



AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL HELPS CHILDREN AT KASARANI HOME TO SMILE



Coastweek - - FOOD FOR CHILDREN. Fauzia Hassan [second left], the Director of Mama Fauzia Children's Home, Kasarani, received bags of maize flour from Ida Majid [left] Paul Njihia [second right] and Nancy Maina [right], members of staff of the Aga Khan University Hospital. The Aga Khan Development Network donated food, clothes and cooking oil to the children's home which houses 51 youngsters most of whom were abandoned by their parents.

DELIGHTED YOUNGSTERS WELCOMED THE GUESTS WITH SONGS, DANCES AND POEMS

Coastweek - - Children at Mama Fauzia Children's Home, Kasarani, were all smiles when they were visited by representatives of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) with food and gifts.

The organizations representing the Network included the Aga Khan University Hospital Nairobi (AKUHN), Allpack, Farmers Choice, Industrial Promotion Services (IPS), Nation Media Group and Serena Hotels.

The delighted youngsters welcomed the guests with songs, dances and poems.

Fauzia Hassan, the Director of the home, could not hide her joy as tears flowed freely on her face.

"I am very grateful to you for the assistance you have given me and my children who rely completely on well wishers," she said.

Staff from the Aga Khan University Hospital mingled with the boys and girls aged between six and 16 years old and took the opportunity to play with and give them guidance and counselling on topics such as HIV and AIDS, sex education and personal hygiene.

Afterwards, the men and boys engaged in a football game proving true the common phrase 'boys will always be boys'.

A delicious lunch of fried beef, chicken, rice, roasted potatoes and vegetable salad prepared and served by the Nation Media Group's cafeteria staff was well received.

This was a special treat for the excited children.

They munched the food to their fill and even had their second helpings!

Mama Fauzia Children's Home houses 51 boys and girls including a three week old baby.

Most of them are orphans, or were abandoned by their parents and brought in by the police, or hospital authorities.

Narrating how she recently received the youngest baby in the home, Fauzia said, "Hassan who is barely a month old was found abandoned in a field and left to die, or to be eaten by animals. He weighed a kilogramme when brought to me.

Although my committee consisting of 12 members resolved not to take in more children due to the hard economic times and the effects of the post election violence, I could not resist this child."

"The committee has been looking after children for several years and we try our best to feed, clothe and take them to university level.

"Once they are educated and get jobs they move out."

"I am very happy to have been associated with all of you through Ali Paso, who works with the Aga Khan University Hospital as an HIV and AIDS Work Place Programme Coordinator.

"He was of great assistance to me when we were settling in this Kasarani home after we moved from Pumwani in 2006.

"Currently my greatest desire is to build a school for these needy children."

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is a group of private, non-denominational development agencies working to empower communities and individuals to improve living conditions and opportunities, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South Asia, and the Middle East.

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