

Kawempe Youth Centre Newsletter

Transforming lives through Kawempe Youth Centre (KYC)'s Community Outreach Program

By Esther Kyazike Ginda, KYC CEO

There is generally a lack of access to information on health, sanitation and hygiene issues related to the girl child. In the Ugandan culture, it is a taboo to talk about sexual related issues and so many of the girls get information from their peers or are just ignorant about issues that affect their health. Also there is a very big lack of sanitary pads usage. Many of the youth come from very low income families, many affected by HIV/AIDS, and without a platform to develop their talents and or share their life experiences.

Among its interventions, KYC facilitates health talks at the centre and in schools with main focus on the girls. One of the approaches used in the talks to help the girls open up through the discussions is dance therapy. As the girls dance they gain the confidence to share their story and ask questions related to the topics discussed.

At the partner schools, KYC facilitates health talks to both boys and girls in partnership with Straight Talk foundation which provides health information material to the youth. KYC has provided re-usable sanitary pads in partnership with AFRIPads to about 199 girls.

KYC also works with the health department through the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA)-Kawempe division to provide health information services and other sensitization activities in the community.

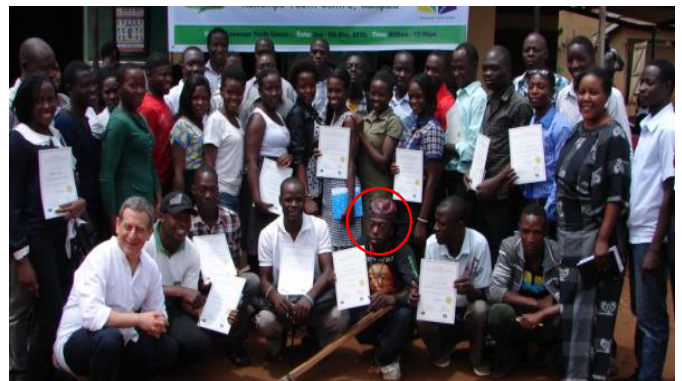
KYC has a dance group of youth from Kawempe community who are trained in dance, soft skills and have an opportunity to use the library services for free. Once in a while, the dance group is invited to perform at functions such as weddings, graduation parties and the income generated is used to sustain the activity. The group also performs cultural dances for the foreign volunteers received at the centre as a way of sharing and orienting the volunteers about our culture.

Over time, the youth have gained confidence and self esteem. Some youth in the dance group received school fees sponsorship from individuals in the Netherlands. ■

SHOE PROJECT; YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

By Esther Kyazike Ginda, KYC CEO

In May 2015, KYC was privileged to host Ronnie Dunetz, a Senior Business and Life Coach, Founder of “Dunetz for Entrepreneurs”, from Israel to facilitate a 4 days youth workshop intended to coach and empower young entrepreneurs. A follow up on the participants has been done to find out how far they have reached with their business action plans. A few of them have informed us about starting small businesses and others improving their sales. Among them is a young man named Namawa Benson (in red circle in picture below) who makes African sandals from shoe lace material and is now working in partnership with KYC to train more young people in shoe making and marketing of the product. Since the capacity of KYC is small in terms of space and finances, 5 young people have been trained and are now being hosted by KYC to make shoes to earn a living. It is planned that in 2016, at least more 15 youth will be trained and recruited in the shoe making business to enable them earn a living. ■





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LIBRARY NEWS:

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE IN 2015

By Bulyaba Ruth, KYC Library assistant

KYC operates a mobile library service in 18 schools through providing books and facilitating reading sessions in class during the school term. Each school recommends 2 teachers as contact persons for the service in the respective schools.

By the end of November 2015, 8 new schools have joined the mobile library service increasing the number from 18 to 26 schools. Increasingly, schools are beginning to take the initiative to visit KYC to know more about the service. Some of these schools have got to know about the service through word of mouth from partner schools that are already benefitting from the service.

After the donation of a book shelf to Exodus Community School to recognize them for good and creative book management in the previous teachers' workshop, many schools got inspired in improving their book management systems. Plans are underway to support the schools in this initiative.

It has been noted that throughout the year, few books got lost and or damaged, and in most cases the misplaced books were easily traced due to the improvement in records keeping and management of library books in some of the schools. In Glorious P/S, parents are involved in the borrowing of the mobile library books. The pupils are also fully involved in the selecting of which books they want to read.

Out of the last teachers' workshop, many of the schools have invited KYC to assist them in setting up school libraries. Some schools have also gained interest in redesigning their classes to create a stimulating learning environment for children.

It has also been noted that the registered mobile library teachers have not changed schools. This has enabled KYC to have continuity in the effective management of books as both parties put in practice what they learnt through the teachers' workshops.

We want to appreciate Mirembe Foundation for supporting the capacity building of school teachers in the recently concluded project. ■

LIBRARY NEWS: CONSUMER HEALTH INFORMATION WORKSHOP

By Esther Kyazike Ginda, KYC CEO

From November 3rd – 5th November 2015, KYC was invited to attend an electronic resources training workshop on Consumer Health Information which was offered under the leadership of Albert Cook Library, Makerere University and the Network of African Medical Librarians (NAML).

Participants acquired knowledge and skills on how to provide health information through their libraries. A number of websites such as PubMed, NCBI, CancerNet, MedlinePlus and Centre for Disease Control (CDC) were shared with participants and were taken through the process of using them to enable them effectively provide relevant health information services to the library clients. Participants were cautioned against becoming doctors or turning libraries into clinics but to wisely give out information to those that needed it and refer them to hospitals. A session on how to market health information to the communities through Web tools such twitter and dropbox was carried out. Participants also got an opportunity to learn the Boolean operators which enables one to formulate effective searches on the internet.

It was noted that the knowledge received was good and timely although most libraries expressed need for funds,

staffing and access to internet to implement such a project. ■ *Bobson Musamali at KYC*

**PARTNERSHIPS:
KYC COMMUNITY OUTREACH WITH
CHARITY FOR DEVELOPMENT WOMEN'S
GROUP & KISOWERA CHURCH OF UGANDA**

Through partnership with Kisowera Church of Uganda, Kawempe, KYC hosted a group of women from Charity for development Women's Group in September 2015 to implement an outreach activity in the community. The Group's main objective is to promote women's participation in developmental projects that are created by the Group. During their visit they shared the Word of God during the Church service and after then donated food and clothing to the vulnerable people in the community that were identified by the church.

The Management of KYC do thank Reverand Bobson Musamali for mobilizing the people and receiving the women's group. Special thanks also go to the Women's Group for identifying with the people of Kisowera Zone, Kawempe. ■



Some of the women from the Charity group with Rev.

**PARTNERSHIPS:
JAWC DIALOGUE: 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**
By Leonard Musoolooza, KYC Social Worker

Justice and Advocacy for women and Children Uganda (JAWCU) is a national organisation whose goal is to promote equal opportunities for women, the girl child and the youth to achieve economic independence and enable meaningful participation in governance and development process. JAWCU in partnership with Uganda Youth Network (UYONET) and Youth Initiative for Youth Action with support from Oxafam are implementing a project aimed at improving access to sustainable livelihood means of the young people in Uganda. Among the activities under the project, JAWCU joined the global campaign of raising awareness and commitment to end violence against women.

During the 16 days of activism JAWCU in partnership with KYC organised a one day community dialogue meeting at the centre. The theme for the dialogue was "From peace in the home, to Peace in the Nation: Enhance economic livelihood for social transformation through safe education for all and end gender based violence in Uganda. ■

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*On Behalf of the management of
Kawempe Youth Centre, we would
like to wish our friends & partners
a Happy New Year.*