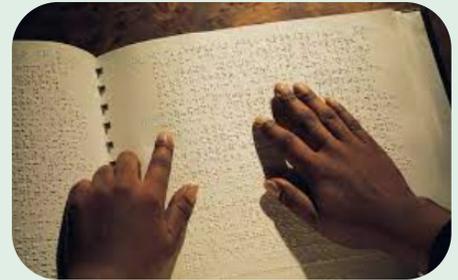


Jipange is a Special Needs Center that provides rehabilitation and skills empowerment for the blind and the visually impaired people in rural Kenya. We empower our beneficiaries through the following ways:

- Providing communication skills in braille and assistive computer technology
- Knitting training
- Poultry rearing training
- Training in creating value added agricultural niche products
- Handicraft production training
- Daily living skills training focused on independence
- Specialized orientation and mobility training for different terrains
- Counseling and career guidance
- Self-help groups formation for beneficiaries to provide social support.



For more information, visit our website at www.jipange.org.



On Monday, January 9, 2023, we welcomed our students back to the training center. We are very excited about our new forged relationship with Kibos Secondary School For The Visually Impaired (Kibos) in Kisumu, Kenya. From this relationship, we enrolled ten students and we expect this number to grow in the future. It is a great joy seeing how the lives of the current and newly enrolled blind and visually impaired students are being changed for the better through the empowerments skills trainings offered at Jipange Special Needs Center. Please follow the links below to catch a glimpse of the happenings and updates about Jipange Special Needs Center. The 3rd Cohort started learning and are very zealous to learn assistive computer technology. Below is a link showing a part of the assistive computer technology training.



Kenya Society For The Blind Collaborations/Partnership



Through collaborations with the Kenya Society for the Blind in Nairobi, Jipange Special Needs Center managed to acquire white canes for its blind and visually impaired students. This partnership has been very instrumental since the inception of Jipange due to their willingness to offer their support to our beneficiaries. A white cane primarily allows its user to scan their surroundings for obstacles or orientation marks, but is also helpful for onlookers in identifying the user as blind or visually impaired and taking appropriate care. Kenya Society For The Blind has committed to provide white canes to future enrollees at Jipange Special Needs Center. This is a tremendous gift to our beneficiaries since many of them, though visually impaired, do not have white canes. Copy and past the link below to your browser to get a glimpse of the issuance of white canes at a special occasion at the center. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVaLKlOLcXc&t=4s>

Typical Day At Jipange - In Pictures



Apart from the Computer classes, our Braille and Knitting class students are thriving.

Relocation

What an exciting time it is for Jipange! In order to accommodate the increased number of students, we managed to relocate to a spacious place. Jipange is now located at Waitaluk Junction, Kitale Eldoret Road. The new location offers ample space to accommodate sleeping quarters, computers and knitting classes to include outside space for relaxation among other extra curricula activities.



Special Visit From Kanthari

On February 6, 2023, we hosted visitors from Kanthari in Kerala, India. Chacko and Riya spent time visiting our various projects to learn more about our operations. They spent valuable time with our beneficiaries and offered insights on how to better run the project. They were pleasantly surprised to see the progress Jipange has made since its beginnings on December 16, 2019. The fact that our beneficiaries are offered room and boarding facilities to include free training and food was jaw dropper for them. To them it meant Jipange was very busy creating awareness and attracting organizations and individuals willing to support the project.



Advanced Assistive Computer Technology Students Practical Training

In order to leverage the potential of our assistive computer technology students, we offer our students a real-life experience through real practical work. Jipange provides students a chance to write, edit and format documents using Microsoft Word, which in-turn gives them a chance to become more proficient in documents editing, as well as development experience. One of Jipange Special Needs Center's key objective is to enhance the capabilities of our beneficiaries through providing them with tailor made solutions that promote poverty eradication, self-reliance and integration of our beneficiaries into society. Due to lack of sustainable job opportunities for the blind especially in the rural areas in Kenya, most blind people crawl back to their despondent cocoons such as dependence on their relatives for financial aid or begging as a means of livelihood.

The photo below shows students in our computer class. At the time the photo was taken we only had two desktop computers and therefore did not have the capability to accommodate the current enrollment. This led to the training to be conducted in a very slow manner. To make the training more effective and efficient, there was a dire need to equip the computer lab with more desktop computers. There was one computer that had the full JAWS software while the other one has a trial one. That required constant computer re-start for the software to function correctly. We are very excited to have acquired a sizable donation from Christian Life Center, located in Dayton, OH USA to purchase three more additional computers and two JAWS software Licenses.



It is only with the heart that one can see rightly;
what is essential is invisible to the eye.



Sustainability Projects

Through donations from the Vera Ahleman Scheoller Foundation and Christian Life Center, we have a Retail and Wholesale shop called Jipange Mart. Profit from the sales at the shop have been instrumental in purchasing Braille Paper and knitting thread to be used in the knitting and braille classes. The Vera Ahleman Scheoller Foundation was also very instrumental helping Jipange start a sustainability project entailing chicken rearing. The idea to sell eggs and use the proceeds to cater for expenses such as purchasing food among other things for the beneficiaries.



Special Thanks To Our Donors



*Individual Donors within Kenya
and the United States of
America*

