

Impact the Lives of Women & Children



Care for the Elderly & Disabled

Samuel Muriithi was born in a family of seven. Immediately after birth he was diagnosed with congenital club foot in both feet. For the first fifteen years of his life, Samuel saw little improvement and began to give up hope; his parents lost faith in the clinics, children in school teased him relentlessly, and he was unable to live a normal childhood.

When all seemed lost, members of his church introduced Samuel to the Naromoru Disabled Children's Home. Hoping for a miracle, he underwent a risky and painful orthopedic surgery on both feet. Three months later, when the first plaster was removed, Samuel got a chance to view his feet for the first time. To his delight, both feet were stepping horizontally to the ground. After years of feeling rejected, Samuel would finally be able to change his walking style, wear normal shoes, and play football.

During physiotherapy, the Sisters encouraged Samuel to continue his education and enter a career to help other disabled children. Today, the energetic young man's face beams with hope. Samuel is an orthopedic technologist that specializes in children's orthopedics. He has worked with Sisters at the Naromoru Disabled Children's Home for the last 13 years, providing hope for a miracle to many children that were in his same position.

Children



A child's first five years are a crucial time in their life when health, nutrition, and stimulation play a critical role in healthy development. Children who benefit from quality childcare are more ready to learn, and less likely to repeat grades or drop out of school.

For many children stricken with HIV and AIDS, completing school may seem like an impossible dream. In homes where one or both parents have HIV, many children contract the disease at birth. If they are not on antiretroviral treatment, one-third of children who are living with HIV will not reach their 1st birthday, and half will not reach their 2nd birthday.

With trained staff and resources, and affective maternity and neonatal care, new infections among many thousands of children could be avoided. AOSK has partnered with Catholic Relief Services and the Hilton Foundation to implement SCORE ECD, a program to enrich the lives of children living with HIV and AIDS ages 0-5 and their families. Sisters help the most vulnerable children grow up healthy by developing stable relationships, safe and stimulating physical environments, and proper health and nutrition.

Empowering Women

12-year-old Mercy fled home in the middle of the night after her mother told her the "cut" ritual would take place the following day. All of these girls had escaped from their homes because their families and community were forcing them to undergo female genital mutilation (FGM).

Mercy, like many other girls at the Maria Adelaide Center, was not ready to undergo the unbearably painful ritual, nor was she prepared to be married off before getting an education.

Although FGM has been outlawed in Kenya since 2001, a 2009 public health survey revealed that 27% of women have been subjected to the practice.

Mercy has found a new home. Sisters at the center provide care for girls that have become pregnant, enroll girls in school, and may initiate communication with a girl's family to foster reconciliation. While the transition is incredibly difficult, the sisters at the center provide a safe haven where hopes of a brighter future are nurtured.



Peace Initiatives



The **Justice and Peace Commission** challenges the injustice directed towards women by upholding human rights and the freedoms of all people. It advocates a woman's dignity and ability to engage in decision-making as an equal partner to men.

Capacity for Inter-Religious Community Action (CIRCA) promotes strong Muslim-Christian cooperation and peaceful coexistence through inter-faith networks and implementation of joint Muslim-Christian projects focused on the common good.