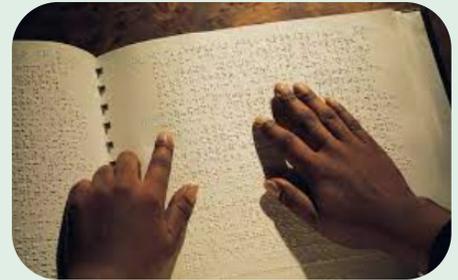


Jipange is a Special Needs Center that provides rehabilitation and skills empowerment for the blind and the visually impaired people in rural Kenya. We empower our beneficiaries through the following ways:

- 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.

Introduction of Poultry Feeds Development

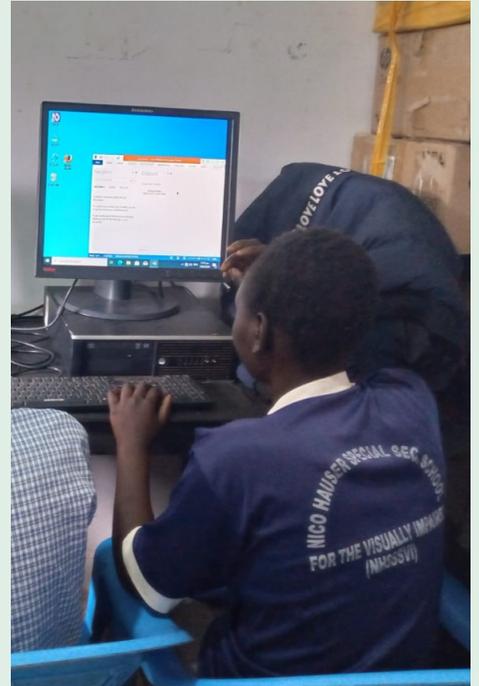


On March 15th 2023, Jipange Special Needs Center began a program that is geared towards creating a niche for poultry feeds product. Through support from the Vera Ahlemann Scheoller Foundation, Jipange Special Needs Center managed to acquire a poultry feeds grinding machine! The organic method of developing the poultry feeds ensures that there is a reduction of chemicals in the poultry feeds. Additionally, the organically developed poultry feeds is wholesome and fully nutritious for the steady growth and development of the chicken. Besides, due to the chemicals reduction in the

poultry feeds, it is not harmful to the poultry products consumers. One of Jipange Special Needs Center's key objective is to empower our beneficiaries with life and job skills that will enable them become economically independent. Through this endeavor, our beneficiaries now have the opportunity to be trained on how to develop the poultry feeds and also earn an income as a result of selling the poultry feeds in the market.

Newly Furnished Computer Laboratory

It is an exciting time at Jipange Special Needs Center as our computer laboratory received additional computers! We truly appreciate the Christian Life Center, Dayton for furnishing Jipange Special Needs Center's computer laboratory with three brand new computers. Additionally, through an individual donor, Jipange received three JAWS licenses for the newly acquired desktops! Now the assistive computer students have an enabling environment to excel in their studies! Prior to acquiring the additional computers, the number of students in comparison to the available computers was much more. As result, students had to wait their turn to have access to a Computer. This hampered their learning, however, they were all determined to make do with what we had. Students are now even more motivated as each student can comfortably have access to a computer to practice along as the assistive computer lesson moves along. Once again, thank you CLC Dayton!!



Typical Day At Jipange - In Pictures



Better Equipped Knitting Training

Did you know blind people can knit? Learning to knit can be a daunting prospect for many people, including those who are blind or visually impaired. The good news is that it really doesn't take a lot of tools or materials to begin. Essentially, all you need is a knitting machine and some yarn. As far as being able to knit without seeing what you are doing well or at all, it's not a big deal. Most blind people do things every day that sighted people are unable to imagine doing without seeing. It is funny when we lose power sighted people run for flash lights and lamps as though one has to have light to see. We here at Jipange like to say, "It is only with the heart that one sees rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye." To a blind or visually impaired person, it's not a big deal that the lights won't come on. It is also not a big deal to me that blind or visually impaired people knit. Our students are very surprised and excited when they discover they CAN INDEED knit. Through life experience, they come to Jipange believing that they are not good for anything. However, when they discover, they don't need eye sight to knit, they get very motivated to learn all they can in order to be have a skilled trade for future economic independence. In the past, our knitting students had to take turns to be trained using the one machine we had. Now, we are glad that through the acquisition of an additional knitting machine, our knitting students have an ample opportunity to go through the knitting training at Jipange Special Needs Center. Special gratitude to the Vera Ahlemann Scheoller Foundation for making this possible! In the picture below, you can see some of the items our students have learnt how to make. The objective is at the end of the training, they should be able to make items like sweaters, caps, socks and table clothes for sale and in that way, they become economically independent.



Jipange's mission is heavily influenced by Helen Keller. In 1882, at 19 months of age, Helen Keller developed a febrile illness that left her both deaf and blind. Despite her disability, She was an advocate for people with disabilities, amid numerous other causes. She traveled to twenty-five different countries giving motivational speeches about Deaf people's conditions. Like Helen Keller, Jipange's students believe:

"THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN BEING BLIND IS HAVING SIGHT BUT NO VISION."

Jipange's New Sustainability Project

In Kenya, maize prices have hit a historic high with a 90-kilo bag now retailing at Sh5,500 (\$55), up from Sh2,000 (\$20). These are very hard times for consumers in Kenya who incur the high cost of flour. Millers are not getting enough stocks because farmers are not supplying and cross-border imports from Tanzania and Uganda have diminished. This current situation has put more pressure on maize flour prices which is staple food for Kenyans. To be able to feed our students, we have embarked on maize farming in order to avoid buying the product at inflated prices. Since this is the planting season, Jipange has provided temporary employment for laborers to plough the land and plant maize seeds as shown in the photos below.



Special Thanks To Our Donors



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

