

ASANTE NEWSLETTER



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COMMUNITY PRAYER

Our Father
remove from us selfishness
and make us ready to give freely
since we freely received.

Jesus our brother
let us follow your example
in caring for the needy
always remembering that the
greatest is the one who serves more
and the first is the last of all.

Spirit of Love bind us together
against the one who tries to divide
us
and grant us forgiveness and mercy.

We thank you Lord
for the joy of sharing with the poor
and for the healing of our hearts.
Amen.



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 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.

ABOUT ST. MARTIN CSA

St. Martin CSA is a religious grass root organisation, registered as a trust, which has been started in response to the problems of several vulnerable groups of people in the communities, who seemed to have been neglected and forgotten. The organisation does not directly target the beneficiaries. But instead, it

aims to promote solidarity in the community by building a capacity of volunteers that can take care of the needy among them.

The work of St. Martin CSA, in fact, is done through a



network of more than 1000 community volunteers who are recruited from different communities. They undergo a process of spiritual and technical formation so that they are empowered to make real changes in the lives of the beneficiaries. They also learn how to involve other people in the community.

A PATH TOWARDS AUTONOMY

St. Martin CSA and L'Arche Kenya are implementing a joint 3 years project (March 2018-April 2021) aimed at enhancing the institutional, programmatic and financial sustainability.

The project has 6 domains of growth/development: management and governance, strategic planning, information and communication technology, communication and visibility, development approach and resource mobilization. Each of the domains is implemented as a



**Fondation
Assistance Internationale**

subproject by multidisciplinary team drawn from L'Arche Kenya and St. Martin CSA with the support of the funding partner and Fontana Foundation- Italy an associate of St. Martin CSA. This project funded by Fondation Assistance Internationale – Italy, will enable St. Martin CSA and L'Arche Kenya to build and sustain a new desired

state in light of emerging needs in the community in a dynamic context.



GUESTS, STAFF AND THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Having guests is a way of St Martin CSA to renew and refresh its commitment to the service of the vulnerable. This is because, the guests helps us to share and to re-evaluate our calling while responding to the many questions they ask. The organization was privileged to receive local and international guests. We had a moment to share experiences and also to interact with them.

Amongst the guests we

received for a month or two were 3 different religious congregations; 3 novices from Sisters of Mary Reparatrix, 6 postulants from Dimesse Sisters and 2 novices from the Mill Hill brothers, we were happy to take part in their formation process. Through the interaction with the vulnerable, they are able to further discern on their calling and mission in life.

Through the traineeship programme, we received



6 community worker trainees joining the organization for a period of one year. These are young certificate and diploma holders who are exposed to different experiences with the vulnerable and the different working environment.

It was such a special moment to have the board, management committee and the staff together for a joint retreat. With the theme: “my story my call”. It was such a beautiful moment to reflect on how we all began our journeys of life and the effect it have in the lives of others.



A WORD FROM FABIO & ILARIA

GOVERNANCE PROJECT



During our preparation to go to the missions, we were told that our mission was to go, see, experience, and be ready to become “unworthy servants” (Lk 17: 7-10). However, at that time we were not able to understand the real meaning of those words; When we left Italy in 2014, we were ready to start a new chapter of our life working with vulnerable people away from home. All we knew was that it would be different, that just as far as the distance, so would the culture, language and life style. Thank God we went as a family, at least we had each other to turn to when the going got tough.

The children mingled easily with local children, welcoming new friendships with simplicity without fearing the differences in colour or language. This opened doors of friendship ushering us into a wonderful new world of close relationships. We mingled with the volunteers in their work, joined community celebrations full of songs and dance, built houses out of wood and mud for beneficiaries, worshipped with a wide range of religious sects, washed dishes, swept dusty

floors, hugged people over and over again, walked into virgin forests... everything that would comprise heaven. In the end, we realized that we were “receiving a hundred times as much in return for what we gave” (Matthew 19:29).

We have learnt the truth of Jean Vaniers words that: “we are not called by God to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love”. It is very hard to accept the reality that time to return to Italy has come just when we felt so much at home here.

Thank you Nyahururu, thank you Kenya.

Goodbyes are not forever. Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean we’ll miss you untill we’ll meet again!

project therefore has enlisted great interest not only from volunteers but also the staff and management committee’s members.

“I appreciate St. Martin because it addresses needs that are felt and relevant to the community, like this one on governance is timely”.

(local administrator and Programme volunteer Waweru.)

The programme is exploring how public participation can be used to promote the common good where the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized are not only talked about but also listened to and allowed to contribute and make decisions that affect their life. This could be one of the pathways to a just society.



The Community Programme for Peace and Reconciliation is implementing a 1 year project on Governance with specific emphasis on Public Participation. The project targets to build the capacity of the community volunteers, leaders of organized groups (people with disabilities, people living with HIV, youth and women in special vulnerability) so that through them, awareness can be created in the community for the public to play their rightful role in making decisions that affect their lives in governance.

So far the programme has trained 97 volunteers and 28 group leaders. Trained volunteers and leaders developed action plans that are being implemented through the mentorship of the staff. It is evident that despite being a constitutional provision majority of the participants are not aware of their role in governance through public participation and holding the duty bearers accountable. This

“This training has opened my eyes on how young people can engaged with the government constructively as opposed to violence during elections” Jorum, a youth group leader

Being in Solidarity with Our Brothers and Sisters In Need: The Solai Dam Tragedy



The 10th of May was a sorrowful day for the locals in Solai Nakuru County after the Patel Dam broke overnight sweeping over the whole village, destroying homes, farms and even worse killing over 40 individuals. This left the survivors struggling with no shelter, food clothing or anyone to turn to. This created an opportunity for St Martin CSA to offer a helping hand having been the second time to visit the area

after a fact finding visit.

On arrival at the site, we were in absolute shock, schools, shops, farms and homes were completely destroyed leaving no evidence of there ever being a village.

Kenyans from all walks of life were present with foodstuff, clothing and other consumables, ready to help in whatever way they could.

As the Disaster Response Team had informed our team, there was a severe shortage of clean drinking

water. We therefore had carried with us four 5000 litre water tanks as our donation to the locals and had a debriefing session with them so as to help ease their grief.

Having had experienced such a high magnitude of trauma, it was evident that the psycho-social state of the survivors needed to be addressed. We partnered with others to assist especially the children who mainly could not understand why such an incidence would happen to the place they have always known as home.

St Martin CSA feels called to mobilize communities to work together in supporting those in need so as to help ease their burden. We still are in solidarity with the Solai Community as they struggle to overcome the challenges that were brought about by this tragedy.



We always appreciate to hear from friends. If you have any questions or you wish to learn more about our organisation please don't hesitate to contact us.

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