

HALF YEAR REPORT 2018

From the Director

As I reflect on the past six months I am proud of the achievement that our school continues to make as we go from strength to strength. We have made slow but sure improvement to our school. Indeed, improvement has been a guiding principle for us in a period of daunting change. At HoL, we continued to embrace the challenges faced by teachers in schools in low income areas, recognising that we are so very fortunate to work with amazingly pleasant children and to benefit from strong support of our partners and friends in Italy and USA.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this report. It highlights what a dynamic and inspiring place Hands of Love continues to be. It is a bit brief because Anthony has been writing weekly reports which I hope you have found informative and useful.

Your donations at work

Hands of Love is able to achieve its mission of educating, feeding and providing health services to our children through the donations we receive from partners in Kenya, Italy and the United States. The following paragraphs highlight achievements in these areas.

Teaching and Learning

At the beginning of the year we set a schoolwide goal "No child left behind" that is meant to set direction for the year and drive curriculum initiatives. This goal serves as an overarching statement that teachers use to set goals, work internationally and determine success. As a result of the focus brought by the goal, the school year has been marked by the kinds of academic and emotional growth that only occurs when children and teachers are working together. Our end of term assessment results were well above the district averages.

Food Program

The centre continued to provide breakfast and lunch for the children. In the past six months we have been able to serve over 32,000 meals. At the same time we were able to make our food program better serving more vegetables and making our meals protein rich.

Late last year we designed and fabricated efficient wood stoves that utilise scrap wood and sawdust from the many carpenter's shops in the neighborhood. In June these stoves were repaired and improved making them even more fuel efficient. We also moved our kitchen to new better space.

Nurturing families

A key strength of Hands of Love is our community. Over the years we have formed strong bonds with the families we serve. We believe that our achievement and impact was heightened by increased participation of the families in the schools events and activities. In the period we conducted 19 home visits and were able to share with and learn from the visited families the challenges and the success they encounter living in Kariobangi. When there was flooding in April and May we helped two families move to safer areas and provided them with food and other items to help them get through the difficult time.

Health Program

Providing health services has always been an important part of our work that has big positive impact on the lives of the children we serve. We recorded increased cases of children with ringworms in the first quarter of the year and with the coming of the rains in April and May there were increased cases of diarrhea and intestinal illnesses. All these cases were dealt with quickly and some of the kids facilitated to receive treatment in the nearby dispensary. In February and in June the children were given antifungal and deworming pills. All the kids also received polio vaccine in

June in a campaign by the health department to immunise all children in Kenya informal settlements for polio.

In late June we facilitated Max a five year old boy born with undescended testicles visit a doctor for initial assessment. Max has never received treatment for this condition and although he has been in school this did not come to our attention until late mid May when his teacher noticed he was lethargic and had pain on his groin. A sum of about US\$500 is now needed so that Max can undergo further treatment.

Shoes Drive

In previous reports we wrote how the shoes we bought for children in January and February were having a positive impact on their lives and made an appeal for more shoes so that all kids could get a pair. I am glad to report that HoL was able to raise enough funds and the remaining children have now gotten their pair of shoes. Again many thanks to Peggy, Haily, Susan Carol and everybody else who made the shoe drive a success.

Renovation

In April and June we received a special grant from Direttamente onlus which was used to improve facilities at the school, as well as buy equipment and classroom materials. The improvements using this grant are already making a big difference, we have enough toilet facilities, a new kitchen and the play area is now complete.

We bought a computer and a printer and had electric power installed in our part of the building. This has made the tasks of printing and copying school materials very easy further improving the quality of education. You can read more about the improvements here.

Special Visitors

On behalf of the children and the teachers I would like to show my profound gratitude to Peggy and Haily for visiting Kariobangi. It was great to have you at the school. Thank you for all the things you brought for the kids. Thank you for joining us on the trip to Bata. And Haily thank you for the t-shirts, the kids love them. One can tell you spent a lot of time hand printing them, it warms my heart to know how thoughtful you are.

During the same time Peggy and Haily were visiting we were also happy to receive Terry's friends Sheri and Janice. They donated a soccer ball which was immediately put to use. Sheri visited again in June bringing along her husband and son.

Day of the African Child in Kangemi

On 16 June 1976 In Soweto, South Africa, thousands of black school children took to the streets to protest about the inferior quality of their education and to demand their right to be taught in their own language. Hundreds of them were shot down; and in the two weeks of protest that followed, more than a hundred people were killed and more than a thousand injured.

To honour their courage and in memory of those killed, in 1991 the African Union established the Day of the African Child. The Day also draws attention to the lives of African children today.

This year the 22nd edition was commemorated with the theme "Leave No Child Behind for Africa's Development." targeting those who are not benefitting from Africa's growth and development. Almost half of all the people in Africa are children or adolescents - 580 million of them. Sadly, a large percentage of them are not getting the education or early childhood development they need to succeed.

So the Day of the African Child is about a huge and massively important section of the world's population. Nairobi country's celebrations were held in Kangemi an informal settlement to the south west of Nairobi and Hands of Love children joined over 2000 other children from around Nairobi to mark the day and had the opportunity to present a poem on education. It was also an good for networking as teachers had an opportunity to meet and share with teachers from other schools.

Half Year Financial Report

During the first half of 2018 the total revenue was US\$27,525.65. This revenue was raised from three sources:-

- Parents contribution (US\$813)
- Direttamente Onlus (US\$9,139.91)
- HoL USA/Terry (US\$12,525)

All the expenses amounted to US\$27,335.55 and we had a surplus of US\$190.1, As in 2017, salaries continue to represent HoL's greatest expense at 34.22% of total expenses. Food program, rent and instructional expenses were the next big expenditure representing 17.87%, 10.54% and 9.84% of the total expenses respectively. Other expenses represented 17.87% of the total expense, items covered under this category include purchase of shoes for the children and renovation and purchase of equipment funded by Direttamente.

Income Statement as at June 30, 2018

	Ksh	US\$	%
Income from January 1, 2018 - June 30, 2018	2,752,565.00	27,525.65	100%
Balance b/f	504,774.00	5,047.74	18.34%
HoL USA/Terry	1,252,500.00	12,525.00	45.50%
Direttamente Onlus	913,991.00	9,139.91	33.21%
Parents Contribution	81,300.00	813.00	2.95%
Expenses from January 1, 2018 - June 30, 2018	2,733,555.00	27,335.55	100%
Salaries	935,400.00	9,354.00	34.22%
Food program	488,410.00	4,884.10	17.87%
Health & Welfare Program	66,210.00	662.10	2.42%
Rent	288,000.00	2,880.00	10.54%
Instructional Expenses (Educational materials, equipment etc)	268,892.00	2,688.92	9.84%
Repairs and Maintenance	121,648.00	1,216.48	4.45%
Utilities (water bills, electricity bills etc)	50,000.00	500.00	1.83%
Administration (telephone, internet, local transport, office materials, transactional costs)	26,450.00	264.50	0.97%
Other Expenses	488,545.00	4,885.45	17.87%
Surplus	19,010.00	190.10	0.70%