A doctor treating patients at the Limuru Country Club supported by the club, Kenya Society for the Blind, Kiambu County Government, Mumias Sugar, Limuru Constituency Office, Heritage, Matter Hospital among others

Kenya Society for the Blind Annual Report 2014
TABLE OF CONTENTS
1. Chairman’s Statement
2. Director’s Statement
3. Organizational Philosophy
   - Vision, Mission, Values, Objectives
   - Disability Challenges
   - Unique Roles of KSB
4. Education Programme
5. Mike Dunford Fishing Tournament 2015
6. Korara Integrated Primary School
7. Rehabilitation Programme
8. How to be part of KSB
9. Eye Care Programme
10. Kayole Primary School Medical Camp
11. KSB Council, Staff, Volunteers and Committee Members
12. Treasurer’s Report
   - Income and Expenditure Account
   - Statement of Financial Position
13. 2014 Development Partner
14. Golfers Committed to support learners with Visual Impairment
15. Pictorial Page

EDITORIAL TEAM
1. Juliana Kivasu
2. Johnson Kitetu
3. Mercy Ndunge
Golfers Committed to Support Learners with Visual Impairment

Limuru Country Club is notably the best and the most unique golf club in Kenya having been in existence for over 50 years with a wide range of indoor facilities such as squash and outdoor facilities including lawn balls and tennis all laid out in a wonderful countryside setting. The club has one of the finest golf courses in the country and no wonder golfing is the major game in the country. The club membership cuts across all active generations with a bias towards young professionals and successful entrepreneurs. The club has an active membership of over 800 members. Under the stewardship of 2014 Club Chairman, Captain Vincent - Vincent Wang’ombe, Vice Captain - Sam Ndung’u and Lady Captain - Esther McCarthy and the entire club member, KSB entered a partnership that led to implementation of two major activities (Charity Golf Tournament and Free Medical Camp).

A medical camp was also organized to provide the following medical services: Curative Services, dental services, cervix cancer screening, family planning services, eye care services, VCT services, laboratory services, nutritional services and pharmaceutical services. The elderly also received blankets.

A total of 1,306 patients were treated. During the medical camp, 3 patients with high blood sugar were seen, 50 for dental problems, 44 went for reproductive health services, 60 benefited from laboratory services. One hundred received VCT services. Almost all patients had their eye screened. 351 were treated for Bacterial/Allergic conjunctivitis; 232 had Prepyoopia; 41 benefited from photophobia complications to mention a few.

This was a very successful event given that: the expected number of patients increased from 500 to 1306 due to good mobilization using local radio station Kamame FM, high number of volunteers, support from many partners, the Kiambu leadership, the commitment of the club members and well wishers.

Based on the achievement of this exercise we look forward for more better and well organized event in 2015 August.

All the patients who were screened received free medications and reading glasses. This activity is one of the activities the partners have agreed to carry on annually. We look forward to extend the same services to a wide Kiambu County.

I am glad to be associated with Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB) and to have served as a Chairman for the last 2 years. In 2014, KSB continued to invest heavily in the prevention of avoidable Blindness. The Local production Unit for Eye drops has been fully equipped with support from Safaricom and the National Council for Persons with Disability. The production machines are fully operational and ready for Launch by third quarter of 2015.

I am also proud to report that in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, 1900 of learners with Visual Impairment were supported with learning equipment and materials. 37 standard 8 candidates transited successfully to secondary schools.

Now we have a Resource Mobilization Strategy (2015-2018) and a Business Plan (2015-2018). The focus in these policy documents is on diversification of funding streams, specifically in membership development and recruitment, resource mobilization, income generating activities, partnership, organizational development and lobbying and advocacy. The Society has put in place vibrant strategies making us more sensitive to our members, to the dynamic market environment and emerging trends socially, technologically and economically.

The Council has continued to provide strategic leadership to the organization, both holistically and vide Board working Sub committees namely: Finance & Construction, HR/OD and Program. The Management led by the Director has been responsive to the Council resolutions and the KSB strategic program priorities in the provision leadership across the Society.

As per KSB’s Strategic focus on partnership and resource mobilization, I would like to report that in 2014, KSB entered into strategic partnerships with Limuru Country Club, Heritage Insurance, GIC Insurance, National Bank, Faulu Kenya, NIC Bank, Standard Group Media, Mumias Sugar, Lillian Fonds, Insurance Regulatory...
The Director’s Statement

KSB’s Education, Rehabilitation and Eye care programmes are all designed to add a smile to thousands of the over 300,000 persons who are visually impaired. The Education programme targets over 45,000 children of school going age who are blind. The Eye care Program is all about preventing blindness. Since KSB is not financed by the exchequer, the role of KSB Council is gigantic. In 2014, the council got an extra Council member Dr. Bernard Mongesa but lacked the representation of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services. However, KSB has gotten a Representative by the name Mr. Peter Masakhi.

I can report that in 2014, the Council met five times all towards discussing matters that related directly to programs for persons with visual impairment. The Council did not work alone but relied on the inputs of powerful Finance & Construction Committee, the Programme Committee, the Human Resource and Organization Development Committee.

Last year I reported that the Council had approved the need for KSB to have a Rehabilitation Centre of Excellence and shared a draft design. In 2014, I can report that the dream is becoming more of a reality. We now have approval from the Kenya Airport Authority, an approved feasibility and a financial plan for the proposed Rehabilitation Centre and we are now finalising with our financial partners. These are major milestones in the construction of the Rehabilitation Centre. We pray that this year we will be breaking the ground and laying the foundation stone.

Having interacted with many charitable organizations and Civil Society Organizations all of which have been affected by the economic slowdown, I can assure you KSB worked hard in the area of resource mobilisation and partnership development. We have more volunteers and we urge all members to offer themselves as volunteers. We can do this through innovative entrepreneurship services and through sponsorship.

The buildings will create more office space and serve as a Rehabilitation Centre of Excellence with recreational and learning center facilities for persons with disability.

Juliana Kivaru—Executive Director

As you will be reading this annual report, you will hear good plans that KSB leadership has put in place across all programmes to enhance performance and service delivery. KSB has not been left out from the growth in ICT. We now have approved ICT policy and have committed partners whom we are working hand-in-hand to conform to the fast moving technology. I welcome you all to invite your friends to follow us in our social media and to become KSB members. I am also requesting you to share with us any idea that would improve this Society.

We also have a team of youngsters who are being groomed to take up the mantle of leadership for the next generation. I am proud that we are getting more young Life members in KSB.

For the purpose of our new members, I want to share with your our 2020 dream holding all factors constant. Below are the building KSB anticipates to construct.

Next Page...
Members of 2014 KSB’s Programme Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Bernard Mongesa</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Vincent Wambugu</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Michael Makenzi</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Fred Haga</td>
<td>MOE</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Michael Gichangi</td>
<td>MOH</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Kakuu</td>
<td>MOEST</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Francis Saya</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Johnson Kibet</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Solomon Bukhala</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Samuel Chirchir</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members of 2014 KSB’s Finance Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Rose Wambua</td>
<td>Chairlady</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Sitati Makhanda</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Juliana Kivusu</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Caroline Otieno</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members of 2014 KSB’s Finance & Construction Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Rose Wambua</td>
<td>Chairlady</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Sitati Makhanda</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Juliana Kivusu</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Karuki Wanyo</td>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Gerald Kimotho</td>
<td>Financial Consultant</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Leonard Mathu</td>
<td>Financial Consultant</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KSB Staff 2014

1. Juliana Kivaru (Director)
2. Solomon Bukhala
3. Johnson Kibet
4. Daniel Masee
5. Aziza Lyaga
6. Caroline Otieno
7. Johnson Ruungu
8. Isabel Karimi
9. Evelyn Opiyo
10. Tom Owino
11. Bernard Mboncho
12. Samuel Chirchir

Volunteers and Internship to the Visually Impaired

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karim Sidi</td>
<td>Sammy Mbugua</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Anjiko</td>
<td>Samson Waweru</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juliet Mwongeli</td>
<td>Emuna Waweru</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celine Nabukooza</td>
<td>Laura Etori</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erick Ngondi</td>
<td>Moses Mulama</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Maingi</td>
<td>Stanley Mutumwa</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Sabwani</td>
<td>Magaret Pearson</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Westenburg</td>
<td>Alison Ndegwa</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridget Mboncho</td>
<td>Mercy Ndungu</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorice Ambaka</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Organizational Philosophy

The Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB) is a statutory, charitable and membership organization established in 1956 by an Act of Parliament (The Kenya Society for the Blind Act – Chapter 251) to:

(a) To promote the welfare, education, training and employment of the blind and to assist in the prevention and alleviation of blindness.

(b) To assist the government, societies, any institution, organizations or society or person in all matters related to the blind

(c) To awaken public interest in the welfare of the blind and in all matters relating to blindness.

(d) To advise on all things necessary or required in any matter to or connected with the blind.

Our Vision

A society in which no one is needlessly blind and rights of the visually impaired are ensured.

Mission

To promote the rights of the blind and persons with visual impairment through prevention, empowerment and creation of equal opportunities.

Our Values

*Compassion and commitment* to quality services to the visually impaired (totally blind and low vision) Person with Albinism (low vision), the Deaf – blind, the blind with autism/epileptic/down syndrome conditions, the blind with physical impairment and any other type of disabilities.

*Integrity and professionalism.* KSB staff, the sighted, the visually impaired, care givers significantly should play informed and guided roles in the lives of PWVI.

*Respect* for person with visual impairments. Nurturing, guiding, coaching, mentoring, educating and bringing-up PWVI calls for professionalism, ethical and moral obligations hence the need to mainstream disability. That PWVI are to be judged by their value as dignified beings and not just their looks.

*Equality and equity.* We believe disability is not inability and commit to relate, associate and work without barriers. We give the sighted and the visually impaired equal opportunities to serve.

Volunteers and Internship to the Visually Impaired

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karim Sidi</td>
<td>Sammy Mbugua</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Anjiko</td>
<td>Samson Waweru</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juliet Mwongeli</td>
<td>Emuna Waweru</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celine Nabukooza</td>
<td>Laura Etori</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erick Ngondi</td>
<td>Moses Mulama</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Maingi</td>
<td>Stanley Mutumwa</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Sabwani</td>
<td>Magaret Pearson</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Westenburg</td>
<td>Alison Ndegwa</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridget Mboncho</td>
<td>Mercy Ndungu</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorice Ambaka</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KSB’s Education Programme is focused on:

*Assessment and placement of visually impaired children in schools*

*Supporting general public schools to embrace integration and inclusive education*

*Provision of assistive devices and learning materials to both special schools and schools integrating learners with visual impairment*

*Empowerment and encouragement of visually impaired children through sponsorship*

*Lobbying and advocacy on specific issues affecting learners with disability and learners with visual impairment in specific*

Supporting the Blind through Inclusive Education

It is estimated that over 90% of children with disabilities in developing countries do not go to school. According to UNESCO, out of 75 million children of primary school age not receiving primary education, one third is children with disabilities. Thus, children with disabilities make up one of the world’s largest and most disadvantaged minorities. In order to achieve access to primary education for all children as established in the Millennium Development Goal 2 – urgent action must be taken. This includes constructing accessible school buildings, training teachers in special educational needs, providing adequate resources and support structures, and raising awareness among families, communities and decision-maker. This is aimed at removing the social and practical barriers that prevent children with disabilities from accessing their basic right to an education. In relation to the visually impaired, Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB) has identified many issues that need attention.
Performance of Learners with Visual Impairment

In 2014, 37 candidates sat for KCPE within the Kenya Integrated Education Programme (KIEP) across the country. These are very few given that 880,486 pupils sat for the standard eight exams. KCSE was no better; Less than 200 learners with visual impairment out of a total of over 400,000 sat for their Form four exams. The low registration for the exams is due to inadequate support that learners get as they prepare for exams. Very few learners are sufficiently Braille literate and ready to seat for their exams.

Bridging the Acute Shortage of Learning Materials

Many of our members lack text books due to high cost of learning materials and may feel inadequately prepared for national exams. Currently there is a major gap in provision of learning materials in integrated schools. The Kenya Institute for the Blind (KIB) is only supporting special schools while the African Braille Center (ABC) can only support integrated schools at a cost hence the vacuum. KSB is pursuing this matter with Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MOEST).

Like all integrated schools, Kitui Integrated Education programme has also been struggling with inadequate learning materials. Four girls in State House Girls High School have been moved into action by the plight of the visually impaired in the country. The 4 started Blind Child Initiative which is a small project geared towards making a difference in the lives of other children, not having access to the same learning facilities as they did in high profiled school. Their passion attracted the attention of the Safaricom Foundation which donated Kshs 800,000 towards learning materials, food stuff, uniforms and sunscreen lotion for the children with albinism. Kenya Society for the Blind would want to encourage other well wishers to commit towards such a cause as a way to enhance education of the blind in Kenya.
Treasurers Report

The society raised Kshs 31M from donations and grants, income generating activities (IGA) and fundraising events. The funds were utilized in eye care, education and rehabilitation programmes as per the mandate of KSB in support of persons with visual impairment. Capital expenditure for the year included payment for the approval of the anticipated KSB Rehabilitation centre of Excellence construction designs of Ksh 3.1M, final payment and installation cost of a ‘Eye drop’ production equipment of Ksh 1.2M. We also received a generous donation in kind for Software from Microsoft amounting to Ksh 4.3M.

Income for the year decreased by 32% compared to 2013 income. The society closed the year with a deficit of Ksh 629,139. This was mainly due to phase out of donor funded projects as a result of donors change of strategic direction. The change attributed to 75% reduction in donations and grants. Income generating activities also reduced from 14M to 9M this was caused by the effects of devolution and weighing down on purchase of assistive devices in schools across counties. County governments are demanding schools to circulate allocated resources within their counties and not outside hence the reduction of IGA income.

The society diversified its investment during the year and I can report that this yielded favorable returns. Gains thereof were used in mitigating some of the challenges experienced during the year.

As part of KSB’s strategy to ensure financial sustainability, the society is pleased with the achievements towards the actualization of the construction of the complex which include:

- Environmental Impact Assessment by NEMA approvals, architectural design by Nairobi City County (NCC) approvals, and approvals by Kenya Airports Authority. KSB is currently in the process of sourcing for financial partners for the project.

KSB Annual Report 2014

I also need to inform members that KSB registered a special project vehicle by the name KSB Holdings Ltd which is 100% owned by KSB for the purpose of the construction project.

I want to recognize our committed partners: individuals and corporate bodies who gave generously their resources in cash, in kind and through volunteerism, I say a Big Thank you. To our members who continue supporting the plight of the visually impaired, you are a blessing.

Our Auditors Mazars deserve Credit for their thorough and timely audit. Mazars have registered their willingness to continue serving KSB.

I am also glad to serve KSB in the capacity of the Treasurer. I urge all of you to continue supporting KSB for benefit of persons with visual impairment.

Honorable Treasurer

Mz Rose Wambua

Expenditure

- Education for the blind children: 12%
- Rehabilitation: 18%
- Eyecare: 2%
- Income Generating: 2%
- Administration: 2%

Donation of Ksh 300,000 from Kenya Charity Sweepstakes (KCS) was used for assistive devices to: Kerara Integrated school, Moi Girls and Garissa. Items donated included 4 Braille machines; 10 rolls of Braille Paper; 12 Sun screen lotions. As hereby witnessed by KSC&KSB PR Manager, Heshon Khayesi (Asst Sub-county Commissioner Langata), Judy Njeru swamp of Moi Girls High and as witnessed by Juliana (Director KSB)

Donation of Ksh 300,000 from Kenya Charity Sweepstakes (KCS) was used for assistive devices to: Kerara Integrated school, Moi Girls and Garissa. Items donated included 4 Braille machines; 10 rolls of Braille Paper; 12 Sun screen lotions. As hereby witnessed by KSC&KSB PR Manager, Heshon Khayesi (Asst Sub-county Commissioner Langata), Judy Njeru swamp of Moi Girls High and as witnessed by Juliana (Director KSB)

Donation of Ksh 300,000 from Kenya Charity Sweepstakes (KCS) was used for assistive devices to: Kerara Integrated school, Moi Girls and Garissa. Items donated included 4 Braille machines; 10 rolls of Braille Paper; 12 Sun screen lotions. As hereby witnessed by KSC&KSB PR Manager, Heshon Khayesi (Asst Sub-county Commissioner Langata), Judy Njeru swamp of Moi Girls High and as witnessed by Juliana (Director KSB)

Fishing to Support Learners With Visual Impairment

The late Mike Dunford served as the Chairman of KSB Council between 1988 to 1998 and also served as the Honorable Treasurer between 2002 to 2008. By then, Kenya had very few special schools for the blind. Dunford had interacted with many parents and guardians and learned that low enrolment of the VI was because of high cost of learning materials and equipment. He thus lobbied the Ministry of Education (MOE) to start integrated programme which led to the launch of Kenya Integrated Education programme (KIEP). Since the demise of Dunford, the family and friends have been in the frontline to support what Dunford was passionate about (Education for All and especially the blind) through an annual fishing tournament. Mia (His wife) has mobilized friends and partners to support integrated education.

Moi Girls from 3 student receiving donation of Braille Machine and 10 teams of Braille Paper from Mr. Heshon Khayesi (Assistant Sub-county Commissioner Langata), Judy Ngeru swamp of Moi Girls High and as witnessed by Juliana (Director KSB)
The Mike Dunford Tournament 2015

Six thirty (6.30) a.m on Saturday 21st March marked the start of the Mike Dunford Fishing Tournament, with twenty nine boats starting from various ports on the Kenya Coast.

Rain and windy conditions made fishing uncomfortable in the morning, particularly for the open boats, some of which decided to sit out the weather over early breakfast and left later.

However, fish catches started early with a few dorado reported and just before 9 a.m. the first billfish was called in, a sailfish on Albatross.

The weather cleared up after lunch and in the end most boats finished with a mixed bag of fish at the Tamarind Village at 4.30 p.m.

Overall winner of the day was Justin Walters fishing on Delta out of Mtwapa, who picked a good day to catch and tag his first Marlin at 14.02, the only one of the competition. Three Sailfish were caught by Freetyme, fished by Abbas, Vikash and Kavita and one each by Albatross, Bingo and Nguru.

In the Professional category, first place was awarded to Delta, followed by Sashimi and Nala. Amateur winners were Freetyme, followed by Gannet and Albatross and the Open Boat category was won by Lala Salama, followed by Ready Salted and third, Blue Marlin.

Billfish prizes went to Justin for his Marlin and Ali Harazi for the first tagged sail of the day on Albatross. Ali also took home the Barracuda prize for a 6.4kg fish. The Dorado prize went to Pat Griffin on Suli Suli and the Kingfish prize to John Webb on Gannet.V

The donation from Mike Dunford Fishing tournament is used to support the visually impaired with assistive devices. Elizabeth (a VI) is hereby receiving foldable white cane.

There were plenty of Yellowfin around too and the biggest of the day was caught by Nasibu on Bingo. Two Garfish were caught and the largest of these was caught by Ian on Dragonfly.

The ladies also did well, with Kavita Bhatt-Shah winning the Lady’s prize with a tagged sail on Freetyme and Rehana Pasta scooping the Wahoo prize with a 15kg fish.

The junior prize went to Nabeel, fishing on Sashimi, who caught two fish, a 6.7kg Dorado and a 5.7kg Yellowfin. At a vibrant auction the night before the fishing, donations were raised for the Kenya Society for the Blind, Mike Dunford’s favourite charity. The society was presented with a cheque of KShs 300,160, being partly the auction share and partly a very generous donation by Zia Manji for his first auction prize of KShs 185,440. The Tamarind Group organisers of the tournament would like to thank the sponsors Seaforth Shipping, (now in their 13th year of sponsorship of the Tamarind tournaments, being the company of which Mike Dunford was a shareholder), D.T. Dobie, a very welcome newcomer to the competition, Career Connections, run by Mike Dunford’s daughter and son-in-law, Madeleine and Zia Manji, Sean Garvin Motors and the Golden Key Casino.

A vote of thanks was also given at the prize giving to all the fishermen who turned out to support the tournament. We look forward to 2016!
Kayole 1 Primary School Medical camp (6th December 2014)
For the last five years, Heritage insurance has been a committed development partner of KSB. Heritage Insurance a member of Liberty Group has invested over Ksh 1,085,600 to fight avoidable blindness. Heritage is committed to a health community and know the best way of doing this is working with Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB).

Heritage CSR team offering services to patients in Kawangware in 2013

Heritage CSR team registering patients in December 2014 in Kayole

A total number of 720 patients were registered during the free medical camp. Out of the 720, a total of 675 patients were screened and treated. Many residents were sensitized to eye care services in Mama Lucy County Hospital which also offers eye care services. Over 250 patients benefited with reading glasses.

Heritage Insurance is committed to giving back to the society. This cannot be said better than it was said by the Chairperson of the Corporate Social Responsibility Team who had this to say:

“The Heritage Insurance Company (K) Ltd. recognizes the high cost of treatment of eye conditions and as part of our CSR initiatives; we have always felt the need to set aside some money towards this project. In addition, our company recognizes that Kenya Society for the Blind runs one of the most successful eye clinics in the country and have over the years provided outstanding medical care. The Heritage Insurance Company also recognizes that many Kenyans have taken up insurance seriously but there are some of us who are disadvantaged and cannot afford insurance, and that is where we come in.

We do commend the Kenya Society for the Blind for their exemplary service to the community and we would like to encourage other corporate companies and individuals to come out in large numbers and support them.”

Justin Walters aged 16 and Tom Jackson-Read members of Delta team, receive their prizes Madeline Dunford and Event’s coordinator Hugh Walters. Mia Dunford presented the trophy to the overall price for the only marlin of the day.

KSB Annual Report 2014

Appreciative Message from the Chairman of KSB
We recognize the unrelenting and unwavering support KSB has been receiving from Partners through “The Mike Dunford Fishing Tournament” and indeed the efforts of Mia Dunford. We are glad that based on your partnership and that of other partners, we (KSB) can promise blind children education – learning materials, assistive devices and empowerment skills for independency such as computer skills and eye care services. Please don’t relent on the mission of promoting the rights and dignity of the visually impaired through prevention, empowerment and creation of equal opportunities for the blind in our society.

I remind you of our slogan “My Eyes, your eyes”. Those who can see need to lend their eyes to those who can’t see. That is what Mike Dunford believed in.------

MR. Sitati Makhandia

KSB Annual Report 2014

Korara Integrated Primary School

Directors KSB interacting with Visually Impaired learners in Kenya during World Sight Day (2014)

Deputy Headteacher acclaming Learners with visual Impairment

Kenya National scholarship beneficiary

Kenya University scholarship beneficiary

Heritage staff during the induction process
Korara Integrated School is both a pre-school, primary and secondary school located in Bomet County. The school was started in 1982. The special integrated unit, that admits visually impaired children, was started in 2011 through the help of Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB). The special integrated unit started with 7 learners with visual impairment (3 boys, 4 girls). Since then, the number of children has risen to 52, with plans to enrol and accommodate a total of 100 children, learning from Class 1 to 8 by 2016. Bomet County has a total population of 889,447 as per census report. Out of this population, 4,218 are visually impaired (0-7yrs = 306; 6-14yrs = 809 and 3,103 are over 15yrs). Less than 100 children with visual impairment in the county are in school. Major causes of blindness include cataract, trachoma, posterior segment infections and corneal conditions. Before Korara was established as an integrated school, parents of visually impaired children took them to Kibos in Kisumu or Thika in Kiambu. This made education for learners with visual impairment (LVWI) inaccessible, unaffordable, and unsustainable to most parents and guardians.

Towards establishment of the school, KSB sponsored 6 teachers for Braille Skills training. The school now has 18 Braille machines and 5 Low Vision Desks. The ratio of Braille to pupils is 1:4. A Braille machine is a “MUST have” for touch readers. This means the school should have a one-to-one (1:1) ratio. To facilitate learning in the school in 2014, KSB and its partner Kenya Charity Sweepstake, Alive and Kicking, Kenya Braille Trust Africa and Unilever Kenya gave a donation of 25 teams of Braille papers, 20 foldable white canes, and 24 sun screen lotions, over 500 pieces of Lifebuoy (bathing soap), 5 sound balls and one Braille Machines.

The school has a total of 78 children with visual impairment out of a population of 647 pupils and a total of 22 teachers and support staff. A team of pupils, teachers and their nominated MCA Wilson Keter represented the rest in the 2014 annual Mt. Longonot climb on 20th September 2014. The school has promised to send a bigger delegation to 2015 Mt. Longonot climb.

Gideon Kiplangat Kerir was born in 1996 in Mugee Village to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kilch in Tenwek Mission Hospital was found to have congenital blindness. He is a third born child in a family of eight children 3 boys and 5 girls. The only suitable school known to the parents was Thika School for the Blind around 350 Kilometers away. Thanks to KSB, the parents discovered he could learn alongside the sighted children. He was placed at Korara Primary School where he did his KCPE in 2013 and was admitted to Korara Secondary school in 2014. He is hoping to be a lawyer and wish to pursue his music career after his first degree. He is pleased to have been referred to KSB for assistance.

Bomet County Government Commemoration of World Sight Day

The Governor of Bomet Honorable Isaac Ruto and his Deputy Governor and the senator are committed to serve the visually impaired in Bomet. The County has a blind MCA and a very vibrant executive all committed to serve the over 4,000 visually impaireed in the county. Out of the 47 Counties in Kenya, Bomet is one of the few counties that flexed its muscles and that committed its resources to commemorate world sight day in 2014.

Ruto and his Deputy Governor and the senator are committed to serve the visually impaired in Bomet. The County has a blind MCA and a very vibrant executive all committed to serve the over 4,000 visually impaired in the county. Out of the 47 Counties in Kenya, Bomet is one of the few counties that allocated resources to commemorate world sight day in 2014. This is a great commitment to persons with visual impairment.

To do this, the Deputy Governor and a team of 5 ministers, and 3 MCA’s joined parents and pupils in Korara Integrated Primary and Secondary school for a procession and blind fold exercise.

NEPU is Visited by Top Assessors

KSB received an advisory team of three consisting of Dr. Kay Weyer (Lead Assessor from UNIDO), Dr. Pauline Wairimu Kamau (from Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Kenya) and Dr. W.O. Wanyanga (National Pharmaceutical Expert). The team was to assess NEPU using WHO GMP guidelines that includes: WHO Technical Report Series (TRS) 986, WHO Technical Report Series (TRS) 937, WHO Technical Report Series (TRS) 970 and WHO Technical Report Series (TRS) 961. This was in a bid to position NEPU on the WHO defined standards of current good manufacturer of pharmaceutical products. According to this team, there is a lot of improvement from last years visit by the same team. However, there is still a lot to be done. In the year 2015, KSB will be developing and implementing a water-tide plan that can make NEPU acquire a clean “bill of health” in manufacturing pharmaceutical products.

KSB’s Optical Services

An estimated 19 million children are visually impaired, of which 12 million need eyeglasses for sight correction. The only way to prevent loss of sight is through early screening and treatment. Children lose their sight due to many reasons including reduction in vision arising from a defect, inability to use the two eyes together in a correct way and abnormal eye movements arising from injury or diseases affecting the eye muscles. Many of these can be avoided with early screening and treatment. According to World Health Organization, over 80% of the reported cases of blindness are due to preventable and curable causes.

Child Eye Health Project

Brien Holden Vision Institute (BHVI) consortium has started a child eye health project in Kenya to dispense spectacles and low vision devices to children aged 0 – 15 years. The child eye health project is a “Seeing is believing” funded programme covering Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

It is a four year project running up to December 2016. The goal of this project is to reduce the percentage of avoidable blindness and visual impairment in selected regions and implementation of a comprehensive child eye health programme directly reaching an estimated population of 4 million children. In Kenya the project is being implemented jointly by Operation Eyeight Universal and the Fred Hollows foundation in collaboration with the Ophthalmic Services Unit (OSU) of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Education (MOE).

The BHVI Consortium-Kenya is implementing this Child Eye Health Project in 9 counties in Kenya, namely: Migori, Homa Bay, Kitui, Kisumu, Bungoma, Trans Nzoia, Nakuru, Narok and Kericho. Operationalization of this project is centered in the Kenya Society for the Blind and employs the revolving fund principle as a strategy to guarantee project sustainability after the project lifespan. Clients are to pay for subsidized spectacle through a Safaricom Paybill No. 955150 under Kenya Society for the Blind. On receiving the predetermined fee of Ksh 800, KSB’s eye care programme is to process the spectacles and dispatch them immediately through the G4S security services.

In 2015, an electronic monitoring system will be put in place to ensure adequate and easy documentation. KSB guarantees quality products as always.
EYE CARE PROGRAMME

The eye care program in KSB undertakes three main activities:
• Production of affordable eye drops
• Professional eye check-up (screening) and treatment
• Provision of optical services and outreach activities

Production of Eye Drops

Kenya has a national eye care programme established under The Kenya Society for the Blind Act (Chapter 251 of 1956). The Eye Care Programme in KSB works hand-in-hand with Ophthalmic Services Unit (OSU). The Head of OSU is the appointed representative of the Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Health to serve as a KSB Council member. The National Eye Care Plan has so far prioritized cataract, trachoma, glaucoma, child Blindness, Low Vision, Refractive Error and Diabetic Retinopathy as diseases to control (MOH, 2013).

It is estimated that about 12.5% of Kenyan populations is at risk of becoming blind due to preventable blindness. However, it is important to note that these causes can be managed by either use of medicines, surgeries or spectacles. Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB) is in the business of preventing blindness, supporting persons with live-sight threatening conditions and supporting the blind to live with dignity among the sighted. Prevention of avoidable blindness in Kenya is hampered by few specialists (70 ophthalmologists ~62% based in Nairobi); availability of static eye care units (73 as of 2009) and eye care products.

In 1980s, The Kenya Prevention of Blindness Committee identified the need for low cost eye drops in an effort to have sustainable eye care programme. Arising from this need the National Eye Drops Production Unit [NEPU] was established at the Kenya Society for the Blind [KSB] as a joint project with the Ministry of Health (MOH). NEPU was to pilot a project on local production of eye drops (LPED). The LPED is an accepted approach to making essential eye drops accessible, available and affordable in developing countries. The approach was developed by WHO in the 1980s and has since become a standard operating procedure in many countries where drug supply is either erratic or too expensive.

NEPU is project is not a commercial project but a project committed to prevention of avoidable blindness geared towards quality, accessibility and affordability. The project has been supported by: Safaricom Foundation; Sightavers; National Council of Persons with Disability –NCPWDs and KSB. So far, a lot has been done but much more need to be done. This is why KSB continue to appeal for support from development partners to make this project a reality. For quality to be enhance, NEPU for instance would need its own quality control laboratory. KSB has already acquired some equipment for quality control that include UV Spectrophotometer, Anti-biotic Zone Reader, Incubators and Sonicator machine but still needs high Performance Liquid Chromatography machine and it’s accessories to enhance quality control (QC).

In 2013 we reported that KSB had acquired an online production machine with a capacity to produce over 3 million bottles annually from a previous production capacity of producing about 300,000 bottles annually. This machine was not installed until 2014. This system is faster with the capability of producing 80 bottles per minute. We have also ensured that pharmaceutical products are produced under a sterile environment classified as Class A in the pl

Eye Drop production machine being tested by expert from India – Mr. Vikas

Motivating Learners with Visual Impairment for Excellence

KSB has observed a trend of low motivation for visually impaired learners and lack of clear career progression path for our members ready to seat for exams. Students have been sitting for exams without knowledge of possible career options incase they don’t make it to university.

Our tertiary institutions are yet to mainstream disability and to accommodate learners with visual impairment for technical skills. For instance we don’t have colleagues training the visually impaired in CPA, CPS, engineering, mechanics and medics to name a few. We however want to congratulate teachers training colleges for supporting all Kenyans without discrimination.
Eric Nicholas Ngondi
PO Box 66236-00800
Nairobi, Kenya.
Eニックニ=ngondi@gmail.com
wesconsultant@gmail.com
Facebook: Eric Ngondi
LinkedIn: Eric Ngondi

Eric Ngondi is a self motivated and a result-oriented engineer in the field of Water and Environment. He has a rich experience in facilitation, training, project management and customer service and is a registered associate environment auditor with National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), certified in Health Environment and Safety (H.E.S) matters from Petroleum Institute of East Africa as well as certified internal QMS ISO 9001:2008 auditor. Mr. Ngondi works for Kenol Kobili, a leading oil company in Kenya, as Quality, Environment, Health and Safety Officer till termination of contract in 2013. Currently he is working for NEMA. Since he lost his sight, he has gained computer adaptive technology skills which use Job Assess with Speech software (JAWS) for communication. He is a reliable mentor for persons with visual disability thanks to Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB). Concurrently, Mr. Ngondi is running WESS Consultancy, a company he co-founded six months ago.

He is promising young leader who is positive, ambitious and hard working, very social, friendly and collaborative. He has used several audio-visual forums to advocate for the rights and dignity of persons with visual impairment and other disabilities. He is a registered Life member of KSB and a leader in many groups/associations and welfare groups.

Overcoming High Cost of Educating the Visually Impaired
One major challenge that has led to few registrations of visually impaired candidates in national exams is the high cost of tuition. The government policy of scrapping examination fee will go a long way in increasing KCPE and KCSE candidates in special and integrated schools. With the establishment of the National Council for Person with Disabilities (NCPWD), it was envisaged that lack of opportunities for persons with disabilities was a thing of the past. We have to however admit that there are many challenges with sponsorship programme by the NCPWD. One of the intended beneficiaries of devolved resources via the NCPWD was supposed to be KSB as is created by an Act of parliament to deal with rights and needs of the visually impaired. However, KSB continues to struggle due to lack of programme resources. Despite supporting the government in grammes targeting PWVI.

One would expect that the council to allocate resources to KSB to support needy children with visual impairment to avoid duplication and delays that has made head teachers to send children with visual impairment home for fees. This is yet to be done and hopefully it will be possible with the on going amendments to the Persons with Disabilities Act 2003.

Every year, KSB mobilizes school-going children, the public, eye care stakeholders, banks and corporates team up with children with visual impairment, deaf-blind and other persons with disabilities to climb Mt. Longonot on the 3rd Saturday of September. Climbers receive T-shirts and are facilitated to and from Mt. Longonot after raising a low ceiling of Ksh 1,500 and a maximum of any amount. Children raising over Kshs 6,000 automatically become Life Members. This is a 3-4 hour event characterized with fun and adventure.

To participate:
• Individuals can pay via MPESA Paybill No. 955150.
• Cash or cheque
• Schools and colleges receive sponsorship forms
• Corporate sponsorship in cash and in kind is highly appreciated

(KSB’s Charity Golf Tournament/Dinner)

Every year, Golfers from different golf clubs come together to raise funds in support of learners under KSB programme.

By Playing Golf for KSB a golfer is:
1. Paying tuition for a blind child
2. Providing magnifying glasses/white cane/calculator to the blind
3. Supporting eye screening to eliminate avoidable blindness
4. Offering the blind a livelihood (not to beg)

KSB Annual Report 2014
5. Supporting the newly blinded get counselling and training on mobility
To participate:
• Individuals can pay via MPESA Paybill No. 955150.
• Cash or cheque
• Corporate sponsorship is highly appreciated

(C) Mike Dunfold Fishing Tournament
The Mike Dunford Annual Fishing Tournament usually held in Tamarind village is an event in memory of the late Mike Dunford who served as the Chairman and Treasurer of KSB Council in 1988-1998 and 2002-2008 respectively. Participants compete in fishing and are treated to a lively auction of boats. This is one of the most adventurous events usually done in March every year. To book for participation and sponsorship, call 6001541.

(D) Elimination of Avoidable Blindness
KSB in partnership with development partners such as corporates, County governments and well-wishers usually team to sponsor Free Eye Screening and treatment in any part of Kenya. In such events corporate sponsors on CSR mission take full brand rights and their staff are involved in project implementation. KSB fundraising and eye care department is responsible for such projects. Please call 6001541.

(E) Membership Subscription
• Complete membership application forms
• Ordinary member = Ksh 1,000/= 
• Life Member = Ksh 5,000/= 
• Corporate member = Ksh 15,000/= 
To become a member, please contact KSB and follow us on fb: Kenya Society for the Blind

(F) Donations and Sponsorship
KSB is responsible over education of visually impaired yet it does not receive funds from government. We receive gifts (furniture & fittings/clothes/food/stuff), land, hardware and software, grants, donations in-kind and in-cash to sponsor education and welfare of the needy. Please call fundraising department on 6001541. Sponsorship can be on a continuous or one-off basis.

• Donations can be sent directly to KSB through cheques, cash, or direct deposits to our MPESA Paybill No. 955150. For Account No., enter your
However, most Human Resource Managers and CEOs are still not aware on how to effectively embrace disability mainstreaming. KSB is helping organizations in:

1. Transcribing service charts in both English and Kirwahili and other information, education and communication (IEC) materials
2. Putting service charter and other information into audible version either in CD or in Tapes
3. Disability orientation training workshop for frontline manager and customer care officers so that they can serve the blind and the deaf with honor and dignity. This is a 4-day on the job training.
4. Supporting organizations in disseminating transcribed materials to reach clientele (pupils, students, staff who are visually impaired, teachers, parents and guardians) since KSB is a mem bership organization with direct touch to all visually impaired.
5. Supporting schools and corporations with assistive devices for the visually impaired
6. Equipping institutions with ICT equipment so that newly employed visually impaired can use modern ICT technology in their workstations. We help organizations to procure the right hard ware and software like JAWS and Magic to facilitate their reading/write emails and in accessing internet without any challenge.

To effectively do the above, KSB recommend total quality management approaches of discerning organizational needs through an audit process rather than trial and error.

Supporting organizations in the area of disability mainstreaming is clearly defined as per clause b, c and d of The Kenya Society for the Blind Act – Chapter 251. Supporting organizations in the area of disability mainstreaming is clearly defined as per clause b, c and d of The Kenya Society for the Blind Act – Chapter 251.

Loosing sight can be very traumatic yet it may be unavoidable. When one looses sight irreversibly, one may think that she or he does not belong any more. Our society has continued to stigmatize disability directly and indirectly.

The outcome of these stereotypes and misconception lead to denial of working opportunities to the visually impaired and have many other far reaching implications. Often the blind are viewed as: Victims, or objects of pity; burdens to the society including families and caregivers, a threat to the comfort and safety of others, unable, or are assumed to be unable to do things, having multiple disabilities (a CWVI is perceived to have intellectual disability), childhood, “special” or cursed. But these have been found to be baseless and very discriminatory and the disability Act 2003 and the Kenyan Constitution 2010 have tried to rectify this social injustice.

We have blind teachers teaching both the blind and the sighted. We have blind tour guides, blind pilots, waiters, lawyers, judges, policy makers, directors, commissioners, industrialists, entertainers, drummers, entrepreneurs to say the least.

It has to be noted that disability is the only “Open Membership Club” and that everybody is vulnerable and can be affected by cataracts, glaucoma, trachoma, age related – macular degeneration of the eye, loss of sight through accidents, terrorism, illicit brews such as “kumi kumi”, congenital or acquired blindness.

Hence when one loses sight, the most important thing is to offer psychosocial and emotional support. KSB has counselling and psychosocial support programme. KSB offers a home where we interact freely without any discrimination and push the support to empowerment according to individual’s needs.

48 children received refractive glasses and 58 children were referred for specialized treatment. Considering that only 36 schools had children screened, one would expect the situation to be very bad if many schools were to be screened.

As an organization committed to prevention of avoidable blindness, KSB would want to do more screening in the entire country.

Screening and Assessment Plans for 2015

KSB is thus appealing to County governments and well-wishers to sponsor School vision screening and low vision assessment on all schools in the 47 Counties. KSB intend to start this programme from mid 2015 in Nairobi. Upon County government sponsorship, KSB will arrange with Head Teachers on the appropriate day for this exercise and will coordinate with the school administration on how to conduct the exercise without affecting the learning timetable in school. Children who will be identified to have vision challenges will be treated and well advised. Information gathered will be used in policy making. We expect this will increase the visually impaired case load under the Kenya Integrated Education Programme (KIEP) which currently stand at 1,900 (417 totally blind, 1,483 low vision) learners with visual impairment (LWVI). Nairobi has a total 64,075 persons with disability out of which 23,790 are visually impaired. With more assessments we expect this figure to raise.

**KSB’s Rehabilitation Services include:**

1. Talking library service for the visually impaired who are not of school going age
2. Training on adaptive computer technology for persons with visual impairment
3. KSB supports institutions on disability mainstreaming covering all aspects and categories of disabilities
4. Training on orientation and mobility (O&M) and Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) for the newly blinded
5. Job placement and linkage

REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

**KSB’s Rehabilitation Services include:**

1. Talking library service for the visually impaired who are not of school going age
2. Training on adaptive computer technology for persons with visual impairment
3. KSB supports institutions on disability mainstreaming covering all aspects and categories of disabilities
4. Training on orientation and mobility (O&M) and Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) for the newly blinded
5. Job placement and linkage

KSB’s Annual Report 2014

KSB Annual Report 2014

Ophthalmologist examining a pupil in Embu

*These Visually Impaired discovered that they had talents. They are registered as ‘Drums in the Dark’ and play drums professionally in clubs and for weddings*

**Scholarship beneficiaries in Thika Primary School for the Blind**

**Scholarship beneficiaries in St Lucy’s Sch for the Blind**

**Muuru Mutea a scholarship beneficiary in Thika High School for the Blind**

**Free screening is not only for children. Adults too need assessment as witnessed on this Free medical camp for Riambu residents thanks to a partnership of: KSB, Limuru Country Club, Mater Hospital, Tigoni Sub-county Hospital, Limuru Constituency office, Tigoni Police Station and Riambu County Hospital, Heritage Insurance, Mumbi Sugar,**
Talking Library Services for the Visually Impaired

The global literacy rate for adults with disabilities is as low as 3%, and 1% for women with disabilities, according to UNDP. Like many other developing countries, Kenya is struggling with illiteracy amongst persons with disabilities. The cost of educating learners who are Visually Impaired is the most prohibitive world over. From the census report, about 45,000 Children with visual impairment (CVWI) are of school going age but less than 7,000 are in school. Whereas there are papers to scribe on and books, magazines and newspapers to read for the sighted, touch readers and large print readers have limited access to literacy materials. There is no newspaper and local daily in large print neither is there any in braille. The cost of a braille machine is not affordable to many parents. Even the literate braille readers tend to degenerate to illiterate soon after schooling since they have no access to information and assistance devices.

Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB) has been:
1. Lobbying and demonstrating the power of integration and inclusive learning.
2. Working with media fraternity to sensitize Kenyans about the plight of the visually impaired.
3. Working with the Bible Society of Kenya to ensure touch readers have access to transcribed bible.
4. The Kenya Library Services to ensure that learners interested in library services are not discriminated against.
5. Working with The Kenya Judiciary to ensure justice is done even among the visually impaired internal and external clientele.
6. Working with public and private corporate bodies to transcribe their information, communication and educative (IEC) materials.
7. Having Talking Books Library to enhance literacy among the visually impaired.
8. To enhance accessibility across the country, KSB works in partnership with the biggest courier service provider (G4S) to ensure the visually impaired are not excluded on the basis of distance and mailing cost.

The Talking Books Library is a vehicle in the fight against illiteracy among the visually impaired in Kenya and hence an integral part of the Kenya Society for the Blind. It is run by volunteers from EA Women’s League. It serves as an edutainment for the KSB membership. The library has over 1,600 books in form of audio tapes and CDs. The books are in English featuring exhilarating aspects of life including romance, crime, suspense, biographies, travel, history, and travel among others. The Visually Impaired are part of our society and all the things happening around the world affect them as well. They have hobbies, they love, cry, read, seek to be fashionable and to be up to date with the latest information. The library is run by expatriates and volunteers from EA Women’s League. Margaret Pearson one of the devoted volunteer relocated to Europe on mid April. KSB members want to wish her smooth and exciting moments in London as she bonds with her family. The remaining team of volunteers has promised improvement of services and is requesting young Kenyans to volunteer their time and resources in serving the visually impaired. For the purpose of the new members, we wish to say that subscription for services and membership is Ksh1,500.

The Library is open twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday 8.00am to 1.00pm and serves the entire country thanks to the services of G4S an International Courier and Security Services company in operation in Kenya and which is a Corporate Member and a Development partner of Kenya Society For the Blind. Based on this partnership, we encourage all the visually challenged to borrow books from the Library.

Call for Donations of Tapes and Tape Players

The Talking Books Library is appealing to well wishers to donate Tapes and Tape Players. Whereas to many privileged Kenyans Tapes and Tape Players (radios with tape system) are are becoming obsolete due to technological advancement and being replaced with the use of DVD's and CDs, we wish to remind Kenyans of good will that tapes and tape players can be used to support learners with visual impairment to improve their literacy levels.

Also many Kenyans may be having tapes containing educational content that they have already read and which can be of benefit to other Kenyans, we urge you to donate them to Kenya Society for the Blind. Please send these to:

Kenya Society for the Blind
Att: Joan Westenburg
Tel: 0734 685 901
P.O. Box 46656-00100
Nairobi

The Blind also want to watch Television

KSB is also working with the Communications Authority of Kenya to ensure the blind and the partially sighted enjoy televised programmes like all other Kenyans. This may take time but the investment is worthy for the over 600,000 Kenyans who are visually impaired. KSB has recommended the need to ensure televised programmes have text to speech (TTS) technology features. This would make it easier for the visually impaired audience to choose from a list of programs they wish to watch on television set. The TTS technology can also give voiced feedback to the blind when adjusting the volume, colour contrast and in accessing the menus as has been demonstrated by the Panasonic Vierra models. The biggest challenge of such a device is affordability for the already impoverished.

EMBRACING MODERN TECHNOLOGY

The 2014 graduate class of Computer Adaptive Technology in KSB from all over the country including: Kimu County (The Judiciary), Kinu Fu County, Kili County and Kiambo County.

The Computer Adaptive Technology class in 2014 trained a total of 64 adult learners from all over the country.

Some needed this ICT training in preparation to join higher learning institutions, while others require these skills to assist them assess information and be better employees while others want to be able to explore the world that has embraced ICT in tendering process. Based on this system, the entrepreneurs who are visually impaired can only become competitive if they are able to search for available tenders online. The National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) is working with KSB to ensure persons with visual impairment are empowered with necessary ICT skills. The Council has been sponsoring some blind members for the CAT class. To enhance this service across the country, KSB is proposing that the council should ensure at least two visually impaired persons from all the 47 county annually are sponsored for CAT classes. This will avoid marginalization of some counties which are yet to start benefiting from this sponsorship program.

To ensure that KSB is equipped for the task of training over 90 visually impaired learners for ICT technology, KSB has acquired more sophisticated computers, 10 more licenses of JAWS Version 15 and 10 Magic Version 12 all worth Ksh. 433,650 thanks to a partnership with ITAC Consulting company and Freedom Scientific and KSB.

KSB also partnered with Microsoft and got a donation of seven (7) different software including: DynCRMvSr 2013, DynCRMProCAL, WinEnt 7, Office Professional Plus, Lyne Mac and Project Server all worth Ksh. 50,725. With these, KSB can train and effectively monitor learners and staff performance electronically.

KSB is also giving many of its students’ internship opportunities as we continue to mentor and coach graduates for work in office environment.

Supporting Disability Mainstreaming in Public Service and Corporates

Mainstreaming disability is one of the major flagship in both the public and corporate with CEOs being appraised on this area through performance contracting.
KSB Annual Report 2014

The Talking Books Library is a vehicle in the fight against illiteracy among the visually impaired in Kenya and hence an integral part of the Kenya Society for the Blind. It is run by volunteers from EA Women's League. It serves as an edutainment for the KSB membership. The library has over 1,600 books in form of audio tapes and CDs. The books are in English featuring exhilarating aspects of life including romance, crime, suspense, biographies, travel, history, and travel among others.

The Visually Impaired are part of our society and all the things happening around the world affect them as well. They have hobbies, they love, cry, read, seek to be fashionable and to be up to date with the latest information. The library is run by ex-pat trit Tear and exponents from EA Women's League. Margaret Pearson, one of the devoted volunteer relocated to Europe on mid April. KSB members want to wish her smooth and exciting moments in London as she bonds with her family. The remaining team of volunteers have promised improvement of services and is requesting young Kenyans to volunteer their time and resources in serving the visually impaired.

For the purpose of the new members, we wish to say that subscription for services and membership is Ksh1,500.

The Library is open twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday 8.00am to 1.00pm and serves the entire country thanks to the services of G4S an International Courier and Security Services company in operation in Kenya and which is a Corporate Member and a Development partner of Kenya Society For the Blind. Based on this partnership, we encourage all the visually challenged to borrow books from the Library.

Call for Donations of Tapes and Tape Players

The Talking Books Library is appealing to well wishers to donate Tapes and Tape Players. Whereas to many privileged Kenyans, Tapes and Tape Players (radios with tape system) are becoming obsolete due to technological advancement and being replaced with the use of DVDs and CDs, we wish to remind Kenyans of good will that tapes and tape players can be used to support learners with visual impairment to improve their literacy levels.

Also many Kenyans may be having tapes containing educational content that they have already read and which can be of benefit to other Kenyans, we urge you to donate them to Kenya Society for the Blind. Please send these to:

Kenya Society for the Blind
Attn: Joan Westenburg
Tel: 0734 685 901
P.O. Box 46636-00100
Nairobi

KSB Annual Report 2014

Some needed this ICT training in preparation to join higher learning institutions, while others require these skills to assist them assess information and be better employees while others want to be able to explore the world that has embraced ICT in tendering process. Based on this system, the entrepreneurs who are visually impaired can only become competitive if they are able to search for available tenders online.

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) is working with KSB to ensure persons with visual impairment are empowered with necessary ICT skills. The Council has been sponsoring some blind members for the CAT class. To enhance this service across the country, KSB is proposing that the council should ensure at least two visually impaired persons from all the 47 county annually are sponsored for CAT classes. This will avoid marginalization of some counties which are yet to start benefiting from this sponsorship programme.

To ensure that KSB is equipped for the task of training over 90 visually impaired learners for ICT technology, KSB has acquired more sophisticated computers, 10 more licences of JAWS Version 15 and 10 Magic Version 12 all worthy Ksh. 453,560 thanks to a partnership with ITAC Consulting company and Freedom Scientific and KSB. KSB also partnered with Microsoft and got a donation of seven (7) different software including: DynCRMsvr 2013, DynCRMProCAL, WinEat 7, Office Professional Plus, Lyce Mac and Project Server all worth $50,725. With these, KSB can train and effectively monitor learners and staff performance electronically.

KSB is also giving many of its student’s internship opportunities as we continue to mentor and coach graduates for work in office environment.

Supporting Disability Mainstreaming in Public Service and Corporates

Mainstreaming disability is one of the major flagships in both the public and corporate sector with CEOs being appraised on this area through performance contracting.
Dr. Laibuta Kibaya aiming for a shot during the 2014 Charity Golf Tournament at Limuru Country Club

Kenya Society For the Blind

Physical Adress: Barclay House, Mai Mahiu Road Off Langata Road
Postal Adress: P.O. Box 46656 - 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: (254-20)6001541
Email: ksb@ksblind.org