

**D**ear Readers, we are excited to share with you our 17th edition newsletter. Thank you for your generous support and making a difference in lives of children with special needs in Uganda. Angel's center has continued to accept and integrate children with disability to realize their lifetime potentials. In this Newsletter, we highlight the achievements of the center in the last 5 months (June to October 2019).

*Please enjoy as you read this edition!!!*

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## Angel's Center organizes a "BUILD WITH US SUMMER CAMP"

The Build with us Summer Camp was conducted on the 26th, July, 2019 at New Angel's Center building site with the purpose of resuming the construction process. The building / construction process had paused since September 2018 due to limited funds. Over 200 people from different corners of Wakiso and Kampala attended and benefited from the summer camp. Over 80 children with disability were reached out with different therapy services: speech and language therapy, physio therapy, deworming, children fun-play learning activities, counseling and guidance to their parents and guardians.



*"School children and the guest of honor laying bricks during the summer camp".*

***"Every Child Matters"***



*"Angel's Center children, parents and staff during the awareness march on the streets of Kampala".*

## Angel's Center participates in 7th National Disability Sports Gala

In July, Angel's Center together with other disability working organizations participated in the 7th annual awareness and fun day for children with disabilities. Indeed, the day was full of fun including marching on the streets of Kampala, singing, dancing and showing joy and dignity to the lives of children with special needs. The theme of the day was "Inclusion Begins with Me". Over 800 people attended and participated differently in the fun day. One of the purposes of the annual disability fun day for such children is to find love, companion, belonging and demonstrating compassion to their children. During the fun day most children with disabilities expressed themselves differently, know their space and realized their potential at a certain stage.

## Angel's Center conducts community awareness match in Nansana (Amplifying Mothers' Voice).

In June, Angel's center conducted a community awareness march on the streets of Nansana. The main goal of the march was to combat the levels of stigma and discrimination associated with disability in the community. Over a long time, Angel's Center has provided community integrated services to families of children with special needs and one of the challenges identified was stigma, increased discrimination and negative attitudes from the society. It was a reflection of real life situation of parents while interacting with and sharing their stories. The theme was "Ending stigma associated with Disability in Nansana community". A total of 63 people attended and actively participated in the march. The key take away was paving way for parents to bring out children with disability into the public to receive social services like education, therapy and shelter.



*Ending Stigma associated with Disability in Nansana community*



*Parents, children, volunteers and staff participating in the awareness march*

## Angel's Center adjusts innovative approaches of teaching children with special needs.

Children with special needs at Angel's Center have benefited a lot in different teaching strategies and approaches. Our theme this year was *Augmentative and alternative communication (ACC)* to help children communicate effectively with others, control their environment through communication, make choices, decisions as well as improve their communication competence. Our multi-disciplinary teams (speech-language therapist, occupational therapist, special needs teachers and physiotherapist) have focused their attention to use a combination of symbols such as gestures, photographs, pictures and drawings to capture access to proper participation and learning of the children.





*Children during therapy sessions & some learning materials*

### Angel's Center conducts IEPs training with partner school teachers and parents.

In August, Angel's Center in partnership with Nexus Partners for Accessibility conducted a 3 days training with both primary teachers from mainstream schools and parents of children with disabilities. The training focused on several topics including inclusive education and individual education plans, advocacy and inclusion. The main objectives for primary teachers training was to enable teachers understand more about the causes of disability and different types of disability, be able to create articulate why inclusive education and inclusive communities are important for children with and without disabilities. Lastly the training focused on equipping teachers with skills of being able to create individualized education plans for students /pupils in their different respective classes and schools by mainly focusing on identifying the student's strengths and effects of their impairments and providing accommodations, supports and modifications for the students/pupils to achieve their educational goals.

The parents' training was so emotional and focused on self-reflection whereby tears rolled out while parents were sharing their life stories relating them to five stages of grief that they undergo. Parents were trained with different skills in management of seizures especially for those parents with cerebral palsy children. The training involved CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) different demonstrations of providing basic life skills to a child who has episodes of seizures.



*Primary teachers during IEPs training and in a group after their training*



*Parents during the CPR training*



*One of the parents from Nairobi sharing her life story of how she was neglected by the husband after giving birth to child with cerebral palsy*

## Angel's Center receives corporate social responsibility(CSR)

In this year, we were so honored to receive corporate social responsibility from different wellwishers and schools. In September Angel's center was glad to celebrate with Chef Michael on his birthday. Chef Michael is a generous man who does charity work through providing a "Meal of Hope" and in-kind gifts such as sugar, bread, shoes and clothes among others to communities of the minorities. Celebrating his birthday with Angel's Center was a way of providing and restoring the lost hope in parents and children with special needs and showing love of God to these families.

In the same way, Angel's center received two community schools visiting us (Trust Future junior school and Moesaren Academy). The main purpose of their coming was to learn about disability and to make them know that these children live with us in the same society. School pupils were excited to learn about different causes of disability and different activities carried out with the children at Angel's Center.

*Pupils from Trust Future Junior school interacting and learning together with children at Angel's center*



*Chef Michael in the center together with his team and children*



## Students on Internship

In September, Angel's center received 4 groups of social work students from different universities of Belgium, Sweden and Netherlands to carry out their internship. As part of their study program, internship allows students to transfer real life experiences into learning experiences that make it possible to apply knowledge, skills and attitudes in changing situations. More to this, the students are providing extra support to staff and children in teaching and giving out various skills. They are also helping a lot in developing learning projects that will help children in progressing in their learning areas.

# Angel's Center's progress in the building project



Since the Build with us Summer Camp, the building project has progressed well with various support from different well-wishers and supporters. Angel's Center continues to thank all supporters for the generous contributions and support towards the building project and making a difference in the lives of children with disability. By God's Grace, early next year Angel's Center will be shifting to the New Angel's Center.

## Next plans

- ◆ Physiotherapy Camp scheduled on 22nd, November, 2019
- ◆ Preparing children's end of term three assessment reports
- ◆ Parents trainings
- ◆ End of year children's christmas party 2019
- ◆ Home visits
- ◆ End evaluations for intern students.

### *Our physical location*

The center is located at Nansana along Hoima road, block 203 next to Nexus Hotel.

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**In support**

