

JGMA Primary School Excels in Government Testing

In Kenya, education advancement and school reputation is all based on the government test results of 8th and 12th graders. The 8th grade test results are published in early January and the 12th grade results are published in February. The students entering high school with the highest test scores typically go on to government schools, which are essentially free but have limited enrollment. As a result, parents are on the lookout to send their primary (elementary) students to the schools that had the highest scores in hopes that their children will qualify for a free high school education. The test results for the JGMA 8th graders were the highest ever recorded for the school. This gave immediate recognition to the school and quickly filled up classrooms when registration opened in January. The 12th grade test results will be published in February and that will determine the number of students entering 9th grade primarily. The high school has already received a record number of students for January and may fill up **completely. Once the new Girls' Dorm is completed**, capacity for the high school will increase and allow us to take advantage of



this increased demand. Congratulations to all the teachers and staff at the school for a job well done!

Remembering Kagendo

*Elvira
Kagendo
Mburu*



succumbed to cancer in September after over a year of battling the disease. She was an important part of the development of the PCH Orphanage, having opened the first Home (Ebenezer) in 2005 and welcoming the first orphans to the campus that year. Kagendo is survived by her husband, Kenneth, and three children. She was instrumental in the growth of the orphanage and in the development of the children that have lived there. The design of the Rehoboth Home had a lot of Kagendo's fingerprints on it. It was hoped that she would take on a more supervisory role in the future as more homes are built out, but she did prepare the orphanage for the growth that is to come. It will take two Home Mothers and an Orphanage manager to fill all her roles. The orphans were very saddened by her death, and grieved as if she were their biological mother. With the tree funds given to the Christmas Wish List, the children planted sapplings around the Homes in her honor and memory. You will be missed Kagendo. Heaven has gained from our loss.

Providence Children's Home

End of 2015 Newsletter

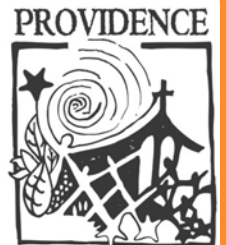


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& Community Center**



Six PCH Orphans Graduate from High School

At the end of 2015, six more orphans graduated from high school at Joram Gitau Memorial Academy (JGMA). These girls have reached a level of education that they **couldn't dream was possible ten years** earlier, when many of them came to PCH. Now they are ready for more. In Kenya, end of school test scores determine the next direction for each student. Some will qualify for government subsidized college, others will be eligible for private colleges, while others may move on to further vocational training. The tests were taken in November, but the results are not available until late February. While the girls are waiting, PCH is providing them with computer classes that will supplement their preparation for advanced education at any level. Depending on which schools the girls will attend, they will begin school in the spring or summer. The College/Vocation Fund provides the financial means for the girls to attend these schools.

If you would like to make a donation dedicated to this cause, just denote this fund on your check or through the GIVE link on our website.

HOUSTON AREA GOLF TOURNAMENT A BIG SUCCESS

In October 2015, PCH and the Men's Ministry of Sugar Land First United Methodist Church (SLFUMC) held the Ron Barker Memorial Golf Tournament & Banquet. This is the third consecutive year that PCH has partnered in this event and all net proceeds were given to PCH. This was a great blessing to the efforts to build up **reserves for construction of the new Girls' Dorm**. Over \$20,000 was received as a result of the event and those who participated had a lot of fun. We have agreed to partner in the 2016 golf tournament. Once the date is determined, this will be publicized on our website and Facebook page. If you live in the Houston area, please check these regularly so you **don't miss out on this event**.



NEW GIRL'S DORM TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION IN 2016

The reserves for the construction of the **new Girls' Dorm** are sufficient to break ground in early 2016. A final design is still being worked out, but it is expected that starting the foundation will begin in the next couple of months. In addition to increasing bed space for up to 300 students, the dorm will improve living conditions through indoor plumbing, hot showers, study areas and areas for social gatherings. Many of these features will be unique to JGMA compared with other boarding schools in Kenya. It is expected that this will help to draw more outside paying students, thus increasing the financial sustainability of the school. The orphans who live in the dorm will also have similar living conditions to those in the orphanage homes. We are still needed about \$40,000 to complete the construction, so your donations for the **Girls' Dorm Fund will go directly to this project** and help us to complete construction without interruption.



New Staff at PCH

Orphanage

As a result of many of the developments mentioned above, there have been several new staff added to the Orphanage. Here are some of them with their backgrounds.



**Grace Wamucii -
Home Mother**

Grace, who will be the Rehobth Home Mother, is rich in experience dealing with children. As a new Home Mother at PCH, Grace has been a social worker with Embrace a Street Child, a non-profit organization in Kitale, a place where she was born, that helps street children. She is also a church leader and preacher. Grace is a holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of Nairobi and also has a certificate in Business Management from the Kenya Institute of Management. With her wide range of experience and skills, she has worked with a number of children homes and has always found it easy to deal with children of different ages.



**Mary Namukuru
Masinde -
Volunteer**

Born in October 1984, Namukuru is a native of Thika, Kiambu County. She worked as a Nurse Aid at the British American Tobacco Company for a few months as an attachee and was responsible for observing and reporting patients' progress in the company's clinic. She is currently a volunteer social worker at PCH. She has been advocating for the rights of the disabled children in the society and has been recognized by several Non-profit organizations both in Thika and Kisumu. Namukuru was awarded with a Certificate in Social Work and Community Development from Thika Training Institute, and later pursued a Diploma in the same field of study.



**Ann Njoki Kairu
- Cook**

Njoki is a 35 year old cateress currently cooking for PCH, replacing Peninnah. She has a rich experience in her field

having worked for a total of nine years as a cateress. She was recommended by both Diamond Academy where she worked as a cook for 2 years and Mainflow Academy where she worked for 7 years, both in Kajiado County. She was trained at Namukhula Dressmaking and Fashion Centre in dressmaking and has passion for kids. She has dedicated her free time to visit different orphanages and sharing with the less fortunate.



**Topister Juma –
Social Worker**

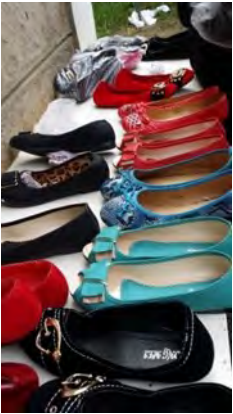
Topister will be replacing the Rehoboth social worker, Jane, who was married a year ago and has just had a baby. She also helps the children with their school work while at home. After graduation, Topister lived in Eldoret for two months before moving to Nairobi. She holds a Certificate and Diploma in Social Work from the University of Eldoret, formerly known as Eldoret National Polytechnic.

[Welcome to the PCH Family !](#)

Christmas Wish List for Orphans Reaches Goal



Thank you to all the people and churches who contributed to the PCH Christmas Wish List, many through the alternative Christmas giving programs at your church. Your gifts exceeded the Wish List requests, allowing all the items budgeted to be provided and the extra money to be put in the PCH General Fund. The



children and Staff enjoyed their parties in December and the girls had a lot of fun on their trip to a local park. Dresses, shoes and gifts were also distributed to each girl, with some of the older girls now making fashion statements.



The chicken project got off to a great start with the first batch of 200 chickens. 35 of these were consumed by the orphans and the rest were quickly bought up by the staff at the Home and School. There was so much demand



the next batch of chickens is on the way with 300 baby chicks.



Trees were planted around the Home in honor of the late Elvira Kagendo Mburu, the beloved Home Mother for the girls who died of cancer last fall.



We intend to offer a Christmas Wish List again this fall, so your comments and feedback are welcome to help us improve how this is communicated and how this can be better used within your **church's alternative giving program.**