

Dear Readers, we want to welcome you to our 14th edition newsletter and to share with you what has transpired for the period of six months. It is also exciting to have you among our readers and to be part of Angel's Center vision. "A society that integrates children with special needs to fully realize their potentials".

Please enjoy this edition!

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Angel's Center breaks the ground

We officially conducted the groundbreaking of the site. This marked the beginning of construction for a new center. Stanbic Bank strongly supported the groundbreaking event by providing funds that enabled us to clear the site (cutting down tall trees and the bushes), opening up access road to the site with murram soil. Site planning and approval of plans for construction have also been conducted. Stanbic Bank did this in the honor of "moving forward to transform the lives of children with disability to have a well facilitated school to accommodate for their needs and live a dignified life in the future".

Ground breaking at the site with support from Stanbic Bank.



Angel's Center participates in the World Down Syndrome Day Celebrations (WDSD2018).

Angel's Center together with other organizations including Global Livingston Institute, EmbraceKulture, Children's clinic Naalya and The Uganda Down Syndrome Association actively participated in the planning of the event and mobilization of local organizations, parents and children with Down syndrome to make the day a success. The event took place at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala and over 300 people attended the

event. The main objective was to **celebrate and create awareness about Down syndrome** and the theme was **social inclusion, #a life worth living#**. A lot of activities were conducted and these included Performances from children with Down syndrome, a discussion panel with a doctor, speech and language therapist and a parent to empower parents and families of children with Down syndrome with practical skills to raise their children in a modified way. There was also a launch of the

"Every Child Matters"

World Down Syndrome Day Celebrations (WDSD2018)

parents' guide manual; this was to help parents learn how to provide at-home interventions to help their children achieve their potential and also increase confidence amongst parents thus reducing stress at home.



Children showcasing their talents during the event



This is one of the WDSD planning meetings held at Global Livingston institute office

Early learning activities at the Center.

At Angel's Center, we believe that through early childhood intervention, every child is able to achieve most of his or her developmental milestones. We are using a comprehensive multidisciplinary service system to address the needs of children with special needs. With the assistance of the therapists, international volunteers, teachers and trained caretakers, we have focused our trainings more on cognitive, physical, speech and language, psychosocial development and self- help skills.

□ Play has been engaged as a learning strategy in which children organize and make sense of their social world. Through tactile, interactive and imaginative play, children have explored more in learning and this has helped to alleviate and reduce behavior by using positive behavior strategies and interventions, assisted children to develop relationship and concepts and acted as a way of expressing personality and uniqueness among children.

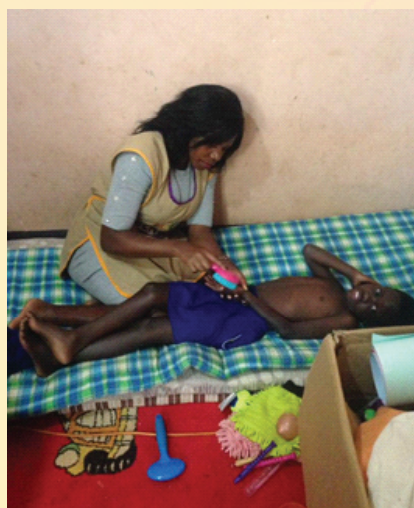


These photos show children during exposure therapy (play time on swings, with balls and sand play). This is one way of showing their different talents and interests



Community walk with children has acted as a strategy of creating awareness about disability within the surrounding communities. Nevertheless, they have ensured and enhanced interaction and exploring the environment amongst children.

These photos show our Flemish volunteers ready to take children for a community walk. On the left is Esther; in the middle is, Precious and Tendo with a wide smile on the right



These pictures show our Community based rehabilitation officer during Tacpac sessions with individual children at a time

Inclusive Art seeks to support the development of competence, knowledge and skills amongst children with disability. At Angel's Center, we seek to combat the negative attitudes about disability by showing that children with disability can do many things when taught and supported. As advocates for an inclusive society, with inclusive art and practice, we endeavor to give children with disability a creative voice and to be seen as people with significant value in the society. With the help of a teacher, children have actively participated in making jewelry such as ear rings, bracelets and necklaces among others. They have been able to learn their abilities, see the opportunities that are possible for them and develop confidence and life skills such as communication, planning problem solving and creative thinking.



The above photo shows one child Allen Komugisa with instructor Agnes in inclusive art session and other photo shows some of jewelry products from children's work.

Parents' Trainings; at Angel's Center, parents trainings are conducted on a quarterly basis to provide at-home interventions, strategies and tools for the parents to use when they are with their children. Most parents have been receptive to the trainings and these have acted as tools to reduce parental stress and increase parental optimism, allowed parents to follow their child's interests and expand those interests into new skills and embed learning opportunities in fun. A total of 20 parents have been trained into different skills and have reported positive results from the trainings.



These photos show parents during training. This has acted as a way of sharing experiences and practical skills of raising their children

Community based rehabilitation; in December 2017, we conducted home visits to 6 children. Regular home visits have acted as a way of allowing children with special needs adapt to their home environment. This has been consistently conducted as a holistic intervention to ensure and combat the negative attitudes and behaviors towards children with disabilities and their families. The home visits have provided Angel's center team to understand the firsthand situation of the family through observation and identifying their needs. Our support and guidance has been tailored to the family needs. Below is a transformation story from one of our parent who has observed a lot change in her son ever since he started coming to Angel's center.



The pictures above show Angel's center team with the volunteers during home visits

"MY SPECIAL SON ASHYLAM"

This is a story of Nabasumba Proscovia, a 48 years old mother of 8 children. They reside in Nansana 2 west zone, Wakiso district. Ashylam is 8 years old with a developmental delay. He is the youngest child in the family and stays with both parents. Proscovia narrates in agony "Everyone turned out to be okay even when their pregnancies weren't that normal in the beginning, but Ashylam's pregnancy was normal but I don't know why he turned out to be like this" implying she was completely disappointed by how he turned out to be.

Proscovia had a normal birth for Ashylam in 2011 from Mulago hospital where they spent some few days before she was discharged. From birth to 3 months Ashylam was a healthy baby boy until he was attacked by malaria which lasted for 2 months. They were admitted in Mulago hospital for more than 2 weeks. From the hospital, the boy seemed to be fine. They also withdrew from giving him medication. Later on, they started on the local herbs until he got a little bit better and finally recovered. After 2 weeks he was attacked by malaria for the second time. They continued with the local herbs until he again felt better. They had spent a lot of money previously so they decided to keep him home.

Time passed by as he also recovered, though this left a big blow in his life. At 4 years, the parents realized that he couldn't crawl, talk or show interest in either of the above mentioned. This made them to worry a lot about the kind life of their son is going live.

They had to think of the way forward, they took Ashylam to katalemwa (a rehabilitation center)



where he got some therapy services. However, they could not move on with therapy since they had limited money for it, it being expensive. He was kept home and prayed to God for his mercy on him. Luckily as time went on he started crawling and finally walked but not steadily. The parents felt very happy and people who had ever seen Ashylam couldn't believe their eyes.

As time passed, he developed Para linguistic features and started saying some little sounds which made the parents have some hope that finally he will be as they truly want. The parents were disappointed and sometimes they could get

ashamed of their son because of the negative words and attitudes from the neighbors. Ever since he joined Angel's center, parents have observed many achievements; Ashylam has started saying some more words compared to the time he hadn't joined Angel's center, He has started to eat by himself perfectly than before, He has started to undress and dress himself with a little help of a caretaker and his social interaction has slightly improved.

The parents whole heartedly appreciate Angel's center for the hand they have extended towards them.

Donations from Stitching Lamento, Netherlands

Angel's Center received a donation of assistive devices from Stitching Lamento. The purpose of assistive devices is to improve and increase easy accessibility of the children to the school environment. A number of items were purchased and among them were adaptable toilet chairs, standing frame, adjustable wheel chairs, therapy mattresses and children play items such as toys and story books. The donations made a great impact to the center.



In the photo above are children with some of the play materials that were purchased and some attentively listening to our community rehabilitator as she reads them a story



This photo shows Eleanor on a standing frame, being supported by the physiotherapist during one of her physiotherapy sessions

Inclusive education/ Capacity strengthening for primary teachers:

improving the skills of teachers through capacity strengthening is a every key component in realizing inclusive education. In the month December 2017 and early January this year, 22 primary teachers have attended and participated in the 4 capacity building trainings. The main purpose of the trainings was to develop competences, provide improved and effective skills in teaching and change the existing negative attitudes about disability amongst teachers. The trainings have also acted as tool to empower teachers to stimulate and support inclusion of children with disability in mainstream schools. We have trained teachers from partner schools namely; St. Marcelino Academy, Blessed toddlers, Moonlight pre-school, Kings' Norton international and Angel's Center.



The 2 photos above describe teachers in a role play skit of 20 minutes on inclusive education. In their characterization, participants were requested to be creative and dynamic. The skit was intended to conceptualize the nature of inclusive education in the community of their choice. The participants involved a teacher, a child with special needs, parents and able children in a classroom



Corporate Social Responsibility from Companies

During the course of 2017 and early this year, we were privileged to receive in kind donations of domestic supplies from several companies. Several companies, friends and well-wishers have come on board to promote, support, enrich and transform lives of children with disability so as to live a dignified life. The in kind donations have enabled smooth operation of the Center through sustaining and maintaining the feeding program of the children.

CSR has also acted as a way of raising awareness to members from these companies on the different categories of disability we handle and how they come about and core program areas at Angel's Center. They have also had enjoyable moments with the children through babysitting, engaging them into play and interacting with them.

Items donated to Angel's Center range from food stuffs including rice, sugar, beans, posho, cooking oil, sodas, pampers, play items like toys, puzzles, balls, balloons, and dolls, cleaning detergents like boxes of soap, liquid and powdered soap, jik, gloves, clothings, tooth paste, toilet papers, tooth brushes, stationery item like manila papers, counting & writing books, pencils, mattresses and mosquito nets among others. These companies include La cedri Forex Bureau, Driven to change foundation, Multichoice Uganda, Great lakes safaris, Mayor Nansana town council, and Philomina & friends.

These photos shows the Great lakes safaris team and the domestic supplies they gave back to Angel's Center.



This photo shows the corporate social responsibility from Multichoice Uganda. A big thanks to Multichoice Uganda for enriching the lives of children with special needs

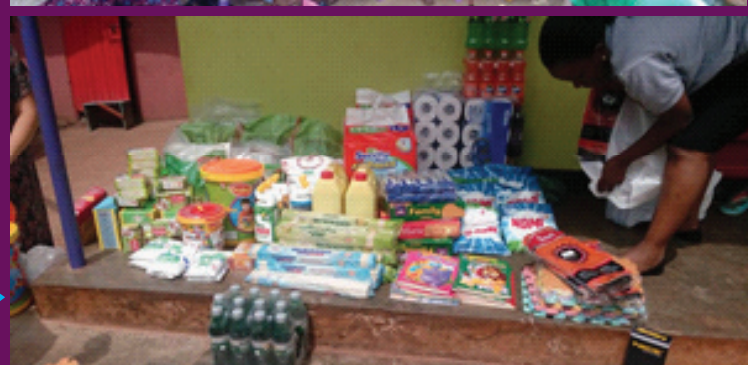


Photo voice research study;

In August 2017, a research study was carried out through photography with the aim of getting a better understanding of social inclusion and its barriers among children with special needs in society at household level. 12 parents were actively involved in the study. The research findings showed that parents were excluding their children without their knowledge but they gained skills of benefits of inclusion, it enhanced participation and empowerment of families, parents also extended skills in management and care of their children.



Parents who participated in photo voice study after a capacity building training with Caroline Masquiller (the researcher) standing at the extreme left

Children's end of year Christmas party and graduation ceremony;

it is true that giving back is not just about a donation but making a difference in someone's life. Last year's children's Christmas party was brighter and celebrated in style because Santa Claus (father Christmas) appeared earlier in form of stand-up Comedian Salvador Patrick Idiringi together with his team giving back with love to Angel's Center. Salvador gave us domestic supplies such as food stuffs like rice, posho, beans, sugar, sodas, and cleaning detergents among others.



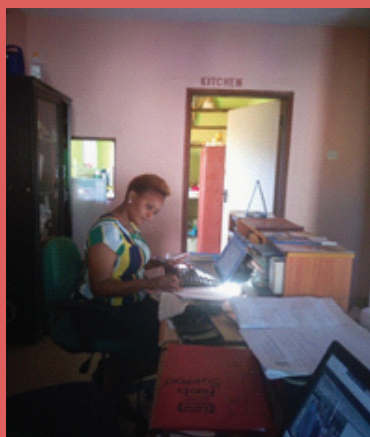
Salvador pledged continuous support to Angel's Center which he requested to accept him as part of the family and welcome him anytime he comes by to play and spend time with the children. It was our pleasure to graduate one child Awino Florence into inclusive education. This is to integrate her into better learning and achieving more goals in life

Florence together with the mother receiving a certificate to allow her join mainstream school

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* We are so excited to have a full time special education teacher by the names of Sarah Senyondo. She is a qualified teacher with a diploma in secondary education and a bachelor in community based rehabilitation from Kyambogo University. She is responsible for planning and providing appropriate learning experiences for children with special needs in a variety of educational settings. She is also responsible for guiding the teaching staff and creating a flexible program and learning environment that provides specialized instruction for children with disabilities. Our huge thanks and appreciations to Hope Speaks Ministries Uganda for bringing such amazing, hardworking and self-motivated teacher. Sara, welcome to Angel's Center team.

* We currently have 2 volunteers at the Center. Nuria from Spain and Marijanne from Netherlands are very amazing girls to work with. Nuria is a professional nurse and she is working on individual assessments of children especially with cerebral pulse children. Marijanne is a student and she is currently conducting a research study on the education of children with Down syndrome in Uganda using Angel's center for children with special needs as her case study.



This is Sara, the special education teacher.



These 3 photos show Comedian Salvador and his team celebrating Christmas with us by giving back with love and making a difference in the lives of children with special needs

Next plans

- Making assessment reports for individual children and closure of Term 1 2018
- Community Based Rehabilitation during holidays.
- Speech and language holiday program
- Parent's one on one trainings.
- Staff capacity building and induction.
- National disability sports gala.

Our physical location

The center is located at Nansana along Hoima road, block 203 next to Nexus Hotel.

Please contact us on

mutumbarose3@gmail.com

website: www.angelscenter.org

Follow us on face book/ angels center for children with special needs

Tel: +256 759 000 991, +256 772 717 245

In support

