



# Fr. Baldo Children's Home

(Rehabilitation Center)

NDARAGWA

**C/o Little Daughters of the St. Joseph**

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## FR.. BALDO HOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fr Joseph Baldo Children's Home is a registered Charitable Community Based Organization (CBO) under the umbrella of Ndaragwa Catholic Parish. The Home was started in 1993 as an initiative of Christians of good will under the guidance of Fr. Gerald Mathenge a catholic Priest in charge of the Parish where the Home is situated. The initiative was motivated by the need to provide source of refuge to the overwhelming population of orphans and street children mostly orphaned/neglected due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The Baldo Home was later in the year 2000 handed over to the Congregation of the Little Daughters of St. Joseph for better management and collaborations.

### Goal

Improve quality of lives of disadvantaged children e.g. abandoned babies, street children, children orphaned through HIV/AIDS, victims of cruelty, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexually violated children, and any other destitute children.

### Population

The home has a total population of 130 children who are in their respective institution of learning from ECD, primary, secondary, Colleges, Vocational training institutes and Universities.

### Services

- Provision of education i.e. Pre -primary, primary, Secondary, College and University. This is aimed at increasing their levels of literacy and independence thus expanding opportunities for self-reliance.
- Provision of hope in desperate situations through guidance and counseling for children, parents and the guardians

- Healthcare, especially for children who were initially malnourished and in need health-wise
- Improved economic status of guardians/parents households through constant economic empowerment
- Technical training to increase capacity of the youth to compete for meaningful job opportunities e.g. Carpentry, embroidery, masonry etc.
- Care and protection of abandoned babies through provision of basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing. The clothes are usually sewn and repaired within our institution

## **Programs**

### **1. Farming**

The Home practices mixed farming for provision of food and for self-sustenance. On the home's farm there are crops such as maize, wheat, vegetables, onions, cabbages, Sukuma wiki and spinach and also animals such as pigs, cattle, chicken and rabbits. The farm produce is mostly consumed at the home while the surplus is disposed at a nearby market to cater for utility bills such as water and electricity.

### **2. Outreach programs.**

*Women and Youth Programs.* Some of the activities for women and youth include;

- a) Market oriented skills – training on soap making, Basket weaving, khaki bag making, beadwork and shaggy mats making. This has enabled them start income generating activities and thus improving their economic status
- b) Agribusiness - Workshops organized include silage making, dairy goat farming, cattle farming and modern methods of potato farming and preservation
- c) Subsistence farming - Train women on modern and innovative methods of subsistence farming for household consumption. Some of these trainings have been on kitchen gardening, sack gardening, water harvesting and small scale rabbit/chicken farming
- d) Sensitization on proper nutrition - In conjunction with Ndaragwa health Centre, train women on balanced diets, health eating habits and healthy cooking methods. Other trainings have been on healthy practices such as exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months, lifestyle diseases such as obesity and hypertension, effects of poor nutrition on health etc.
- e) HIV testing and follow up - In conjunction with Ndaragwa Health Centre, we conduct HIV testing and counseling mostly targeting the single mothers and the youth. Those who are diagnosed positive are usually referred to the Health centre for further testing on viral load etc. Those who are negative are counseled on healthy living practices
- f) Linking youths to employment opportunities – Provide mentorship to job seeking youth by offering workshops on C.V writing and cover letter writing. Also link them to job opportunities where possible. Further also provide attachment and volunteer opportunities at the Home to several youths

- g) Sensitization on health, hygiene and sanitation – Train women and youth on health, hygiene and sanitation practices such as basic first aid measures, basic disease prevention measures such as not sharing combs, and benefits of participating in WASH activities etc.

*Children Programs.* Some of children’s programs include;

- a) Farming – Involvement of children in light farming activities such as grazing of cows, rearing of rabbits and chicken
- b) Career Guidance - Conduct career guidance for children from upper primary going onwards every school holiday i.e. April, August and December. In this trainings children are trained on different career paths, subject choosing in high school, different talents and skills etc.
- c) Psychosocial activities - Organize age appropriate activities/competitions in sports and athletics with other CCIS, organize a talent show days, watch educative movies and cartoons for younger children, play games like hide and seek, marble game, dancing competitions, music, poetry, dramas etc. Also buy dolls and small toys for babies to play with.
- d) Home Visits - Conduct home visits to follow- up on children who have challenges e.g. school dropouts. Also at times facilitate parents’ office visits to provide space for further discussions to better understand their needs and challenges.

## **PROJECT COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING**

This project aims at building synergies with all stakeholders in the children and family welfare. The project will use resources available to ensure that synergies are harnessed for the benefit of the child with an aim of re-integrating them back to the formal family systems. Best practices will be used to guide project implementation and created room for wide consultations to ensure conformity and adherence to national and international norms in handling children welfare.