

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13 v13

Dear Friends,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been a busy year for us so far and we have much to be thankful to God for as the organisation continues to provide holistic support and care for families in Njoro. This is only made possible by God's grace and your support, so from all the families, staff, Board members and Trustees, thank you.

## HOLIDAY CLUB

We were encouraged by the number of children who came to the holiday club in April. Between 120-142 children attended each day. For the first time we provided a meal instead of a small snack. This obviously involved more planning and work, so once again, we are thankful to all the volunteers and staff who helped during the club. The decision to provide a meal was taken after we became aware that because the children were not in school, a number of them were not eating meals from one day to the next, so for those children, the meal at club was the only meal they were getting. Another addition to the club was the provision for preschool children. Previously we had restricted the club to school aged children. However, during the holidays older siblings are often left to care for the younger ones and our age restriction was preventing them from coming. On the final day of club parents were invited to come and hear what the children had been learning about. This was a great opportunity to get to know parents and share the gospel with them. We continue to pray that we would see spiritual fruit from the seeds planted during the club.



*The preschool group enjoying their meal.*

## EDUCATION SUPPORT

The creation of Junior High Schools last year meant many parents were unable to afford to send their children to school at the start of the new year or keep up with ongoing fees. Under the new system, the children attend Primary school classes 1-6, Junior High School classes 7-8, then progress to High School. Children moving up to Junior High are in the same location as they were for primary school, have the same teachers and are taught in the same classrooms yet they are required to have a new uniform and pay admission costs for starting, which includes buying reams of paper. Some of the individual costs have been as much as 11,000ksh. This is unaffordable for parents who earn only 300-500ksh per day. We want to thank everyone who has been so generous and given support financially to the charity that has enable us to support children with education costs. Since the start of the year, we have assisted 14 children with school costs, meaning that they can continue their education. Parents have been given work papering at the APT workshop which has helped them to save and contribute towards the costs.

## TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

At the start of the year staff completed a 10-day training in Working with Children with Developmental Disabilities and their Caregivers. It was a pleasure to have members of staff from The Action Foundation and The Metropolitan Sanctuary join us for the training. Since then, Beth has been implementing the methods taught using the tool kit and passing the knowledge to parents. She will be leading workshops for caregivers that focus on play, feeding and communication as well as continuing with home visits to ensure the caregiver has understood everything and is supported to implement the knowledge at home.



We can give thanks for the play training day Beth ran last month which was well received by all caregivers. We know that play is crucial for the child's physical, cognitive, social and emotional development but for children with disabilities in Njoro the opportunity to play can be very limited due to their physical restrictions and lack of resources. During the day caregivers participated in activities to help them learn about the importance of play for development, how they can adapt games and toys to be suitable for their child, how they can help their child to play, and they all had a go at making toys using cheap or free locally sourced materials. For the children, it was a full day of playing which none of them had ever had before.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Working with the men in the families has always been a challenge to us and a burden that we have had since the formation of The Potter's House CBO. We have now started a monthly men's breakfast meeting and invite men from the families we work with and other men from the community that we know are struggling with various issues. The meetings are structured rather than just a social gathering and include a short gospel message, discussion on a topic relevant to the men and of course, breakfast! Already we are seeing a softening of attitudes and a keenness to share personal experiences. We continue to trust and pray that God will use these meetings to draw men to Himself.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Give thanks for the training opportunities and the work the team are doing supporting families with children with disabilities.*
- *Pray for the children and parents who came to the holiday club.*
- *Pray for the men coming to the Men's Breakfast and the staff leading it.*

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