

Ugali Youth ORGANIZATION

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Maisha Girls Safehouse Nairobi - Newsletter

Sometimes last year I was online chatting with my American friend Randie who was visiting Kenya for her 20th time, I think. She asked me, "Patrick I'm in Nairobi, would you like me to check on any project for you?" at the time I was working with a small organization called Maisha Girls Safehouse, a girl's safehouse that houses sexually abused girls between the ages of 11 and 23 years in the slums of Nairobi and its outskirts.

The stories of these girls broke her heart, she felt overwhelmed by the need they had. A few months later she felt called to do something about these girls. She quickly jumped into action; her organization Hand in Hand Kenya partnered with our organization Ugali Youth Organization to do a basic needs assessment for slightly over a month. She wanted to make sure it is an organization she felt comfortable investing her time and her fundraised money on.



Randie Marsh

Together we saw the need to hire a loving, caring and God-fearing woman from Kenya to carry out the needs assessment. Just as she had suspected, the house needed so much. The girls had no consistent essential counseling/ therapy. One small bedroom and three triple bunkbeds with baby beds in the walkways is all they had. They had grown so quickly that they also needed to strengthen their organizational structure.

Because of generous donors, Randie flew back to Kenya on the 1st of February 2022 to meet Florence Keya, the founder of Maisha Girls Safehouse and set up a strong system and enhanced the organizational structure in place.



Randie is back in Cincinnati having hired a new staff member to help with strengthening Maisha Girls Safehouse organizational systems and ensured compliance with NGO coordination bureau in Nairobi, Kenya.

Randie also hired a residential Psychologist/ counselor for the next 10 months. New girls will be able to receive 4 sessions of counseling and the old girls will benefit from group therapy. Therapy is very critical because these girls have been traumatized twice, by their perpetrator and by their family as they have been turned away.





She also set-up an office for the entire team with extra storage room and a counseling room.



Though a short visit, Randie has done a lot for Maisha Girls Safehouse, and we will continue supporting her in giving Maisha what they need to support these girls.

The safehouse was featured on a Kenyan television network. *You can click on the link below to see their story.*

TEENS OF BURDEN: Teen pregnancies & access to healthcare

If you are interested in knowing more, we will be posting more details in the <u>Ugaliyouth Facebook Page</u>. If you would like to donate or have any questions of this specific cause, please send a private message to me. Please share with anyone you think would be interested.

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