

Tujisaidie Self-Help Group (Nairobi, Kenya) Update November 2024

Tujisaidie Community Centre School

The School continues to thrive and CMSI (with support from link parishes and other supporters) send funds to enable the provision of daily free school meals for 350 pupils + 13 staff. The school also provides Holiday Food parcels for every pupil - a new initiative arising from 2023 Team visit which has had an enormous impact. Most of the families live below the poverty line, in simple housing, unable to provide regular meals. So the school is vital for the community and can only offer educational opportunities & spiritual mentoring if the children are physically cared for too.

School Outings: With help from CMSI supporters the School has been able to organise the following trips out this year:

Giraffe Centre (120 children and 5 adults)

Railways Museum (240 children and 10 adults)

Train ride Syokimau to Railway Station: (240 children and 10 adults)

Kiambethu Tea Farm: 20 teachers – a new initiative to encourage staff retention & morale.



Misean Cara Building Project

With support from Irish Mission and Development agency Misean Cara, this project was designed to enable the children of the Tujisaidie community to study in a conducive environment, where they could fully benefit from the new Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) and meet the rising Ministry of Education (MOE) standards.



The project enabled the Tujisaidie Community School to construct and equip six new classrooms meeting Ministry of Education standards, so that students and teachers are now in a healthy learning space and environment. To start, this required the demolition of the small dilapidated, homemade mud-brick wing unable to support an upper floor. The ground floor was rebuilt with larger, brighter and better ventilated classrooms, and an upper floor to the same standard was added.



Much of the construction took place during the school holidays, in December 2023 and again in April / May 2024. During term time, work continued every Saturday and Sunday (including Easter) and if necessary on weekdays after 17.00 hrs, when all the students had gone home. There was therefore never any building activity during school hours, so as to safeguard the children and also enable teaching to take place without any disturbance by noise.

While the four original classrooms in the old building were demolished, most of the classes were moved into the older wing, but the two most senior classes were invited to the neighbouring Tumaini Centre of Excellence, which had two vacant rooms available to host them for several weeks. By the end of the Easter holidays in May, the new upper floor classrooms were ready to be occupied by the students, and the ground floor classrooms followed soon after.

The students were delighted with their new larger and brighter classrooms and took to them eagerly. Now that the classrooms were more spacious, student numbers also went up and by Term 3 of 2024 (ending in October) reached the anticipated number of 350.

Once the exterior was painted, the school also looked impressive on the street side, and the Tujisaidie community, which had contributed its own funding to the project, was rightly proud of what it had achieved.

Tumaini African Foundation (TAF) progress Report



Progress of the Centre of Excellence and the Academic Department

1. **Centre of Excellence:** Now a 3-storey building with 6 rooms and 3 store/small office rooms.
 - a. **Ground floor:** a spacious open kitchen used for the more than just a meal (MTJAM) programme which provides a free hot meal for an average of 510 children every Saturday lunchtime.
 - b. **First floor** houses the Tumaini library with over 11,000 books. It serves over 150 students every day (Monday to Friday) and acts as the school library for ten community schools within Soweto.
 - c. **Second floor** is the TAF skills development centre which will house *an IT (Information Technology) innovation hub room, a craft and art room and food storeroom*
 - d. **Third floor** will house the office, mental health lounge (Wellness Office) & sports store/office.
 - e. **The Rooftop** provides a resting place with a small garden

With support from CMSI supporters the whole building was painted during this month of July. This was a great achievement and will definitely give the Centre of Excellence a great and inspiring look. The Rooftop now has protection canopy to shield users from rain and sun plus a safety guardrail to provide all round fall protection. Monthly Girls/Women's Empowerment Training is also being provided by a link parish supporter via zoom Linda monthly zooms and the Tumaini Sports Outreach has received a new football kit for 24 players.

Floods Emergency Response: After devastating floods in Nairobi earlier in the year funds were sent out to support 50 displaced families *and help was offered under the coordination of Lucy Irungu & Antony Njoroge + the Tumaini Emergency Response Team. They were able to help with temporary shelter, fresh bedding, funds to help victims travel up-country and with food and also Floods Emergency Team Retreat.*

Many thanks for all your care, prayers and financial support.

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