



St. John Bosco

An Educational Outreach for Needy Children

— Kitale, Kenya —



“For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.”

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9



Executive Summary

Description

This outreach rehabilitates vulnerable children after helping them escape life on the streets by providing them with an education, a safe environment in which to learn and play, proper nutrition, and hope.

Purpose

To rescue orphans and vulnerable children from the streets, place them in schools, and reunite them with their families.

Location

Diocese of Kitale in Kitale, Kenya.

Cost

\$79,200

Highlights

NEED

- The Turkana Tribe of Northern Kenya comprises pastoralists who tend goats, cows and camels. Some have had their animals die during times of drought, forcing them to relocate to impoverished communities like the slum camps outside Kitale. There, many families end up living in dome-shaped homes that are cobbled together from sticks, plastic sheets and other discarded items.
- Children from poor neighborhoods can be found on the streets begging for food. This makes them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, and some may even face an untimely death from poor nutrition, disease or substance abuse.
- The most impoverished parents cannot afford school uniforms, lunches, textbooks and school fees, so they do not enroll their children in schools.

IMPACT

- Needy children served by the St. John Bosco Rehabilitation Center first receive an informal educational guidance to rehabilitate them from the culture of street life and prepare them for enrollment in the formal school system.
- After completing the fourth grade, children leave the center and are placed in Catholic primary boarding schools. Then they have opportunities to attend secondary schools and finally college or university — if they want to pursue higher learning.
- Students who complete a vocational training course or a college-level program are asked to serve as mentors to other students who are following in their footsteps.
- The center also provides the children with proper nutrition, a safe environment and medical care.
- At Catholic boarding schools, the children receive PPI (Pastoral Program Instruction) on a weekly basis. They are also taught Christian religious education on a weekly basis as a formally tested subject.





Providing Education for Vulnerable Children

In Mark's gospel, after Jesus cured the blind man, it took time for the healed man to become acclimated to his restored sight. After years of living with hardship, it can take time to be fully transformed — even by an incredible blessing. Positive change can take time, and the wisest ministries we partner with understand how to work patiently through that kind of adjustment.

Like the man in Mark's gospel, many poor children in the Diocese of Kitale, Kenya, have had their lives dominated by trauma and need time to adjust and be reintegrated into society after years of undergoing those challenges.

Many come from slum neighbors primarily made up of relocated — and often disoriented — families from the Turkana tribe in northern Kenya. In many cases, they and their parents grew up tending herds. But when droughts or other hardships took away that livelihood, it has been necessary for them to find other ways to survive. Those with little or nothing left have ended up in Kitale's most economically depressed neighborhoods, where families reside in dome-shaped homes fashioned from sticks, plastic sheets and other discarded items.

These communities expose them to alcohol abuse, poor sanitation, and medical problems such as malaria, TB and AIDS, and high unemployment rates perpetuate this poverty. As children face a dire need for food, they can be found begging in the streets where they also become vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Fortunately, the Diocese of Kitale became aware of this great tragedy and has taken courageous steps to show Christ's mercy to these poor neighbors. Through their St. John Bosco Rehabilitation Center, they work to rescue vulnerable children from the streets of Kitale, restore their health, and provide them with life-transforming opportunities for educational and spiritual growth. Because many of these children have become accustomed to a life of hardships, the process takes time and patience, but like the healed man in Mark's gospel, its objectives are ultimately successful. In fact, some young children enter the center unable to read or write but eventually can achieve the highest levels of education through the programs being offered.

While this wonderful ministry has a track record of changing lives and blessing families, we in the Church must give generously for it to continue its successful outreach. Your gift today will help fund staff salaries and benefits, provide food, and cover the costs of transportation, school uniforms and supplies. It will also ensure the center has the resources it needs for maintenance expenses, medical treatments and the extracurricular activities it offers the 158 children currently being served.

Jesus brought light to the blind man, glorifying God through his miracle. You can glorify the Father too. Bring the light of hope into the lives of these needy children and families today!



Duncan Ejikon at his home in Kitale's outer city slum neighborhood.



Give Generously

When his sight was restored, the healed man said, “I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.” After living in the dark for so long, it took time for him to be rehabilitated and adjusted to the light. Tragically, that’s how it is for many of Kenya’s poorest children. After years of destitution and hardship, they need our love and patient care to overcome their trials and achieve their full potential.



You can help the Diocese of Kitale provide these children with the time, love and resources they need to escape street life and pursue a brighter future. Help us empower them with an education and the life-transforming spiritual guidance they crave. Your contribution to this holy mission will do more than free these vulnerable children from a life of poverty. It will give them the security, wisdom and resources they need to become strong Catholic leaders in their homes and communities!

Our Mission

We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Good Stewardship

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.



Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2023, the close of our ministry’s fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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