

## **Love & Mercy Coalition/Missionaries of the Precious Blood Primary Education Program for High Risk Children Living in Manyoni**

In May of 2006 Fr. Mapinduzi, a Missionary of the Precious Blood (CPPS), identified a group of street children who were surviving in the small town of Manyoni by begging for their daily sustenance. Most of these children age 9-14 had never attended school and came from very challenging backgrounds. Priests, religious Sisters and several local businessmen not knowing how else to help, indirectly supported the children's behavior of begging by contributing often daily, small amounts of money when they were sought out on the street or in the mission. The significant need of each child was apparent, but how to meet those needs on a consistent basis remained a challenge. Fr. Mapinduzi, recognizing the short and long term negative effects of the street environment, approached Love & Mercy Coalition (LMC) about developing a plan to provide rehabilitation for the above children with the goal of entering them in standard 1 government primary school in January of 2007.

The initial goal of the program was to demonstrate to each child the love, care and respect that he/she deserves as a child of God and to provide dignity, attention and non physical discipline. The plan included friendship, advice and counseling as well as addressed basic human needs of nutrition, healthcare, education, values formation, personal hygiene and clothing. With the provision by CPPS of the kindergarten building that was vacant in the afternoons and donated funds from LMC, children were recruited from the streets by Fr. Mapinduzi and two Precious Blood Sisters. After the child agreed to enter the program, the Manyoni project leadership team went on home visits to explain the plan and expectations to the guardian. They also educated and sought the support and cooperation of community members who had been giving money to the children about services now available to high risk children. Consequently, the original 14 well known street children grew into a more balanced group of 27 very needy children who had never attended school despite being school age because of challenges that exist in their family of origin.

After six months in the LMC/CPPS program the above 27 children have demonstrated remarkable change and potential. Under the direction of the leadership team and three committed teachers one with special training in psychology, the children have progressed through the curriculum at a rapid pace and can now write their names, read at a standard 2 level and do simple math. They are able to cooperate within the group and express their needs in a polite, non confrontational manner. They follow directions well and ask for advice when they are unsure of how to proceed in addressing a problem. They are open to the love and care that is being demonstrated to them and are starting to share those values with others. Many of them are able to stand in front of the group to tell a story showing confidence and self esteem. They are beginning to recognize the value of education and the potential dangers of living on the street. They are eager to answer questions and show how much they have learned and grown. They have developed a cohesive community that both supports and challenges each member.

Because of their challenging backgrounds, unique needs, advanced ages and rapid progression through the proposed curriculum, it has become apparent that enrolling them in standard 1 in the government primary school with 6 and 7 year old children would be unacceptable. LMC/CPPS is proposing to provide a short term primary school course for these high risk children following the Tanzanian MEMKWA curriculum that would allow them to finish primary school in 3-4 years instead of the standard 7 years. The LMC project in Tegeta has a similar class in their education center that is showing positive results. Because of their significant lack of basic needs and family support, LMC/CPPS would like to continue providing the same level of care for these 27 needy children. We believe that by investing in these children today, we will be able to provide the tools for them to grow into independent, caring, self sufficient adults able to support themselves and their families and to also have the motivation and ability to contribute positively to their community in the future. The proposed budget in USD for 2007 is detailed below and is based on the cost of the program in the initial 6 months:

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>Uniform</b>	<b>School Supplies</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Salaries</b>	<b>Misc.</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>January</b>	\$550	\$50	\$350	\$30	\$ 160	\$170	\$15	\$1,325
<b>February</b>		\$50		\$30	\$160	\$170	\$15	\$425
<b>March</b>		\$50		\$30	\$160	\$170	\$15	\$425
<b>April</b>		\$50		\$30	\$ 160	\$170	\$15	\$425
<b>May</b>		\$50		\$30	\$160	\$170	\$15	\$425
<b>June</b>		\$50		\$30	\$160	\$170	\$15	\$425
<b>July</b>		\$50		\$30	\$ 160	\$170	\$15	\$425
<b>August</b>		\$50		\$30	\$160	\$170	\$15	\$425
<b>September</b>		\$50		\$30	\$160	\$170	\$15	\$425
<b>October</b>		\$50		\$30	\$ 160	\$170	\$15	\$425
<b>November</b>		\$50		\$30	\$160	\$170	\$15	\$425
<b>December</b>		\$50		\$30	\$160	\$170	\$15	\$425
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$550	\$600	\$350	\$360	\$1,920	\$2,040	\$180	\$6,000

- Uniform includes 2 T shirts with LMC logo, one pair short/skirt, 2 pairs socks and 1 pair school shoes per child.
- School Supplies includes chalk, pens, pencils, notebooks, photocopies, art supplies.
- Health includes multivitamins and primary health care at local dispensary. Also soap, toothpaste/brush, petroleum jelly for personal hygiene and powdered soap for washing uniforms.
- Food includes one meal of ugali/rice/cooked bananas and meat/beans and vegetable/fruit and snack per day.
- Salaries include 3 primary school teachers with teaching certificates (one with psychology/counseling background), cook and program manager.