



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Vision:

Our vision is to be a society which integrates and accepts children with special needs to fully realize their potentials.

Mission:

To be a voice and to break the silence of disability in communities through increasing access to information and service delivery.

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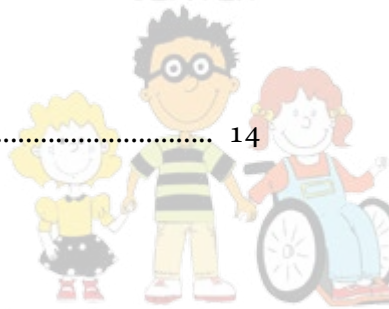
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ANGEL'S

CENTER



Children With Special Needs



Message from the Director

It is my great pleasure to present Angel's Center for Children with Special needs Report of 2019. The report looks back at a productive year in which we strive to deliver excellent service to children with special needs and families raising such children as a way of accepting, integrating these children and breaking the silence of disability in community.

You are all AMAZING and I am so proud to be in this Angel's Center family of awesomeness with each and every one of you!

In this report, you will read how our long time programs continue to successfully serve children with disabilities along with our new programs such as community rehabilitation outreaches and the continuation of building the new center that started in 2017 with a fundraising dinner and we look forward to join the new center in 2020.

These pages are full of excitement and success stories which would not be possible without the amazing staff, volunteers, board members, supporters and corporate community partners. I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your time, commitment, dedication and support over the past year. You are all AMAZING and I am so proud to be in this Angel's Center family of awesomeness with each and every one of you!

Rosemary Nambooz
Project Director

Executive summary:

This report details the annual activities of Angel's Center. It provides information with regards to all aspects of all programs and projects conducted and implemented by Angel's Center in Wakiso district. More so, the report details the number of target group reached, partners we have worked with, results, success factors and challenges faced throughout the year. "Together we can create a society in which children with special needs can fully realize their potentials and break the silence of disability in communities of Uganda".

Program Implementation:

During the course of the year 2019, several activities have been implemented to strengthen the delivery of our services and realizing the organization's goal to break the silence and social stigma attached to disability through building strong families that are resilient to bad cultural norms and values related to disability. Among the activities carried out work force development for young persons with Down syndrome, women2030 project, parents support initiative, outpatient department, early learning for children with special needs, building project, national disability sports gala, community based physiotherapy camp outreaches, inclusive education and individualized education plans training for partner school teachers.

Workforce development for young persons with Down syndrome

In February, Angel's Center in partnership with Global Livingston Institute successfully piloted the workforce development for parents and young persons with Down syndrome. The main goal of the project was to create awareness on Down syndrome and train young persons with Down syndrome within a structural framework that educates and prepares them for opportunities within the service and hospitality industries as well as impart self-confidence, self-esteem, and hope both in parents of and young adults with Down syndrome. The workforce development training was not only an exciting venture for parents, but also a reflection of what they go through in their daily lives raising up these children. This was demonstrated through emotional session of parents rolling out tears while sharing their journey of raising these children. A total of 15 participants attended the training whereby 8 were parents and 7 were young adults with Down syndrome.

As a result, the workforce development has provided employment opportunities to 3 young adults with Down syndrome in different organizations such as schools and bakery shops. We officially launched the workforce development program which raised a lot of interest from parents who want their children to train with us.



Early learning for children with special needs at the center



Angel's Center continues to adjust innovative approaches of teaching children with special needs. 2019 has been a year exploring and discovering new ideas to make the learning of children with special needs more interesting and comfortable. At Angel's Center, children have benefited a lot in different teaching strategies and approaches. Our theme this year was Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) to help children communicate effectively with others, control their environment through communication, make choices, decisions as well as improve their communication competence. Our multi-disciplinary teams (speech-language therapist, occupational therapist, special needs teachers and physiotherapist) have focused their attention to use a combination of symbols such as gestures, photographs, pictures and drawings to capture access to proper participation and learning of the children. At total 28 children have benefited and received different therapy services from the center.

Women2030 project- Amplifying Mothers' Voice

At the end of 2018, two staff members went for Women2030 gender training which was organized by Action for Rural Women Empowerment (ARUWE) in partnership with WECF. The #Women2030 program goal is to build capacity of women's rights and gender civil society organizations working and engage them in the policy processes of Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on the climate action. Among other organizations, Angel's Center was nominated as one of the organizations to implement Women2030 project. Amplifying Mothers voices is the project that we have successfully implemented under Women2030 with close monitoring and mentorship from ARUWE. The main goal of this project was to address the needs of young mothers of children with disability with a focus on empowering them through



awareness raising and life skills development in a period of six months. This project productively benefited over 20 mothers with the following activities; Tailoring skills, Gender, advocacy and awareness and personality skills.

World Down Syndrome Day Celebrations 2019



It was yet another privilege for Angel's Center to participate again in the World Down Syndrome day celebrations 2019. Together with other organizations including Global Livingston Institute, EmbraceKulture, Children's clinic Naalya and The Uganda Down Syndrome Association, Angel's Center actively participated in the planning of the event and mobilization of local organizations, parents and children with Down syndrome to make the day a successful event. The event took place at Design Hub, Kampala and over 380 people were in attendance. The main objective of the day was to establish a way in which Government of Uganda can step in to promote inclusion for children with Down syndrome in schools across Uganda. The theme of the event was *"Standing up for Down syndrome in Uganda"*. It was such a colorful day whereby many important



persons in Government attended. Activities involved included one week of free treatment for all persons with Down syndrome and this was sponsored by Children's clinic Naalya, a fashion show by persons with Down syndrome and a Mountain hike organized by the Mountain Slayers of Uganda.

National Disability Sports Gala

Every year in July, Angel's Center together with other disability working organizations participates in annual awareness and fun day for children with disabilities. This year round, it was the 7th annual awareness day for children with disabilities; Indeed, the day was full of fun including marching on the streets of Kampala, singing, dancing and showing joy and dignity to the lives of children with special needs. The theme of the day was *"Inclusion Begins with Me"*. Over 800 people attended and participated differently in the fun day. One of the purposes of the annual disability fun day for such children is to find love, companion, belonging and demonstrating compassion to their children. During the fun day most children with disabilities expressed themselves differently, know their space and realized their potential at a certain stage.



Parents support Initiative

Early this year, Angel's Center opened up the parents' support group initiative as a unit under Angel's Center for children with special needs. The Angel's Center Parents Support Initiative is an important platform for both parents and children because parental functioning especially in terms of economic independence is very key for most families raising children with disabilities. The parents support Initiative was therefore set up to provide adequate support and accurate information for caregivers about causes and prevention of impairments, the realities of a cure, support and relief for the female carers, and opportunities for the involvement of fathers. The parents support initiative is also focused on advocacy to reduce stigmatization by sharing knowledge and educating the community on disability through newspapers, radio shows and other means, as considered appropriate to each context.



Build With Us Summer Camp

The Build with us Summer Camp was conducted on the 26th, July, 2019 at New Angel's Center building site with the purpose of resuming the construction process. The building / construction process had paused since September 2018 due to limited funds. Over 200 people from different corners of Wakiso and Kampala attended and benefited from the summer camp. Over 80 children with disability were reached out with different therapy services: speech and language therapy, physio therapy, deworming, children fun-play learning activities, counseling and guidance to their parents and guardians.

The building project has progressed well with various support from different well-wishers and supporters. Angel's Center continues to thank all supporters for the generous contributions and support towards the building project and making a difference in the lives of children with disability. By God's Grace, early next year Angel's Center will be shifting to the New Angel's Center.



Community awareness march in Nansana (Amplifying Mothers' Voice).

In June, Angel's center conducted a community awareness march on the streets of Nansana. The main goal of the march was to combat the levels of stigma and discrimination associated with disability in the community. Over a long time, Angel's Center has provided community integrated services to families of children with special needs and one of the challenges identified was stigma, increased discrimination and negative attitudes from the society. It was a reflection of real life situation of parents while interacting with and sharing their stories. The theme was "Ending stigma associated with Disability in Nansana community". A total of 63 people attended and actively participated in the march. The key take away was paving way for parents to bring out children with disability into the public to receive social services like education, therapy and shelter.

Capacity building

In February and March, one of our staff members was engaged in different capacity building trainings. These trainings were organized by children at Risk Action Network (CRANE). With the skills gained, we have been able to develop functional child safeguarding policy, risk management, whistleblowing policy, code of conduct and staff safeguarding policy.

Board meeting

A board meeting was held in the November at the new Angel's Center building in Bulabakulu, Banda Parish,

Wakiso district. The main purpose was to inform the Board members on the progress Angel's Center has made in this year in terms of activities conducted and coordinated including the building project. A total number of seven (7) members attended and actively participated during the meeting. Other activities included site visit, reading the Executive director's report, previous board meeting minutes, treasurers' report. At the end of the meeting, action points were to create awareness about existence of Angel's Center, advocate for local fundraising and to increase on the frequency of BOD meetings to four times in a year.

Awareness Creation

• Physiotherapy Camp

The main purpose of the physiotherapy and health camps was to provide prior assistance and increase knowledge and awareness of parents and their children on disability and enhance continued practice of therapeutic services such as speech and language therapy and physiotherapy exercises at household levels. The camps attracted important local government officials from Wakiso district, Nansana municipality, and Nabweru division, police officers, local leaders and councillors of People with Disabilities from respective locations. Besides providing integrated therapeutic services, parents and children with disabilities benefited in the outreaches by receiving free different health services such as deworming, Vitamin A giving to children, malaria and tuberculosis screening. The camps targeted areas of Nabweru, Nansana, Gganda, Kazo, Bwaise, Kabumbi, Namungoona, Kasubi, Kakiri, Gombe, Koono and Wakiso.

Mothers benefited by receiving hepatitis B screening and vaccination, breast cancer screening and eyes checkups. A total of 382 people participated in the health and physiotherapy camps.



• Radio talks shows and community drives;

Angel's Center was able to conduct 3 radio talk shows and 2 community drives with the purpose of creating awareness in the communities about disability and importance of conducting community based rehabilitation outreaches. Awareness was mainly about the prevention measures on disability, nutrition, care, health and hygiene of these children. The goal of the radio talk show was mainly to sensitize community members about the category of children that the event targeted, and services that were available for both children and parents. The community drives were conducted to sensitize and mobilise the community members for the physiotherapy camp.

• Training of community health workers and parents in provision of therapeutic services within communities

Angel's Center conducted 3 training meetings with the Village health teams (community health workers) on how to facilitate and provide basic physical and speech and language exercises to the children with disability while at home. A total of 8 Village health team members were trained and holistically benefited from the trainings. The role of the village health team members was to sensitize and mobilize families of raising children with disability by collecting and compiling data. Moreover, emphasis was put on the causes of disability and the different categories of disabilities. As a result, the village health team members (community health workers) have taken up the responsibility of identifying families raising children with disability and linking them to Angel's center for further medical or appropriate support and referrals.



• Providing appropriate referrals and assistive devices to families;

Angel's center organized and conducted individual child assessments with the aim of identifying and providing appropriate referrals for further medical support. As a result, 10 children were given referrals to different hospitals for mobility and orthopedic services. 8 children were assessed and identified and registered to receive assistive devices such as wheelchairs and walking sticks hence enhancing and quickening accessibility.

• Inclusive education and IEPs training with partner school teachers and parents.

In August, Angel's Center in partnership with Nexus Partners for Accessibility conducted a 3 days training with both primary teachers from mainstream schools and parents of children with disabilities. The training focused on several topics including inclusive education and individual education plans, advocacy and inclusion. The main objectives for primary teachers training was to enable teachers understand more about the causes of disability and different types of disability, be able to create articulate why inclusive education and inclusive communities are important for children with and without disabilities. Lastly the training focused on equipping teachers with skills of being able to create individualized education plans for

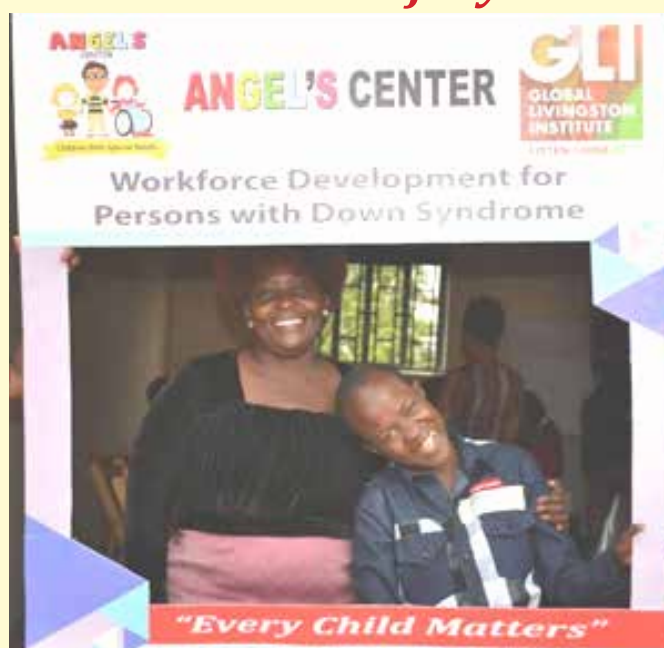


students /pupils in their different respective classes and schools by mainly focusing on identifying the student's strengths and effects of their impairments and providing accommodations, supports and modifications for the students/pupils to achieve their educational goals.

The parents' training was so emotional and focused on self- reflection whereby tears rolled out while parents were sharing their life stories relating them to five stages of grief that they undergo. Parents were trained with different skills in management of seizures especially for those parents with cerebral palsy children. The training involved CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) different demonstrations of providing basic life skills to a child who has episodes of seizures.

STORIES OF CHANGE

"Am the voice of my child"



Am Nakakande Safinah a single mother to three (3) children. I found out that my second child Tamale Nassif has Down syndrome, but life has not been easy with raising him. I have faced a lot of challenges and negative insults from the society. The society said that I sacrificed my child to get riches and I took poor pills (contraceptives) but it was not really simple to accept the situation of my child. When I got to associate and share experience with other parents, I realized that my son is better off than others.

I was encouraged and became strong because at first, I used to cry a lot but of recent when we had gender training, I now know that it was God's plan for my child to have Down syndrome. I accepted that he is my child and I love him so much.

I learned a lot from the training because it gave me the courage to work hard as a mother to take care of my family. It also taught me to be a "voice" to these children because they can't speak up for themselves.

I request the Ugandan government to consider us, parents with children with special needs through providing services like empowering mothers to raise these children in all circumstances because most times fathers run away and deny the responsibility of taking care of them.

"I now understand my son with Down syndrome"

However, while growing up, Derrick's developmental milestones were very slow due to infections he used to get compared to other children of same age. She worried a lot thinking that her son was bewitched. Derrick began to walk and talk at the age of 4 years. Sylvia was very happy seeing her son learning to talk and walk at the same time because she had lost hope for him.

She continued to receive negative words from her own family, in-laws and friends that Derrick to have slow developmental milestones was as a result of taking contraceptives at an early age. She said. "With this workforce development training, I have learnt that my son having Down syndrome came as a result of an extra chromosome 21 during reproduction that causes problems as the brain and physical features develop". She explained. Right now, she is very happy to understand what Down syndrome means and how it comes about. She was so privileged to undergo such training because it is very important knowledge to parents of children with special needs.

Sylvia is very excited to see that her son has working and earning some income for himself and family too, being the eldest son in the family. Derrick is formally working with Kings Norton International School as a school messenger. His main roles are centered in taking care of school children during picking and dropping of children from home to school and verse visa, he is responsible for cleaning the school kitchen, dinning room and preparing cups and plates for children while being served at break and lunch time.

"At the end of March after receiving salary, Derrick came quickly home and said to me Mummy today, am going to buy for you chicken because you are my sweet mum". Sylvia exclaimed. She was so motivated to see her son tell her such words and this encouraged her that Derrick can be independent and work for his future. Living alone working at King Norton school, Derrick is a self-motivated, flexible and responsible boy. After work, he cleans up the chicken and piggery houses whereby he washes the feeding and drinking bowls for the chicken waaand sweeps the houses. He also ensures that he gives the chicken feeds before going to work in the morning.



This is a story of Nalumu Sylvia, a 49 years old single mother who resides in Koona 2 village, Wakiso town council, Wakiso district. Sylvia is a mother to 3 children of which Nkugwa Derrick; 30 years old adult with Down syndrome is her first-born child. She is self-employed whereby she rears poultry and piggery at her home on small scale as her daily income. While sharing her story, she began by narrating that "I gave birth to Derrick when she was a young girl at the age of 18". She said.

Corporate Social Responsibility

In this year, we were so honored to receive corporate social responsibility from different wellwishers and schools. In september Angel's center was glad to celebrate with Chef Michael on his birthday. Chef Michael is a generous man who does charity work through providing a "Meal of Hope" and inkind gifts such as sugar, bread, shoes and clothes among others to communities of the minorites. Celebrating his birthday with Angel's Center was a way of providing and restoring the lost hope in parents and children with special needs and showing love of God to these families.



In the same way, Angels center received two community schools visiting us(Trust Future junior school and Moesaren Academy). The main purpose of their coming was to learn about disability and to make them know that these children live with us in the same society. Schools pupils were excited to learn about different causes of disability and different activities carried out with the children at Angel's Center.



Networking and collaboration

Both financial and technical supports are essential for the development of the organization. Our operations and effective service delivery was a success because of networking with different likeminded institutions, companies and organizations. This has continuously transformed Angel's Center and also widened our referral base. The following are some of the formal institutions we collaborated with during the course of the year.

1. Hope Speaks Ministry
2. Action for Rural Women Empowerment (ARUWE)
3. Global Livingston Institute (GLI)
4. Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE)
5. Katalemwa Cheshire
6. Go culture Africa
7. Kiyita Family Alliance for Development(KIFAD)
8. Touch Africa Now (TAN)
9. Partner schools.
10. Wakiso Health Center IV
11. Wakiso district community development and health offices.
12. Nabweru Health Center III
13. Nansana Municipal Council Community development office
14. Nansana Civil Society Network(NCSN)
15. Steadfast Safaris
16. The Uganda Down Syndrome Association (TUDSA)
17. Life Support of People with Disabilities
18. Special Childrens' Trust.
19. Matsiko Advocates.
20. Makerere University speech therapy students.
21. Uganda Pioneers Association (UPA).
22. SB Health care solution.

ACHIEVEMENTS

We are privileged to register a number of achievements this year with the efforts we put in form of team work and collective solidarity and networking.

- With support from several donors and supporters, we have able to commence and complete the building project. Various activities were conducted to achieve this goal such as crowd online fundraising by Anna Piasecki, Local fundraising and proposal writing.
- In this year, we have able to create more networks and partners and this has led organization to be locally and internationally known through various collaborations. Networking and collaboration has expanded our services to a scope area in the community.
- Angel's Center has kept and continued good relationship with our donors and supporters through portraying transparency and accountability and writing reports.
- In this year, the organization officially opened up the Parents support initiative as a platform of parents to advocate for the rights of their children.
- Angel's Center piloted the workforce development for young adults with Down syndrome by training

them in hospitality skills and finding job placements for them.

CHALLENGES

During this year, we faced the following challenges;

- Limited resources
- Staff turnover due to limited resources.
- We lost three children; Andrew Mulo, Ahereza Daniel and Ssendagire Ashiram. (May their souls Rest In Peace).
- Small space to accommodate growing activities at the center.

WAY FORWARD

- To lobby for funds from potential donors through coming up different resource mobilization strategies.
- Receiving volunteers and intern students to add on the local staff.
- More capacity building trainings for staff.
- Policy formulation and implementation.

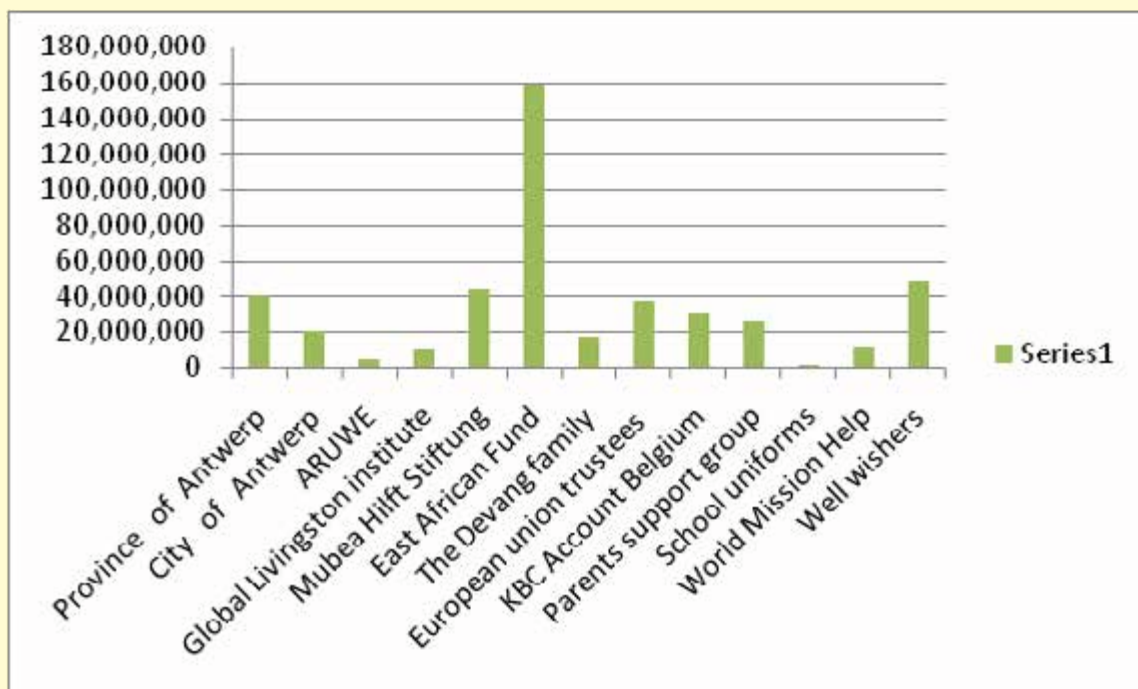
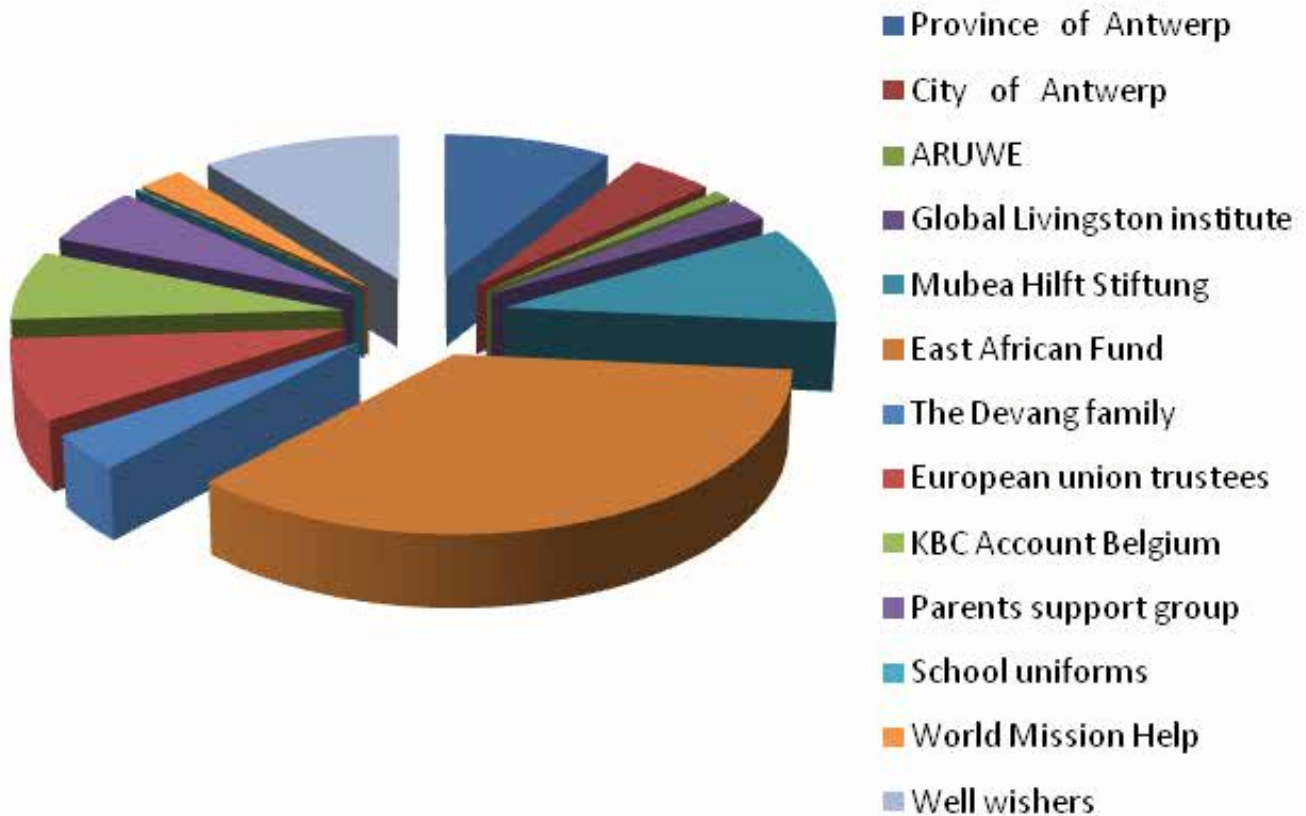
ANGEL'S CENTER WORK IN PICTURES



A reflection of Angel's Center 2019 income from donors, supporters and friends

The reflection below is presented in both pie chart and graph.

INCOME





Nansana Hoima Road
Next to Next Hotel.
Tel. +256 759 000 991
Email: mutumbarose3@gmail.com
accsnuganda@gmail.com
website: www.angelscenter.org

"Every Child Matters"