

Jipange Special Needs Center Newsletter **1st Quarter – 2022**

Many blind people suffer needlessly. They are seen as a burden in society, yet with proper training and rehabilitation, they too can become useful and contributing members of society. Many blind persons truly struggle to be equipped with communication and mobility training. Due to poverty, parents are unable to pay for rehabilitation services and are unable to acquire necessary assistive devices for their blind relatives. Blind people in rural areas in Kenya specifically need specialized orientation and mobility skills that are tailored to suit the challenges that are present in their surroundings. They need to be taught different techniques to navigate dirt roads, rivers, mountains, fields, herding of animals and many more unique settings not present in urban areas

Progress Report

In addition to braille and computer technology training, we introduced knitting training. Having introduced knitting training at Jipange Special Needs Center, we are happy to report that we enrolled three quarters of our beneficiaries in the knitting class. Currently, knitting students have covered enormous ground and are now able to knit mats, sweaters, mavins, socks among other knitting products. The acquired knitting skills will aid our beneficiaries to become economically independent as they are now able to earn an income from the sale of knitting products. It was a great joy to partner with the Red Cross, who offered knitting machines to our knitting students. A picture of our beneficiaries receiving knitting machines from the Red Cross is shown below.



Additionally, we were able to start a poultry farming venture geared towards training our beneficiaries on the need to utilize alternative farming methods. Through this venture, our beneficiaries will gain knowledge on how to use an incubator to hatch eggs. Using an incubator reduces the chance of wasting eggs that may not hatch. They will also gain knowledge on the suitable species of chicken to rear that reduces mortality rate. At the end of the training, beneficiaries will gain additional skills to start their own poultry farming projects as a means to earn an income and become more independent. I am happy to report, since we started the project, we have not lost even a single chick. Most poultry farmers make losses due to lack of knowledge while taking care of the chicks. We have been busy partnering with the local TV

station in Kitale to bring the spotlight to Jipange's poultry project.



This is the beginning of the project when the chicks were just one day old.



This picture shows how much the chicks have grown. They are almost laying eggs.

The link below shows the current progress of the project. Please focus on my response since it is in English. Due to the fact that the interview was done by a local TV channel, I was unable to add captions to translate the interviewer's questions. This was because of copyright issues. However, in my responses, I rephrased the questions before responding to make understanding the subject matter easier.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbhBL_Vmu_I