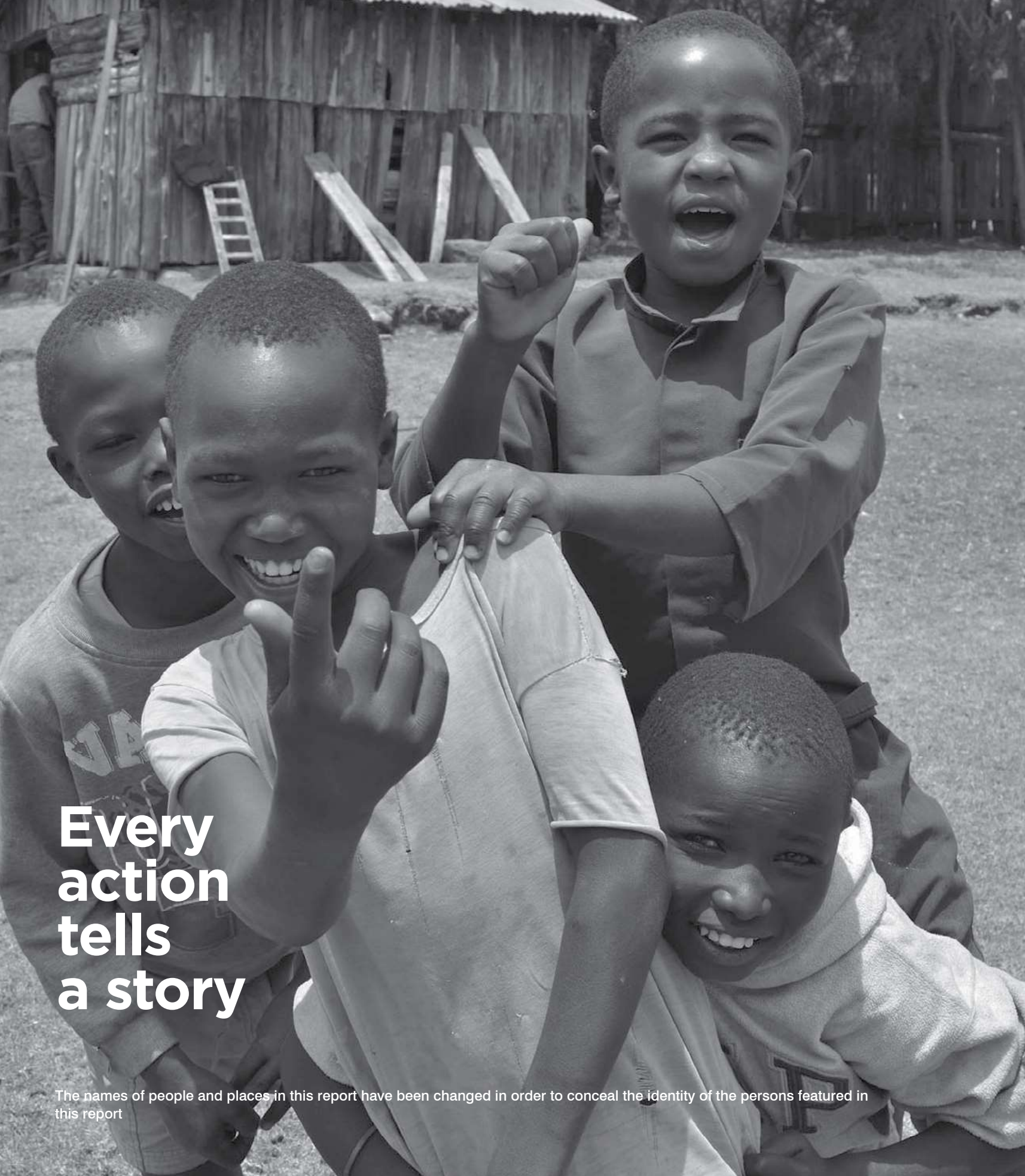


# Working 'Only Through Community'

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2015-2016

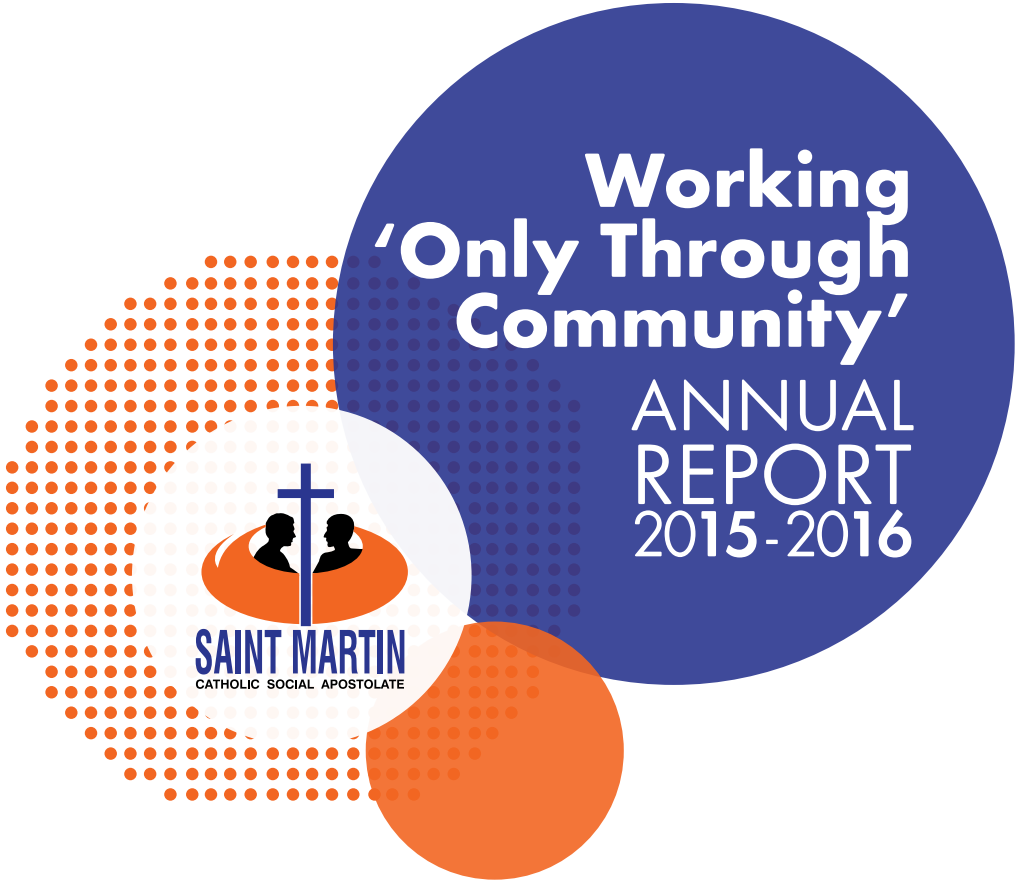






Every  
action  
tells  
a story

The names of people and places in this report have been changed in order to conceal the identity of the persons featured in this report



**SAINT MARTIN**  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL APOSTOLATE

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.

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

Motto

‘Only Through Community’

Core Values

1. We consider the **Gospel of service** as the drive and inspiration in our work. Spiritual formation is therefore an integral part of whatever we do while emphasizing on a close connection between faith and life.

2. We recognize that the **Gospel of service** has already transformed people in different churches and communities. Poor people call us to be together and ask us to focus on what unites us. We therefore foster an **ecumenical approach**.

3. We believe that the **poor and vulnerable** are a gift to each one of us. We consider them a resource for a community and not a problem. In our experience, sharing with the poor and vulnerable **generates love and happiness**.

4. We value the strengths and weakness of each person and believe that **‘the strong’** and **‘the weak’** need each other just as **‘the poor’** and **‘the able’** need each other.

5. We promote **voluntary service** since we believe that we have freely received our talents, resources and gifts for the benefit of those in need.

6. We highly value community, therefore, all our undertakings are done **‘Only through Community.’** The
- involvement of other people, institutions and stakeholders in our work and decision-making is therefore important.

7. We believe that each of us is called to **help one another in our transformation process**, as we have been helped ourselves to start working for love and solidarity.

8. We believe that our motivation and drive needs to be combined with **professionalism** in all areas of our work and we put high value on **empowerment** and capacity building of all people.

9. We believe in and promote honesty, transparency, integrity and accountability in all our undertakings and commit ourselves towards **effective and efficient utilization of resources meant for the poor and vulnerable**.

10. We value **simplicity in the modes of our lifestyles** for we believe we are called to live a life close to the people we serve.

11. We believe that we need to be **witnesses of the values we promote** in our personal lives and commit ourselves to a continuous process of personal growth.

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# 'COME FOLLOW ME'

## A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL OF THE YEAR

*The gospel of the rich young man presents a man of wealth and status who is not satisfied with his life. He goes to Jesus seeking answers to his feelings of discontent. Jesus invites him to look beyond observance of the laws and traditions and to give up everything and surrender himself to the love and support of his brothers and sisters.*

This young rich man was like John Ndegwa, an alcoholic of several years who had suffered immensely during the period. He had lost the trust of his parents and relatives - his wife had left him on several occasions and his children would not talk to him. John came for counseling and support at St. Martin, and was seeking the answer to the question, "What can I do to change my situation?"

At St. Martin, John met Peter Wandia, a counselor and a recovering alcoholic who had struggled with alcohol addiction for many years. Peter knew too well what John was going through and was committed to helping him.

Through Peter's support and counsel, John discovered that, just like all other alcoholics, he had gotten into drinking while searching for wealth, recognition and a high status in society. He explained, "I initially started drinking in my early 20's in an effort to fit in and to be accepted by my peers. As I got older, my drinking became a necessity; I had a poor paying job that would hardly meet my family's needs and I needed the relief that alcohol provided to continue with my every day struggles. My alcohol addiction was made worse by what I would term as an unfulfilling marriage. All these incidences converged to increase my alcohol addiction. But interestingly, the more I turned to alcohol as an escape route, the more I became depressed".

Peter continued counselling John and encouraging him based on his own experience. In the end, after failing in a

number of remedies, John found strength in the support of his friends and family to recover from his addiction. This is what he had to say, "After all else failed, the only option I was left with was to acknowledge that I am powerless over alcohol and that I had to surrender myself to the help of God and the support of my friends and family." And that is how John's path to recovery started.

The experience of John and the Gospel of the rich young man have been the source of great reflection for us in St. Martin, revealing once more our intrinsic human folly-searching for happiness from temporary things which only give a false and temporary sense of happiness. In the Gospel of the rich man, Jesus gives a new message; a message that true happiness, the experience of heaven, will only come to those who give themselves to others in communion.

This report underpins the importance of communion; the experiences of encountering each other during the reporting year 2015-2016. The report contains facts and narrations of encounters between the rich and the poor where Jesus meets us through our vulnerable brothers and sisters. It is our hope that through this report you will join our community of St. Martin in our search for true happiness, for communion. Admittedly, it is a difficult journey but it is one that we can make and enjoy together!

### Mk. 10,17-22

As Jesus was setting out on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. He asked, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? No-one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honour your father and mother.'" "Teacher," he declared, "All these I have kept since I was a boy." Jesus looked into his soul and loved him. Then he added, "Only one thing you lack, go, sell everything you have and give it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.





# ‘THE INNER WELL’

## THE STORY OF A LOVING MOTHER

*In 2015, the book, ‘THE INNER WELL’ was published by St. Martin. The book was written by Ans, the first Vice Director of St. Martin. In her book, Ans explains the reasoning behind it:*

“In 2013, I was diagnosed with cancer. I felt a strong need to write about myself and about the most important themes in my life. It has been a beautiful experience: looking back and gathering up the lessons and the places of wisdom I have learnt in my life, seeing how life shaped me and especially what the ever present constant was: ‘The Inner Well.’”

In the book, Ans describes St. Martin as one of the places of wisdom because of important lessons she had learned and her words remain for us an encouragement to continue with our own personal journeys of growth. She says; “By looking at myself, I gradually began to realize how much my stay in Kenya had brought me. The people I worked with, my colleagues, but also the vulnerable people looking for help from St. Martin were helping me further along my path. They often held up a mirror that allowed me to see myself better and understand how I was put together.

For example, by being closely involved with people who were addicted to alcohol, with all the associated compulsive behaviors, I could recognize comparable patterns in myself. I also suffered from certain addictions, although they took another form than alcohol addiction. Too often I worked to obtain recognition, appreciation and admiration from others and found this aspect difficult to let go.

I had gone to Africa to change things, to turn around the lives of people in need, in other words: to help. Of course, my work must have certainly helped many people. But

when I left Africa, I discovered that I had been helped myself most of all. During the 10 years I spent in Kenya, I did manage to change some things, but the greatest change was in myself. I discovered that the idea of being called to support people in need was a rather one-sided interpretation of my calling. I was just as much being called to be helped, to learn. Ultimately, I believe, we are all called to become more human, to learn from and help each other.”

Sadly, Ans passed away in November 2015 but her words, just like the Gospel, continue to encourage us to let go of the things in our life that take our energy and time but in the end do not bring us true happiness. In her case, she talks about her need for recognition, appreciation and admiration from others. Ans understood that these things only brought her temporary joy and satisfaction but just like the rich young man, she found it difficult to let them go.

But through her book, she leaves us words of wisdom and encourages us to let go of these things and instead “become more human” and “learn from and help each other.” Those of us who interacted with her will try to spread her lessons and places of wisdom as captured in the tribute below.



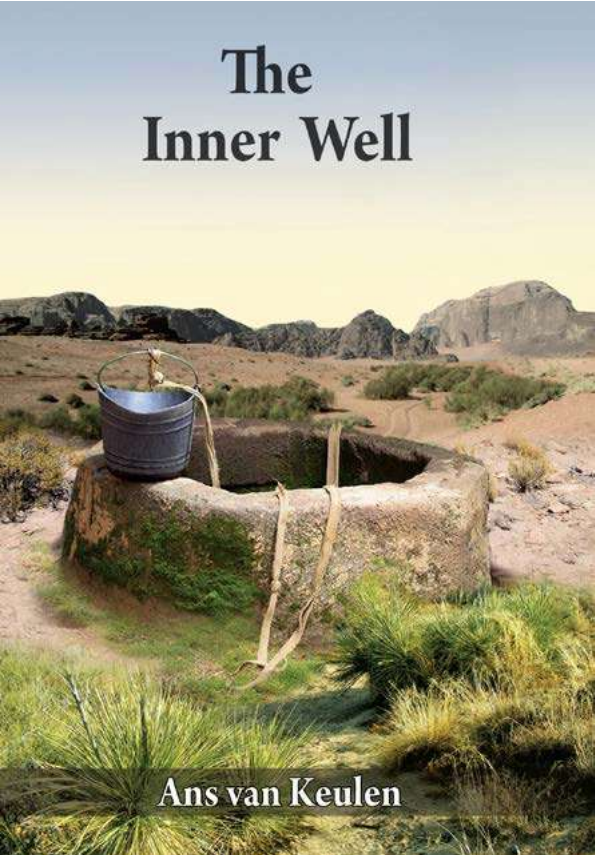


## Ans' Tribute

*In you Ans, we have lost a mother.  
Someone who patiently raised us as a community,  
Loved us despite our weaknesses  
and who lovingly held our hands  
and encouraged us in our different journeys of growth.  
We have lost a sister.  
One who stood with us in our pain,  
Had the courage to correct us when we were wrong  
Always wanting the best for us.  
We have lost a friend.  
One who did not judge us,  
And even when the world condemned us,  
You continued to tell us that we were loved, just as we are.*

*We will remember you Ans.  
And in remembering, we will also challenge  
ourselves to be better:  
To be more sincere in our actions and intentions.  
To love more, especially those who have no one to love them.  
To live more, sharing life with each other.  
To care more, for our brothers and sisters  
whom we find difficult to love.  
To stay in silence and listen to our inner call,  
To stop and live life, to see the flowers, the colours  
And appreciate the gifts bestowed to each and every one of us.*

**Rest in peace our dear Mother, Sister and Friend.**



## ‘THE SPECIAL CHAIR’ CHANGING JEFF’S LIFE

*Born in 2011, Jeff became the main character of a video titled ‘The Special Chair’ which tells the story of how waste paper can turn around the life of a child living with a disability.*

His mother, a peasant single mother within St. Martin’s target area of Nyahururu, was abandoned by her husband when Jeff was born.

For the five years he had lived, Jeff could not support his enlarged head - he could neither sit upright nor crawl as his legs were not fully developed. His body was also still too small to fit into a normal wheel-chair and so he remained in the house perched on a couch where his moth-

er placed him when she went out to fend for him and the family. He was fed on the couch and left there with his head tucked to a corner of the couch so that he wouldn’t roll over.

This was his life until the day a volunteer from the St. Martin’s Community Programme for People with Disabilities visited him. The volunteer was immediately attracted to the little boy and was optimistic that his life had the poten-



tial of turning around. After a lot of convincing, the mother agreed to the volunteer’s request to take Jeff to the St. Martin’s programme’s clinic 5 kilometers away.

In the clinic, the staff of the programme decided that a carton chair, made of old used carton boxes, through Appropriate Paper Technology (APT), would be the best way to afford him a more fulfilled life. The chair was a good fit for Jeff’s small frame as it provided him with additional support to keep his head and body in the right posture. No other technology could have come close to this in a place as rural as the village of Sipili in Laikipia West where Jeff was born.

The tools needed to make Jeff’s chair were simple and locally available. The expertise of the staff and volunteers had been gained through short hands-on workshops facilitated by the partners of St. Martin. It took less than a week to make the chair and once complete, the impact of such simple technology was indeed life changing. The chair was light enough for Jeff’s mother to carry him out of the house and place him next to her as she carried on with her daily chores.

Because of this simple, cheap and yet durable chair, Jeff’s life changed enormously and so did that of his mother and the entire family. He was brought out of the house into the sunshine. He interacted with other children who came to touch him and talk to him. He was now able to see where all those sounds he used to hear while confined in the house were coming from.

A video on the life of Jeff titled ‘The Special Chair’ was shot by Fontana Foundation jointly with St. Martin. It has inspired many people and hundreds of copies have been sold to support the APT initiative.

Unfortunately, Jeff passed away in the year under review from health complications. Though short, Jeff’s life served a special purpose to people living with disabilities. His story will continue to encourage communities to accept and love children with disabilities and for St. Martin, we are encouraged to make APT technology grow for their benefit .

Appropriate Paper-based Technology (APT) is a technique used to create objects from recycled paper and cardboard. APT devices are strong, durable, attractive, cheap and very easy to make. They are light and therefore easy to carry around. When assistive devices for children with disabilities are made using APT, they confer upon the life of the child the advantage of social interaction. This means that the child can be carried around easily to interact with others and participate in their social activities.



Highlights: APT

 More than **80 APT** devices made

 **2,550** copies of Jeff’s video ‘The Special Chair’ produced & **1,880** sold



# SPREADING THE APPROACH

*The Approach of St. Martin focuses on building pockets of solidarity among people so that they can think and act together.*

St. Martin goes to the needy and disadvantaged people, not to help them directly but to build a support network of people around them who are skilled and have the conviction to provide help where needed. Such networks are comprised of professionals, community leaders, relatives, neighbours and friends who work in solidarity to answer to the needs of the disadvantaged

in a local and sustainable way. But as they do so, they discover each other and experience the strength of working together. The sense of community begins to grow and people start working together for a common goal. This approach is expressed in our motto **‘ONLY THROUGH COMMUNITY’**



During the reporting year, St. Martin worked with more than **1,400** volunteers at the community level. These volunteers were involved in decision making on issues involving beneficiaries. The volunteers were also the direct implementers of programme activities and maintained direct contact with the beneficiaries. Through their efforts, pockets of solidarity were created around different vulnerable groups of people in the community making volunteers a great asset for St. Martin. Without them, our work in the communities would be impossible.

St. Martin also worked with **40** volunteer Management Committee members at programme level and **10** volunteers at board level (Management Board members). Management committees met once a month and played a critical role in monitoring implementation of programme activities as well as guiding and supporting St. Martin programme staff. Management Board members on the other hand, steered the organization at policy and organizational decision making levels.

Other groups that were involved at various levels in the implementation of the approach include churches, government institutions, the local administration, various community groups, partners and friends of St. Martin. Churches remained an important aspect of the approach as they act as conduits for St. Martin to recruit dynamic volunteers and provide support in keeping the volunteers motivated. Throughout the year, St. Martin worked with over **150** church communities in delivering its interventions.

St. Martin continues to spread the approach through different avenues with the conviction that should the pockets of solidarity created be supported and empowered, they can lead to the development of our communities without leaving anyone behind.

Highlights: The Approach



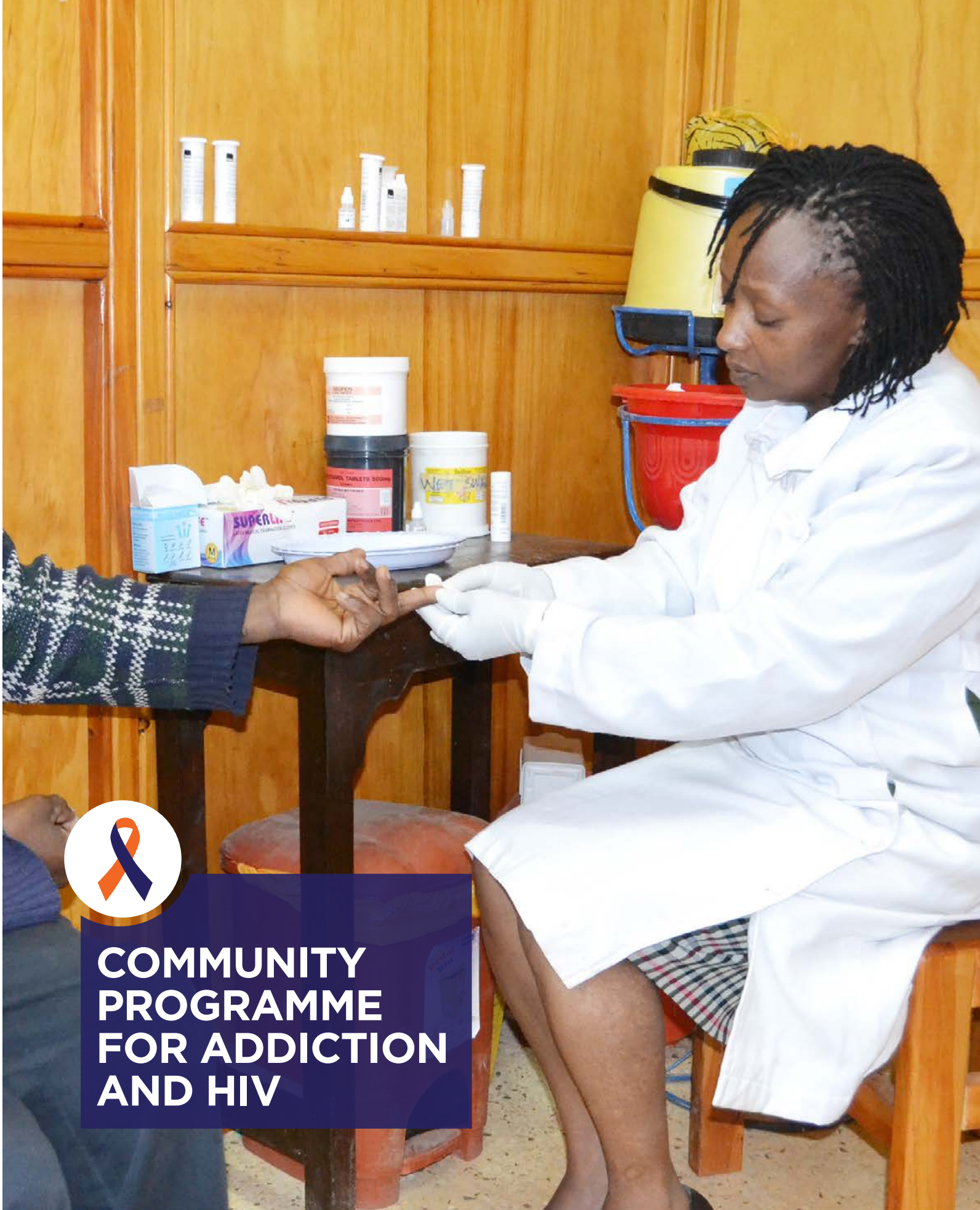
**10** Volunteer Management Board members participated in policy and decision making



Partnered with over **150** church communities



Worked with more than **1,400** volunteers at the community level



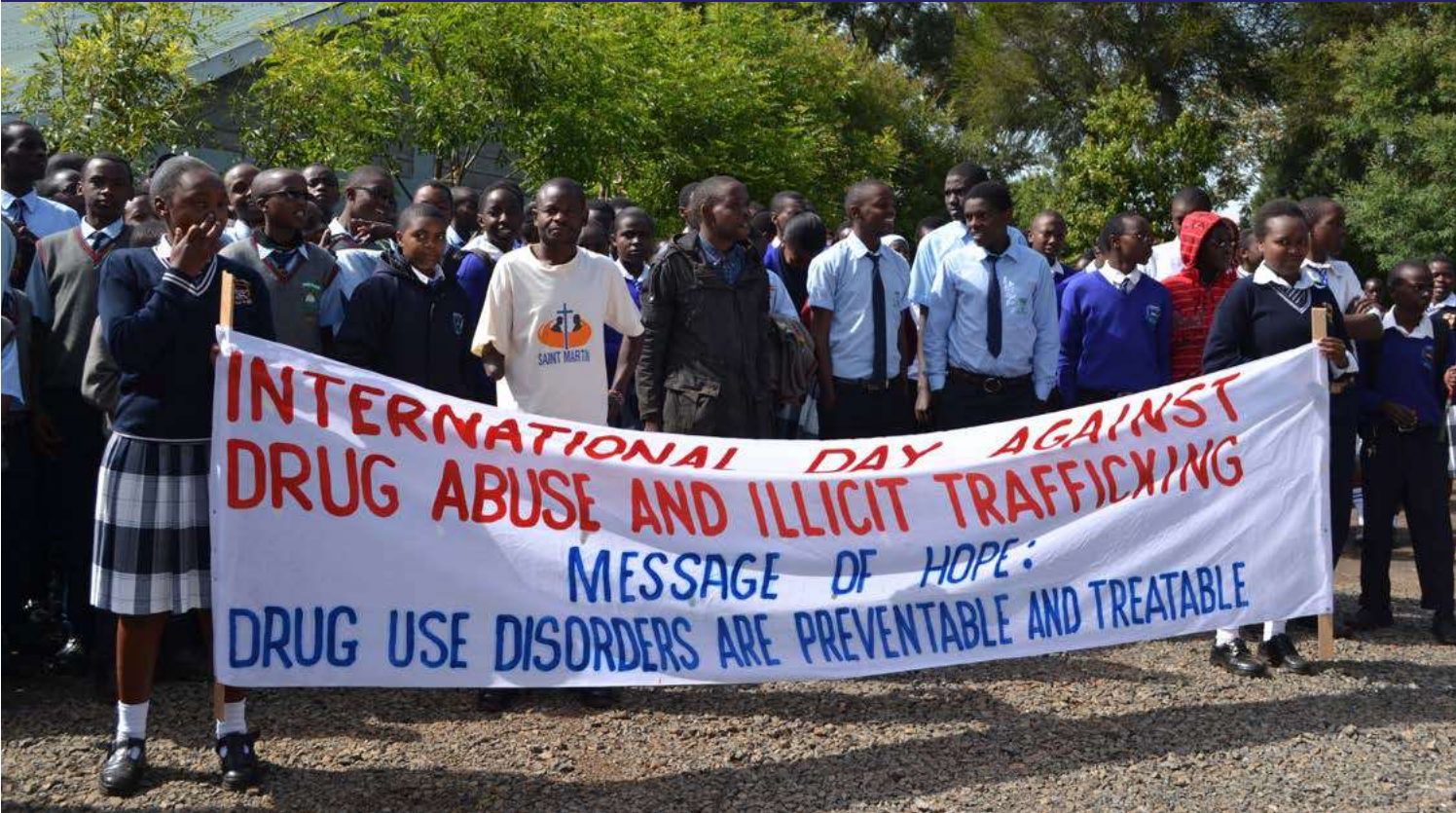
**COMMUNITY PROGRAMME FOR ADDICTION AND HIV**



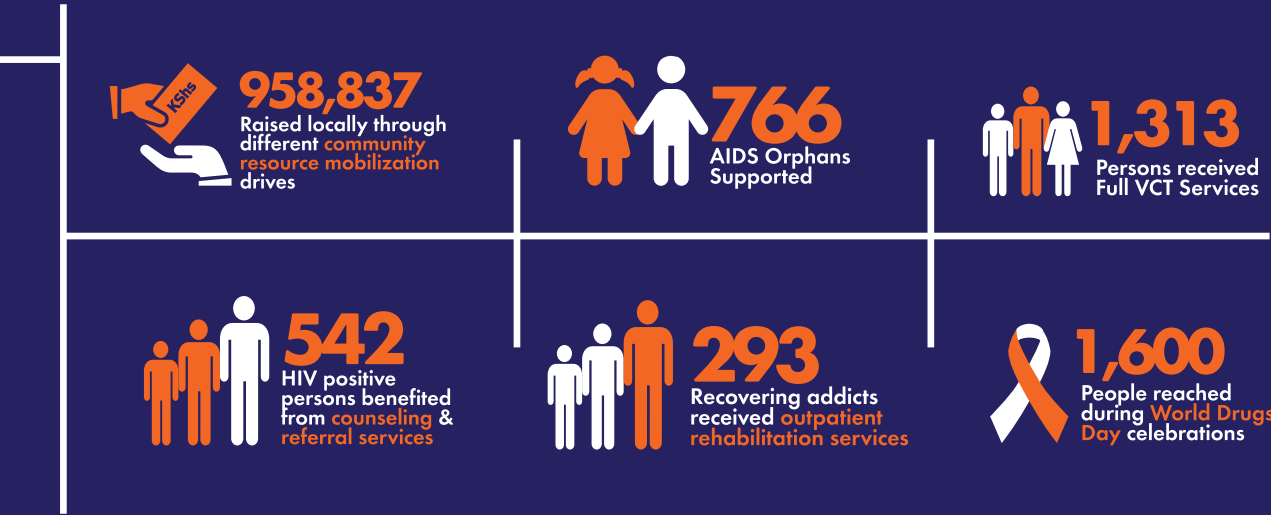
# COMMUNITY PROGRAMME FOR ADDICTION AND HIV

*St. Martin through the Community Programme for Addiction and HIV (CPAHIV) implemented activities in the last year of a three year project. The programme, through financial support from Provincia Autonoma Di Trento (PAT) from Italy, partnered with the target communities in implementing the programme's activities.*

- During the reporting period, the Programme, worked with **249** volunteers. The volunteers were empowered through **3** training sessions during which they prepared action plans **87** of which were implemented. Activities included community mobilization, awareness raising and provision of psychosocial support to people living with HIV, orphans and recoverees and their respective families.
- Implementation of action plans was monitored through **127** volunteers meetings where volunteers reported on the progress of activities and supported each other in tackling challenges. The meetings were also used as an avenue for motivating them through spiritual and technical formation.
- 766** AIDS orphans were supported in different ways by programme staff and volunteers with some orphans receiving more than one form of support. **211** were supported through follow-ups, guidance & counseling and empowerment on life skills. Another **432** were supported through partial payment of school fees and purchase of school uniform. **67** orphan headed families were supported to start economic empowerment activities.
- 10** PLHIV support groups held **117** group meetings during the year. During these meetings, they supported each other through peer learning, sharing of experiences and group therapy. The groups also continued with economic empowerment activities to enhance their economic status. Additionally, **542** People living with HIV (PLHIVs) were followed up by the programme through home visits. They also received counseling and referral services when the need arose.
- 129** recovering addicts were recruited during the year bringing the total number of supported recoverees in the programme to **293**. All 293 recoverees received outpatient rehabilitation services with some being followed up at home. In addition, twenty-nine recoverees were given skills on relapse prevention and behavior change and another **129** received psycho-education and addiction counseling. At least **289** recoverees abstained from their drug of choice in the reporting period.
- A total of **KES 870,837** was raised through community mobilization to support programme beneficiaries. **57** orphans were also supported by the community through payment of school fees and **11** families were mobilized to support family members to access residential rehabilitation. An additional **KES 88,000** was mobilized to support the programme in the preparation for the World Drugs Day celebration. At least **1,600** community members were reached through the day's activities.
- 1,313** clients received full VCT services through the programme's Voluntary Counseling and Testing center (VCT), with **20** testing positive for HIV. Of those that tested positive, **24** were referred to the programme's social office as well as to different Comprehensive Care Centers for support.



## Highlights: Community Programme for Addiction and HIV





## CASESTUDY 01

# My Long Journey

*My name is John Kivuli. I started drinking alcohol when I was in Secondary School, mainly out of peer pressure. Unfortunately, I did not shed off the habit after school and went into adulthood with the trait.*

My indulgence in alcohol got worse as time progressed and it soon became my way of life. I could hardly keep a job having lost more than 17 jobs within a span of seven years. I could also not sustain a relationship as I would become extremely violent when drunk and very withdrawn when sober.

Many people around me expressed their concern and tried to talk me out of drinking with little success. I felt irritated and wondered why they were intruding into my life.

When I finally secured a job as a teacher under the government, my monthly income went up meaning I had more disposable income to engage in my vice. As soon as I got my monthly salary, I would abscond from duty until all my money was over then go back to teaching. With time, everyone lost faith in me and gave up trying to help me. I was labelled a hopeless drunk and was left at the bottom of a pit from which only alcohol could lift me momentarily when I had the money. I lost everything except one good friend, 'alcohol'.

I was at the verge of sinking into depression when my family members approached a volunteer of St. Martin to help me. The volunteer accompanied by a counselor came to see me over a period of three months. After

many failed attempts to help me, they colluded with my family members to have me committed forcefully to a residential rehabilitation centre for four months.

At the rehabilitation centre, I was so angry that I refused to come out of my room or eat for several days. Then as the anger subsided, the headaches and craving for alcohol set in as my withdrawal phase took over. It was one of the worst experiences I have ever had to go through and were it not for the encouragement from my fellow recoverees at the center, I would have committed suicide.

Slowly but surely I began to feel understood for the first time in my life. No one was judging or condemning me hence I let go of my defenses and started attending the sessions willingly. I started appreciating the whole process and finally a change started taking place.

It has been a long journey to recovery, three years since my last bottle. I have kept the resolve to continue staying sober. My life has been transformed and I would like to help other alcohol addicts recover and I have enlisted my services as a volunteer in St. Martin.



**COMMUNITY  
PROGRAMME  
FOR PEACE &  
RECONCILIATION**



# COMMUNITY PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

*St. Martin through the Community Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (CPPR) implemented activities in the final year of a three-year strategic plan. During the reporting period, the programme partnered with Mensen Met een Missie (MMM) of the Netherlands and Provincia Autonoma Di Trento (PAT) from Italy to implement programme activities.*

- Under the year in review, the programme worked with **120** volunteers. **66** volunteer meetings were held in the different zones with an average attendance of 80% and were a useful avenue for empowering and motivating the volunteers. **80** volunteers also received spiritual nourishment through a retreat.
- In an effort to increase awareness in the community on issues related to children's rights and sexual offences, the volunteers carried out **2** awareness campaigns where more than **3,500** community members were reached including children themselves. Another **2,500** community members were reached through other forums on the same. The volunteers with the support of the staff also conducted **12** mobilization activities in support of beneficiaries.
- There was an increase in reported cases of child abuse and sexual offences in the target area which reflected increased awareness of the issues in the community. The volunteers handled **74** child related cases through direct redress, mediation, referral and mobilization and another **28** cases unrelated to children's issues.
- During the year, the programme assisted **182** survivors of various forms of violence through different Interventions including counseling, mediation and economic empowerment and handled **44** cases related to children's issues. The programme also referred some **95** cases to different strategic partners for redress.
- In an effort to change the attitude of young people within the target area, the programme worked with two secondary schools targeting **400** students. The activities aimed at promoting positive conflict resolution as well as addressing issues of children's rights and responsibilities. One of the schools reported positive changes and St. Martin intends to scale up this programme to involve more students.



## CASESTUDY 02

# Courage for Justice

*My name is Thomas Karei. I am 51 years old and a farmer. I have been a volunteer in the St. Martin's Community Programme for Peace and Reconciliation for six years. Since I joined the programme, I have participated in many trainings. And through these trainings I have gained the courage and skills to follow up issues affecting vulnerable people in my community.*

Last year, a neighbor reported to me that a 14 year old girl had been forcibly married to a 59 year old man as a third wife. I got concerned and when I went to investigate the matter, I found that indeed the girl had been taken out of school and forcibly given over to the man as a wife.

I moved quickly and tried to talk to the man, trying to persuade him to return the child to her parents. But he was adamant and told me that dowry had already been paid which made the girl his wife. In addition, he strongly warned me against pursuing the matter further threatening me with dire consequences. Despite these warnings, I went ahead, going to the local administrator - the chief to seek his intervention but he was reluctant to delve into the issue.

Seeing that I was not progressing with either the chief or the perpetrator, I chose to talk to both families, the parents of the child and the relatives of the perpetrator. I explained to them that it was important to reverse the marriage in the interest of the child. Both families were adamant that the marriage was sealed and that I was wasting their time. They even threatened to chase me away from the community. This made me quite scared but I didn't give up.

I decided to report the matter to the local police station and to St. Martin. Through St. Martin, the police were pushed to take action. They conducted their own investigations and eventually arrested the perpetrator and the father of the girl, charging both in court. Eventually, the young girl, who unfortunately was already pregnant, was returned home.

I offered to be a witness in the case to ensure that justice was carried out. Early this year, the case against the perpetrator ended. He was sentenced to a jail term of 16 years. The case against the girl's father is still in court pending judgment.

Though sometimes I fear that the family of the jailed man may cause me harm, I am happy that justice was carried out and that children in my community are a little safer. I may not tell where I got the courage to push this case through but I know that such courage is necessary to change society.

### Highlights: CPPR





## COMMUNITY PROGRAMME FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

*St. Martin through the Community Programme for People with Disabilities (CPPD) implemented activities in the final year of a three-year strategic. The programme partnered with Opera Provvidenza St. Antonio (OPSA) & Fontana Foundation both from Italy and Liliane Foundation of the Netherlands, as well as the local community in implementing programme activities.*

- During the year, the programme worked with and empowered **120** volunteers who prepared and successfully implemented **30** action plans. Activities included regular follow up visits to beneficiaries, participation in support groups of parents of Children with Disabilities (CWDs.) The volunteers also organized awareness sessions that reached more than **1,100** people resulting in increased membership in support groups and mobilized communities raising **KES 1,292,365** towards supporting CWDs.
- Motivational activities for the volunteers included one joint retreat and **50** volunteer meetings during which the programme monitored the implementation of action plans. The volunteers used the meetings to share experiences and encourage one another.
- Through the facilitation of the programme staff and volunteers, **10** support systems were mobilized to support **101** CWDs. They included small Christian communities, church congregations, women groups and community welfare groups. The needs they addressed included payment of school fees, provision of basic needs, psychosocial support and enhancing the participation of CWDs in community activities.
- A total of **933** beneficiaries, **286** of whom were newly recruited, received various forms of support from the programme. **257** of them showed marked improvement. **116** CWDs in various learning institutions acquired various capacities and reduced their vulnerability and some **12** received starter kits to empower them economically. Another **58** were supported to enhance their participation in community activities. A special category of volunteers, Community Rehabilitation Workers (CRWs), supported **72** CWDs through physiotherapy services.
- The programme continued to provide aids and appliances to CWDs to enhance their capacity and correct their disabilities. **153** children benefited from this support. **30** of those supported received devices made using Appropriate Paper technology (APT). As a result of different programme interventions, **32** children were disengaged from programme support having attained varied levels of physical and cognitive capacities.
- 24** support groups of parents of CWDs implemented different activities aimed at economically empowering them and providing psychosocial support while another **23** parents were trained on handling their children with Cerebral Palsy and delayed milestones. Nine out of the twelve adopted a mentorship approach where they exchange ideas and support one another.
- In a bid to validate the use of APT, the programme, together with Cerebral Palsy Africa based in the UK and the Aga Khan University in Kenya initiated a research on the effectiveness of the devices. **12** children with cerebral palsy were identified for the research which is expected to end towards the end of 2016. In addition, two St. Martin staff members went for further training on APT in the United Kingdom to enhance the use of the technology as well as the research process.



**COMMUNITY  
PROGRAMME FOR  
PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES**







CASESTUDY 03

# The Turn Around

*Five-year-old Peter Chege was born with Cerebral Palsy, a condition that affects one's body movement and muscle coordination. Peter's parents lived in a state of denial and refused to expose him to the public.*

One day, a kind neighbor talked to one of the St. Martin volunteers involved in the Programme for People with Disabilities (CPPD) about Peter's condition. The two decided to approach Peter's parents to convince them to take him to one of the St. Martin Physiotherapy Clinics. His parents however refused to accompany Peter, as they did not want to be associated with his disability. Unfortunately, after this one therapy clinic, they made no effort to take Peter for follow-up visits.

The physiotherapist ultimately decided to visit Peter's family after failing to see Peter in subsequent clinics. This started a series of home visits which slowly changed Peter's parent's mindset.

As a result of this change, Mary Wanjiku, Peter's mother, accepted to attend a training on home based management of children with disabilities organized by the programme. During the training, Mary realized that her story was not unique. If anything, she found a lot of strength in women who had been rejected, divorced and even thrown out of their families because of bearing a child with disabilities.

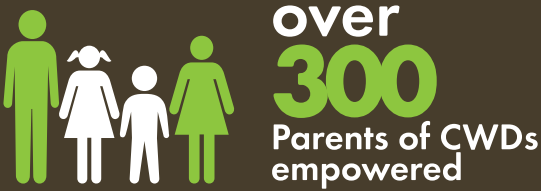
Later on in the year, the programme organized a training, trying out a new approach of empowering mentors to provide support to parents of children with disabilities

ities in their immediate communities. Peter's father, Joseph Chege, took the opportunity and attended the training dubbed 'getting to know cerebral palsy.' He told his own story vividly and encouraged the participants to look at their children with disabilities as blessings and not curses.

Peter has since improved tremendously after his parents were equipped with skills to manage his condition as well as deal with the stigma that comes with having a child with a disability. His parents have found the way to love him and to bring him out to share life with his age mates and friends.

Speaking of his experience, Peter's father had this to say, "Peter's gifts are neither in what he does nor what he can become but in what he is now; a child of God. He smiles constantly, sings endlessly and trusts other people completely. He can teach us the meaning of the words 'Rejoice in the Lord...'"

Highlights: Community Programme for People with Disabilities







# COMMUNITY PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

*St. Martin through the Community Programme for Children in Need (CPCN) implemented activities under the first year of a five year project christened 'Inua Toto'. The programme partnered with Kindernothilfe Germany, IPSIA/MAE of Italy and the local community in implementing its activities.*

The programme during the year recruited and worked with **116** volunteers referred to as Child Right Promoters (CRPs). These volunteers were empowered on child rights and advocacy through a three-day workshop and during their monthly meetings. As a result of the empowerment, the CRP's were able to follow up vulnerable children in schools **240** of whom remained stable. The CRP's also conducted awareness creation campaigns on child rights targeting the public reaching over **4,000** people.

In support of the work of the volunteers, the programme empowered **40** parents of children in need on responsible parenthood and gave them access to economic opportunities. Another **63** were followed up and counselled **54** of whom adhered to advice and their children remained more stable at home and in school.

The programme also worked with **10** primary schools in implementing child rights advocacy activities through School Management Boards. **13** members of these Boards were trained on the concept of child friendly schools leading to improved school infrastructure and improved participation of children in school affairs. Close to **200** children government members from these schools were engaged in celebrating the day of the African Child where they raised awareness on child rights to over **800** children and residents of Nyahururu town.

**103** children rescued from the street and from abusive situations, **61** of whom were new admissions, received institutional care and underwent rehabilitation in the programme centers. **47** of them were successfully reintegrated into their community with either relatives or foster families. **37** children who had been reintegrated earlier were followed up and given counseling and schooling support.

The programme through strategic partners advocated for the enrollment of **53** children into public schools and also supported them through partial payment of school fees and purchase of school uniform. **13** other disadvantaged children were attached to artisans for apprenticeship training and supported with training fees. Additionally, the programme supported **75** young people on the streets with basic needs and assisted **42** of them to access health care facilities when need arose. The collaboration between the programme and these young people led to the rescue of **15** boys from the streets.



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CASESTUDY 04

# Transforming Lives

*James Mulwa’s contact with the programme started 15 years ago. He and his siblings lived with their mother in a slum in Nyahururu. Life was tough and many a times they went to bed hungry.*

James’s mother started staying away from home for days in search of jobs as well as to escape from the reality of the poverty they faced. This forced James and his siblings to go out to beg for food. With time, James and his siblings found their place on the streets of Nyahururu town where they scavenged for food in waste bins. Gradually they became full time street children. All this time, their mother made no effort to look for them.


While on the streets, James and his siblings were met by volunteers who encouraged them to join the St. Martin’s rehabilitation centres. James agreed to join the drop-in centre for boys in 2003 and started undergoing rehabilitation. James adapted easily to the rehabilitation process which took only six months and he was ready for reintegration.

The programme reached out to James’ mother to take him back but that proved futile. His relatives were also unwilling to take him in due to varied reasons and the option of having James placed in a foster family was mooted. A family living near Nyahururu took James in and for 10 years he lived a quiet and fulfilled life. When James turned 21 and upon completion of his secondary school, the foster family disengaged him. He was forced to start life on his own.

James remained optimistic and was determined to continue with his education. He took up a job as an attendant in a lodging. The hours in the job made it possible for him to enroll at the local university. James struggled through his first, second and third years of university and is currently in his fourth and final year after which he will graduate with a Bachelor’s Degree in Education.


James’s experience during his 25 years of life has been anything but easy but he has remained humble and grateful to everyone who has been a part of his journey recognizing that each one of them played a key role in transforming his life. And James is determined to make the same difference in the life of another vulnerable person. He says, “I have discovered how important each one of us can be if we devote ourselves to the service of others and I want to do the same to another person”.

Highlights: Community Programme for Children in Need




116

Volunteers empowered




103

Parents empowered



474

Vulnerable children supported



4,000

People given awareness





FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Expenditures		
	2016 (sh)	2015 (sh)
Employment		
Salaries and wages	30,279,182.00	29,515,338.00
Total employment	30,279,182.00	29,515,338.00
Other administration expenses:		
Meals/accommodation	268,285.00	313,351.00
Electricity and water	1,016,571.00	1,008,106.00
Audit/Consultancy	74,740.00	705,532.00
Motor vehicle running	7,094,687.00	7,811,847.00
General expenses	1,453,171.54	1,565,039.00
Bank charges	70,876.22	67,721.00
Consumables	2,507,275.00	2,203,862.00
Trainings	3,818,431.00	4,121,229.00
Medical / schooling	9,154,978.00	8,382,336.00
Publications and visibility	2,734,569.00	2,139,928.00
Total	28,193,583.76	28,318,951.00
Total	58,472,765.76	57,834,289.00
Establishment Expenses:		
Land rent and rates	1,020,369.00	110,180.00
Maintenance	3,430,838.00	1,725,368.00
Insurance	915,126.00	778,906.00
Depreciation	5,931,572.78	5,082,648.99
Total	11,297,905.78	7,697,102.99
TOTAL EXPENSES	69,770,671.54	65,531,391.99
Restricted funds	7,106,994.20	
TOTALS	76,877,665.74	65,531,391.99

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Incomes		
	2016 (sh)	2015 (sh)
Income from Main Donors:		
Fontana	2,167,611.86	5,044,648.25
Atante Mani	2,210,500.00	619,575.00
Missionary Office	2,216,500.00	-
CMC/AMA (MM)	1,979,594.37	3,940,000.00
IPSIA MAE	4,843,870.00	-
Kindernothlife	9,118,189.72	10,161,946.05
RTAA	995,642.50	-
OPSA	9,232,516.50	12,247,774.98
PAT	6,447,635.00	476,777.99
Total	39,212,059.95	32,490,722.27
Income from non-conventional donors:		
Anonymous Donors	11,717,421.60	-
Contributions	618,452.00	417,001.00
Well wishers	16,373,014.80	1,229,580.00
Total	28,708,888.40	1,646,581.00
Income from operational activities:		
Refunds	1,970,936.00	2,997,781.27
Other Incomes	6,985,781.39	7,683,434.46
Total	8,956,717.39	10,681,215.73
Total Income	76,877,665.74	44,818,519.00
Deficit		(20,712,872.99)
TOTALS	76,877,665.74	65,531,391.99



# WORKING IN COMMUNION

*Some 69 staff worked in the organization on contract during the year with 7 trainees placed in different programmes and departments for learning experiences. Two missionaries from the Diocese of Padova and two expatriates from the Netherlands also worked for the organization. The following activities were organized for and in some cases by staff for empowerment and motivation:*

**Staff meeting and sharings** took place every two months. Important issues were discussed and agreed on during the meetings. The sharing sessions provided an opportunity for programmes to share their work with each other for mutual understanding.

**Recreation activities** for staff were valuable moments for uniting all the staff and rekindling a family spirit. They also gave valuable breaks from normal routines.

**Staff retreats** were moments of prayer and meditation on the words of the Gospel. Staff and committee members also found time for individual silent retreats at Mwangaza Retreat Centre in Nairobi. The retreats helped staff to regain their motivation and renew their call to service.

**Team building activities** brought the staff of different programmes and departments together with the aim of fostering team spirit in the work place. Staff debriefings were also organized to enhance sharing on issues of work so as to enhance synergy and harmony in activities.

**Continuous learning activities** were organized by the different programmes and departments on a monthly basis. Members of the programmes and departments facilitated sessions on valuable topics which had either been learnt in external workshops or researched from other sources. This increased the staffs' expertise at their work.

**Weekly prayers** were held by all staff on Tuesday mornings when the Gospel was shared in the light of real life experiences. A monthly Mass with the children of the St. Martin centers of rescue and rehabilitation and associate communities were also held. Sharing during these fora helped staff to express themselves and encourage one another

Working together in the service of the poor was the main call for all the staff. Professionalism and efficiency in every task was taken seriously by all the staff who organized their work in programmes and departments and reported to their respective committees and the administration.

# GRATITUDE

*The year 2015-2016 successfully flew by and saw us fulfill most of our set targets and objectives for the year.*

The beneficiaries were the gift that brought the communities together. They were very valuable contributors to our interventions throughout the reporting period and a valuable asset in planting the seed of solidarity among the people. We cannot thank them enough.

We recognize the support of the many people, organizations, governments, churches and groups that are affiliated to St. Martin CSA in one way or another. Their commitment and support to our work and our mission enabled us to go to the communities where we work with optimism, sharing our lives and encountering the gift of those who needed our services. This enabled us to spread our spirit of service to other people who became equally transformed.

The people who toiled with us on a day to day basis including volunteers, donors, associates, partners, staff, friends and well-wishers gave their time and resources freely and enabled us to carry out our activities successfully. Even those who visited us and those who undertook short experiences in St. Martin played a great role in encouraging us to move on. It is their encouragement and inspiration that 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.

**TO ALL OF YOU, WE SAY A BIG THANK YOU.**









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