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ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY - DECEMBER 2008

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR 2009.

- **EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH AWARENESS RAISING.**
- **LINKING THE COMMUNITY WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.**
- **NETWORKING ACTIVITIES.**
- **Alternative care for orphans and vulnerable children.**
- **Community based foster care.**
- **Building families through small support groups.**
- **Family reunions.**
- **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IN SMALL INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES.**
- **A get together for Imani community.**
- **Giving back to the community.**
- **Mothers off programme.**
- **CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE CARE GIVERS.**
- **BOARD MEMBERS TOURING IMANI PROJECTS.**
- **THE POST ELECTION VIOLENCE AND THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE.**
- **BABIES AT RISK.**
- **RECOGNIZING THE HARDWORKING CHILDREN.**
- **DEVELOPING LIFE SKILLS IN CHILDREN.**
- **Mathias gets hope in India.**
- **Wambui goes yet for another surgery in Italy.**
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER.**
- **CLOTHES SAVE A LIE.**
- **IT WILL REMAIN A RESURRECTION FOR MY SON.**
- **POWER AT IMNAI B.**
- **THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER VISITS IMANI HOME.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

➤ HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR 2008-----	2
➤ MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR-----	4
➤ PROJECT SUMMARY-----	6
➤ COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES / PREVENTIVE ACTIVITIES-----	9
➤ REHABILITATION AND RE-INTEGRATION-----	16
➤ FOSTER CARE / ADOPTION-----	19
➤ PARENTAL CARE AND GUIDANCE-----	22
➤ EDUCATION-----	28
➤ PRIMARY HEALTH CARE-----	33
➤ CAPACITY BUILDING IMANI-----	36
➤ STAFF ISSUES -----	36
➤ A.O.B -----	39
➤ CHALLENGES / FUTURE PLANS -----	40
➤  FINANCIAL REPORT -----	attached

Message from the Director

Greetings from Imani family!

The year started with a lot of tense following the post election violence but we remained focused on our vision – to contribute into a society where all children will lead a dignified existence with just and equal access to opportunities in life.

As for Imani, some of the program areas were affected especially our outreach program. Due to problems in transport and in the market, accessing food for the children was a bit hard. Food costs were equally high as a result of high demand coupled with low supply.

As a result some of our activities were delayed by the fact that we could not be able to access some areas. However, after the situation stabilized we were able to continue with our work. Through Kenya Red Cross Society we were able to work with the affected families and children. In our after Imani boys project we were able to rescue 3 homeless families for a period of 7 months before going back to their homes.

So many families that were affected by the crashes also came to seek for help. It was challenging getting a way to help them because they were in massive numbers. However a networking system within civil societies and the community at large we were able bring a smile to a good number of them.

We managed to make a difference in the lives of many children in our centers and many families in the community. We supported children through child protection activities, education, primary health care, and lobbying for their support in general. Through adoption the process of adoption, a total of 15 children joined new families, 67 children also went back to the community through family re- unions. Many small babies were abandoned and there is a day that five babies were brought from different police stations after being abandoned by unknown parents. In total we rescued 69 new children into our program. Their age ranged from a day old to 3 years. This is a clear indication of the much work that is still unaccomplished in the community.

Last year 2008 we did a lot of awareness creation in our communities on different issues related to children. We also had families empowerment programs in which we strengthened affected family units to be in a position to provide to their families as opposed to having them join the streets if not orphanages.

Among our draw backs, was shortage of funds as one of our major donor was not able to raise the requested budget for Imani. This therefore called for suspension of some of the planned activities. The shortage was by Kshs 1.5 M and was really a challenge on how to make up for the shortage on top of unfunded budget.

I am forwarding this important document to you – an annual report indicating what we did through you and others in 2008. We are really appreciating all our donors, Partners, well wishers and all our stakeholders at all the different levels for all the support they accorded us throughout the year 2008 and for all the areas that we were able to network. For sure were it not for your various inputs we could not have made it this far. We are also looking forward for your continued cooperation and support as we strive to ‘contribute into a society in which all children will lead a dignified existence with equal and just access to opportunities in life’. Wishing you a blessed new year 2009.

Yours sincerely,

**FAITH WANJIRU.
DIRECTOR – IMANI CHILDREN’S HOME.**

IMANI VISION:

To contribute into a society in which all children will lead a dignified existence with equal and just access to opportunities in life.

IMANI MISSION:

Imani shall endeavor to improve the situation of children in need of care and protection, guide the re-integration process into society and in addressing the factors leading to their situation.

Imani objectives includes:-

- To provide parental care and guidance to the children of Imani children's home.
- Rehabilitation and reintegration of the children back to the community.
- To provide primary health care to the children of Imani children's home.
- To provide quality education to the children at Imani children's home.
- Capacity building Imani.
- Preventive activities in the community.

PROJECT SUMMARY.

The overall objective of Imani is to provide parental care and guidance to the orphans and vulnerable children, to rehabilitate and to re-integrate them into the society, to address and alleviate factors leading to the phenomenon of their situation.

The year began with a big dilemma following the political situation in the country. The post election violence affected many sectors especially the social economic sector. For sure many families will never get to a point they were before the violence.

Our activities throughout the year were mainly in the area of child care and protection, education, primary health care, social, community activities, HIV / AIDS, finances and animals farm. Our activities were mainly with the children in our 4 orphanages as well as with the children rejoined with families at different levels in the community and the community itself.

By the end of the year 2008, we were able to work with a total of 303 children and whom we accommodated in our centers at any one time of the year 2008. Other than the said number we also worked with following groups of vulnerable children in the community: - 3 homeless families affected by the post election violence, 20 families affected by HIV / AIDS, 36 HIV / AIDS orphaned children in our programme areas, 38 children under foster and adoption care, and 83 children previously rejoined

With their guardians at different levels. Unfortunately a woman we rescued in our After – Imani program was expectant and because of the tear gas effects during the Kibera skirmishes she had a still birth.

The above children that we worked with belonged to following categories:- of street families, abandoned children, of imprisoned mothers, affected and infected by HIV / AIDS, orphaned, and children neglected or abused by their parents as a result of domestic violence. It was also impossible to assume the children affected by the post election violence and through a network with the Kenya Red Cross we were able to rescue 3 families with a total of 7 children in our after Imani boy's project at Kibera.

We managed to rejoin 67 children successfully back to the community. 15 children also joined new families through the process of adoption, 17 were fostered by community members. We also received a total of 69 children in need of care and protection in the reporting period.

Majority of the children did well both in schools and at the centre. A good number of them also topped in their classes in the various tests. The motivation strategies used to motivate them also worked well. A of group 13 children who had done extremely well visited Lamu at the coast for their holiday which took a full week. During the August and December holidays a group of 50 children who have never been to the Coast visited our Malindi- Imani holiday project.

We had active networks with community members and other community based organizations and through which we were able to make ends meet.

Summarized data:

Item	Boys	Girls	Total
Number of NEW CHILDREN admitted in 2008.	40	29	69
Number of children who were ADOPTED in 2008.	3	12	15
Number of children who were RE-INTEGRATED WITH THEIR FAMILIES.	41	26	67
Number of DEATHS.	4	4	8

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO REMAINED UNDER PERMANENT care in all our centers at the END OF YEAR 2008.	121	92	213
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Main contextual and organizational changes.

In April the political situation was gradually stabilizing with the President appointing ministers for the various ministries. As a result many parts of the country were cool. However, the internally displaced people remained in the camping sites, in the cold and in poor living conditions out of fear of going back to their home places. Majority had lost their properties and families and still feared that the security was no longer there.

The ‘ Rudi nyumbani operation’ was put in place and through the operation that was on voluntary many internally displaced people have been able to go back to their lands.

After the coalition government, the widely coming up Mungiki sect formed fracas that affected transportation means in majority of the town centers. As a result many Kenyans were unable to report to their working areas. This widely affected our community activities for 1 week as we could not move out; the children were also unable to attend schools for the holiday tuition for that week of the crises. We also had to postpone social support group meetings for the inconveniences caused.

Deriving to our vision and mission statement, we were involved in a number of activities to meet our goal.

Our planned activities for the last year were as follows:-

1. TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS PREVENTION OF THE PREVAILING SITUATION OF THE STREET CHILDREN, ABANDONED AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN THROUGH AWARENESS CREATION IN THE COMMUNITIES.

1.0 COMMUNITY AWARENESS.



In a network of other community based organizations, the local authorities and the children, we were able to mobilize 6 public awareness campaigns where thousands of people benefited. The major areas addressed mainly included child abandonment, community responsibility in safe guarding the rights of a child, drugs abuse, streets life, the rights of a child, alternative care for orphans and vulnerable children among others.

1.1 TRAINING ON HIV / AIDS AND THE CHILDREN.

Poverty and lack of awareness have rendered many children vulnerable. In the month of April through ICS our caregivers and community guardians were trained on issues related to HIV / AIDS for one week. Throughout the seminar care for HIV

infected / affected children was addressed, their nutrition, transmission and prevention, the role of anti retroviral treatment, common childhood illnesses, Rights of HIV infected children and many other issues. The seminar was very enriching and of great importance. This was later followed by a feedback meeting 6 months later. As a result therefore, many guardians were better equipped with knowledge on how to take care of their infected / affected children rather than placing them in an institution.



1.2 NETWORKING WITH THE MOTHER – OFF PROGRAMMES.

This is a group of 23 community mothers and with an interest of the children at Imani. On voluntary basis they gave services to Imani thrice in a week. We also managed to give them skills in child care; In addition 4 of their representatives were trained on HIV /AIDS and child care. Through a merry go round they also support each other as members. The mothers also were our good avenue of reaching the community. Sometimes they referred needy cases they identified in the community to us and likewise they were a reliable source of information especially regarding the community of Matopeni village. They were also a very reliable resource in awareness creation exercises.



1.3 LINKING THE COMMUNITY WITH THE POLICE OFFICERS IN OUR AREA OF OPERATION.

During Christmas time we played a very important role in our Kayole community. As we realize that our area is widely known for having highest crime rates we didn't

ignore the fact that some people get mistaken, or lack someone to really listen or understand them and so sometimes they react and especially the youths.



we invited men around Kayole area and this are the men who mostly lives from hand to mouth, who are mainly caught with crimes and this were mostly hawkers, matatu drivers and touts. They came flowing in tens, 5's and within no time the room was full with more than a hundred of them. We keep on educating them on the child rights and issues related to HIV/AIDS as we also understand how vulnerable they are. This time around after our yearly gatherings we invited the area OCPD and who shared a wonderful meeting with them.

He explained to them their rights, how they should work hard for the better of our nation and to avoid vices. They equally expressed themselves and their anger against some police officers whom they claimed to have been threatening them without reasons. Conflicts were resolved and better ways of addressing genuine complains arrived at.

MOTHER'S FROM THE COMMUNITIES.



The mothers from the community were not left out. They too had their own day where they came, interacted with the children and ate together with them.

CHILDREN FROM THE NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY.

Children too had a chance to understand that every child is important and have a right to live. They visited our children during x-mas season and they played and did other several activities together. Together they also reached the outside community of their mothers and fathers and preached publicly that their rights should be safeguarded.



We fed 20 families with vulnerable children through food baskets that we were able to keep aside after the big children – of above 12 years fasted (Sunday breakfast) and only on voluntary basis. Mostly we focused on the families in pathetic situations and without food to feed their children. A group of children with a caretaker would then deliver the food basket to the family and share it out. This has been a very good

way also of teaching the children the aspect of sharing and not always expecting to receive from people. During such forums, messages of hope were shared with the different families. As for the sick people that we visited we helped out with carrying out some of the household activities e.g. cooking and washing. Many families regained hope through such touching forums.

1.5 COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER.

5 mothers who were caught in the act of abandoning and neglecting their babies respectively were to be jailed for many years and their children having been separated from them. If caught with such an act the jail term is sometimes longer than 3 years yet it may not necessarily solve the root cause of the problem. As for these 5 mothers, Imani took them for rehabilitation at Imani together with their babies instead of punishing the innocent babies by separating them with their mothers' tears by jailing them. Later we were able to re-unite them with their communities and also we safe guarded the rights of their children. One man was given a probation period of 105 hours to work at Imani B centre by the court in Makandara after disobeying the law. The community service order acted as a good tool also in our preventive activities because we were able to tackle the root causes of the client's situations and for which we helped them deal with, while they were still giving care to their children.

A case study report:



Caught with a case of child abandonment.

CAROL ON ADMISSION AT IMANI ALLEGED FOLLOWING:

- That she is 17 years old and that she doesn't know the whereabouts of the mother.
- That her mother abandoned her when she was very young.
- That a good Samaritan took care of her for a few years after which she referred her to a children's home at age of 9 years.
- That after attaining an age of 15 years, she joined a vocational college through support of the home where she was.
- That she later ran away from the centre and got married at Mathare- a slum area within Nairobi province.
- That she got the first baby boy, after which the marriage didn't work.
- She sought assistance from good Samaritans who housed her, one woman stayed with her as a house girl and that she was selling bhang for her in secret.
- That she later was chased from this family and joined another relationship where she also got pregnant. She was disowned and when sleeping outside in

the city council toilets she was found by a lady who offered to help her. She was assisted with her baby boy and even taken to Pumwani hospital when the time came for her to deliver the 2nd baby.

- That she threw her baby because she didn't have a place to stay with her and the other one.
- That she thought it would be easier to get someone to help her with one child rather than when she have two.
- That she cannot remember exactly where the woman who rescued her from the mother stayed as she was still very young.

On analyzing the above statements it was clear that Carol was giving very contradicting statements. Therefore we had to do a lot of investigations.

NEW FINDINGS DURING HER REHABILITATION PROCESS.

- That she was using false names.
- That she originated from a family with domestic crises.
- That the mother and the siblings were alive.
- That she was a ran away child 12 years ago from their home and everybody thought that she actually died. That was before the famous elnino rains of 1997.
 - That from home she landed on the streets where she joined a street group whose leader was Wangithi.
 - That most of the times she loitered around jeevan jee gardens.
 - That one time she was caught by police who took her to a rehabilitation centre.
 - She later managed to escape from the rehabilitation centre in 2003.
 - Went back to the streets from where the GOAL Kenya for the street girls was on her neck.
 - They took her from the streets to Kayole social hall rehabilitation centre for street families.
 - From here she joined a friend's family in Matopeni village.
 - Here she got a boy friend who was a wanted Mungiki guy. He impregnated her and later had to ran away for his safety being a mungiki.
 - She happened to meet a woman in Njiru area who assisted her. It was while here hat she delivered her 1st baby girl .
 - It didn't take long before she moved into the streets of Grogon again.
 - It was while living on the streets with her baby that she got severe pneumonia and took her to hospital.
 - According to her the 1st baby passed away while undergoing treatment in a hospital. However she didn't have any prove of neither death nor sickness.
This was in 2005.
 - She went back to her friends , loitered made boy friends and delivered a baby boy , Later another baby girl and who made her land in our

hands after she was caught after abandoning her in unfinished building and running away.

A successful family re-union 12 years later - after running away.



Jailing the young girl could have separated her with her 2 children. Maybe she could not have met her desperate family ever again in life.

1.6 NET WORKING ACTIVITIES.

Throughout year 2008, we networked with following organizations in the community. The children department, Kenya network of women with HIV / AIDS, Woman fighting aids in Kenya, Media – Nation Television, public and private schools, churches, child life trust, various police stations and other civil societies. Through the network system we were able to identify an area that needs more attention our community and again the network prevented families from taking advantage of care given through double dealings.

1.7 FAMILIES EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM.

Besides the awareness raising activities, we also fought against poverty by empowering the families in our program through a livelihood enhancement program.

In this program our main focus was that the:-

- Value of the family concept for destitute children in the society is being promoted.
- HIV/AIDS orphaned children are happily settled in their natural communities, in extended families, or in foster families.
- Reduced rates of destitute children are joining institution care and only when it is the last alternative in the best interest of a child and under temporary basis.
- Community based concepts that are geared towards supporting and caring for orphans and destitute children, incorporating rights based approach are developed.

Great results were achieved through this as the empowered families were better able to give their children the basic and to extend secondary needs. The empowering involved giving the identified families small grants to start up small income

generating activities. Of importance, several trainings were given to the families to build their capacity in the area of income generating ideas.



Families starving with hunger and sickness. Unless empowered to be able to cater for their members, then the vulnerable children will end up being beach boys, sex commercial workers or land into institution care.

1.8 SAVING A LIFE WITH OLD CLOTHING.

During the year 2008, many people from our community had donated to us clothing that were of big sizes and could not have fitted any of our children. The same clothing that was a big challenge to us gave a smile to many families who were really suffering. We gave a good number to the community mothers who had no source of a reliable livelihood to sustain their families. Of importance is that 2 women had completely gone mad due to life challenges and both had abandoned babies of less than 6 months, not because they wanted to but because their mental state directed them so.



Having been brought to us, we referred them to a mental hospital where they underwent treatment after which we reintegrated them with their children. Having understood that difficulties in providing to their families rendered them hopeless that they can sell them and make their living.

This made them regain lost hopes and are all doing well. In total 13 women benefited from the old and big clothing's donated from the well-wishers.



An example of a successful livelihood program.

2. TO REHABILITATE AND RE-INTEGRATE CHILDREN WITH FAMILIES.

Though a child may stay under our care for a longer period of time, the child has to leave the institution when an alternative care is sought in the best interest of an individual child. The exit plan also varies from one child to another in respect to the child's background.

They exit through either of following ways:-

- Family re-union
- Child adoption
- Foster care programme
- Graduation from imani (for children who are about 18 years, fully equipped and with enough capacity to lead a self reliant life
- referral to other specialized organizations in relation to the child's special needs

2.1 FAMILY RE-UNIONS.

We managed to rejoin 67 children- successfully back to the families in the community. Some of the rejoined children were children who were newly admitted whereas others were those who had acquired rehabilitation, or whose family situation had improved to be better able to give care and protection to the children. Among them also were the children who got lost long ago and through a network with the media we were able to trace the families.



Rejoining children back with their families after rehabilitation at Imani children's home.

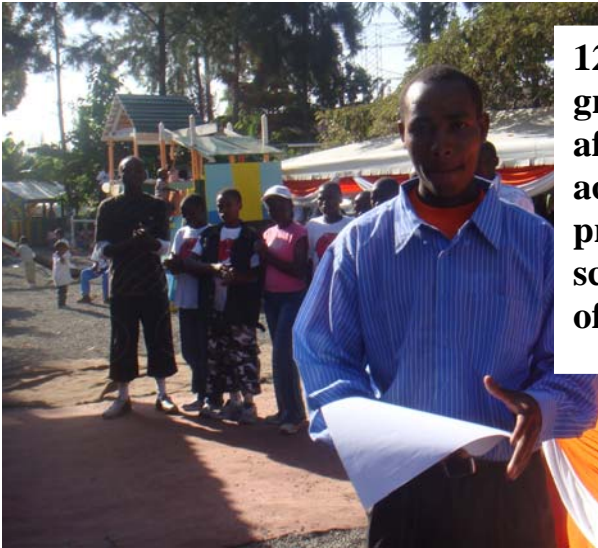


Rejoining children with their parents after their jail terms (back to parents under the probation program).



A re – union after tracing and empowering the guardian of a child; shortly after rescue.

2.2 GRADUATIONS.



12 boys and girls graduating from Imani after successfully achieving life skills in primary and secondary schools while under care of Imani.



From the streets of Nairobi in 2002 as a rough street boy to a humble university graduate in 2008.

Thank you Imani for bridging my bad past and my bright future.

- “In my mind it will ever remain a resurrection”



A boy who had lost his way home 3 ½ years ago finally met his family after we advertised in the media through the children department. They could not believe seeing him again for they had looked for him even in mortuaries, and neighboring countries without a success. They had all the reasons to praise God.

- The unfair post election violence separated me from parents.



During the skirmishes many families lost their members. Parents would go to the fields only to be attacked and leave their children without anyone. The 2 boys were left in a bus without anyone to take care of them one Sunday of the political violence. They have since then been reintegrated with the family 4 months after their arrival at Imani centre.

Other ways through which the children left the program were through adoptions and foster care placement. 15 children joined new families through adoption. 17 children were temporary fostered by community members especially during holidays.

2.3 ADOPTIONS / FOSTER CARE:

Pre-requisites:

- ♣ Bonding process that lasted for not more than 2 weeks depending with the individual families and the children.
- ♣ A blessing ceremony and a farewell gathering for the children and the new families.



Later:

The families formed a social support group through which they share experiences and challenges in the children upbringing and regarding the adoption process.



During their quarterly forums they were able to share with us their views, successes and challenges.

From the same forums, as Imani we also learnt a lot more as far as the children are concerned.

Currently we have 37 families under this foster care / adoption support group. We support them in the process of acquiring the necessary documents. We also take part in the social support group meetings where by we discuss and share the issues affecting them. Through the social forums the families were strengthened.

However, there were 2 cases whose foster care program didn't work well for the better for the better of the children and therefore we withdrew the two for the better of the children.

Which are the procedures followed to identify potential foster / adoptive parents?

In these, we network with the adoptive societies. In Kenya we have 4 registered societies and who we network with. These are: The child welfare society of Kenya, the Kenya Christian homes i.e. a branch of Thomas Barnados children home, The KKPI , and the Little Angels' network. The societies conduct both local and international adoptions.

As for the local adoptions:-

- The prospective parents approach any of the above adoption societies and make an official application. The application involves filling in - a questionnaire is normally and handing in various vital documents which are required. The said application is followed by an intensive home visit by the social workers from the adoption society.
- The findings of the visit are then presented to an adoption committee and who makes a decision as to whether the family in question qualifies or not.
- If approval is made, then the family is notified by the committee via the adoption society where application was done.
- It is at this point that the adoption society refers the prospective parents to us or any other orphanage with children free for adoption. Referring to the assessments already done from the adoption society, we understand them first, then we see if we have any child of the age bracket requested that can march with the family in question. If we have, we set a date that we introduce the child to them and we let the family decide if they would want to start the bonding process, or if they feel they are not satisfied they are also free to say. However if they feel uncomfortable with the child introduced to them we do not give them an alternative of another for we believe a child is a child and with equal rights.
- If we are not able to march make we return the requests back to the adoption society and they seek for a march elsewhere.
- If the march works then a bonding process begins, it takes several days depending with individual families and an individual child. After which the child is released to the family for a foster period of 3 months. It is during this period that the family makes a mature decision as to whether they still would want to go ahead with the adoption process or to cancel the process. After the 3 months elapses and the family is interested in the child, then they start the court process.

As for the international adoptions the families have to file an application in their countries and through the adoption societies within their country. It is the responsibility of their society to send the requests to an adoption society in Kenya and which they have been registered to network with. Of course this is done after making and doing of the home study reports.

2.4. CASE FOLLOW UPS.

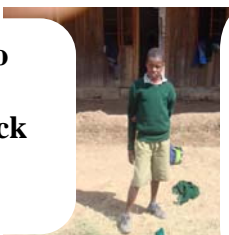
Our case follow ups were under either of following:-

- Home visits to see progress of a child who was rejoined on an earlier date.
- Incognito home visits to see the progress of an adopted / a child under foster care.
- A case study to trace families for particular children.
- Visits to rejoin children with families.
- Visits to assess the nature of a family.
- Visits to familiarize a child with the family to be.

We did these visits in our local slums but majority of them were in different rural areas and many kilometers away from Imani. This is because the children come from wide range of backgrounds mostly by young / irresponsible people who abandon them on the streets of Nairobi.



A visit to rejoin a child back to the family.



A visit to see progress of a rejoined child.



A case study visit to trace the roots of a child.



A visit to familiarize a child with her extended family prior to her re-union with the family.

3. To provide parental care and guidance to the children in need of care and protection at Imani children's home.

3.1 SMALL FAMILY UNITS.

In the year 2008, we provided parental care and guidance to a total of 303 children in our homes. However as days passed by 67 went back to their families, 15 were adopted, and 8 passed away making a balance of 213 children by the end of the year. We hired more housemothers and volunteer mothers to be better able to meet the children's demand. Of importance we emphasized on the five major aspects of child development. (I.e. the physical, intellectual, spiritual, social and emotional). In total we had 25 house parents and each with an approximate number of 10 children. The groups were also formed in regards of age, sex and individual needs. Distinct small families were also in place for all the under fives. Their care also differed, mode of feeding and has different rooms and house parents attached to each particular group. A general name that we use to refer to all babies less than 2 years

is the baby's unit project. It is a general term but in it are babies belonging to 4 different age groups. This is also the group with many caretakers because collage students come to assist in taking care of the small ones. The mothers from our neighboring community also offered services in turns. During vacation our children helped a lot.

(Below are the different groups of the baby's unit family).



3.2 BABIES AT RISK.



In year 2008, we were able to rescue a total of 69 children in need of care and protection. Their ages ranged from 1 day to 3 years. In the month of June, many babies were at risk in the community. From police stations we received 10 babies within one month and all in pathetic conditions. In fact 5 came on one day and one of them who was less than 2 kgs died in a hospital incubator.

Despite the community campaigns we carried out heavily especially in August against child abandonment, the number of abandoned babies also hiked in

Christmas time with a total of 11 abandoned babies in the month of December alone. Better still the community members were willing to furnish us with vital information regarding some cases on abandonment and for which we were better able to act on – in good time and in the best interest of a child.

3.3 CHILDREN COMMITMENT ORDERS.

Upon admission to the home is a must for the children court to give a court order regarding every child rescued at Imani centre. The warrant period differs from one child to another depending with why the child came to us. The children court also officially committed to us 24 children of less than a year for care and protection for a specialized period of 3 years. Prior to the elapse of this period we are going to seek an alternative custody for the individual children and especially family care for the abandoned children. However if this will not be possible for some children especially those with special needs (HIV positive and with disabilities), then we are going to extend this period if we get no other alternative in the best interest of the children.

3.4 FEEDING.

We fed our children 3 meals every day for the big children i.e. breakfast, lunch and dinner. However on Sundays the children of 12 years old and above maintained their fasting program of their breakfast. It is the same meal that they would give out as food baskets to the suffering children in the community. On Wednesdays the children cooked in groups with the house parents and every group cooked something of their choice. The small babies on the other hand, were fed on demand and depending on individual child's need and by the end of the day we aimed at meeting every child's dietary requirements.



The feeding program at our Malindi rescue centre was attached to the education program. Children were expected to attend the schools regularly and do well. Consequently all the 3 beneficiaries who sat for the final exam passed with flying colors.

We received food donations in terms of vegetables from VEGPRO, Indu farm, fresh and juice. A good number of well wishers gave us food donations in kind and through which we were able to cut down our food budget. 37 children were under special diet as they were severely malnourished when they came to our care. 80 % of them have since then improved.

We also received firewood in kind from Luxman bay Construction Company and with which we used to do most of the cooking.

3.5 SHARING THROUGH TALKS.

As a matter of building positive life skills in our children we had sharing talks on weekly basis. We also had games time through which the children were able to sublimate and to even express their inner selves. The talks were based on different issues relating to the children's emotional and social needs. The topics we discussed included sex education, rights and responsibilities, behavior change activities, hygiene, HIV / AIDS, Child trafficking, nutrition, dental care etc. On a few occasions the group discussions took place outside the homes premises especially at the Uhuru park grounds.

3.6 CHILDREN BIRTH DAYS.

The children shared their birthdays with their friends and at the homes. Such sessions made the children feel recognized. We also encouraged them to remember their respective birthdates and invite their friends to attend.

In year 2008, 78 children celebrated their birthdays. Others forgot their dates.

3.7 CHILDREN GUIDANCE AT THE HOMES.

Taking responsibilities is part of the children learning while at Imani. From age of 5 years we taught every child small responsibilities depending with age and ability. It is from this age that they learnt gradually how to wash their clothes or tackle small activities like folding their clothes. To put more emphasis on individual set up we gave every child his own clothing that he / she is answerable to and we also discouraged sharing of clothes among themselves. This had a direct impact in the children both at home and school as the aspect of ownership and caring was strengthened.

During weekends children engaged in a wide range of activities in the homes. They also interacted and worked together between projects. Children's talents differed and likewise their abilities and therefore besides education and general activities we tried as much as possible to identify individual children talents and we would motivate them in that. For example some became wonderful shoe repairers, others did cooking very well, dancing, acrobatics, gardening, child care, animals care, cycling, drawing and different ways they expressed inner abilities.



Art by the children during holiday time.



Talent building through – STOMP.

3.8 CHILDREN MOTIVATION.

The children were motivated on achievements or any improvements however small and on daily basis. The children were motivated through rewards and which took different forms like:-

- Appreciating children through nice words whenever they did something that needs recognition.
- Giving them presents according to achievements and the age of the child.
- Outings/ trips with a responsible person.
- Doing motivation parties on EVERY Wednesday evening.
- Forgiveness after a dispute

We also found a need of finding out why a certain child has never been recognized and in such a case we tried to identify any good side of every child is it in a small way or otherwise. We believed that every child is good in something and we motivated the good side only of any child.

3.9 A VISIT TO LAMU.

13 children who had improved / excelled in schools and home visited Lamu for the April holiday. They went via plane and thus made all the difference. Many thanks to all the teachers who made them excel and to Mr. Harrie who gave them the big smile of the air tickets.

3.10 IMANI – MALINDI HOLIDAY PROJECT.

Malindi project is a good holiday place for the children in Imani Nairobi projects. Normally the children who have grown up in Imani – Nairobi from the time they were days old have no known families in the rural or anywhere else. They therefore doesn't have a relative or guardian they can visit during the school holidays as it is the case for the children brought up in the ideal family set ups. Imani Malindi project is thus a holiday place for them during the August and December school holidays. During these holidays a group of 50 children visited Malindi on each vacation. It is actually their rural place that every child is proud of.



- In our bus and happily heading to Malindi.

- Below: children already enjoying holiday at Malindi.



3.11 DISCIPLINARY MEASURES.

To manage our children's behavior we administered other disciplinary measures. The measurers strictly depended on the child's background, age, reason and they were only meant to correct a certain behavior in the best interest of a child and not to hurt the child. The measurers included:

- Cleaning a given area as directed when the other children are doing something different.
- Washing clothes for another child.
- Temporary denial of some freedoms especially going for an outing or a certain trip that others are attending.

- Writing an apology letter.
- Forgiveness after a dispute

4. To provide good quality education for the children at Imani children's home.

We laid a lot of emphasis in education of our children. We were not only in the front line to pay for children school fees but also we offered additional educational guidance to our children during the evenings study, weekends and during holidays.

Though education in the whole country was affected by the post election violence that delayed opening of schools in 1st term, there was a remarkable improvement in the way the children achieved in school because of the reinforced tuition program that was carried out in our centers. Again towards the closure of second term there was a very great strike amongst secondary schools. Though argued out to be mock exams fever it still stood to be an issue that called for government to form commission of inquiry to investigate on the root cause of the students' rivalry. This issue also affected some of our children as they had to come back home before it was time to end the term, for their schools were burnt down. Although within a period of one month almost all the schools had resumed it was a great challenge for the parents as they had to pay for the damage caused by the students and so an additional cost that was never budgeted.

As the final exams drew near the revision rate heightened with the candidates reading days and nights. 15 candidates finally sat for their final exams in both primary (9) and secondary schools (6).



Bringing a present home after excelling in academics at school.

4.1 EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

Educational trips were also a major thing that the children came to see practically some of the things they learnt in class.

Among the places that our children were able to visit in year 2008 were:-

- Hydro-electrical power production centers
- Rice irrigation schemes in Mwea Tabere in Kenya

- Animal orphanage
- Museum
- Parliament
- 14 falls
- Agricultural sites.

In summary the children gained more exposure and understanding in science, geography, history, agriculture and literature among others.

4.2 SCHOOLS TRANSFER.

8 children had to be transferred from a private school to different academy after the school fees hiked. The increase was tremendous in comparison with our budget for education.

4.3 SCHOOLS IN INDOOR FOSTER CARE PROGRAM.

8 private primary academies sponsored a total of 21 children in their schools. This has contributed effectively to our mission statement and for which we really appreciate.

4.4 STATISTICS.

We were able to sponsor following numbers of children in education, in different classes and in different schools.

I. Early childhood education (baby class, nursery and pre unit).

	BOYS	GIRLS	Totals.
NEW children that were enrolled in preschool in 2008..	17	18	35
The number of year 2007 children who CONTINUED with education in year 2008.	15	21	36
The number of children who COMPLETED pre school in 2008.	12	11	23
The number of children who have DROPPED OUT of pre school in 2008.	None	None	None
The number of children that were in pre school in 2008 and were	12	11	23

PROMOTED to join primary school in year 2009.			
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ii. Primary school.

	BOYS	GIRLS	Totals.
NEW children that were enrolled in primary school in 2008.	14	20	34
The number of year 2007 children who CONTINUED with education in year 2008.	51	24	75
The number of children who COMPLETED primary school in year 2008.	6	2	8
The number of children who have DROPPED OUT of primary school in year 2008.	3	None	2
The number of children in primary schools in 2008 and will be PROMOTED to secondary schools in 2009.	6	2	8
The number of children in primary schools in 2008 and would be PROMOTED to vocational training in 2009.	3	None	3

iii. Secondary school.

	BOYS	GIRLS	Totals.
NEW children that were enrolled in	1	2	3

secondary school in 2008.			
The number of year 2007 secondary school children who CONTINUED with education in year 2008.	12	8	20
The number of children who COMPLETED secondary school in 2008.	5	3	8
The number of children who have DROPPED OUT of secondary school in 2008.	1	None	1
The number of children in secondary schools last year and who were PROMOTED to university, college, vocational training, polytechnics, this year.	The results of the final secondary school exams are not yet released.	The results of the final secondary school exams are not yet released.	Not applicable

iv. Vocational training.

	BOYS	GIRLS	Totals.
NEW youths who were enrolled in vocational training in 2008.	3	1	4
The number of year 2007 youths who CONTINUED with vocational training in 2008.	2	1	3
The number of youths who COMPLETED	2	1	3

vocational training in 2008.			
The number of youths who DROPPED OUT of the vocational training in this reporting period.	None	None	None
The number of youths who were employed / started businesses in 2008 after graduating.	7	3	10

v. Special Education.

	Boys	Girls	Totals.
The number of children who were enrolled in pre primary, primary, secondary and vocational training in 2008 – with disabilities.	1	1	2

vi. Training.

	Men	Women	Totals.
The number of staffs, board members, management staff who were trained to build their capacity in 2008.	4	9	13
The number of trainings organized for the staffs, board of governors, management staff- to build their capacity in 2008.	10	10	10 (in all the trainings , men and women shared).



**A lot of joy
after
graduating
from pre –
school.**



❖ **Giving back after graduating.**

5 of the 2008 Imani graduates came back home to work for a period of 1 year. Their plans is to save for their collage / university education in 2010.

5. To provide primary health care to the children in Imani children's home.

Throughout the year we operated our 3 first aid clinics at Imani A, Malindi and B respectively. However Imani A clinic was busier compared to the others. Reason being that infants and who are very vulnerable are housed at Imani A. Nurses were in place and a visiting doctor came to address the children medical needs twice in a week.

To prevent spread of any possible infections we isolated any new baby until a medical assessment was carried out by our visiting doctor. We also kept on reminding the children on issues related to good hygiene and a good percentage responded well. On demand we equipped our first aid clinics with necessary drugs. It is also not every sickness that we were able to treat in our first aid clinics, and we therefore made necessary referrals to the specialized facilities where we also requested for waived charges but in other cases we had to meet the charges- depending with which facility. The sisters of mercy mission hospital were of great help to the children. They did medical check ups of the children free of charge on monthly basis. They also dewormed the children and gave them some drugs in kind.

All the babies were given immunizations in time. They accessed this from the local health centers. The progress was filled in the road to health growth chart on every visit. The children also received de worming care from the said facility, including vitamin A supplements.

The following medical cases were also dealt with through out the year.

- ✓ **Epilepsy – 2**
- ✓ **Crones disease -1**
- ✓ **Pneumonia –several cases**
- ✓ **Cuts – several minor cuts were experienced**
- ✓ **Colds – several cases**
- ✓ **HIV /AIDS –12**
- ✓ **Skin infections – 2**

- ✓ Tuberculosis – 4
- ✓ sickle cell anemia - 1

16 children were under physiotherapy care twice in a week. The children had difficulties in their limbs development and therapy care was helping to stimulate their muscles.

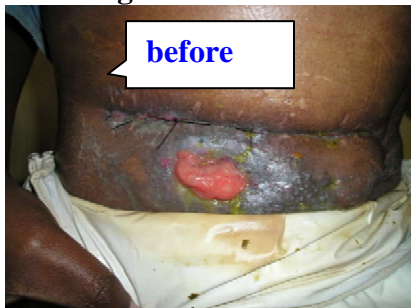
Normally our children have never been breastfed, they are also born by the mothers who abused them right from conception, where they were unwanted till birth and so majority of the babies coming to our care have a big challenge in motor development and which delays movement for some of them. We therefore have to compensate with good nutrition including using the nutrient supplements and any other possible mechanism.

5.1 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS.

Many children were admitted in hospitals especially the newly born – abandoned babies. Most of them came to our hands at verge of life and death. Infact for some only the head was of significant size. The rest of the body would be totally skinny. Then most of them as it is usual came with common problems related to either cold or to malnutrition. Towards the end of the year majority of the under 5's who were admitted came with rotter virus infection that made them to vomit and have continues diarrhea.

5.2 A LONG JOURNEY – A SMILE AT THE END.

Perhaps it is the most wonderful smile we gave last year. Mathew had lived with a permanent colostomy and multiple fistulae for many years. Infact for the last 12 years hospitals has been his home and nothing was worthy a smile in his life. This changed drastically when he went to India for medication in March last year. New diagnosis was arrived at and with new medical plans to address his problem.



Diagnosed crone's disease, intestinal tuberculosis - With a series of unsuccessful operations, emerging multiple fistulae. With severe anemia as a result of severe bleeding. It was almost the end of the road but now with hope to live.

**Awaiting another surgery
in January 2009!**

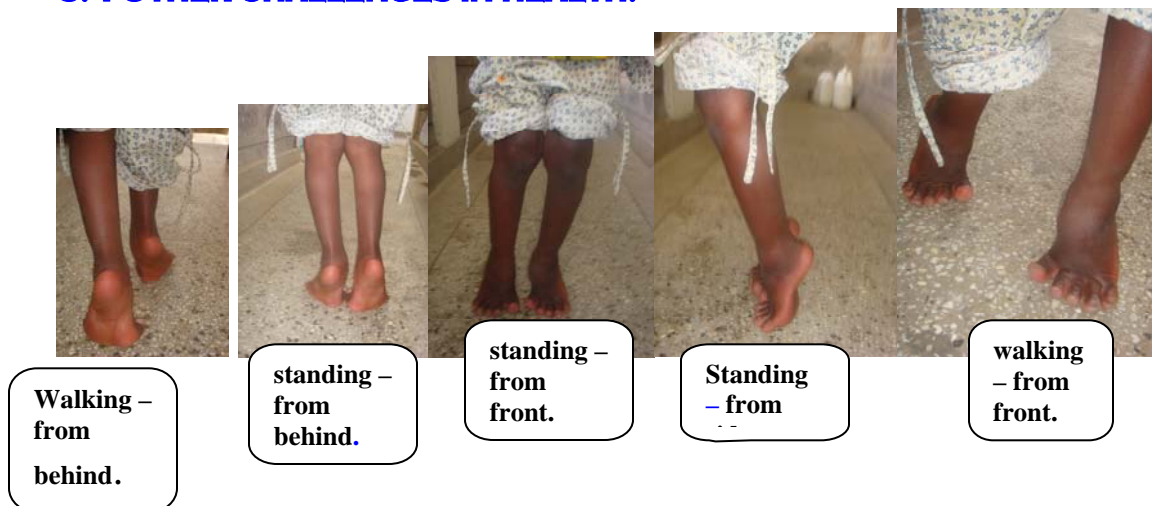
5.3 HOPING FOR THE BEST.

Born with a bladder extrophy : a condition whereby she had no distinct genital. Underwent 1st reconstruction in Italy in 2007. A second surgery in 2008 and these minor surgeries must continue every year until she attains the age of 18 years



It is actually a very big challenge to maintain Wambui as it is very expensive to meet her required medical interventions every year.

5.4 OTHER CHALLENGES IN HEALTH.



He is a loving boy and lives with physical disability. His foot can only step down at the toes. The legs are just stiff with a bend at the knee joints that makes it hard to straighten the legs either. Professionals thought on a previous date that any surgery would interfere with the whole system of the nerves. We wonder which is the best way to restore a smile in the life of the 6 years old boy.

5.6 DEATHS:

8 children of below 3 years died while they were undergoing treatment in hospitals. 1, a boy who lived with cerebral palsy died after a short illness. The other one was 7 months – a boy, rest were new cases and died shortly after admission.

5.7 ARRANGEMENTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTS ACTIVITIES.

The children had plenty of such activities as :-

Play:

They had plenty of play materials e.g. toys and games of different types, sand trays, swimming facilities, skipping ropes, e.t.c

They also had planned times for free play for the different groups of children either within or outside our premises.



**Free play at
a jumping
castle**

6. Capacity building in Imani.

The capacity of different staff members was built through seminars and workshops. Various care givers benefited through following trainings that were held in course of 2008.

- One staff attended a capacity building workshop on peace initiative after the post election violence.
- 8 caregivers attended one week training on HIV/AIDS and child care.
- Alternative care for orphans and vulnerable children
- Proposal / report writing skills.
- Peer education.
- Change for children
- Self awareness
- Skills income generating activities.
- projects exchange program
- Child rights and advocacy.

7. Staffs issues:

7.1 GIVING A MIRROR OF LOVE AND HOPE.

A woman had her leg chopped off by a neighbor following a land dispute. As if that was not enough, after cutting off the leg completely her 2 male invaders also went for the front teeth and within a grasp of a minute she saw them down. They left her bleeding profusely, at a point of death and ran to unknown. She was taken to

hospital by good Samaritans where she was admitted. More painful she was carrying her left piece of leg as a police exhibit.

When we so her sad story in the media Imani staffs and the children made a contribution to buy for her an artificial leg and for the teeth planting. She is now back to the community with a smile.

“giving a mirror of hope”.



(Above: - at the hospital).



(After):-

While sleeping she has to take out the leg.

ii. Staffs motivation.

We increased the salaries of our staffs slightly and this we based on merits and skills. This is not a frequent activity based on our limited funds and with many results to be achieved. The staffs who performed well also visited Lamu for a sabbatical holiday of one week. This they did together with the children who had also excelled in various areas.



We also tried as much as possible to recognize the best mothers in a month through small tokens with their particular group of children.

7.2. VOLUNTEER STAFFS.

50 volunteer staffs' especially young people from both local and international learning institutions came to give a hand especially in our babies unit. They did well in the areas where they were placed and so the many babies felt a warm touch which is very important in their growth and development. They also learnt many skills from us and which were vital in their lives and areas of study.



Volunteers during a fair well party at Imani children's home. They serve for a period of 1month to 1 year depending with the programs they work with.

7.3 IMANI BOARD.

The board members held their elections in the beginning of the year. The Imani – Nairobi board selected new leaders of the board. Here are their names and positions in the board in the last 2008.

IMANI NAIROBI BOARD MEMBERS.

NAMES	POSITION
1) MR. BENSON GIKANDI	CHAIRMAN

2) MRS. ROSEMARY MATHENGE	SECRETARY
3) MR. KARANJA MWANGI	FUND RAISER
4) MRS. SUSAN KARIUKI	”
5) MRS. JACINTA MBURU	”
6) MR. JOSEPH KARANU	MEMBER
7) HON. MARTHA KOOME	MEMBER
8) MRS. ANN NGARE	MEMBER
9) MRS. ANGELINE KAMAU	MEMBER
10) MRS. MARY MWANGI	MEMBER
11) MR. JULIUS KAMAU NGOTHO	MEMBER
12) FAITH WANJIRU	MEMBER
13) JULIUS IRUNGU	MEMBER
14) TABITHA WANGARI	MEMBER
15) HARRISON MAKENGA	MEMBER

MALINDI BOARD

NAMES	POSITION
LAWRENCE KAKWIRI	SECRETARY
REUBEN KARISA	MEMBER
RASMUS DECHE MWATSUMA	MEMBER
SALIM SWAALEH	MEMBER
ELIZABETH TUVA	TREASURER
MANSOUR MOHAMMED	CHAIRMAN
JULIE KAZUNGU	MEMBER
MARIA NJAMBI	MEMBER

7.4 The Board tours Imani homes.

In course of the year 2008, the board members visited all the projects to assess progress. They also met frequently last year than any other year there before.

8. A.O.B

- Improved computer technology.**

Through Wereld Kinderen we were able to purchase 4 computers. 2 desktops and 2 laptops. This have hence forth contributed a lot in the improvement of our record keeping strategies. We also bought 3 digital cameras: 1 for Imani A, Imani B and for Malindi project. It has become easier now even to track important data.

- Electricity at Imani B.**

The installation of electricity at Imani B was finally successful. The children have got no struggle again to do their homework's and private studies at night. It is also possible to preserve food now by using a refrigerator which was impossible there before.

- **After Imani girls – Kasarani.**

Through the years imani have developed greatly and expanded its scope of operation. We are currently having six operational units with the after imani girls project about to kick off.

The later have also been planned to incorporate a training centre for youth life enhancement in life skills development as well as a being a residence for the after imani girls who are in universities or other trainings but above eighteen year of age.

- **Malindi – Library.**

Our Malindi library construction was finished through support of well-wishers . We have not equipped the Library yet with the required books and we hope to do so soon. We are also planning to do the same in our other rescue centers in order to enhance good study atmosphere for children under our care and to the community at large,

- **District commissioners visit at Imani.**

The District commissioner in company of other local leaders visited Imani children's home and where he donated food items for the children.

- **Judy Kibaki visits Imani projects.**

The daughter of His Excellency president Mwai Kibaki visited Imani home with officers from the street families' rehabilitation program. Some of the children being taken care of at Imani children's were referrals from the said program.

- **Day of the African Child.**

Children from Imani Malindi project represented Imani children's home during the Day of the Africa child (DAC) with messages on child rights which was the theme of last year's DAC.

9. CHALLENGES.

- The exit plan for the children with multiple disabilities / chronic illnesses like babies with HIV/AIDS - because the community is very reluctant to foster / adopt them.
- How to make up for the unfunded budget.
- Poor families who can afford to give love to a needy baby but they cannot afford to meet the judicial costs involved in the adoption process.

10.FUTURE PLANS

- Promoting alternative family care for orphans and vulnerable children as opposed to institution care.
- Strengthening family units rather than making them dependants.
- Library for the children at Imani A.
- Having a sustainable livelihood program for Imani.

VOTE OF THANKS.

To achieve the various activities we had networks and partners at different levels and who included TDH, ICS, FEMI, WERELD KINDEREN, WILDE GANZE, FOUNDATION IMANI, the children department, adoption societies;- Kenya Christian homes, Kenyans to Kenyans and the Child welfare society of Kenya, the area advisory committee, African chapter for prevention and protection of child abuse and neglect (APPCAN), Red cross society of Kenya, local administration, health facilities, academic institutions , VEGPRO, Luxman bay construction co., Child life trust, Sarakasi trust, Fresh 'n' juice, INDU farm, Learning institutions, Health facilities, Media, the juvenile court, WELLWISHERS and the churches.

To all our networks, we really appreciate your kind support in bringing a smile in life of many children and families in need.

Bravo again for making a choice to contribute into a society where all children will lead a dignified existence while growing up, with an equal and just access to opportunities in life.

God bless you all.

All the days of your life.

