



Annual Report

April 2014 to March 2015

Our Vision

*A just society in which
communities fully involve
and care for
vulnerable groups of people,
through the spirit of
love and solidarity
thus ensuring integral
human development for all.*

Our Mission

*To build a strong capacity
in communities of all faiths,
that actively implements
the Gospel of service,
by empowering and caring for
vulnerable groups of people.*

Our Motto

Only Through Community

Our Work

*The work of St. Martin CSA is
divided into four programmes
namely:*

- *Community Programme for
Children in Need*
- *Community programme for
Addiction and HIV*
- *Community Programme for
Peace and Reconciliation*
- *Community programme for
people with Disabilities*

St. Martin Catholic Social Apostolate
P.O. Box 2098 - 20300
Nyahururu, Kenya
Cell: +254 734 992272
Cell: +254 720 853412
Tel: + 254 65 2032243
Fax: +254 65 2032563
E-mail: info@saintmartin-kenya.org



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First or last? Together!

When Anna was given the news that she will be coming to St. Martin every day to work as part of her rehabilitation, she did not believe it.

Through the thirty years of her life, Anna had learnt to remain behind when everyone else left. It started at the age of 14 when her epileptic feets got worse forcing her to drop out of school.

Since then, she surrendered to fate. Her self esteem went down and her fears and uncertainties grew. She also lost her social skills and ability to walk upright. She became the last member of the family and community.

That is the Anna that came to St. Martin ten years ago, crawling along the hedges for support and never looking up. Her eyes were full of pain and she craved for food, even hiding some in her bag when she was offered a meal.

Since she came to St. Martin, Anna has healed steadily. She has become the friend of everyone, not wanting to distinguish between the ranks and not giving attention to how busy people are. She simply walks into the offices, greets people and tells them how she is feeling.

As a result, Anna has regained her confidence. She is able to walk upright and trek on her own to and from home, three kilometers away. She has no



wish to be first. She does not compete with others but she is happy to participate in the activities of St. Martin at the same level with everyone else. All she wants is to be present and to be involved. She reminds us that what matters is not to be first but to be together as in the message of the Gospel.

When Jesus gave the parable of the vineyard, he meant that in his goodness, God goes out to look for us everywhere at every hour of the day. His need to invite people of all kinds is insatiable. He just wants them to come to his vineyard and contribute in their unique way to the work going on there.

However, when the time for payment came, the workers

began to compare their wages and to grumble. Those who came first were unhappy because they were paid the same amount as those who came last. But the parable was not about work and its equivalent pay, it was about the joy of service. The master gives everyone the maximum wages, a *denarius*, to cover their needs for the day.

If there be no competition, if there be no comparison, if there be full acceptance of each one no matter how weak or capable, if there be full appreciation of everyone's gifts, then working together can be a celebration.

The call of St. Martin is for all to participate at the same level and to give up their own perceived social positions for the service alongside their brothers and sisters.

This report is a summarized account of the joys shared by members of the family of St. Martin in their daily encounters with the poor. It is written for you, so that you may read it and share it with others. Our hope is that when you read through it, you will feel welcomed to participate in our activities and become part of this transforming experience.

...when those who were hired first came, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. They said, "These men who were hired last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day."

But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."



The gift of volunteers

1145 volunteers offered their time, and expertise in the various programmes during the year. They interacted directly with the beneficiaries, their families and neighbours in carrying out the planned interventions for the good of the beneficiaries. They also mentored the beneficiaries and their families, encouraging them to continue pursuing the interventions even when hope seemed scarce, and mobilized for the resources needed to carry out those interventions successfully. Monthly meetings, planned workshops, annual retreats and volunteers celebrations were used to empower and motivate the volunteers. Here, in their own words are some of their experiences.



The meetings give me a feeling of usefulness. The assurance that my opinion is important in the work of the organization. I feel it when I miss a single meeting because I know I have a lot to catch up on during the next meeting.

Community Rehabilitation Worker

I give my time freely because I see its fruits. If I hadn't taken a step to act for the sake of the beneficiaries I have worked with, some of them would not be alive today. I am grateful that I took up this role.

Contact teacher



The field visits are very helpful activities in experiencing what our staff go through on a daily basis during their work. They help us to understand the reports brought to the meetings and to give more appropriate feedback. We are able to see the spirit of St. Martin at work and participate in keeping it alive.

Committee Member



Workshops and retreats are moments away from home where we learn how to do the work of volunteering. Without these workshops I would never have known what to do with the beneficiaries in my zone. The retreats help us to regain motivation and keep it burning in the midst of difficult circumstances.

Community Resource Person



The volunteers' days celebrations are days of gratitude and thanks giving. There is so much to celebrate with the community each year because day by day, miracles happen in the lives of beneficiaries when community members accept them and contribute towards their support.

Community Aids Educator



I have grown

I am Wanjau, a community volunteer in the programme for Addiction and HIV. I joined the programme 10 years ago hoping to serve orphans and persons living with HIV (PLHIVs) because I knew some of them.

Soon after recruitment, we were invited for a three-day workshop in which we learnt about St Martin's way of work. Other trainings followed afterwards giving us a lot of information about addiction and HIV, Home Based Care for PLHIVs, Basic Counseling Skills, Orphans Care and Support, community mobilization and so on.

These trainings helped me a lot both in my work as a volunteer and in my personal life. I do not have a college degree but the way I engage with people in the community makes them think that I have a good education. I have improved my social status and my family life is better. My colleagues have also made similar steps in their lives.

These trainings have also enabled me to serve my community better. Not only in St Martin related activities but also at the church, welfare groups and development forums. Consequently, I have been engaged by the local government in a job that entails community mobilization.

I am proud to have served many people in different situations of life and I can only thank God for giving me this opportunity. I am happy that I made the decision to join this programme because through it, I have grown.

The Community Programme for Addiction and HIV (CPAHIV) aimed at improving community based responses to addiction and HIV/AIDs management.

Capacity Building

118 volunteers were trained on participatory development approaches. Consequently, they conducted 69.2% of all counseling, follow-up visits and community activities during the period on their own.

Awareness creation

1230 members of the public were reached through 10 awareness activities.

PLHIVs

122 PLHIV support group meetings were conducted with an average attendance of 71%. These meetings offered good forums for group therapy and peer support sessions. 11 groups continued conducting their economic empowerment activities independent of the programme. 195 PLHIVs reported to have improved their lives by participating in the support groups and journeying with their peers.

Recoverees

The programme worked with 256 recovering addicts. 241 of them adhered to their recovery plans with 215 of them achieving total

abstinence from their drug of choice.

91% of the recoverees reported improved relationship with self, family and community since they started the recovery process. 17 of them participated in awareness creation and in supporting the volunteers.

Orphans

554 orphans in school were supported to continue accessing education through the programme's kitty, the guardians and community fund raising. Communities in three areas initiated activities to support the orphans in their localities where 44 orphans benefited. 55 orphan headed families were also supported to grow food crops on their pieces of land for self sustenance.

VCT

1783 clients were offered full VCT services where **53** of them turned HIV positive and were referred to other partners for further support. **5** mobile VCT activities were carried out in different areas where **266** clients were served.



A chance at last

8 year old John and his younger sisters, Rachael 5 and Beatrice 3 were rescued from a situation of neglect and abuse early this year.

Their mother died two years ago and they were left under the care of their alcoholic father who often neglected them and went on day long drinking sprees.

A concerned neighbor reported the matter to a programme volunteer who called the office with a proposal to rescue the children.

The Children's department and the police were involved in the process. During the morning of the rescue, the children were alone and looked dirty, depressed and malnourished

They were immediately committed to the programme's rehabilitation centres and their father was convicted and jailed. In the centres they quickly recovered from malnutrition and healed their Trauma.

During their three month stay in the centres, the possibility of placing them with relatives was explored and several of them were visited and assessed. Unfortunately, placement with relatives was not possible hence foster care was the only solution.

Through the programmes strategy of identifying and empowering foster parents, two foster families were found; one for the two girls and another one for the boy. The joy on the children's faces upon settling down in the new homes was evident. At last they had a chance to return to school and live a normal life.

The Community Programme for Children in Need (CPCN) aims at an improved quality of life for children in need of care and protection.

Capacity Building

67 volunteers including foster parents were empowered on child rights. 35 beneficiaries including street youths and students were also capacity built on issues of life skills and leadership.

Awareness creation

5,000 people in the target area were reached during awareness sessions on child rights. The Day of the African Child celebrations organized jointly with other stake holders involved more than 1,000 people who increased their awareness on the rights of children.

Rescue and Rehabilitation

74 children (39 boys and 35 girls) rescued from abusive situations were received in the centres, rehabilitated and 43 of them (26 girls and 17 boys) were reintegrated back into the community after successful rehabilitation and conclusion of their cases.

Community Care

81 children who were reintegrated in the previous period received community support and followup which

ensured their stability at home and school.

327 other children in the communities within the target area were supported in various ways through the intervention of the volunteers. Their material and emotional needs were met by the community thus reducing their vulnerability.

Street and Slum Scouting

Street youth volunteers and staff continued scouting the streets and slums of Nyahururu town in search of roaming children. 25 such children were found during the year and followed up to establish the circumstances that drove them out of their homes. Their needs were addressed through the volunteers and they returned home and resumed school.

Schooling

305 children were supported to remain in school through mentoring as well as partial provision of school uniforms and school levies. 500 children in a local school were reached on the school's request for group guidance and motivation session.



Change starts with me

I am Mary, married with seven children. I grew up in a family where domestic violence was common, a vice that followed me into my marriage.

One day, my elder brother who was a volunteer of CPPR, invited me to a meeting where a volunteer of St. Martin talked about domestic violence and alternative dispute resolution methods. He gave us some reading materials which I carried home to read with my husband.

A few days later when I rudely shouted at my husband, he didn't respond. Instead, he waited until the children were asleep then raised the issue with me for discussion. I was so touched by this act that I resolved to change. I started practicing courtesy towards my husband, my children and everyone I met. The battles slowly died out and our relationship, even with the children improved.

By then, my teenage son had adopted negative behavior and dropped out of school. I had beaten him up many times and taken him to the police. When I changed my attitude towards him and apologized for mistreating him, he forgave me and agreed to resume school.

When people observed the changes in my home, they began to trust and involve me in issues of peace and charged me with the role of overseeing the use of community resources that often caused conflict.

*My life has really changed
teaching me that for change
to be embraced by others, it
must start with me.*

The **Community Programme for Peace and Reconciliation** (CPPR) aims at achieving a community that actively advocates for human rights.

Capacity Building

105 volunteers were trained on the Children Act (2001). They later created awareness on children issues to 3,800 people in the community. 400 students in two secondary schools were also trained on life skills.

Legal support

68 survivors of violence were supported in the *Bega kwa Bega legal support* office through mediation, counseling, referrals and legal advice.

Economic empowerment

6 needy survivors of violence were granted financial assistance under the starter kit empowerment intervention, to start projects for self sustenance. All the six were able to utilize the kit for their own good and that of their families.

Strategic partnering

The programme worked closely with various strategic partners

such as the Children Office, the Police and Judiciary. 34 cases were referred to these partners for relevant interventions. Prayer and counseling sessions were conducted in the nearby prisons during Easter, Christmas and international Women's Day celebrations.

Awareness creation

10 awareness creation sessions were conducted on issues of domestic violence and peaceful coexistence in the target area. A fund raising drive was also conducted to support a needy family affected by domestic violence to start a sustainable subsistence farming project.

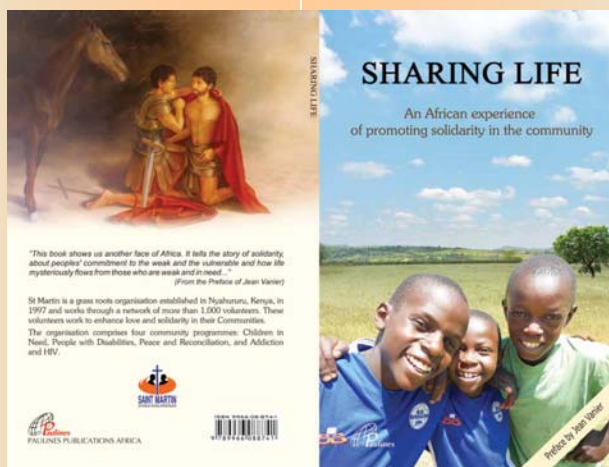
Collaboration at National level

The programme participated in the activities of the Kenya Peace Network (KPN) which included linking and learning, workshops and conferences with organizations across the country.



Sharing life, written by the community of St. Martin in Kenya, shows us another face of Africa. It tells the story of solidarity, about people's commitment to the weak and the vulnerable and how life mysteriously flows from those who are weak and in need; they call forth new life in the so called 'able'.

An African experience of promoting solidarity in the community



This book is a revelation of how God is present in our world today; how God is present in Africa. God is being revealed through the weakest and most vulnerable and those who share their lives with them.

Jean Vanier

Sharing life

The book of St. Martin has been revised and a new edition titled 'Sharing Life' has been released. Many people in St. Martin were involved in rethinking anew the idea of the St. Martin style and way of work.

The book begins by recounting the beginnings of St. Martin, when a priest encountered a person with disabilities called Thomas and decided to call people of good will together, to do something about disabilities and bring persons with disabilities out of the houses where they were hidden.

Then an account of the organization's step by step growth follows eventually recounting how the organization opened up its gates to other vulnerable groups of people.

The spirit of St. Martin is explained as that inspiration that drives us into the life of sharing and service to others especially the poor. This spirit is alive, we carry it in our hearts and we feel that it can only be lived as a reality when we share our lives with each other and with the volunteers and beneficiaries.

The general aim of St. Martin is elaborated thus 'to bring together the rich and the poor, the able and those who are vulnerable, with the conviction that nobody is entirely too weak or too strong and that both can learn from each other'.

The vulnerable have their strengths which are often hidden and not even recognized by the vulnerable themselves. At the same time, those who are considered strong may have weaknesses in their hearts such as inability to share and to love.

In working together, the poor have the opportunity to discover

their strengths and regain their dignity and the strong have a chance to overcome their weaknesses and to develop into more complete human beings.

The eighteen-year journey of St. Martin's existence has transformed it into a movement rather than a typical organization; a movement that involves as many people within the community as possible. The volunteers, community members and staff are convinced that communities can only be transformed if values such as love and solidarity are promoted, which remains the dream of St. Martin.



Beloved Transforming Encounters



Never before had I experienced such communion. The little frail boy Jeremy was calling me to something deeper. In the very moment when I wanted to quit, he begged me to stay on. (From a job to a vocation)

.....



Kababa has nothing to prove, his ability to identify with those who suffer is spontaneous and his presence is louder than any words of encouragement. (From anxiety to presence)

.....



The neighbours became the grace that Carol and her mother needed and gave them the dignity they hoped for. In them they found friends, brothers and sisters. (From loneliness to community)

.....



The joy of Allan has become our joy. His transformation has become ours too, giving us hope that our inner wounds can be healed through love. (From anguish to belonging)

.....



Ben's beautiful human spirit though trapped in his limited body was alive and hopeful despite the challenging circumstances. He was a great teacher, comforter and counselor. (From a burden to a gift)

.....



I now think of what happened and feel that it was Ruth who made it possible. She reduced my hurry and pride and gave me back my humanity. (From performance to relationship)

.....



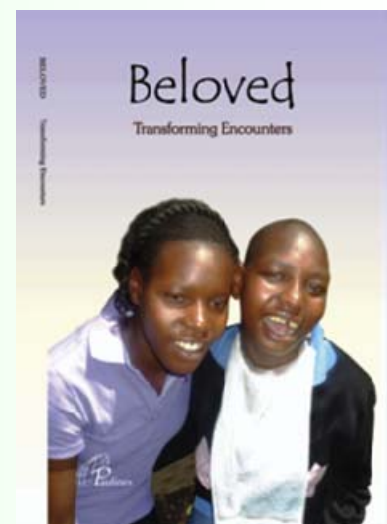
When I share my life with Musa, I feel there is such a strong bond between us, something more than a friendship; there is a communion. (From generosity to communion)

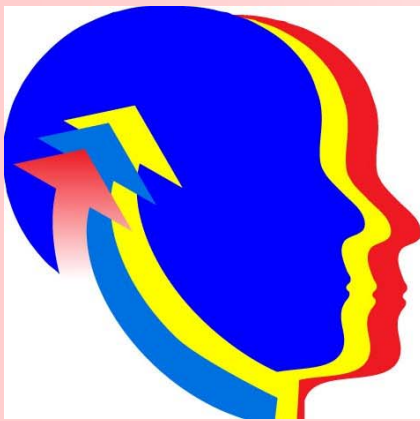
The communities of L'Arche Kenya and St. Martin CSA came together to write a new book titled 'Beloved'. Our idea was to share real life transforming encounters with persons with disabilities. We did not know where to start until someone suggested that we could ask all the staff of St. Martin to write their personal stories.

So we went out together for a retreat and had deep personal reflections and prayer. Away from the traditional style of relating experiences in the plenary, this time every one sat quietly by themselves and wrote down their stories, that is how the giant folder titled '*the Gospel of our Lives*' was produced.

A small editorial team was then constituted which selected some of the stories and edited them into the little book titled 'Beloved'.

Beloved is a collection of 7 stories of discovery. They narrate how people with physical and intellectual disabilities have touched and transformed lives.





With a Different Mind

After many years of working in the target area, St. Martin CSA had a desire to go out to Nairobi and create an event that would reach a wider audience in the country. For this purpose, St. Martin chose to work with other organizations in a network. Seven organizations were mobilized to come together and in the first meeting, 'with a different mind' (WDM) network was born.

'With a different mind' is a network of Civil Society Organizations, Donor Agencies and institutions that work with vulnerable people in Kenya. The network endeavors to make known the transforming power of encountering vulnerable people.

It purposes to prepare annual activities in which members of the network share experiences and then jointly prepare events that provide wider forums of exchange and learning so as to promote a shift in the perception held on vulnerable people.

WDM envisions a society where vulnerable people are not seen

as a challenge but as a resource that unravels the enormous community potential. When the community involves and encounters the vulnerable, it achieves integral human development for all.

The mission of WDM network is to provide a platform where organizations from all over the world can share their experiences of working with vulnerable groups of people with special emphasis on unique approaches and life changing encounters.

WDM's first Objective is to stimulate debate among partners, identify new approaches and promote successful interventions in order to enhance partnerships and synergies among stakeholders.

Secondly, WDM endeavors to provide a platform on which implementing organizations' experiences inform academic institutions on alternative approaches and the academic institutions in return, support implementing organizations with professional insights.

Nevertheless we are still far from giving Persons with Disabilities a central place and role in our society. Rare are the forums where people are gathered, not to speak about disabilities, but to hear persons with disabilities speak to them. The idea that 'we must do something for them' has not yet given way to a deeper understanding of their potentials and of the fact that they have 'a lot to offer'.

The first event of WDM was organized in Nairobi in September 2014, a two-day event with the theme 'People with disabilities, a gift to humanity' brought together people from all walks of life to participate and share their experiences.

The first day was a conference addressed by different partners from academic institutions and the civil society. Persons with disabilities and the different partners shared experiences and exchanged learning materials.

The second day was a concert where different people with disabilities performed music dance and art in a unique way. The participants, who had travelled from different parts of the country encountered persons with disabilities with great joy and appreciation..



A linking and learning project for secondary school students



After several years of working in collaboration with Fontana Foundation on the Italian Schools Programme, St. Martin CSA found it wise to start a similar project in its target area.

Darasa Maisha Project was then started with the purpose of introducing secondary school students to issues of global concern. This would be achieved by using creative and interactive ways to stimulate discussions and reflections among a facilitative group of students who would then reach out to a wider audience in their schools.

A team of facilitators drawn from all the programmes of St. Martin CSA was selected to be empowered on skills and techniques of working with young people. They will then use these skills to reach out to young people in their respective programmes.

The school nearest to St. Martin offices, Nyahururu High School, was approached and agreed to partner with St. Martin CSA in implementing the 2015 edition of the project which would also serve as the pilot phase of the project.

Darasa maisha was launched in February 2015 by the area education officer who on behalf of the Ministry of Education stressed the importance of partnerships in empowering young people. The project will continue into the future addressing different issues and targeting different groups.

The topic chosen for the 2015 edition is 'Responsible use of Social Media'. Social media has become one of the most active platforms for communication and networking in Kenya especially among young people. Kenya has

one of the most active online populations in Africa with users increasing in number every day.

Although social media has become very useful in empowering people and fostering human development in many ways, it is still used negatively to spread hatred, attack persons, propagate crime, and so on. Such cases highlight the need for empowering young people on responsible use of the new media.

Darasa Maisha's goal is to share knowledge and foster a positive attitude towards the use of social media in stimulating social transformation.

It will give the students an opportunity to explore and share on the various social media platforms available to them and learn how to use them. It will also allow them to brainstorm on the benefits and risks involved in the use of social media and identify relevant opportunities presented by social media. The students will then be expected to share with their peers in order to influence them to use social media positively.



Darasa Maisha *The Life Class*

Darasa Maisha is a project that seeks to introduce students to issues of global concern. This year, the project in conjunction with Nyahururu High School will tackle the topic:

RESPONSIBLE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Guiding Questions:

- What is social media?
- How does it work?
- What are the positive and negative aspects of social media?
- What is the global impact of social media use?
- How can social media be used to foster human development?

Target Group:
Form 2 Students - Nyahururu High School
(A small group of 30 will be selected and trained to facilitate the process)

Project Launch:
27th January 2015 in Saint Martin CSA Hall
Time: 2pm

A JOINT INITIATIVE OF

fontazione fontana
SAINT MARTIN



Together as a family

The staff of St. Martin CSA worked together throughout the year as one family, sharing their joys and tears and urging each other on when tough times hit.

A total of 74 staff members including four expatriates from abroad worked in the various programmes and departments of St. Martin CSA. In addition, Six young graduates completed a one year experience as assistant coordinator trainees in the programmes. Three of them left on completion and three remained for a six month extension of the experience.

4 staff members left the organization during the year. Out of the four, two were seconded to sister organizations i.e. L'Arche Kenya and Fontana Foundation and two left to work elsewhere.

Ten casual workers were from time to time hired in the premises to carry out short time tasks especially in the kitchen, transport, grounds and security departments.

Capacity building for staff was given priority so that the staff can be effective agents for empowerment of volunteers and the general community. A variety of internal courses were organized including basic counselling, Coaching and Mentoring and Community

mobilization. 5 staff members were also sponsored for further studies in various fields outside the organization.

Occasions were created where staff and trainees took time out to pray, build team spirit and share motivating experiences. The programmes also organized team building sessions while the organization carried out joint events such as staff retreats, staff outings, staff sharings and joint prayer sessions.

Before Christmas break, the staff invited their family members and close relatives to a joint visit of Talitha Kum Children's home where a special celebration with the children marked the staff's unity of purpose and commitment to the service of the poor.

No. of staff by Department

Directors	2
General Coordinator	1
Human Resource	1
Public Relations	3
Training & facilitation	3
Office attendants	2
Secretariat	2
Finance and Accounts	7
Transport	5
Assets & Properties	3
Security	2
Needy Children	11
Community Mobilization	2
Addiction & HIV	11
Peace & Reconciliation	5
Persons with disabilities	10
Expatriate volunteers	4
TOTAL	74





Welcoming Others

St. Martin continued to sell its spirit and approach to others with the hope that it will bear fruit elsewhere. The Public relation Department spearheaded the activities of reaching out to others and supported the programmes in creating rapport in the community.

39 church leaders from different churches within the working area were inducted on the spirit of St. Martin while 2,500 worshippers in 28 churches were visited for awareness on St. Martin programmes and activities.

750 visitors from other parts of the country and 430 from abroad visited the organization during the year. They all received induction into the organization and carried home an assortment of the organization's publications. A majority of them kept close correspondence with the organization after the visit.

The organization's staff also made needs based courtesy calls to local community leaders and collaborators who in turn participated in the events and activities of the programmes. Close working relationship was

established with the national and county government departments within the target area.

7000 diaries and 5,000 wall calendars were produced and distributed to various publics. A new edition of the St. Martin handbook 'Sharing life' was printed and 2,104 copies distributed to various publics as awareness creation materials. Another book titled 'Beloved' was also published and distributed during the *With a Different Mind* event in Nairobi.

Students from various universities and colleges across

the country applied for practicum in the organization and several were given the opportunity during the year. Some of those who got the opportunities went back to their colleges and mobilized large groups of students to visit the organization.

Religious congregations including the Mill Hill Missionaries, Dimesse Sisters and Medical Missionary Sisters, Sisters of the visitation, Sisters of Mary Reparatrix, Loreto and sister of Mary Loreto sent their young aspirants for immersion experiences in the organization.



Financial summary

INCOME	KSHS
Local Income	3,245,471.00
Wellwishers (local/abroad)	16,530,717.00
Donors	40,754,444.00
Beneficiaries	262,321.00
Others	4,297,177.00
Publications	360,350.00
TOTAL	65,450,480.00

EXPENDITURE	KSHS
St. Martin CSA	19,899,661.00
Children in Need	9,892,092.00
People with Disabilities	12,114,275.00
Peace and Reconciliation	4,026,712.00
Addiction and HIV	11,524,670.00
Support departments	7,993,070.00
TOTAL	65,450,480.00

Challenges

Tribal tension:

Incidences of tribal violence and animosity continued to flare in the part of Baringo county that fall within our target area. This called for change of strategies and adjustment of the organizations activities in the area.

Rising costs of education:

Many of our beneficiaries including children with disabilities HIV/AIDS orphans and needy children have been in need of education support in form of school fees and uniforms. This year has seen a sharp rise in the cost of education necessitating more mobilization of resources for educational support.

Increasing demand for counseling and psychiatric services:

More and more people came to St. Martin in search of counseling and psychiatric interventions thus creating an urgent need to revamp the organization's counseling team and to establish proper referral procedures for cases that cannot be helped here.

Gratitude

Each year flies by successfully because of the support of the many stakeholders who form the larger family of St. Martin CSA. The beneficiaries who give themselves in love and accept the support of others have transformed individuals and the community as a whole. We cannot thank them enough.

All the stake holders including staff, volunteers, donors, friends and welwishers gave their time and resources freely and happily enabling us to carry out the activities successfully. Even those who paid visits and those who undertook short experiences in St. Martin played a great role in encouraging us to move on. Their encouragement and inspiration enabled us to keep the fire of service ablaze.

We have seen the transforming power of selfless service in the lives of both those who gave and those who received. The people who came to give have received a lot, and those who came to receive have become 'givers' as well. We have not the right words to say thank you to all of you and to wish you God's blessing in every way.

