

Dear Readers, we are much honored to share with you our 16th edition newsletter. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children with special needs in Uganda. Angels Center stands out to break the silence of disability in communities through increasing access to education, information, community rehabilitation as well as restoring broken families through integrating and accepting these children to fully realize their potentials.

In this newsletter we highlight the achievements of the Center at the end of 2018 and some the activities so far achieved in the first 5 months of 2019.

Please enjoy this edition!

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Angel's Center pilots a workforce development program for young persons with Down syndrome

In February, Angel's Center in partnership with Global Livingston Institute piloted the workforce development for parents and young persons with Down syndrome. The main goal of the project is 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.

"Every Child Matters"



Participants during the workforce development training



Young adults with Down syndrome after day one training with their trainers



Parents and children during the training

Angel's Center opens up the Parents support Initiative



A group photo of some mothers in the Parents Support Group 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 sup-

port 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.

Angel's Center participates in World Down Syndrome Day celebrations 2019.



It was a 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

"Standing up for Down syndrome in Uganda"

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. During the event, we officially launched the workforce development program which raised a lot of interest from parents who want their children to train with us.



Children with Down syndrome that participated in fashion and runway modeling



Official launch: "Young adults with Down syndrome that were trained in workforce development."



Parents with their children during the event

Angel's Center amplifies the mothers' voices

WOMEN2030 PROJECT

At the end of last year, 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

Amplifying Mothers voices

the organizations to implement Women2030 project. Amplifying Mothers voices is the project that we are currently implementing under Women2030 with close monitoring and mentorship from ARUWE. The main goal of this project is 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 has benefited over 20 mothers with the following activities; Tailoring skills, Gender, advocacy and awareness and personality skills.



Mothers during a focused group discussion on challenges they face raising children with disability during the gender training



Mothers during small group discussion during the training

Early learning activities of Angel's Center.

Our early learning activities have been supported widely with staff, therapists and both local and international volunteers. We have been able to implement various activities with children to improve on cognitive, physical and level of independence. With individualized education plans, every child has continued to benefit differently in sensory stimulation, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, environmental exposure, tacpac and play activities.



Story telling is funtime



One- on- One assessment session with speech and language therapist



Children and staff during prayer time with members from the Scripture Union



One of the volunteers teaching sorting colors with one child with Autism

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

We were honored to receive a CSR of 100 bags of cement towards our building project from Joweria. At the end of 2018, we were privileged to receive in-kind donations from Driven to Change Foundation. The items included pampers beans, rice, jik, toilet papers, omo, and children clothes. Angel's center also participated in Global Money Week Campaign organized by Initiative of Child & Youth Finance International (ICYFI). This is financial awareness campaign built to inspire children and young people to learn about money matters, livelihoods and entrepreneurship.



Some items donated to Angel's Center from Driven to Change Foundation



Angel's Center participates in the Global Money Week campaign with Angella Muwanga an advocate for the rights of children with special needs



Angel's Center receives 100 bags of cement towards the Building Project

Angel's Center Begins Out-Patient Program

Angel's Center started Out-Patient services this year with the purpose of providing an opportunity to families of children with special needs who can't afford to bring their children for therapy services on a daily basis. The main activities carried out include community mobilization of parents, assessment of children, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy to children, counseling and guidance. Parents and guardians are also engaged in various activities like training them on basic therapy exercises to do while at home and others are attaining tailoring skills.



Parents and children during OPD and one to one parent training sessions

Students on Internship

In February, we received 2 occupational therapy students from Howest University of Applied Sciences in Belgium to carry out their internship. As part of their study program, internship allows students to transfer real life experiences into learning experiences that make it possible to apply knowledge, skills and attitudes in changing situations. Lise and Delphine have completed their 3 months internship with direct mentorship from us. During their internship, they have focused on the sensory stimulation as their project. They renovated and equipped the sensory room with all play items and toys for children, developed time schedules in each class, and also developed an occupational therapy box and assessment tool to be used during therapy sessions.



Lise and Delphine, thanks for choosing Angel's Center as your Institution of internship

Staff 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 policy, whilst blowing policy, code of conduct and staff guarding policy.

Children's end of year Christmas Party 2018.

Christmas is a time of celebrating and sharing moments of happiness together. Our children celebrated their Christmas in style. 2018 Christmas party was organized and fully sponsored by the internship students from Belgium. It was such a wonderful and colorful day for both children and students saying bye- bye to them. Activities included; Students giving gifts to children, Christmas games, face painting, comedy, dancing and singing, cutting of the cake and awarding certificates to students.

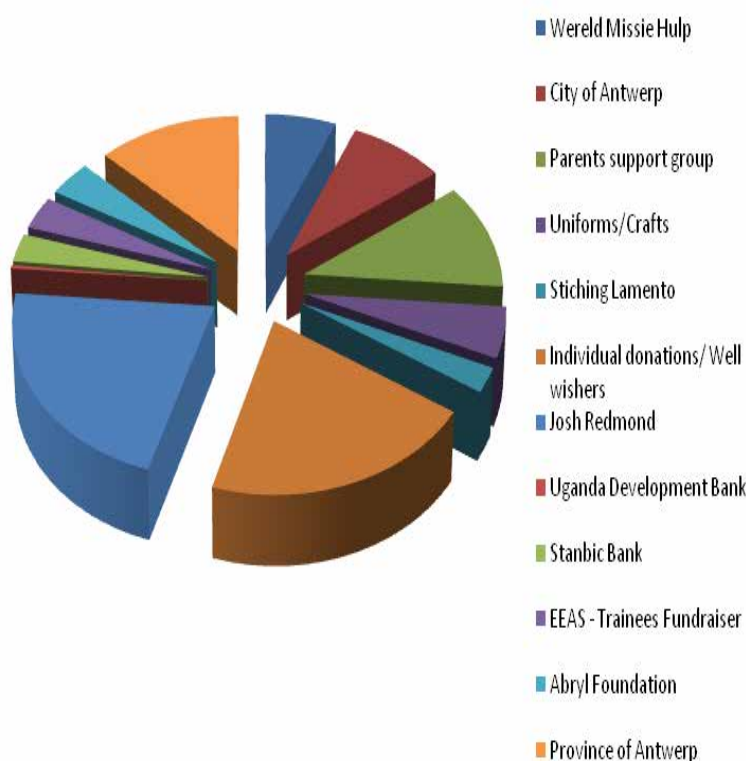


Children cutting two cakes during the Christmas party



The guest of honor Madam Shamim Kavuma and the Executive Director awarding certificates to students

A reflection of Angel's Center 2018 income from Donors, Supporters and Friends



Next plans

- Awareness Match on stigma associated with Disability on the streets of Nansana.
- Beginning of term 2, 2019
- Mothers tailoring trainings.
- Training of placement organizations for young adults with Down syndrome.
- National Disability sports gala.
- Build with us summer camp.

Our physical location

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

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In support

