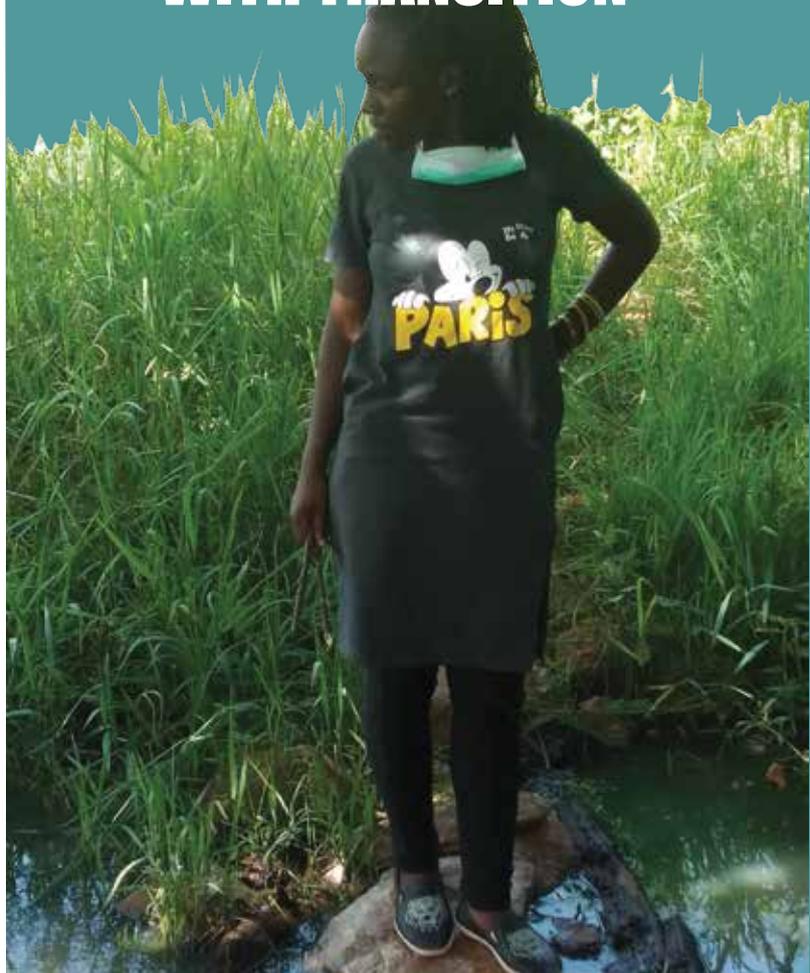
Some children have embraced farming and are setting up tree and vegetable nurseries.

Children are able to play freely since there is enough space for playing.

Any change must come with some challenges which in most times help you to learn. Our case has not been any different. Here are some of the challenges we are facing:

- At kiirua, water supply is inconsistent and costly compared to Kambakia. Monthly, water bills range up to above Ksh. 2000.
- Adjustment to new environment which is colder than the previous facility at first posed a few health cases of flu, leading to higher expenditure on hospital bills than before.
- Adjusting to a new church, since we could not cover the expenses for transport which would amount to approximately Ksh. 2500 to the former church has proved to be a challenge.
- This new facility has come at a cost.

## CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSITION



# STAFFING

The home has currently 9 members of staff. They include; the director, manager, accountant, programs coordinator, two house mothers (Nannies), cook, grounds man and a social work volunteer. These professionals operating the home also work with willing parents, child protective services and the court system to help parents and children be reunited and make families whole again where possible.

## STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

### The Management

The director, manager and the accountant work to ensure that the needs of the children and other staff members are met. They execute the duty of resource mobilization and fund raising among other management duties.

### The Nannies

The facility has a total of 19 children aged between 5 years and 10 years and another 7 who are slightly above age 10. This category of children is delicate and requires proper handling and therefore, the two Nannies have the following responsibilities;

- In charge of house hygiene for the small children
- Ensures the children are clean and well dressed for school
- Accompanies little children to school in the morning and picks them after school.
- Ensures children feed well, teaching them good dining behaviors.
- Works in coordination with the coordinator to ensure children stay healthy by taking them to hospital in case of sickness.
- Helping adolescent girls to transition smoothly by taking them through the changes they expect.
- Being physically present in the children play rooms to ensure children play safe

### The Volunteer

The volunteer works with the program coordinator to ensure psychosocial support mechanisms in the home are executed well.

### The Programs Coordinator

The programs coordinator has the following key responsibilities;

- Ensures the activities in the home are well coordinated through objectively planning with the staff on the ground.
- He is in charge of the social, emotional and physical welfare of the children.
- Taking charge of the academic development of the children through performance tracking, attending academic clinics in schools, attending parents meetings in school and helping children with their home work.
- In charge of children discipline in and out of the home
- Monitoring the health of children and advising management on matters health of the children.
- Preparing periodic general reports.
- Ensures children are learning real life activities such as personal hygiene, cooking, good mannerism, leadership, among others.

### The Grounds Man

The grounds man takes care of the compound (ensures flower beds and grass are neatly trimmed) and also maintains the small garden of vegetables.

### The Cook

The cook has two major roles to play; He prepares balanced diet meals for children and trains the children on how to prepare meals and kitchen hygiene. Has a well organized schedule to engage children in the kitchen activities for them to learn.

# EDUCATION

Currently, we are supporting 66 children with their education in the levels of primary education, secondary school education and those in colleges and universities.

## Secondary School

At this level we have 8 children in different secondary schools. Half of this number comprises of form one student, who were candidates of the national exam which they performed fairly well. The rest are distributed over in other classes their progressive reports also have shown that they are working hard in every examination to improve their grades.

## Tertiary Institutions

We have Thirteen 13 beneficiaries in colleges and vocational institutions this year 2020 ,of which one of them namely Betty Kinya got grade B+ in her last year (KCSE ) Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education and has qualified for 2020 University intake.

## Special School

The home has one (1) person with special needs and had been attending a special school. Jackline Mwendwa had been enrolled for a beauty therapy course but developed health issues due to the cold climate of the place of training and so had to be discontinued as we look for a school suitable for her ability and favorable climate.

## Accomplished School

We are happy to announce that in 2019 year, Three (3) of the students graduated in different areas of professions.

- 1-Berita Mwendu : Diploma in Education
- 2-Fridah Karimi : Diploma in Education
- 3-Samuel Mutembei: Driving and Transportation

Also Four (4) other students were reunited with their families who were willing to take care of them.

## Primary School

Majority of the children in the home are at this level of education. Precisely, we have 40 out of the 69 school going children in primary school settings. Currently primary school sector in Kenya has two systems at work and we have children in both systems. We have our children in class 5 to class 8 learning under the old curriculum system of education of 8-4-4. The other curriculum is competence based (CBC)

### The Competence Based Curriculum (CBC)

Kenyan education sector is in a transition from the 8-4-4 system to a (2-) system also known as the CBC. This new system is not exam oriented as the 8-4-4 and evaluates the learner's knowledge holistically." Knowledge is knowledge, written, oral or portrayed", so they say. This system has the abilities of the learner at forefront.

This system has impacted greatly on the development of sense responsibility in children at early age. Children are currently learning to do activities on their own as opposed to the former system. Activities like washing clothes are trained and are testable in school and this helps the child to be self reliant at early age. Emphasis is also put on handicraft, art, and this is aimed at promoting creativity and innovation among children as they grow with the system of education. Since the system is in its initial stages, the children taking up the lessons are from pre-primary 1, pre-primary 2 , grade 1 up to grade 4 of which we have 11 children in these grade

Our children in the CBC have been performing exemplary, with top ranks in PP2, Grade 1 grade 2 and grade 3, secured by our children in this order, Elsie Gakii - grade 3, Chris Mawira –grade 2, Franklin Thuringia - grade 1 and Alex Muriungi- PP2.

This year, we have big number of candidates in class eight and by far more promising than years before, awaiting the national examination in November 2020. We are hopeful that the corona virus menace in the world shall end so that children shall be back in school in good time to prepare for the examination.

We thank God that most of our children are of good health. However, we have one child who has been struggling with cerebrospinal Malaria. Margaret Muthoni, a 8 years old girl is the only child we have in the

home requiring special medical attention. Monthly, Margret requires medications amounting to Ksh. 3000. Thankfully to God, the girl is stabilizing. The programs associated with health in the country like any other part of the world have been hardly hit by the emergence of the novel corona virus which is killing many and maiming the world's economy. In brief the disease has affected us as discussed below.

## Corona Virus (COVID-19) and its impact on the family

Macecall family thanks almighty God for His divine protection over every one of us. Kenya is experiencing a rapid increase in the number of infections of COVID-19 with statistics as of today 6th July, 2020 indicating 8067 cases of infection with 164 deaths and 2414 recoveries. Comparing these statistics with the heavily hit countries worldwide, someone could easily down play the severity of the impact of the disease in the country. Unpreparedness, inadequate facilities and testing kits are proving to be a challenge in the fight against COVID-19 in the country.

As a consequence to this pandemic, Kenya is on an economic crisis. Industries are closing down, schools are closed, businesses have collapsed, movement has been restricted during the night, churches have been banned and therefore the greater percentage of the population in the country are ravaging in hunger and poverty. Life is not as normal as it has been before the virus.

As a family, this pandemic has affected us in the following ways;

- Spiritually, we have been dealt a blow. Children are not accessing spiritual nourishment which is key to their growth.
- Children are now in their 5th month at home. No school and this will affect their academic performance.
- Due to movement restrictions, food supply has been a challenge.
- There is increased cost of living since prices of basic commodities have been hiked.
- Reduced support from well-wishers because the economic strain affecting everyone in the country.
- Accessing health services has become extremely hard. Hospitals are disregarding other cases requiring medical attention, terming them as minor issues which can wait.



## Adjusting to life during this Pandemic ( From late February to date )

Having seen and heard how devastating this disease is, the home is taking WHO and Ministry Of Health guidelines with utmost seriousness it deserves. Figuratively, our home is " LOCKED". No visitors are expected to mingle with our children, no in and out movements for children in the home.

This among other safety measures with God's divine protection we know shall keep us safe. Despite the many shortcomings of the disease, we have used this period for the betterment of the children. We have programs in place to keep the children engaged.

They include:

### Spiritual Programs

We have set up a worship and bible study programs in the home so that we can provide the spiritual nourishment to the children.

### Education

We are trying to assist the children academically by having classes organized for revision exercises especially for the candidates in standard eight and form four. This is aimed at supplementing what the children could have accessed academically if they were in school.

### Team Building Activities

During this period, we have had enough time to play games which are intended to promote cohesiveness among the members of the family. Such activities involve competitive mind and team games.

### Tremor Release Exercises (TRE)

This are physical exercises with are both physical and emotional body relievers. They include objectively guided stretches aimed at helping the body release toxins and give emotional relief to the brains of children.

### Leadership training sessions

These are sessions organized by the coordinator and the social work volunteer to train children on leadership skills. Since some of our children are already in positions of leadership in school and church, this program is aimed to mentor them towards good leadership. One of our academically endowed children, Collins Bundi aspires to venture into political leadership in future and this training we think best moulds his dream.

### Talent search and nurturing existing talents

Our children are blessed with a variety of talents. Some have already realized them but others are yet to know how differently God has blessed them. This program involves activities such as singing, dancing, bead work, public speaking, bible studying, and fashion designing, drawing and playing musical instruments.

On this so far, we have our children excelling in these fields and would wish to turn them into a career after their education. To note a few, in 2019, we had one girl, Hillary Murugi attracting the eyes of a music production firm and was given a chance to compose and record a gospel song with them.

Another child, a boy by the name Erick Gitonga who aspires to be a spiritual leader, was selected among a number of junior youth team to be trained by a Christian Organization, CEF as a Sunday school trainer in 2019 and 2020 consecutively. He had an amazing Grasp of the content and has been teaching on the topic of JESUS FORGIVES SIN. The program takes place in the month of December when children are on holiday.

Generally, although the disease has affected us negatively, we are maximizing on the opportunity to interact more with the children , learn them better, help them grow in a Godly way, help the children understand who they are and what they can do best. Hopefully, life will come back to normalcy in God's right time.

Dear friends,

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your extremely generous contribution of KSH 3,464,005.14/= 2019 - 2020 year to Macecall Family. This was as follows:

	Kenya Shillings
Donation from Friends of Macecall : Ark Home Norway and USA Friends	2,776,702.14
Donation from friends/ groups in Kenya	259,544
Total Cash Donation	3,036,246.14
Donation in Kind( items) from groups in Kenya	427,759
<b>Total 2019 Donations</b>	<b>3,464,005.14</b>

Annual donations like yours have helped keep the home during tough economic times and enable us to provide a safe haven for children in crisis.

As you are aware parents who, for whatever unfortunate reasons, are unable to adequately care for their dependants leave these minor children in dire circumstances. Donations like yours to Macecall Family provide these children with a warm, secure place to stay where they receive nutritious meals, a comfortable bed and bathroom, education, help with homework, exercise and organized recreational activities, spiritual guidance and therapy.

Some of the items your generous donation was used include food, school supplies, clothing, toiletries, and grooming products, and utility costs. Within the year several volunteers has provided different services which has really added value to the Home. It takes many different types of donations to keep Macecall Family running and your monetary contribution is an important one that is greatly appreciated.

Macecall program requires Ksh.6 million annually to adequately meet the needs of the children and caregivers. Therefore your sustained financial support is highly desirable. We look forward to a successful implementation of our programs in the second part of 2020.

With Sincere Gratitude,  
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