

The Nairobi University Social Work Students Association (NUSWSA) Chaired by Mr. Harold Mwaluda organized a visit to the Kwetu Children's Home of Peace on Saturday, 25th October 2014 with a primary focus of practicing the theoretical part of social work learnt in class in the field. Objectives included offering motivational talks to build hope in the children, sharing experiences, playing with the children, engage with social work practitioners in the home, help come up with a home action plan and donations of items to meet their social welfare needs.

The student commenced their journey to the centre at 11.00 a.m. and arrived at noon. The NUSWSA Chairman presided over the programs and was responsible in giving the requisite directions for purposes of efficient navigation through the various processes in the event.

Kwetu Children's Home of Peace Ruai branch, is a rehabilitation centre for street children, boys, aged between 8-18 years located 28 Km from the Nairobi Central Business District. The home started as a feeding programme in the early 90's for destitute children who would visit the center daily to at least get one meal, a shower and a fresh change of clothes. As the number of boys increased the centre put up a temporary house to give the boys a place to spend the night while they roamed the streets by day. In the streets the children engaged in petty crimes, drug abuse and illegal income generating activities.

These children choose to live in the streets due to frequent fights and tensions in the home. At *Kwetu*, the centre is working with their families to help reconstruct the home in anticipation of re-uniting the boys with their parents after rehabilitation.

On arrival, the social work students were welcomed by Mr. Patrick Mbere a staff member in the children's home where he assigned each child a responsibility to usher in the students. The students settled in the designated venue and the occasion began as per the plan lay out of the event. The students introduced themselves by name and laid out candidly the purpose of the visit. The Mistress of Ceremony Miss Marceline Omondi and the Master of Ceremony The NUSWSA Chairman Mr. Harold Mwaluda steered, with immense tact, the programs of the event and constantly kept both the children and the students stirred up by rolling out a successive series of tickling moments that maintained excitement and as a result facilitated the interaction between the students and the children in the home.

Mr. Harold Mwaluda ignited the children's spirits by challenging their brain's capturing and retention capabilities where he instructed a number of them to make an attempt to recall and identify the names of the University of Nairobi students who had earlier on introduced themselves. Those who sailed through the simple test were rewarded accordingly and would be surprised by the pleasant offer of several sweets. Mr. Harold Mwaluda heightened the excitement and attention of the children on the 'friend-awareness' session where he assessed an individual's awareness to a friend's operations, distastes and preferences by sending out ones friends out of the hall. The individual whose friend had been sent out would then be asked several questions concerning him. The individual sent out would later be called upon and asked similar questions. A mismatch of the results would be considered to be a fail.

The mistress of ceremony Miss Marceline Odhiambo geared up his counterparts, Mr. Harold Mwaluda, tickling escapades by the 'nyamanyama' game which further evoked wild excitements on everybody.

On their part, the Kwetu Children's Home of peace performed a thrilling dance that raised everybody to the feet and the entire hall was tuned into a dance floor.

The most crucial moment was marked by a session where the children were given an opportunity to voice out their concerns. One of the children confessed frankly that they are in dire need of motivation and recognized motivation as a recipe for success in life. The children also highlighted their difficulties in coping with classwork borne by the grievous flashbacks of their past unpleasant experiences at home. Others were worried of the methods they would employ to enable them grow their talents and the channels they would follow to make their pursuits successful. They attributed the stagnation of talent development to inaccessibility of resources and enquired of the available viable opportunities.

In response to the concerns, one of the NUSWSA members, Mr. Robert Kahoro urged the children to shift their attentions to things that matters most and considered that to be education, rather than the problems they encounter at home. He reminded them that they are not the only ones bearing the brunt of problems and that there are those whose experiences are even more complicated than theirs but have chosen to trudge on with life. He also urged the children to open up to their friends or relatives whenever challenges come through since this would act as an outlet to distress.

In addition, another member, Miss Celine Ooko focused on personal development aspects and she urged the children to believe in themselves since confidence in oneself is the mode of propulsion of any worthy dream and asked them to overhaul their attitudes and take up the positive aspects of the same. She told them to be persistent in every aspect of life and seize every opportunity that comes forth. She advised them to embrace teamwork; a platform we could share ideas since we are endowed with different abilities. She concluded by reminding them to constantly seek for God's intervention.

On his part, Mr. Dan Mosei (NUSWSA Program Coordinator) told the children to face their problems with positivity and never to give in to challenges. He asked them to be persistent and never to let go and that God only considers and rewards the efforts of the persistent. He wished the class eight students success of their forthcoming exam.

To address a plea that had been made earlier by one of the children concerning the inadequacy of games equipment, Miss Marceline Omondi donated a football to that effect.

The event was concluded after the gifts that the NUSWSA Members had come along with were presented to the children's home authority. Sister Clementine Chemutai, the children's home matron, commended the students efforts and requested them to remember the standard eight candidates in prayers prior to commencement of their final exam in a week's time.

NUSWSA Executives took a brief moment with the Children's Home administration and where the administration outlined issues that still face the children like substance abuse and theft. There was need for sustainability of the children after they leave the Home as they get back to their homes and to ensure this there was a felt need of an action plan for the home. NUSWSA was willing to help the home develop an action plan. The way forward was that the NUSWSA Chairman would come up with a committee which will be tasked with the development of the action plan.

In conclusion, NUSWSA will like to thank the University of Nairobi for providing a university bus that helped in the transportation of the members to the children's home. NUSWSA will also want to thank Dr. Ocharo who is the Chairman of the Sociology and Social Work Department and the esteemed members of the association for their personal financial support towards the event.

“Vision without action is merely a dream, Action without vision just passes time. Vision with action can change the world.”