



**HEKIMA
PLACE**

Building the Future ... One Girl at a Time

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GENERAL REPORT FROM HEKIMA PLACE JUNE 2020

Report for Hekima Place Girls for Mar-June 2020

1. At Hekima Place



There are four big girls in Hekima Place since March when the others left.

Esther Wanjiku in Grade 11, Janice Wendo in Grade 7, Grace Wangui in Grade 6, and Marian Masitha in Grade 5.

They have matured and are more responsible. They have learnt in this time of Covid-19 pandemic, how to knit, do crocheting and making masks. They have been so supportive especially packaging the food for the community. They are doing their work with passion and sense of compassion for the needy people.



The time has been too long for them in Hekima Place, having nowhere that they can visit but they are enjoying helping the mums and uncles during free time.

Most of their day time is dedicated to their study. They are able to follow the Edu TV which is offering online classes, even without being reminded by the mums.

Blessing Awour is in grade 3 and Grace Njeri in Grade 2. Both of them are a good team as they work together to help in whatever they are asked to do and they do their duty well. They both like dancing, singing and playing cards and they are very bright in everything. They too are joining the class to learn knitting and crocheting. It is not easy for them but they are trying.

Gift Wanjiru is in PP1, Patricia Malaika and Mercy Blessing, the three plays together and they love each other. The three small also play with Blessing and Grace Njeri and the five of them are good team player.

Blessing Njeri and Precious Wangeci are able to walk and they enjoy walking so much, they make the whole family to be happy as they are learning to mention few words. It is amazing that though Precious learnt to walk after 15months, when she started, she just confidently walked and never fell down as often as children normally do. She too can talk asking for water to drink, call some names like Shiko, Pat, Mum it is really exciting to hear her and watch her dance.



2. The Girls with the Guardians

All the girls who were taken home in March, are doing fine with the families. They are staying in the houses as per the government regulations on social distancing “stay home, stay safe”. None of them is in the Covid-19 prone areas. We are encouraging them and their families to follow the government guidelines all the time for prevention is better than cure.

We have been in touch with the family members and the children every week. This has enabled us to keep in touch with them and to know how they are faring on. So far, we do not have any issues in the family as we have been supporting them monthly.

It is more than two months since the girls left Hekima Place. The girls who are on medication had medicine to last for two months. Before the medicine was over, we were able to link the family members with the hospitals near their place and were given the medicine for the girls to last two more months. We too have been following with the family members that the children on medication do adhere to the prescribed time for taking medicine.

We have also requested them that in case of any emergencies or any misunderstandings in the family they should not hesitate to call or write a message to us at any time and we shall be able to respond to immediately. So far we have not had any incidence of sickness or any family misunderstanding of the girls with the guardians.

However the children are all missing to be back to school because this has taken too long. We are encouraging them to be patient and to take care for themselves, so that when the school opening shall be announced, they shall be healthy and qualified to go back to school.

3. The reintegrated Girls

All the reintegrated children are fine and stronger as they say, and are able to learn from home day by day. Most of them come from poor families but I thank the family members for accepting to stay with them all the time despite all the challenges that they go through. They believe with the help of Hekima Place, they can be able to educate their children. The government’s directives are that the children should only stay in a Children’s home for only three years. The children always say that they are happy to be with their family members and it also creates awareness on them of how life is out there and therefore they are able to focus even more as they see life in reality through the challenges they face while with their guardians.

We have been supporting the families of the reintegrated girls with the money that US board has been sending them through Hekima Place. The children and their families are very appreciative of this great support. They have not gone through too tough hardships so far due to the support available. They did not lack food.

Several guardians explained that by accepting the children to their homes does not mean that they have much or enough for themselves, but they have chosen to do that for the best interest of the child, because the children are so happy when they are with their family members.

Quoting Damaris grandmother who is the sister to Damaris grandmother said, "I am happy when the child is happy, I do not know why God has spared me to love and care for my late niece's children and despite that I do not have even enough for myself and my family, I decided I shall stay with my niece's children and give them the love and care that a mother can give, and with the help of Hekima Place, I believe that these children(Damaris and Diana is on temporal placement) will go to a higher level. Damaris has been so happy to stay with the grandmother, and she always says that she love to be at home as she has learned so much even though there are challenges but they makes her to be focused, she is also very disciplined compared to how she used to behave in Hekima Place.

We would like to thank the US board for considering our request to support all the reintegrated girls. Some of their families are needier than even some of the families of the children who are in Hekima Place. This is because we reintegrate children after both parties (the child and the guardian) are in full agreement with the reintegration and all the process of reintegration have been completed successfully. This is for the best interest of child, so that the child can be in a place where she is comfortable and where she is taken as one of the family member and not as a stranger.

In the month of May we had issues with sickness with Virginia and Florence and we were able to give them medication through their guardians. Hekima Place paid the medical bills and we are still following the progress.