

Welcome to VICODEC NEWS December 2019 Edition. We are always delighted to share our achievements with you for the past 6 months. Thank you for the support we get from you our amazing sponsors and development partners. Take a look;

VICODEC ICT HUB

VICODEC School of Information Technology, has become one of the best schools in the region. The school started way back in 2014 after the gap of empowering youths and children technologically was identified. In 2018 VICODEC School of IT was registered as a CISCO Academy after meeting all the requirements. The number of the students who went through the CISCO ITE training in 2019 were 250. In addition two IT instructors attended the Annual Cisco instructors Conference at Kampala in Uganda where VICODEC was awarded for being the Best Performing CISCO Academy in East African Region.

VICODEC Primary School Pupils have also been the biggest beneficiaries of the IT School in learning Basic Computer Skills, Gaming and Coding.

Much thanks to US Venture for making this possible through the donations of Computers to our ICT School.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

According to a World Bank 2017 report, the East African region risks missing its long-term economic growth targets, due to a widening disconnect between labour market skills needs and the graduates of higher education institutions. One major challenge to addressing the skills gap is the lack of quality vocational training. In order to achieve the country's Vision of becoming an industrialized nation by 2030. A quality and relevant TVET (Technical and Vocation Education and Training) system is, therefore, critical for national economic growth and global competitiveness as well as holding a strategic position in effective implementation of Kenya's Vision 2030 and the "Big Four" Agenda.

VICODEC Technical Training Institute (V.T.T.I) is responding to this challenge through offering Technical Skills to youths. At the beginning of 2019 a Motor Vehicle Mechanic Course was established which is the fourth course after Clothing and Technology, Hairdressing and Beauty and Food and Beverage.

In order to accommodate more youths and to offer more Technical Skills as per the market demand, VICODEC Organization is in the process of Constructing a Youth Development Centre which will cater for Demand Driven Skills. This is a tool for productivity enhancement, poverty reduction and also will enable to tackle youth unemployment in Kenya.



MEET TEACHER JANE

She is the 2019 Teacher of the Year for her Exemplary works in all her endeavors. Her devotion to the wellbeing of the students is unmatched. She is the epitome of dedication and self-sacrifice for the success for her students. Jane is a teacher, mentor and a talent nurture. Teacher Jane's subject emerged the best performed in the national exams by the VICODEC candidate class 2019. Majority of the sponsored students scored A's. Jane has more than one feather on her cap as she is also a committed Music and drama teacher. She composes traditional songs and trains her pupils for them to participate in the annual Kenya primary schools music festivals competition. In the past three years, her items (Traditional Ameru songs) has always reached the national level during the competitions that start at the division level. Kudos to teacher Jane, We are so proud of you.



DID YOU KNOW: The candidate class of 2019 had over 80% students benefitting from the VICODEC Child Sponsorship Program?

CHILD IN NEED

My name is Naftali. I was born in August 14th 2014. I go to school at VICODEC, I am in Nursery class. My Brother is Called Edgan he is in class 6. I live with my mother Lydia, who is single and struggling really hard to make ends meet. My family and I lives in Kware slum in Ongata Rongai. I am looking for someone who can support me in My Education.



A MEAL FOR CHANGE

Meet Mr. Douglas Mwangi the head teacher of Komiya Primary School which is a beneficiary of VICODEC feeding program as he explains how the life was for children before the Feeding program. The Children in this school comes from Arid and Semi arid area in Kajiado County.



Mr. Douglas Mwangi the head teacher

“They walk for longer distance from home to school through shrubs. The climate in this area is unconducive for growing food crops which make this region more vulnerable to hunger. Children used to walk to school weary and hopeless. In class there was no motivation as Children knew there was nothing to bite or for lunch. Most of the Children could not afford packed lunch and in most cases they spent the whole day hungry. We used to skip some lessons and send them home early so that they could eat at home if anything at all.

We had so many cases of school drop out due to hunger related illness and also many children preferred being at home or working in the field to get some food. The school performance was below average and we registered very few intakes.”

“VICODEC Feeding Program has brought hope to our Children, the enrollment rate has increased steadily and the performance is above average. There are no more cases of absenteeism and we have healthy children. The other most interesting thing is that the Feeding program has opened up more doors for other stakeholders to come on board and participate on other initiatives in the School.

We have Kenya Works Organization who Constructed a Concrete water to curb water insecurity in the school and in the surrounding community and the County Government who have participated in building classes in the school. On behalf of Komiya Community thank you very much for making our children smile. Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2020.”



Children fetching water from the tank

A DIFFERENT APPROACH

In the African traditional practices, when boys and girls reached a given age (12 years), a certain activity would be carried out on them to symbolize transition from childhood into adulthood. For boys; it was mainly circumcision. On the other hand, girls go through female genital cut, plucking of lower teeth, tattooing on the face using hot rods among other cultural practices. When girls went through this they were deemed to be adults and were fit to be married off. This brought about early pregnancies, early and forced marriages. Advocates for Children Rights came together in the quest to protect children especially the girls and came up with an alternative rite of passage.

An alternative rite of passage (ARP) is an essential approach to end some harmful cultural practices for example FGM that employs a symbolic process as a passage from childhood to womanhood. The process constitutes training in life skills, sexual and reproductive health rights.

On November 8th - 15th 2019, this group of girls aged 12 and above, graduated from childhood after finishing a seven -day Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP) training program, a practice that allow girls of various Kenyan communities to transit into womanhood. During the seven days, the girls were taught sexuality, health and general life skills. In addition, they also received some handcraft skills including; crocheting, basic cookery skills and also computer skills. At the end of the program, they were given certificates to confirm their ‘transition into womanhood’. **“You don’t have to harm to transit, you need to empower”**



Bakery class during the ARP for girls

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

With \$40 you can support a child for a year with the feeding program.

With \$ 20 you can participate in buying a pair of shoes to a needy child.

With \$300 you can support a in child Sponsorship Program.

Merry Christmas & Prosperous 2020

