

Bosco Boys, Kuwinda, Langata.

A short History: what it is and How it started

Bosco Boys is a project for children in need, mainly for the street children of Nairobi, Kenya. They come from the big slums of Nairobi namely: Kibera, Mathare, Mukuru, Lungalunga, Korokocho and some small slums within big estates where living standard is an issue because of low income earnings.

It was started by the Salesians of Don Bosco in 1990 through the personal initiatives of students of Theology namely Br. Joe Prabu and Br. Babu Augustine (Mundamattam Anthony) who are priests now and still managing the same type of work elsewhere. That time there was already the Undugu Society working with street children. In the beginning we joined hands with them for a while.

The Vision of Bosco Boys: We envision creating a home where basic human needs, education and spiritual nourishment to children at risk are offered thus empowering them to reintegrate into society, to become self reliant, independent and honest citizens capable of making a positive contribution to society.

The Mission: To provide an environment where children at risk can develop positive values based on Christian principles and can thus become independent, responsible and honest citizens.

How do children end up in the streets of Nairobi?/ Who are Bosco Boys? : They are children who come from very poor family backgrounds from within the slums of Nairobi and end up in the streets. They are school drop outs, abandoned, orphaned, neglected, abused and abusers of drugs and children of very poor parents who at times are also parents living with HIV/AIDS or are no more.

Some Factors contributing to the rise of children in the street:

Extreme levels of poverty, due to the widening gap between the rich and poor, which also results in the breaking down of traditional family structures where each individual was valued is no more.

Modernization and the influence of Multimedia negatively affecting the traditional kinship within the family and community.

Struggle for survival leading to individualism and self centeredness.

Lack of quality education among parents and guardians .

Migration from rural to urban areas for better living and the consequent lack of jobs.

Poor infrastructure

Mismanagement of natural resources, bad cultural practices like inheritance of wives, forced early marriages, Female genital mutilation(FGM), ethnicism, etc.

Beneficiaries of Bosco Boys today :

Category	Male	Female	Total
2 Nursery Schools- Kuwinda ,Kariua	39	34	73
Rehabilitation(Langata)	45	0	45
Primary School	163	57	220
Secondary	62	12	74
Vocational Training	4	0	4
University/College	11	2	13
Total	324	105	429
Daily contact in the street	100 +		100+
Sleeping at Kariua	15+		15+

At the moment, as shown above there are 429 children and young people being educated by Bosco Boys and daily we are in contact with several children and young people in the streets of Nairobi. Already about 15 of them are coming to sleep there. The number is increasing. We need to feed, clothe and entertain them. We also need to get in touch with their family and if possible reunite them. If not bring them to Bosco Boys.

Our invitation to you:

We invite you to join hands with us in this project to give dignity to each of these individuals and make them independent and self reliant. You can do this by contributing to feeding, clothing, educating, entertaining, sheltering them, etc so that one day they make a positive contribution to the society and nation at large.

Success stories: Over 1200 students have passed through Bosco Boys. A good number of them are living decent family lives and earning a decent income thus supporting their families and also in their own way their friends and children in need.

1. Benson ..., a Bosco Boy from 2003 to 2016, did his primary, Secondary and Motor Vehicle Mechanic and is now working in one of the Branches of Toyota Kenya, earning a very good salary which enables him to save and set aside about Ksh. 20,000/- per month for his future house and family.
2. Edwin ..., joined Bosco Boys in 2005 in Class 7 and is graduating from Moi University on 21st Dec 2017 having completed his studies in political science and Public Administration.
3. Mr. Peter..., a Bosco Boy from 1992, is 34 years old with a family. He is working as an electrician in a Park at Nairobi.

This is what we want to achieve for every Bosco Boy with your valuable cooperation. While we thank all those who have been instrumental in enabling these and other young men to live with dignity and to be self reliant, we welcome you to partner with us to do the same for the many who are with us now and are going to join us from the streets.

Thanking you and awaiting to hear from you

With every good wishes and prayers

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