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# CHARLOTTE EDUCATIONAL CENTRE - SCHOOL

**Introduction: An Overview**

Charlotte Educational Centre – School was conceived in December 2013 by Joseph Noah Alwanda who has been a long time volunteer community development worker within the locality and especially with the orphans and vulnerable children whose plight touched him and he without hesitation embarked on this heart rending journey of helping these poor and marginalized children realize their rightful place in the community.

The Centre’s services were actualized on 6th January, 2014 on a rented parcel of land with semi permanent structures of which it was later (after some seven months) forced to move out and pitch up makeshift structures for classes on an idle parcel of land (courtesy of a local well wisher) within the host community due to financial constraints. The establishment of the School was necessitated by the fact that many orphaned and vulnerable children of school going ages were being forced by their predicament to stay out of school by either not getting themselves enrolled in school and or dropped out for lack of support to meet the ever growing demand for basic school’s kits and levies which was out of reach for them. It was based on this and the need to facilitate their access to basic education opportunities that would enhance their literacy and numeracy skills, mould and or shape them into becoming disciplined, productive and responsible adult citizens who’ll will further agitate and spearhead global aspirations of justice, equity, sustainable development and peace that this idea was conceived and initiated. Since then we have embarked on a heart rending journey of mobilizing resources to realize our School Project’s goal of restoring hope to the hopeless children by improving their access to quality basic education opportunities and enlighten, inspire and empower them through a rich variety of activities in becoming holistic individuals prepared to face the challenges of the dynamic global village.

The commencement of the School’s activities realized the admission of a total of forty eight children on the first day against one dedicated volunteer male ECDE Teacher, Mr. Wycliffe Ochieng’. The week and proceeding months saw an influx of more children cumulating to ninety seven pupils who far exceeded our expectations on enrolment, teaching and learning aids, and staffing, other physical facilities especially the classrooms. This scenario forced the Management to seek the services of three more teachers and mobilize more material and financial resources to put extra classrooms and acquire more supplies. These only enabled us put up a makeshift structure to compliment the classrooms not knowing that the landlord was already burning with lots of jealousy seeing us through thinking we had a lot of funds to support needy pupils for free. On 5th September, 2014, he summoned us only to inform us that he had increased the rent to Kenya Shillings 9,000 and wanted us to clear our arrears plus three months deposit using the new rates. Due to our financial constraints, the landlord without notice locked the doors to the classes on condition that we start charging fees by sending these poor pupils home and or co-opting him on the School’s Board. Our failure to raise the amount and refusal to allow him be part of the Board infuriated him making him kick us out of the premises while also attaching our little assets due to rent arrears.

Stuck with the pupils, God sent us a Good Samaritan who offered us havoc at hi idle piece of land with a semi – permanent structure and an incomplete two doors pit latrine which we immediately converted into a classroom and washroom as such. We briefly closed the School, convened a parents/guardians’ meeting to discuss our fate and assembled some teaching and learning aids including mats (carpets made from reeds) for use as seats before the School’s operations were normalized. Later on, we were able to raise some funds which enabled us buy nine (9) pieces of iron sheets, timber and nails which we combined with small pieces of iron sheets collected from building sites to make two classrooms which acted as classrooms up to May, 2017. Despite this sorry state of affairs, more needy cases continued flocking the Centre seeking admission. In 2015, the pupils’ population rose to one hundred and twenty eight which only became a source of alarm to us coupled with pressure from the Government’s Ministry of Health staff’s visitations and threats of dire consequences due to hazardous conditions of operations which forced us to seek the transfer of some pupils to other schools and stop admitting new cases. Our only solace was the knowledge that we have an Ebenezer who un ceaselessly present in all our ups and downs.

In April, 2017, Noah who is also the School’s Director got some payment for work done some three years ago and donated it towards the repossession of the School’s attached assets, buying of more supplies and the construction of five new semi – permanent classrooms on a piece of land given him as goodwill by his father. This is where the School currently stands.

Our want is still manifest with the pathetic state of the classrooms’ floors which are currently done to bitumen and yet to be cemented due to financial handicaps, inadequate seats for both the learners and teachers, lack of own toilet/sanitary facilities among other deplorable situations within the set – up that will enhance learning and accommodate many cases; meet new and emerging dimensions in educational spheres like the need to need to acquire birth certificates for all the learners and get them encoded under the Ministry of Education’s National Learners Data Base; register all teachers with the Teachers Service Commission; conform and adopt the New System of Education (2 – 6 – 3 – 3); fit the school with electricity power, acquire equipment including soft/hardware for e-learning (digitalized learning), need for teachers’ capacity building to handle emerging trends in learning and the need to recruit more teachers and address their remuneration as opposed to the current state where we fully rely on volunteers, need to acquire more updated teaching and learning aids, need to establish a School’s feeding program to avert part time hunger and malnutrition amongst the learners and teachers, need to prepare the School for the inspection, assessment and registration by the Public Health and Ministry of Education respectively for legalization of operations and registration with the Kenya Private Schools Association (KEPSA), need to establish some viable sustaining income generating activities to support the School’s operations among others.

**How we have managed it so far**

To attain our benchmark of improving the target group’s access to quality education, we have taken intensive strategizing and planning as a working effective team comprising of staff (5 trained teachers), learners (89) and parents/guardians while embracing the unceasing mutual working relationship with our affiliate organizations and partners.

**School’s Vision**

We strive to fulfill our School’s vision of offering an all- inclusive rich variety of co – educational programs and being the first choice in the provision of quality and results-oriented education to our children in a God fearing environment.

**Our Mission**

To restore hope to the hopeless children by improving their access to quality basic education opportunities and enlighten, inspire and empower them through a rich variety of activities in becoming holistic individuals prepared to face the challenges of the dynamic global village.

**Our Core Values**

* Integrity
* Service
* Teamwork
* Excellence
* Professionalism
* Humility
* Inclusiveness

**Services currently being offered at the Centre**

* Kindergarten, nursery and pre-unit classes
* Primary one to four classes based on 8 -4 -4 System of education
* Lunch program (weekly food rations on Wednesdays) courtesy of the Food for Life Program – Hare Krishna Temple, Kisumu

**Challenges**

* Lack of own spacious land for the School’s development (current one is small courtesy of goodwill)
* Inadequate classroom’s space to meet the ever increasing demand for admission

(Over 90 children are still on the waiting list)

* Inadequate seats, learning and teaching aids
* Inadequate funds to pay for the teachers’ monthly remuneration, benefits scheme and continuous skill upgrading
* Inadequate financial resources to facilitate the acquisition of birth certificates for all the learners and get them encoded under the Ministry of Education’s National Learners Data Base
* Inadequate financial resources to get all the teachers registered with the National Teachers Service Commission
* Inadequate financial resources to procure all the Contents/documents necessary to embrace the new Education Curriculum under the 2 – 6 – 3 – 3 Syllabus of Education
* Inadequate resources to conform to Governments new requirements for digitalized learning and standard operational procedures
* Inadequate funds to provide the pupils with school uniforms, other basic kits and medical cover
* Lack of recreational facilities that would boost learning and pupil’s development

**Future Plans/Prayer Items (2018 - 2019)**

* Acquire funds to cement the five classrooms’ floors, build more classrooms, toilet facilities, an administration block, library, kitchen and dining hall
* Find sponsors/partners to support with teachers and support staff remuneration including their registration with the Teachers Service Commission
* Find child sponsors to help with the pupils’ basic and recreational needs including acquisition of their birth certificates and encoding with the Government’s line ministry of Education
* Find sponsors/partners/volunteers to design and host websites for the Centre and aid in global resource mobilization
* Find sponsors/partners to help us fix electricity/power and digitalize learning at the Centre
* Find sponsor/partner to help us register the Centre with the Ministry of Education and other relevant agencies
* Find sponsors/partners to fund the Centre’s educational tours and retreats
* Find sponsors/partners to help us establish the Centre’s library, computer laboratory, agricultural demonstration farm cum food basket to sustain the feeding program
* Find sponsors to help get a vehicle for transportation of pupils from far flung places to and from the School
* Funds to acquire more land for the School’s expansion needs
* Find sponsors/partners to aid in the establishment of some viable and Centre’s sustaining income generating projects
* Find short and long term mission volunteers to help with service provision at the Centre, conduct massive/regular fund raising events for the Centre and also aid in outreach activities including home visits and support to the target households and communities

**Contacts**

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Available Website Links: <http://www.civskenya.org/young> voluntary development workers group; Facebook Page (Charlotte Educational Centre) [https://web.facebook.com/youngvoluntarydevelopmentworkersgroup/](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fweb.facebook.com%2Fyoungvoluntarydevelopmentworkersgroup%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNHRyWbk6z9f8LoMA2mvxnoKwD6j-A)

Video links: Congested classroom with few seats

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZdELNSbMvA&feature=youtu.be>

 SCHOOL'S URINAL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEjcfZ9Pf40&feature=youtu.be>

 DEPLORABLE STATE OF FLOORS WITH FEW SEATS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9fTTibHi-k&feature=youtu.be>