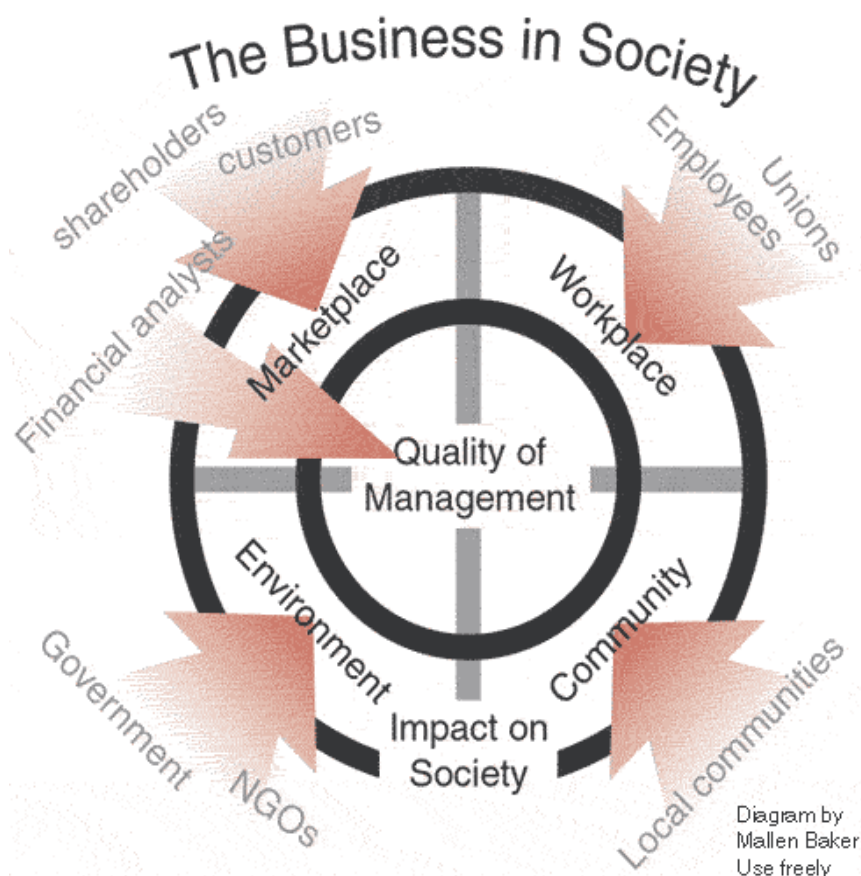


FRIENDS OF ALLAMANO and ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL
Role of Community Service and Corporate Social Responsibility
DEVOLUTION OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
on HUMAN DISABILITY ISSUES.

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**Corporate social responsibility [CSR] involvement in Disability is still an evolving discipline. Africa and other developing countries are still up-coming in this field and I believe sharing such info will advance the course more rapidly. **

THANK YOU

Pages 1, has added comments 18-19 are as originally presented to the University in November 2008. Pages 20-44 are updates encompassing recent CSR and info: 29th March 2011

<http://ne.whomesforvets.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/AIF-Magazine-Complete.pdf>

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Abstract

The field of intellectual and physical challenges (Mentally and Physically handicapped) is an evolving field of research and application. Mainly pioneered by persons or members of families and individuals with disabilities, who have taken the courage to engage the subject and call in on others to join them. For a long time more so in developing countries, only missionary organizations had taken a frontline role by engaging members of their faith based communities involved in the Corporate, Secular and Political sectors to confront the subject.

CSR is about how organizations and companies manage the incorporated entities and business processes to produce an overall positive impact on society. Within the context of leadership, management and organizational behavior one area that stands out is the impact on society by persons who have been trained or educated through the initiative of religious based or missionary efforts to shape corporate social responsibility.

Use of the term devolution

In the field of human disability the word evolution, which suggests a systematic, gradual and well-organized transformation does not appear to be the correct term. On the other hand, revolution, which is a radical all round complete change, appears an overstatement. It has in been a process of devolution, oscillating on between highs and lows and even stagnated at times in history. It is still a process of passing down or descent through successive stages of time.

Introduction: a perspective of disability

Anderson W.A (November 2004) states that , Recent decades have witnessed considerable improvement in the way persons with disabilities are viewed in the United States and other Western nations. Concerns for social justice, including recognition of equal rights and provision of equal opportunity, spirited by the success of the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s, have increased awareness of the needs and abilities of individuals with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities.

While efforts to create an inclusive society are ongoing in the West, in many developing nations, persons with disabilities continue to be devalued, dehumanized, and rejected. This is so, despite many of these nations having assented to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

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In addition, Member States of the Organization of African Unity adopted the Africa Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child which affirmed the right of children with a disability to protective services under conditions which would guarantee their dignity, encourage self-reliance, and enable active participation in the community.

It is estimated that there are over 80 million persons with disabilities in Africa (Masakhwe). Poverty and malnutrition, inadequate or inaccessible health care, diseases, accidents, crime, and violent conflicts are among the primary causes of disability. Many in strife-filled African nations become disabled through warfare or intentional maiming designed to intimidate and control. Segregation and marginalization keep disabled individuals at the bottom of the economic ladder by denying equal opportunities and equal access to many aspects of society. The continued disempowerment and marginalization of people with disabilities is not just economic; it has a spiritual and social dimension as well.

It is within the above concepts that I have opted to use the Institute of Consolata missionaries as an example of an organization that has applied its broad outreach to impact on changes in society.

The Institute of Consolata Missionaries and Disability issues

The Institute of Consolata Missionaries was founded in Turin, Italy, on 29th January 1901 by Blessed Joseph Allamano. In 1902 they established their first official outreach in Kenya, East Africa on 29th June 1902. Since then, they have opened missions in Ethiopia (1913), Tanzania (1919), Somalia (1924), Mozambique (1925), Great Britain (1936), Brazil (1937), Portugal (1943), Argentina (1946), USA (1946), Colombia (1947), Canada (1947), South Africa (1948), Spain (1955), Venezuela (1970), Congo DRC (1972), Uganda (1985), Korea (1988), and Ivory Coast (1995), Mongolia (2003), Djibouti (2004). (<http://www.consolatashrine.org/Section.asp?ID=6>)

During their presence in Kenya they established hospitals, dispensaries, teachers training colleges, Seminaries, regular primary and secondary schools that formed the basis of cultural transformation and training for the leadership that would constitute the transition team in various aspects of society. It is against such background that the two Consolata missionaries, Antonio Gianelli and Rossi Ricardo found themselves at the end of their tour of duty in Kenya, at the close of the 20th century, addressing disability issues.

Affiliation with the Consolata missionaries for people in the secular and corporate sector, in establishing a project for mentally and physically handicapped children posed many

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historical, administrative, cultural, moral and political perspectives. Multiple issues that would have sabotaged the project during its initiation and after the departure of the Consolata missionaries in 1999 were in play.

This project paper seeks to highlight some of these challenges that face projects in developing countries whose nature involves people with disabilities whom society has tended to place in the background. In most societies and communities, it takes either a persons own disablement or disabling experience, or that of a close friend or family member to rise to the occasion of what it means to be disabled in any way, especially, to be physically and mentally challenged. Corporate social responsibility initiatives have helped in this sector. Based upon work by Dr. wolf wolfensberger on Social role Valorization aspects have been studied that would help in shaping behavior in organizations and in efforts to effectively reach out to people with disabilities and understanding the wounds caused by society as in the challenge faced by the Consolata missionaries at Allamano special school in Africa.

[Jeff & Kathi McNair. California Baptist University <http://jeffmcnair.com/jafsrv.ppt>: Effectively Reaching out to People with Disabilities by Understanding the Wounds Caused by Society.]

Understanding background to the problem

With Africa as my initial foothold, and using the challenges to the Institute of Consolata missionary incorporated in Italy as the bases for my outreach, I hope to expound on the role of the interactive social forces on a specific project the 'Allamano Special School' for Mentally handicapped/challenged children in Kenya East Africa.

Anderson W. A (November 2004) points out that, Disability exists throughout the world, without respect for national, ethnic, or cultural boundary. The history of the treatment of persons with disabilities has been one of ignorance and isolation. In developing nations, people with handicapping conditions are yet victimized by neglect, superstition, inaccurate stereotyping, and exploitation. Cultural beliefs about disabilities and attitudes toward persons with disabilities often include shame, prejudice, and exclusion from community (McConkey & O'Toole).

Kwei, writing in Ghana's Daily Graphic, spoke to the point: "People with disabilities are often isolated, discriminated against and considered inferior. While sections of society consider them an accursed group, others subject them to various abuses that cumulatively make them bitter against society" (Kwei 11).

African folklore often promotes attitudes of tolerance and respect for individual differences (Kisanji). Nevertheless, disabilities are often feared by the people. Disability

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may be associated with supernatural forces, such as the gods' anger at a parent for wrongdoing or breaking a taboo ("Creating an Environment for the Disabled"; Marfo). Some believe that an offended individual paid a witch doctor to curse a family, causing someone to be born, or to become, disabled. Still others believe that living a wicked life may be punished by being reincarnated as a person with a disability. "River blindness," a parasitic eye disease and a leading infectious cause of blindness, may be attributed to spirits who live in the rivers. Persons with a severe disability such as autism (a neurologically-based impairment of behavior and communication) are often thought to be possessed by an evil spirit.

Such beliefs are deep-seated in traditional culture and religion and may be held to some degree even by more highly educated individuals. Hospital physicians, for instance, have been known to ignore patients who are disabled, giving preference to able-bodied patients. Whether rejected as less worthy because of the disability or because they may be less able to pay for services, this clearly communicates disrespect and devaluation of the person who is disabled.

The stigma of the disability attaches both to the individual and to the family. Since a disabled child is seen as a curse, a bad omen, or an incomplete person unworthy of life, many families abandon the child to the care of a hospital, orphanage, or special school (Mwiti). The baby may simply be killed, or be kept hidden from public view.

Murage B., sums the historical cultural problem in the community:

The midwives or the obstetricians had a very radical role for the tribe. They not only assisted at child-birth but had the duty of deciding who was fit for life or not. her role had a social dimension as she was to make a full check-up for fitness....: babies born with physical handicaps were not to live and would not even be given the chance to suck. No naming was to take place before the checkup for fitness. The tribe had no room for handicaps, from birth. Being agricultural and pastoral and at war with Masai who would invade, they could not afford to have someone invalid from birth. They needed able bodied people who could also run into hiding whenever the enemy invaded. There were also other cases of babies born having fully grown teeth etc. these were considered a taboo to keep and hence they were eliminated at birth.

If a mother were to die while a baby was still at the breast i.e. not weaned, she was thrown away with the baby and it was babies like these that missionaries saved and brought up.[B.(1994) Marian devotion among the Agikuyu- Pg 36]

These attitudes often prevent the family from seeking assistance or from following through on recommended interventions. Becoming disabled through illness or accident often results in the child's rejection by the family, forcing the child to live on the streets by begging or prostitution. Women who are disabled are especially vulnerable. The likelihood of experiencing sexual abuse in the home is high, and threats of violence keep such abuse from being reported.

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Confronting and Overcoming the Problem

These cultural beliefs are obviously counterproductive to promoting the well being of persons with a disability. Obtaining an appropriate education, entering the workforce, and being accepted in society are difficult to achieve when disabled citizens are viewed negatively or dismissed out of hand. Even when national leaders do not hold limited views of persons with disabilities because of cultural beliefs, national indebtedness or corruption result in limited resources to tackle the issues. Thus, resolutions are passed which recognize the basic humanity of disabled persons, but the government lacks the ability (or the will) to implement action. Disability-related issues remain “the least prioritized and inadequately factored section of the national budget and planning” (Masakhwe).

The situation is compounded by the tendency to locate the “problem” of disability solely within the individual. The result is failure to acknowledge the effect of cultural beliefs or to address the negative, discriminatory attitudes, which ensue. Solutions which have been proposed through governmental policy tend to focus more on prevention or cure than on changing society (Khatleli, Mariga, Phachaka, and Stubbs). Emphasis is on “fixing” the individual so that he or she can fit into society, rather than on addressing elements within the culture or society which lead to exclusion and denial of human rights. In many nations of Africa, inadequate health care and social services is another reason behind a significant number of cases of disability (Eleweke). Many disabilities can be attributed to the absence of primary health care programs such as childhood immunizations against diseases typically resulting in disability (e.g., polio). Other common factors which interfere with both civil and educational rights of persons with disabilities are absence of enabling policies and legislation, lack of a systematic structure for funding special education services, inadequate personnel training programs, lack of facilities, and failure to promote inclusive attitudes individuals with disabilities continue to be denied what the world considers a basic human right to education.

The development and status of special education programs in Kenya has been described by Ndurumo (Exceptional Children) and Anderson (Special Education Needs).

Government-related special education programs and schools exist, many having originated during the colonial era, but they are often poorly equipped and under-funded, staffed with under-qualified, under-paid, and over-burdened teachers. Private schools for children with disabilities are usually equipped to provide better services, but many families cannot afford the tuition (Mulama). children. An informal survey confirmed that governmental policy statements in Kenya fail to reflect actual practices in schools (Eva Nyoike, personal communication, September 8, 2004). Although Non-Governmental Organizations serving persons with disabilities exist, they also face

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insufficient financial and manpower resources. Many are staffed by good-hearted but inadequately trained persons.

Along with cultural beliefs and practices, there is an issue of value in terms of what disabled persons can contribute to society. Given the problems associated with national poverty, governmental instability and limited effectiveness, and fiscal irregularities, it is no surprise that accessibility to education and society by those with disabilities in developing countries is not a high national priority. Social and educational programming tends to focus on able-bodied citizens who may contribute to the economic development of the country. Persons thought to be weak, such as those with a disability, tend to be less valued and viewed as incapable of engaging in meaningful employment or of contributing to national self-reliance (Muchiri). Waste of resources and talent because of societal prejudice and discrimination. The societal attitudes described above, however, suggest that citizens with disabilities continue to be unnoticed and unserved, despite official proclamations to the contrary.

Attempting to address this problem using a top-down (legislative) approach is likely to have little impact. Efforts to promote services to persons with disabilities which build from the concept of community-based rehabilitation seem to hold greater promise. The intent is to work within the person's home area to promote participation in all aspects of community life. Community-based rehabilitation links persons with disabilities, non-governmental organizations, and key members of the community (professionals and agencies)

Churches and church-related schools are appropriate places to initiate socio-cultural change within developing nations. It is within this context as above that the Allamano Special School for the mentally Handicapped was started through the commendable efforts of the Late Consolata Missionaries Rev Fr. Antonio Gianelli and Rev Fr Rossi Ricarldo.

It is an example of what is possible through responsible efforts in corporate social responsibility and collaborative initiatives in society in a developing country.

The project Scope: A recent outreach on the Internet

Almano Special School for Mentally Handicapped

Kenya: <http://www.volunteerabroad.com/listingsp3.cfm/listing/44217>

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Description: Located in central Kenya, it's in a beautiful location only 3 hours drive from Nairobi. Lush tropical valleys, tea and coffee plantations, waterfalls and rivers make this an idyllic (and always overlooked) location to volunteer. This institute was started by an Italian priest called Padre Antonio Gianelli* after he saw a need in the community for a school for the mentally challenged. The community was lacking such an institution and the ones available were not effective as they were far off. The school houses 51 children with all kinds of mental handicapped from cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism, epilepsy to dyslexia. Disability being a severe ammonic state in a person attributed to mental and physical impairment or in most cases a combination of both; as a result the institution's main priority is to teach these children basic activities to lead their lives as normal as possible and physic-therapy to strengthen their limbs, as some are very weak.

Highlights: The school is situated 30 minutes away from Nyeri town, where it is possible to find all things modern - from Internet to pubs and five star safari clubs. This part of

The country has a beautiful topography that is well covered by tall and green trees that gives a perfect setting for bird watching, or evening walks. For the adventurous, Mt Kenya is only an hour away, thus an attempt to climb to any of its three peaks would be a fulfilling move. Besides that, most of us would visit Meru reserve that is famous for Joy and George Adamson's hand rearing and releasing of animals. The famous lioness 'Elsa', whom most of us know from the film 'Born Free.' The area is rain forested so game spotting is hard and an easier alternative is Aberdare a few hours away, or Samburu where you are likely to spot the elusive Leopard.

Qualifications: Volunteers with skills or backgrounds handling such children of these types of needs. Regular teachers or trainee teachers are also welcome to participate in class. Other volunteers who are willing to help in the other domestic side of this school are also welcome. If you feel you have any skills or experience that would be relevant we would most like to hear from you.

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Planning information

Allamano Special School caters for physically and mentally handicapped children. Attached to it is a cerebral palsy class (C.P.), which serves approximately 300sq Km, in the Central Province of Kenya. The children are refereed for assessment by teachers, parents, health workers, education assessment centers, and the administrative branch of the government which includes, the Chief, Assistant chiefs and local leaders.

The school has an area of about 3 acres situated at the Eastern slopes of Aberdare forest with an altitude of 2400M above the sea level thus the climate is fairly cold especially in the months of May – August. It is located approximately eight Km south west of Nyeri town off Nyeri road.

The school runs on contributions from local well-wishers and parents of the children, which are insufficient for the upkeep of the school. Due to the poor economic status of the parents the drop out rate from the school before attaining/acquiring the skills has become a bit high.

Brief history

The above-mentioned school is a public (government) entity. It started as a unit for the mentally handicapped children in 1988 after the local Nyeri District Education Office carried a survey, which established the need to cater for the increasing number of children who required special attention. With the assistance of the Red cross Society in (Norway), and through the Local branch of the Red Cross a small home was started and was completed in 1994. In 1995, the late Fr. Antonio Gianelli of the Institute of Consolata Missionaries then In charge of the local Parish helped to secure a donor organization Manos Unidas from Madrid Spain.

Aims and objectives

The project revolves around children with special needs and aims to assist the children to acquire: A sense of purpose, Social Development and adaptability, Self-respect and acquisition of basic social survival and behavioral skills. Once accomplished this would give the mentally handicapped children an opportunity to be self reliant through the development of their pre-vocational skills making them socially acceptable and enhance public awareness of the physically and mentally handicapped.

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Needs and requirements

The school had no wheelchairs, or formal transport facilities consistent with requirements for the mentally and physically challenged. This was required for mobility during emergency sick calls, transportation of supplies, taking the children for visits and extra-curriculum activities and transportation of day scholars who walk for long distance to and from school. Due to the disability of the pupils, the school required staff houses within the school compound and immediate vicinity. The education of the mentally handicapped is geared mainly on giving them vocational skills and not in academics. The institution as such required the construction a workshop, a Home science room and purchase of appropriate equipment.

The school is endowed with two acres of arable land that is under utilized due to lack of reliable irrigation system. In order for the school to be self-sustaining in food there was need for assistance towards the irrigation project using water derived from a borehole. The farming project would help the children to acquire some skills. The Parents, Sponsors and Guardians would be responsible of feeding their children through the payments of hostel maintenance fee. Due to the current economical crisis many parents would not be able to pay maintenance fee for food and medical expenses. The cost of pumping water from the borehole plus other use of electrical power was a problem for the parents to pay.

Physical facilities

The school's initial plan could only accommodated sixty children in the boarding section this fell far short of the large number of applicants on the waiting list. A dormitory, kitchen, dinning hall and laundry room had to be expanded. All these called for financial, technical and administrative skills far above those available from the local community and their good will to assist.

The institution used professional volunteer services and prepared a provisional budget.

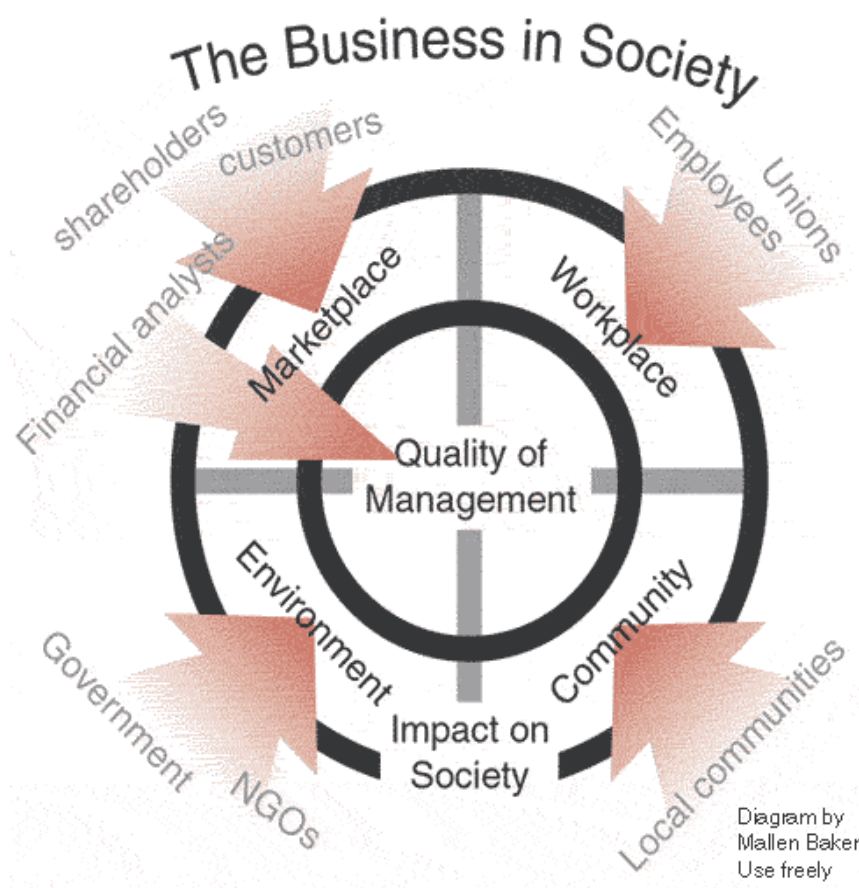
NEED	PROJECT COST
Computer laboratory for data information and storage	
Telephone line for easy communication especially with the parents of the handicapped children	
Establishment of an early childhood class	
Storage tank for harvesting water from the building	
Office block currently one of the rooms attached to the dormitory is being used as the office	
Equipping the cerebral palsy class	
Construction of a large sewage system	
Ten workers salaries @ per month	

(Personal communication papers 2006).

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The Challenges of establishing and sustaining the Allamano school Project
Through Application of CSR Concepts

What started as a local proposition to deal with a taboo subject and stigmatization of the mentally and physically handicapped, took a broader coverage through local and international efforts to tap aspects of corporate social responsibility professional initiatives in the business, charitable organizations, and community good will.



<http://www.mallenbaker.net/csr/CSRfiles/definition.html>
Retrieved November 14, 2008

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Successful initiatives were carried out through research and information dissemination, Creating opportunities for community awareness and sensitization on socially and mentally challenged persons, and publicized through; Production of Video Feature on the school. Organizing Television talk shows for officials of school, use of the press, and radio/audio news. Feature articles in various outreaches and related Publications. Sports participation in Special Olympics and other collaborative social events for projects involving mentally challenged children. Fund raising initiatives and facilitation of equipment and facilities provision. Networking among Charitable bodies and organizations through corporate community affairs coordinators. Local and national artistes, comedians, actors and musicians were involved to attract all age groups to functions in the new school. I had an opportunity to be involved among others. Over a period of 5 years the foundations of the new institution were consolidated through formal registration and involvement of the Government Ministry and other state Agencies. A transitional Management Crisis at the school was resolved, and a trustee board entrusted to run the institution following the departure of the missionary school founder. Modalities for the introduction of a Trust Fund were also established with long term succession plans on transfer of responsibilities and bank signatories

Project Analysis, Implementation, and Evaluation

To achieve the intended purpose a thorough research and study of official files was done to establish the Strengths,Weaknesses,Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis. The chairman of the board of governors in collaboration with the Sponsor's manager **Catholic Archdiocese of Nyeri** and the **Ministry of Education** felt the need of this Research for the smooth running of the institution ensuring an efficient transition of Administration and Management.

This would ensure that the aims and objectives of creating an opportunity for the self reliance of the handicapped through acquisition of vocational skills, the creation of public awareness, support and socially acceptability were started on a strong footing.

The special school for the mentally handicapped had started as a unit attached to a regular primary school in march 1988.This was after the District Education office carried out a survey which established that there were a number of children in the surroundings who required special education.

Later on the unit within the primary school was separated to be an independent special school and the government office appointed a head Teacher. In response to the arising needs the head Teacher started sending out letters of appeal to would be a donor. A letter sent to **Red cross society of Kenya**, local branch was able to receive aid from **Ostfold Red cross society of Norway** which agreed to put up a hostel which was completed in 1994.Due to lack of sufficient funds to equip the hostel, the teachers who

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were manning the unit approached the late Fr. Antonio Giannelli, the local missionary parish priest with the intention of creating a small home for the mentally handicapped.

With their detailed listing of requirements Fr. Giannelli appealed for AID from **Manos Unidas** an organization based in Madrid, Spain who donated enough funds that uplifted the school standards in achieving the basic requirements needed in its structural and physical plan. On January 12th 1996 the school was opened and the hostel was officially opened and handed to **Rev. Fr. Antonio Giannelli** on behalf of the Sponsor by the **Red Cross Society of Kenya**.

As a consequence through a collaborative effort of the Government, local community, external agencies and the church as the Sponsor manger the school was started. It was resolved that **the name of the school was changed from "Wamagana Special School" to "Allamano Special school"** (named after "**Blessed Joseph Allamano**", the founder of "**Consolata Missionary Institute**". On 4th May 1999, the school was formally approved and incorporated and given a "Certificate Of Registration" from the Ministry of Education. (REGISTRATION NUMBER:SP/ED/42/99) (personal Communication 2006)

Strengths and opportunities

The land on which the school stands was donated by the local Wamagana primary school*. In a meeting held by the school committee on October 14th, 1995 the headmaster of the primary school identified to all those present the area allocated to the special school. On June 13th, 1996 another resolution was passed by District development Committee, the primary school and special schools committees with regard to the extension of the plot occupied by special school and the resolution was agreed upon unanimously.

The executive committee members of both primary and special schools drew an agreement and signed it to confirm the transactions. The special school was thus allocated specific land next to the primary school. Another settlement carried out was concerning the class built in the primary school with the help of the National Fund For the Disabled. With all transactions finalized on June 19th, 1996 the new Special school was inaugurated as a separate entity.

Assets included 4 acres of land, 4 permanent classes, offices and staff room, kitchen and two stores, laundry, permanent classroom for cerebral palsy, workshop, borehole of 400 feet depth and storage tank, 4 cows, chickens, 2 rabbits, 2.5 acres of land was set aside for cultivation and grazing.

The school was thus set to accommodate 65 children, 58 of them boarders. In the boarding there were 27 boys and 31 girls. 7 children [5 boys and 2 girls] started as day scholars. The Hostel had 34 beds in the side of girls and 30 in the boy's side.

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The first appointment of B.O.G. of Allamano special school was done on 6th November 1998. Those that received appointments by The Minister of Education and Human Resources Development in accordance with Education Act, Cap 211, and Section 10.

In their inaugural meeting the Board of Governors conducted [Min/4/2/99] an election of the executive and appointment of a Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. Board members were also confirmed to represent gender, a researcher, donors, local community leadership, health, business, special interests, and lobbying and sponsor interests.

The project was unique and the first of its kind in the area and thus attracted much interest in the community. In order to control some behavioral disorders like Autism and hyperactivity the children are occupied with interesting activities. They already have recreational facilities and equipments; such as swings, climbing ladders, play toys and continue to expand. The school continues to require donors willing to donate various equipment specifically suited for the education and rehabilitation of the physically and mentally handicapped. The school started with basic facilities which allows admittance of children with cerebral palsy in settings known as Peto class, prepares students for prevocational and vocational rehabilitation training for job placement and utilizing their potentialities.

The school has continued to maintain a wide donor network that includes local schools, banks, businessmen, the National Fund for the Disabled, International Lions Club, seminaries and various advocacy groups. An association of 'Friends of Allamano' that was formed in 1999 continues to coordinate, lobby and call on more sponsors, professional medical and regular services from the network supporters.

The parents have been equally involved in the day to day running of the institution. They pay salaries for the non-teaching staff. These include cleaners, kitchen staff, guardians, security personnel and a matron nurse. These are the responsibility of the parents and donors as the government provides and pays for the teachers. The parents also contribute towards Fundraising functions and any health expenses incurred by their respective Children. One of the issues that this involvement solves is the abandonment of the children in the school. Fortunately some children have committed sponsors. There are ongoing efforts to encourage collaboration between Parent, teachers, members of the board and the local community.

Future challenges weaknesses and threats

Projects for persons with disabilities as in the above case will continue to face challenges that require corporate community responsiveness. Good transformational change requires that change agents carefully think through the full implications of such projects. While

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overcoming cultural resistance and prioritization of community needs is still at issue, this process of devolution needs sustenance to evolve to an acceptable level. This calls for continuous education and communication, encouraging participation, building support and commitment, implementing changes fairly and sensitively. The project is not above political interference and in times of economic hardships projects of this nature are likely to be considered a social luxury that may be dispensed with.

Planning as in the above project calls for proactive purposeful change activities and intentional goal oriented activity aimed at impacting on organizational and community behavior towards the physically and mentally challenged in society. This will continue to call for and require change agents as catalysts who will assume responsibility for managing change activities. A large proportion of people who initiated the Allamano Special School project have either died or retired from active participation, a factor that requires continuous reassessment and transitional change management.

The desire is that students majoring in organizational management, community development, biblical and religious studies, psychology, business, and communications would also take courses designed to help them understand the abilities of persons who experience handicapping conditions. Graduates are employed in positions of leadership and influence at various levels within society. Being exposed to accurate understanding of disabilities, the services needed, and the potential contribution which properly educated persons may provide will enable more people to be better informed and effective advocates for abilities and rights for disabled individuals.

The way Forward

In September 1999 the Allamano School project we were involved with in Africa was awarded a gold medal by the late Pope John Paul II. It has continued to face various cultural and organizational challenges. As such, this outline is a basic effort to create a better understanding of the challenges that confront individuals and corporate entities participating in the disability field. It seeks to impact on organizational behavior by highlighting issues involved in addressing the challenges and removing attitudinal attributes and biases in the advocacy for persons with mental and physical disabilities.

There is still more need to look into comparative research relating to Cultural diversity and knowledge gap in developed and developing countries, and their impact on Multicultural and Interfaith disabilities advocacy. Into the contribution of current corporate efforts and cooperation in scientific research initiatives as an aspect of good corporate and social citizenship. Continue to encourage efforts in developed countries

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and missionary lands to demythologize disabilities and further open more closed doors. Ultimately, there is a need to address the various generations Age gap, social dynamics and acknowledge the causes and possible solutions or approaches to disabling aspects. This will relevantly impact and breach the social stigma of this community service outreach .It will also strengthen corporate presence and marketing strategies, social and cultural cohesion even among communities and people of diverse backgrounds, faith, religious affiliations and social status.

Advances have been made in scientific research for use of computers and software in advancing the welfare of persons with various disabilities. This is on the rise, particularly in the United States of America and other developed countries and opportunities exist for cooperation with developing countries in community service outreach.

There has been an Increase in disability awareness in society owing to the publicity given in the mass media worldwide, of disabilities occurring to Key Persons and public figures in society. Alzheimer's, Autism, Polio, Parkinson's, Cerebral Palsy, Downs syndrome, Spinal cord injuries, Head and brain injuries, dementia, strokes and paralysis, and other opportunistic diseases consistent with today's 'social issues and style of living'.

There is a spreading culture of personal and corporate conscience devolution as demonstrated through philanthropic initiatives. The impact of the Internet and mass media is on the rise in proliferating institutionalized and individual disability outreach initiatives in the global village and the consequential impact on traditional approaches of cultural and belief systems on disability.

We continue to witness the proliferation of various positive efforts and contributions to society by persons with disabilities, philanthropic individuals, corporations and organized society to improve the welfare of persons with disabilities. Emphasis on tapping ability not disability, and availing opportunities rather than pity and sympathy. And as outlined in the Allamano special school project there exists a Universal capacity for Corporate and Faith based Initiatives to influence change in personal individualized and societal discipline. A capacity to change attitudinal biases on persons with disabilities by involving youth groups, staff and business executives through community mobilization and service to resolve serious social problems in the community.

Conclusion.

One of the greatest challenges and complex area that offers a wide scope of opportunities and success for persons with disabilities is merging and harnessing the combined

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goodwill of various International Foundations; and roles of the United Nations General Assembly efforts, Churches and denominations of various faith groups seeking unifying opportunities, localized traditional cultures and norms in different societies, the private sector companies in search of publicized responsive and responsible corporate citizenry opportunities, Charities, Individuals and other interrelated persons and aspects.

International foundations through various initiatives in developing countries have been spearheading the global campaigns to eradicate or cope with effects of human disabilities. Among these, the Special Olympics foundation stands out prominently in furthering the involvement of persons with disabilities in sports and society by attracting corporate sponsorship of events and participation of volunteers in such events as evidenced on their website.

(<http://www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Public+Website/default.htm#>)

However, scarcity of financial resources, constitutional safeguards on personal freedoms and human rights, a lack of a standard curriculum, and the sensitivity of various aspects of faith, beliefs and opinions are still an impediment and pose risks for persons and institutions interested in advancing the disciplines and agenda in favor of Persons with Disabilities. Hopefully, the current encouraging trends will evolve through and consistently overcome the devolution process.

November 21, 2008

<http://newhomesforvets.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/AIF-Magazine-Complete.pdf>

Devolution of corporate social Responsibility On human disability issues

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Almano Special School for Mentally Handicapped. Kenya. Description: Located in central Kenya, it's in a beautiful location only 3 hours drive from Nairobi. ...

Guera G. (February 12,2006). Father Antonio Gianelli 1923-2001. Extract retrieved on 11/19/2008 : <http://en.ismico.org/content/view/332/3/>

He had an acute social conscience and built a school for handicapped children – one of the few in Kenya. In a letter he wrote to Father Piero Trabucco, the Superior General, to thank him for his financial help, he said: “On the same day the school was inaugurated we established the “Friends of Allamano.” This association will sponsor and support the school, as well as spread knowledge of and devotion to our Founder is highly esteemed by all the Christians at Wamagana.

“With this work I believe I have fulfilled my obligation towards him who made it possible for me to become a missionary. Next year I will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of my ordination; in these fifty years my greatest accomplishment has been this school for the handicapped. For this I thank God, Our Lady and our Founder” (December 11, 1996).

This was not the extent of his work in Wamagana – at great expense he had wells dug that would provide water and electricity to the mission and the people.

Hours before his death he was still thinking about the handicapped children at Wamagana – he left them his few possessions.

Devolution of corporate social Responsibility On human disability issues

Bellagamba A. (February 12,2006) Father Rossi Ricardo 1912-2000.

Extract retrieved 11/19/2008 : <http://en.ismico.org/content/view/352/3/>

He found financing for students – some of whom studied abroad – in an effort to create leaders for society and the Church. During the Mau-Mau uprising he was often in great danger – but his charity reached out to all sides.

His letters to superiors in Italy were full of statistics – the best reflection of reality. At the same time his visions for the future revealed a creative imagination, the ability to think and make long-term plans.

Fr. Riccardo was brought up in this tradition. He went even further and continued to perform baptisms as long as his physical strength held out.

Another of his characteristic trait was his love for the poor. He was always ready to give concrete assistance to whoever knocked at his door. While he was pastor at Sagana he established St. Mary's Village, a shelter for elderly, abandoned women; in his final years at Wamagama his devotion to the poor and disabled increased exponentially: he was instrumental in establishing a Special School for spastic children and those who had suffered from polio.

Fr. Riccardo is the model of an authentic missionary for all of us; he was concerned with the spiritual, material and intellectual well-being of his people; he was devoted to welfare of his flock, the progress of the Church and the dignity of every human person. Fr. Antonio Bellagamba

Murage Boniface, Evangelization and Inculturation of Marian Devotion Among the Agikuyu of Central Kenya in Nyeri Archdiocese Yesterday and Today, Dissertatio ad lauream in Pontificia Facultate Theologicae Marianum, 62, Roma 1994.

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November 21, 2008

Download Ref: FO ASSK/DJSJ/JPKW March 29, 2011/Kamau/ASSMH

WWW.friendsOfAllamano.Org

ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL: ADVANCING THE CSR ENCOUNTERS BEYOND 2011
The IBM Corporate Service Corps: COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE
 Tuesday, March 22, 2011

WHAT THE IBM TEAM DID NOT SEE: August 1996

WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org

THE CHILDREN OF FATHER ANTONIO GIANELLI

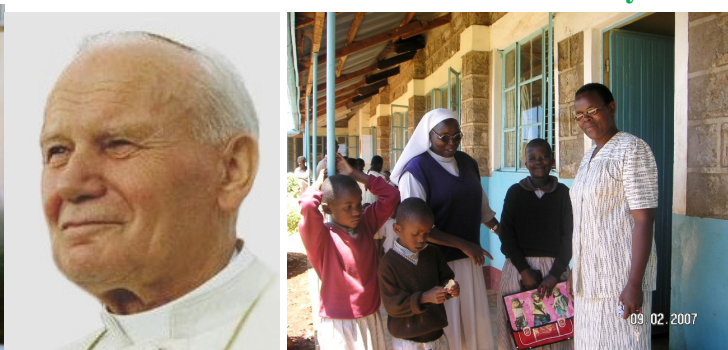
Some could not speak, and some could not walk, and yet some appeared to struggle with coordinated breath, some could not control salivating, and still some could not feed themselves, as their limbs had failed them: AND: there was one young girl on a makeshift wooden wheelchair that could not see: AND: then one John Kiongo who had cerebral palsy, he sat cowed and fear-full on one corner even as Fr Antonio Gianelli introduced him. But John Kiongo had lost faith in the goodness of humanity and had lived through it all, he just could not trust anymore. These are all graces and faculties most of us take for granted until we lose them. These are the images that I saw on that Sunday August 10th 1996. I would later capture some on now old fashioned VHS Video tapes, and on now old fashioned film cameras. They were the days before the now widespread World Wide Web- [WWW.& Laptop WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org](http://WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org) Some of those who were born in, or live in “developed or developing” countries or cultures may find the above scenario difficult to comprehend. Society has protected us from such shocking IMAGES.



Late 1980s and Early 1990s



Late 1990s and Early 2000s



The Vatican Declared him “Venerable Pope John Paul II” on December 19th 2010 to be beatified on May 1st 2011

Thursday, October 07, 2010 11:18:03 PM Ref:DJ/SJ/JPKW/FOASSK: Saturday, February 26, 2011 /11:35:26 AM

<http://ne.whomesforvets.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/AIF-Magazine-Complete.pdf>

WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org

WHAT THE IBM TEAM WITNESSED ,and SAW and DID in March 2011

<http://ramsdenkenyacsc.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2011-03-16T03%3A21%3A00-07%3A00&max-results=7> 3/26/2011 5:55:22 PM Ration4

03.02.2011 – Today was a great day, the first official IBM CSC community day, and as we closed our laptops, we were excited to visit a local school for the handicap, and an independent orphanage. The morning trip was to the Friends of Allamano for the mentally challenged, with 82 children, most orphans. As we walked down the hill to the field, the children sensed our presence and charged with excitement, immediately grabbing our hands. We brought with us a couple soccer balls and challenged the children to a game. After the game, they provided us a tour of the school building, kitchen, cow stable where a couple of the boys were working, the garden, and fitness center. At the conclusion of our tour, the children treated us to some dancing and singing, and then we attempted to dance for them. Both they and us were sad that we could not spend more time, but before we departed, the team was able to provide them with their first computer, a digital camera, school and medical supplies, and monetary donations for any other items they may require. Our afternoon trip was to a Kieni West Orphanage with 43 children that is privately run by a widow, and was a little tougher. The children greeted us at their doorstep with smiles, and dancing. Immediately after their performance, they took our hands, and enthusiastically walked us around their much smaller living area, which included a girls room for 15 crammed into a small area attached to the main living unit, while the boys were in a separate 15 bed unit built of plywood (you can see in some of my pictures), both with triple bunk beds to the ceiling, and no dressers. Sadly, the entire 3 unit living area for 43 was smaller than my 1 bedroom apartment in CT, and theirs did not include a formal dining area. Gutter water was collected and stored for use for showering and bathing, and they were not connected to the power grid. However, the children were ecstatic to see us, and captivated by the items the team brought which included clothing, shoes, crayons, construction paper, candy, pins, soccer balls, monetary donations, and even our IBM badge zingers (not sure if that is what they are called). During arts and crafts with their new gifts, and kicking the soccer ball around, the children talked to us about their dreams of going to college, becoming doctors, accountants, and electrical engineers. While it was a typical sunny day in Nyeri, rain began to fall over the orphanage mid-way through our stay, which was a sign of blessing. As they held our hands and walked us to our cars, I wished we could spend more time; however, I was happy we were able to share in this short experience with them. It was not until I returned to my hotel, that my experience truly started to settle in with me as I believe I was caught up in the excitement of the children. They were so inquisitive over my digital camera, and while I have hundred of photographs and videos of my family and I growing older through time, a lot of these children will never have any recollection of their parents or childhood. From the one year old girl who was so excited to take her first steps in her new shoes, to the extremely shy boy that we were finally able to crack a smile from, while they are so happy to be loved by someone, they deserve to share the same memories, quality of life, and experiences that I take for granted every day.





FRIDAY, 4 MARCH 2011

Smiles and hugs



Thursday 3rd March

Today was a day that we had all been looking forward to: **Community Day**. As part of our month-long stay in Nyeri, we had scheduled several visits in and around town to be able to interact with the local community, instead of locking ourselves up in the hotel compound all the time. We had been in touch with these

institutions before leaving and some of us had more space in their luggage for presents for the kids than for their own clothes.

Our first stop was to [Allamano Special School](#), a home for mentally disabled kids. This centre is supported by the government and by several foreign charity organisations. The centre is a home to about 80 kids and they just ran towards us when they noticed our arrival, screaming out of excitement. These children are so happy and I was surprised to see the less handicapped help the weaker with love and care. They also had their own cows, which are fully taken care of by the kids themselves.



Beautiful faces of Allamano



She wouldn't want to let go of me! Papa Papetti playing games

In the afternoon, we visited Kieni West orphanage in Mweiga. 40 orphans live here, ranging in age from 9 months to 18 years. They lost their parents from HIV, malaria or other diseases or accidents. These kids are actually lucky to have a home to return to every day. They go to school and have food and clothes. Other orphans end up living in the streets.

We brought loads and loads of presents and spent a wonderful afternoon just playing with them. It was heart breaking to leave them behind.



Dave from DC playing games Haruta put on her traditional Japanese dress for the occasion



Mama Eva getting a hair-do

Anna Banana showing the wonders of polaroid

A very touching day



Have experienced some very touching days. We went Thursday morning to "Friends of Allamanos" - a school for mentally challenged. The school is run by Sister Jane and houses around 80 children with various disabilities. The children were thrilled to see us, to play with us and to view the photos we took. Haruta had brought a polaroid camera so we could give them the photos right away. That was a great idea.

We were amazed to see how caring the children were with each other. They helped feed the ones that couldn't themselves - pushed the wheelchairs of those who couldn't walk and held the hands of those who needed a hug. It was very touching. The school was so full of love and care and all of us made special friends during our stay. Francesco donated a PC and Luan a camera to the school and everyone had brought pens, paper, sweets and lots of other things. So we definitely put our foot prints at the school and they left a mark in our hearts.



Francesco donates a PC to Sister Jane

WHAT IBM MADE POSSIBLE BY A SIMPLE HUMANITARIAN GESTURE

22 years and 14 years later
 “It’s never too late to do the **RIGHT** thing”



“**LEFT SHOE SHAPED**”. WAMAGANA and ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL as VIEWED FROM A SATELLITE IMAGE:- The Field the IBM CSC Team played football/soccer in, is the open portion of the Shoe heel above. The IBM CSC Team provided the “**RIGHT SHOE**” perspective to Allamanos.

IBM Service Corps Team Kenya 2

<http://fpapetti.blogspot.com/> Retrieved Monday, March 14, 2011

This is my personal blog to document the participation to the IBM Corporate Service Corps assignment in Nyeri, Kenya - 19 Feb 2011 to 19 Mar 2011

On March 3rd and 4th we had some of the most touching and paying experiences within the local communities in Nyeri surroundings.

Friends of Allamano is a special school for mentally challenged ruled by Missionarie della Consolata, a nuns congregation established by Giuseppe Allamano, an Italian priest, back in 1901. The institution hosts about 80 mentally challenged persons and it's mainly supported by private donations.

WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Com



We were heartily received by the children with big smiles and had good time in playing with them on the field.
Sister Jane hosted us and presented the teachers who daily work with the children.



We had the possibility to give a small contribution to this community by donating a laptop, a camera and a key for internet connectivity, hopefully allowing them to stay in contact with the world. The institution is infact about 10km from Nyeri and for every contact they have to drive to town.



Pubblicato da Francesco a [13:57 0 commenti http://fpapetti.blogspot.com/](http://fpapetti.blogspot.com/)

EXTRACTS From team comments:-“..*John, our teammate from marketing, quickly took control of the situation, clearly more accustomed to dealing with this type of vapid kabuki than any of us. He suggested a return visit to the school for the mentally disabled or the orphanage that we had just visited the prior Thursday, a proposal which immediately hit paydirt. I gagged a little bit, and turned off like a lightswitch. As Luan's boyfriend put it, "If he wanted a show, we could have sent him to the theater." Are we really so facile as to demand only news which looks good? I will admit to not being an unbiased observer, but I actually think the problems we are working on (and dare I say some of the solutions we've come up with) are quite compelling. Our stories are counterintuitive to many Western notions about what is afoot in Africa, and represent the best chance for an emerging market country to pull itself up by the bootstraps out of a backdrop of plentiful basket cases into a somewhat prosperous, largely functional state. In Africa! Go know.

<http://dsloandc.blogspot.com/> Extract retrieved Monday, March 14, 2011

Taking a break from the grind

Today we took a break from our work schedules to spend some time in the community of Nyeri. We spend time at the Allemanos Special School for mentally disabled children, and the Mweiga Orphanage, both of which are only a few kilometers from our hotel.

The conditions we met may have been shocking from an American perspective, but they were in line with much of what we have seen around Kenya, and the kids all seemed happy and well cared for. Once one reorients their vision to a country without building codes (at least outside the major cities) and with minimal material possessions (allowing that most of what we stock up on in the States is without regard for a need/want/just to have it distinction), you begin to absorb the actual experience of the people instead of their superficial surroundings. And in both cases, the first person experience of the kids seemed superb.

At Allemanos, we were prepared to not really have any interaction with the kids since so few of them are capable of communication. But from the moment we arrived, it was clear that standard verbal communication was not going to be required. We parked the cars, and walked down to the sports fields where the students were having Physical Education. Immediately a wave of at least 100 kids of all ages, identically dressed in gray jumpers FLOODED towards screaming at the top of their lungs. Within moments, there were multiple kids leading us around by the hands, kicking soccer balls, dancing, and just generally making clear their unrestrained glee at our presence. In some ways, it was the least foreign experience that I've had since I've been here. These kids, deprived of speech, were like similar kids anywhere in the world – unburdened by the knowledge of their own limitation, and absolutely satisfied, even ecstatic, within the boundaries defined for them.

<http://newhomesforvets.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/AIF-Magazine-Complete.pdf> pgs 14-16



We started up an IBMers vs. Allemanos soccer game, which basically consisted of the 6 male IBMers versus about 30 mixed-gender Allemanos students. They had seemingly boundless energy, but we had precision. After giving up an early goal in part due to amazement, I took a perfect feed from John and tied it up with an open goal. Rami would have been so proud. Alex, our DOT liaison, joined us and scored the next goal despite his inappropriate alligator shoes. And Francesco put us ahead for good. I let up a late goal, but we triumphed 3-2... our hosts did not seem put out.



After the kids had some lunch and we some tea with the school administrators and teachers, we got a short tour of the facility – a simple kitchen where the aptly named Charity cooks the 400 meals per day that the school requires, a nicely outfitted physical therapy gym, a garden that the more able kids help maintain, a cow pen where the half dozen oxen provide milk for the school again with assistance from the pre-vocationally functional students, the laundry, the dormitories and the classrooms. Most of the buildings were donated from societies in Europe, though all of the staff is constituted of government employees. My colleague Francesco brought an extra laptop and provided Sister Jane, the school administrator, with the school's first computer, complete with a USB modem which will outfit them with internet connectivity.

The kids put on a lovely presentation singing and dancing with full vigor, and most of the IBM team joined in the fun. All in all, an extraordinarily rewarding visit.

<http://dsloandc.blogspot.com/> Monday, March 14, 2011 Some of those who were born in, or live in "developed or developing" countries or cultures may find the above scenario difficult to comprehend. Society has protected us from such shocking IMAGES.



Late 1990s and Early 2000s

<http://newhomedforvets.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/AIF-Magazine-Complete.pdf>

IMAGES FROM ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL & THE SHAPING OF WORLD OPINIONS and PERSPECTIVES

[IBM Service Corps Team Kenya 2: Community Day at Nyeri - Friends ...](#)

This is my personal blog to document the participation to the IBM Corporate ... Friends of Allamano is a **special school** for mentally challenged ruled by ...

fpapetti.blogspot.com/2011/.../community-day-at-nyeri-friends-of.html - [Cached](#)



[IBM Service Corps Team Kenya 2](#)

Feb 25, 2011 ... In a plenary session Dave delivered an intriguing speech on "IBM past ... Friends of Allamano is a **special school** for mentally challenged ...

fpapetti.blogspot.com/ - [Cached](#)

[IBM Service Corps Team Kenya 2: marzo 2011](#)

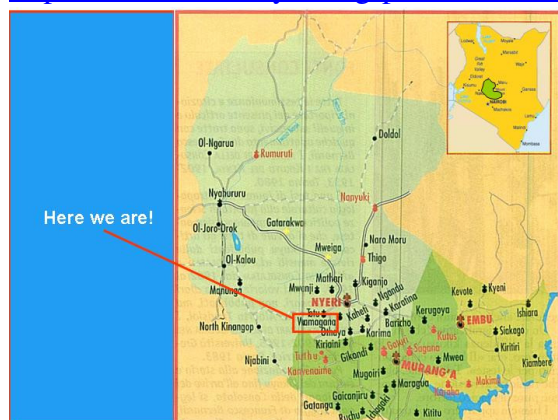
Mar 3, 2011 ... Community Day at Nyeri - Friends of Allamano Special School ... 1 giorno fa. Luan in Kenya for the IBM Corporate Service Corps. 1 giorno fa ...

fpapetti.blogspot.com/2011_03_01_archive.html - [Cached](#)

ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL and IBM Corporate service Team Visit March 2011 Thursday, March 17, 2011

March 17, 2011

<http://evaaboeinkenyablogspot.com/2011/03/very-touching-day.html>



The sufferings of others — even of lower animals — can be effective in arousing us to works of mercy and charity. Indeed, *while particular acts of compassion must perform be directed toward this or that specific instance of suffering, the attitude of compassion is not.* Its object is *all* suffering, *even suffering of which none but the sufferer will ever be specifically aware; and compassion can be awakened and reinforced by the very realization that much suffering goes unnoticed and unrequited.* The same goes for other virtues. *We may be prompted to greater efforts to secure justice in the world precisely because we know that much injustice is never redressed; we may seek to accomplish some difficult goal for which others suffered without success, and in whose memory we want to see it attained. One of the benefits of evil that seems unrequited, then, is that it elicits greater effort to deal with those ills we can address, and greater urgency to assist the forgotten.* In this sense, at least, there is no such thing as suffering that serves no purpose. Such is “**THE BACKGROUND HISTORY and FUTURE OF Allamano Special School.**

SACRIFICES WERE MADE, HAVE BEEN & WILL BE MADE THAT OTHERS MAY FIND A BETTER WORLD

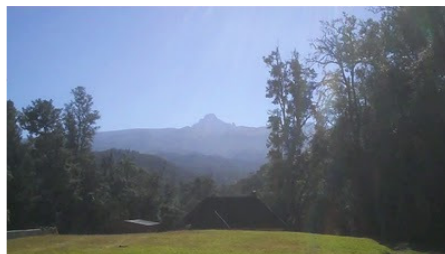
[The adventures of Eva in Kenya](#) March 2011

A very touching day



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We were amazed to see how caring the children were with each other. They helped feed the ones that couldn't themselves - pushed the wheelchairs of those who couldn't walk and held the hands of those who needed a hug. It was very touching. The school was so full of love and care and all of us made special friends during our stay. Francesco donated a PC and Luan a camera to the school and everyone had brought pens, paper, sweets and lots of other things. So we definitely put our foot prints at the school and they left a mark in our hearts.



IN CONCLUSION

In the afternoon we visited an orphanage in Mweiga.
Kiene West Children's Home

It is privately run, houses 40 children and is only supported by donations. I thought that I had been touched in the morning but this place broke my heart. We met the sweetest children, so thrilled to meet us and eager to talk with us. We had brought a lot of stuff for them - especially Bianica had a whole suitcase full of clothes, bedsheets, toys, pens, paper and shoes to donate. We played for hours with the children and all found our own favorites. They enjoyed having their pictures taken and were laughing away when they saw themselves on the camera. I was lucky to get my hair done by a group of young girls.

We decided to collect money amongst us and donated it. It will most probably be used for school fees for the children.

So now we are back at our comfortable hotel and the children are still in the orphanage which has no real kitchen, no dining room, no electricity nor a place to keep any private things - but they do have someone to look after them and someone who fights to get money for their school fees. So even though my heart is hurting for them - they are more lucky than the large amount of children living on the streets of cities around the world.

I hope that our visit gave them a nice memory and made them feel that there are many of us caring for them. Wish I could take all of them back home to **Denmark** and give them the same childhood as I am able to give my sons.

Posted by Eva Aaboe Jensen <http://www.blogger.com/profile/02134731993225240041> Tuesday, March 22, 2011

IBM A TURNING POINT EXPERIENCE @ ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL and ORPHANAGE VISIT

The News You Refuse

I'm fortunate to count numerous journalists among my friends, so many that it's drastically skewed my perception to the positive. It occurs to me only in retrospect that all of them without exception are print journalists... and my infrequent exposure to the clowns on cable TV never even met the definitional criteria by which to affect the average. **I have learned my lesson.**

Our early morning meeting with the reporter started amiably enough with introductions, and random recollections from each other's respective hometowns manufactured from the mists of history playing the role of international travelers' small talk. "Ah, Rotterdam, I remember it well" and such.

We then dug in to what exactly he wanted to report on. We briefly detailed our respective projects, and he requested whether there were any "human interest" stories among us. I stammered and try to convey that the human interest stories were not the CSC participants, but the CSC beneficiaries, the citizens persevering while their country simultaneously experiences the birth pangs of democracy, attempts to modernize their economy, government and civil society, and teeters on the edge of chaos and violence, in a neighborhood too well accustomed to both. He persisted in inquiring about human interest stories on the team, but relented in the face of our blank stares and agape mouths. He then asked what we would be doing over the course of the day. As it so happened, we had a meeting scheduled with the district commissioner (an appointed mayor for the larger region - a frank, competent lady in charge of coordinating the efforts of 42 different government agencies in her location, and the first woman ever to hold her slot), but that didn't catch this newsman's fancy. The other teams were going to be working on their reports, debating ideas for innovation, and distilling them down into presentations - also nothing that raised his eyebrow.

He then literally said "Will anyone be doing anything with a screwdriver?" My already dumbfounded expression hit the pavement. "One of the unique aspects of the IBM program," I said, "is that rather than digging ditches or building houses - and trust me no one would want to live in any house I built - we're using our professional skills and honed expertise to bring more value to Kenyan society than we could by turning screwdrivers." I may as well have said it in Yiddish for the impact it had.

John, our teammate from marketing, quickly took control of the situation, clearly more accustomed to dealing with this type of vapid kabuki than any of us. He suggested a return visit to the school for the mentally disabled or the orphanage that we had just visited the prior Thursday, a proposal which immediately hit paydirt. I gagged a little bit, and turned off like a lightswitch. As Luan's boyfriend put it, "If he wanted a show, we could have sent him to the theater."

Are we really so facile as to demand only news which looks good? I will admit to not being an unbiased observer, but I actually think the problems we are working on (and dare I say some of the solutions we've come up with) are quite compelling. Our stories are counterintuitive to many Western notions about what is afoot in Africa, and represent the best chance for an emerging market country to pull itself up by the

bootstraps out of a backdrop of plentiful basket cases into a somewhat prosperous, largely functional state. In Africa! Go know.

Our subteam ignored our newsman visitor for the rest of his foray here, which saved me the trouble of telling him where he could put his screwdriver. Instead, we had a very productive visit with the DC, and set up our presentation for the e-Government conference in Nairobi on Wednesday. On Tuesday, we'll give our client Dr. Getao a sneak peak, and then get up at the crack of dawn to trudge down the Thika Road. Once more, into the breach, dear friends, once more... Posted by Dave in DCat 8:12AM

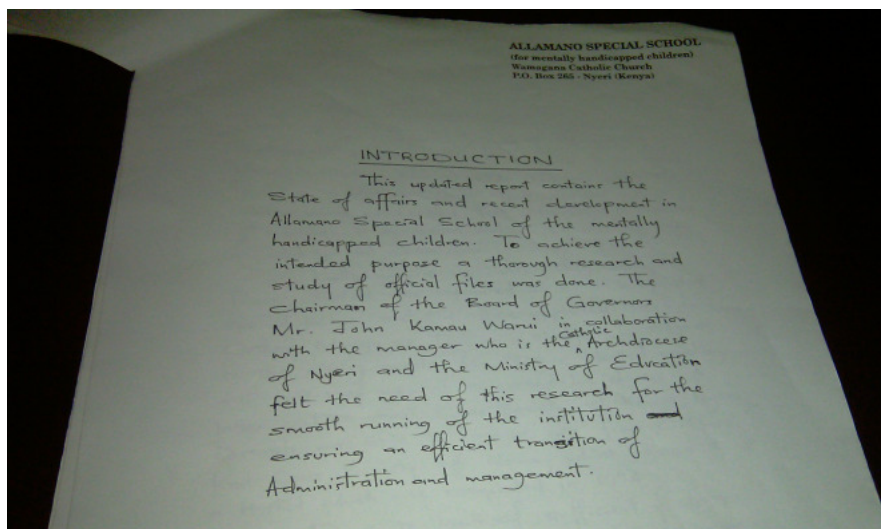
Friday 4th March

And our last community visit was to Kimathi University College of Technology. This is the local technical institute in Nyeri and as IBM, we could of course not miss this place. The auditorium was filled with curious students, to whom we showed the [100x100 Centennial video](#) and spoke about Smarter Planet. The break-out sessions afterwards were also filled up, especially with Francesco who taught [how to build a smart interactive whiteboard with a Wii remote](#). More than 100 students tried to squeeze into the room. And in our Career Workshop, we had great fun playing a role play about how not to behave during a job interview.

We left with about 40 e-mail addresses from students that liked to stay in touch for e-mentoring. Who knows if one of them will one day work for IBM?

The whole Community Day experience was very touching and rewarding. I was moved by the gratitude and admiration with which we were received.

THE EARLY YEARS 1999



A PREVIEW REPORT JULY 1999 ABOVE

Some current website links on Allamano special school :March

[Friends of Allamano Special School](#)

Mentally handicapped children at Allamano Special school thanking **Friends of Allamano** for having made it possible for them to live beyond the dream. ...

www.friendsofallamano.com/ - [Cached](#)

[Friends of Allamano Special School](#)

Friends of Allamano Special School. A Dis-abilities Outreach Initiative ...

www.friendsofallamano.com/.../allamanostudents1.html - [Cached](#)

[Friends of Allamano Special School](#)

Friends of Allamano Special School was started with an aim to create ...

www.friendsofallamano.com/About%20us/about%20us.html - [Cached](#)

[Friends of Allamano Special School](#)

Friends of Allamano Special School. A Dis-abilities Outreach Initiative ...

www.friendsofallamano.com/.../allamanospecialschoolhistory.html - [Cached](#)

Show more results from friendsofallamano.com

[Friends of Allamano Special School](#)

Seek to tap the various influence groups as represented within the **Friends of Allamano** Special School membership and fellow-shiping groups towards the ...

friendsofallamano.org/ - [Cached](#)

[IBM Service Corps Team Kenya 2: Community Day at Nyeri - Friends ...](#)

Community Day at Nyeri - **Friends of Allamano** Special School ... **Friends of Allamano** is a special school for mentally challenged ruled by Missionarie della ...

fpapetti.blogspot.com/2011/.../community-day-at-nyeri-friends-of.html - [Cached](#)

[IBM Service Corps Team Kenya 2](#)

Feb 25, 2011 ... Community Day at Nyeri - **Friends of Allamano** Special School ...

Friends of Allamano is a special school for mentally challenged ruled by ...

fpapetti.blogspot.com/ - [Cached](#)

[Allamano Special School](#)

In the meantime, please visit one sites for the **Friends of Allamano** Special School: ...

2011 **Friends of Allamano** Special School - Contact Us.

allamanospecialschool.org/ - [Cached](#)

[FATHER ANTONIO GIANNELLI 1923 – 2001 - The Consolata Missionaries ...](#)

Feb 12, 2006 ... With the help of friends who came to visit him in Africa, ... same day the school was inaugurated we established the "**Friends of Allamano**. ...

en.ismico.org/content/view/332/3/ - [Cached](#)

[PainterWoman - Faces of Africa](#)

They founded the **FRIENDS OF ALLAMANO** SPECIAL SCHOOL in 1996 and its ever increasing voluteer members continue to support the school to this day.Once more

my.opera.com/PainterWoman/blog/2009/08/16/faces?startidx=50 - [Cached](#)

[IBM Service Corps Team Kenya 2: marzo 2011](#)

Mar 3, 2011 ... Community Day at Nyeri - **Friends of Allamano** Special School ... **Friends**

of **Allamano** is a special school for mentally challenged ruled by ...

fpapetti.blogspot.com/2011_03_01_archive.html - [Cached](#)



[IBM Service Corps Team Kenya 2: Community Day at Nyeri - Kieni ...](#)

Mar 3, 2011 ... Community Day at Nyeri - **Friends of Allamano** Speci... ► febbraio (7).

Our 1st weekend: a safari at Samburu park · Visiting Karatina Post Office ...

fpapetti.blogspot.com/2011/.../community-day-at-nyeri-kieni-west.html - [Cached](#)

[Show more results from fpapetti.blogspot.com](#)

[IBM Kenya CSC: Kenya Community Day](#)

Mar 6, 2011 ... The morning trip was to the **Friends of Allamano** for the mentally challenged, with 82 children, most orphans. As we walked down the hill to ...

ramsdenkenyacsc.blogspot.com/2011/.../kenya-community-day.html - [Cached](#)

[Church of Blessed Allamano - The Consolata Missionaries - official ...](#)

Feb 5, 2006 ... Here is felt the strength of **Allamano's** promise: "When I'll be in Heaven, ... the Allamano's devotees and the **friends** of the Consolata ...

en.ismico.org/content/view/73/13/ - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[PDF] [MISSIONARIES IN BODY BAGS JULY 15th2010](#)

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - [Quick View](#)

Jul 15, 2010 ... This is part of the untold story of THE MAKING OF **ALLAMANO** SPECIAL SCHOOL ... both strangers and **friends** go through the motions of physical, ...

www.telechem.com/7ups/7UPpers-Tribute07152010.pdf

WWW.AllamanoSpecialSchool.Org

AN IBM PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE 2011

Dave in DC

Gender: Male

Industry: [Technology](#)

Location: [Washington](#) : [DC](#) : [United States](#)

My Blogs	Team Members
Stepping out of Time	

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[Nimeesh's journey to Kenya for the IBM Corporate Service Corps](#)

[Stepping out of Time](#)

[The adventures of Eva in Kenya](#)

DAVE SLOAN IBM DC comments:-

"Are we really so facile as to demand only news which looks good? I will admit to not being an unbiased observer, but I actually think the problems we are working on (and dare I say some of the solutions we've come up with) are quite compelling. Our stories are counterintuitive to many Western notions about what is afoot in Africa, and represent the best chance for an emerging market country to pull itself up by the bootstraps out of a backdrop of plentiful basket cases into a somewhat prosperous, largely functional state. In Africa! Go know."

The conditions we met may have been shocking from an American perspective, but they were in line with much of what we have seen around Kenya, and the kids all seemed happy and well cared for. Once one reorients their vision to a country without building codes (at least outside the major cities) and with minimal material possessions (allowing that most of what we stock up on in the States is without regard for a need/want/just to have it distinction), you begin to absorb the actual experience of the people instead of their superficial surroundings. And in both cases, the first person experience of the kids seemed superb.

Contents Derived from Internet sources and compiled by John Patrick kamau

WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org

"The first task was to commission a review of all the files left with the Board chairman by **Fr Antonio Gianelli** upon his departure. His **Cancer** ailment was at an advanced stage and he passed away on January 23rd 2001, 10 years ago, not long after he left Kenya in July of 1999. The rest is **HIS-story**. **Allamano Special school** is today a Classical case study of a successful project for rehabilitation of the mentally challenged children in Kenya east Africa. A marriage of cooperative ventures between the Government, the church, the community, corporate and charitable ventures, and **ALL**, wrapped up in a classical model of a crisis resolved and of **"LOVE BREWED IN AN AFRICAN POT"**. **John PK Warui**

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

<http://ne whomesforvets.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/AIF-Magazine-Complete.pdf>



At Allemanos, we were prepared to not really have any interaction with the kids since so few of them are capable of communication. But from the moment we arrived, it was clear that standard verbal communication was not going to be required. We parked the cars, and walked down to the sports fields where the students were having Physical Education. Immediately a wave of at least 100 kids of all ages, identically dressed in gray jumpers FLOODED towards screaming at the top of their lungs. Within moments, there were multiple kids leading us around by the hands, kicking soccer balls, dancing, and just generally making clear their unrestrained glee at our presence. In some ways, it was the least foreign experience that I've had since I've been here. These kids, deprived of speech, were like similar kids anywhere in the world – unburdened by the knowledge of their own limitation, and absolutely satisfied, even ecstatic, within the boundaries defined for them. Contents Derived from Internet sources and compiled by John Patrick kamau

WWW.AllamanoSpecialschool.Org



Photo: Earlier days Fr Antonio Gianelli IMC founder of the school with staff and children of Allamano special school holding medals won in a local special Olympics sports event.

FATHER ANTONIO GIANNELLI 1923 – 2001 - The

Consolata Missionaries ... Feb 12, 2006 ... With the help of friends who came to visit him in Africa, ... same day the school was inaugurated we established the **"Friends of Allamano."** ... en.ismico.org/content/view/332/3/ - [Cached](#)

In a letter he wrote to Father Piero Trabucco, the Superior General, to thank him for his financial help, he said: "On the same day the school was inaugurated we established the **"Friends of Allamano."** This association will sponsor and support the school, as well as spread knowledge of and devotion to our Founder is highly esteemed by all the Christians at Wamagana.

"With this work I believe I have fulfilled my obligation towards him who made it possible for me to become a missionary. Next year I will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of my ordination; in these fifty years my greatest accomplishment has been this school for the handicapped. For this I thank God, Our Lady and our Founder" (December 11, 1996).
<http://en.ismico.org/content/view/332/3/> Retrieved Tuesday, March 22, 2011

LIVING BEYOND NOTHING MORE: QUESTIONS ..*: A MATTER OF FAITH LIFE LOVE and HOPE

<http://newhomesforvets.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/AIF-Magazine-Complete.pdf>

The 20 pages Pdf version of the American Ideals Magazine featuring **The Allamano Special School for Mentally Handicapped Children** on pages 14, 15 and 16 has been availed on the Internet.

For years I had held my peace and turmoil in silence. Within lay-"The AGONY OF PRO ECCLESIA ET PONTIFICE". One by one many who offered encouragement or knew the story had passed away or succumbed to various **DISABILITIES**, Accidents, Alzheimer's ,Cancer. Strokes, Heart attacks, kidney failures or "simply collapsed": Faded away or simply lost their ability to see or speak or move: some permanently.

Some had preferred "DNR"- others-"WHATEVER IT TOOK".

It was an interview that took over 5Five hours PLUS. The story had to be told. The WORLD had to know about the, plight of persons with disabilities and the **PHYSICALLY and MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN** of one Padre Antonio Giannelli and the Mysteries behind **"THE MAKING OF ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL"** and of Pope John Paul 11 Outreach advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, plus other ongoing initiatives . **The DEAD had to have a VOICE and SPEAK from BEYOND THE GRAVES.**

The interview Questionnaire was a 4Page 39quest affair, but that, we put aside. **Disability was more than a structured rational academic affair.**

Above is an *Introduction to a Chapter titled **"LIVING BEYOND NOTHING MORE....."**

<http://newhomesforvets.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/AIF-Magazine-Complete.pdf>

WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org

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WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO PRECEDED US@ ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL & THOSE WHO ANSWERED TO OUR CALL



THE EARLY YEARS @ WAMAGANA in 1990s

AN APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE SINCE PASSED AWAY

SPRING TIME @ ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL

A TRIBUTE .& OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: IN MEMORIAM: ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL

Mr Otoyobabla- TV comedian, actor, Artiste and Fundraiser –(2000*Illness)
 Mzee Eliud Gitari Nderi- Fundraiser and Guest of honor(1906-1998-RIP)
 Fr Rossi Ricardo IMC-Founding Consolata Missionary-(1912-2000-RIP)
 Fr Antonio Gianelli IMC-Founding Consolata Missionary-(1923-2001-RIP)
 Mr Julius Muriithi Gitari-Founding Member [Friends-Of-Allamano](#)-(2003-RIP)
 GICHUKI- **A pioneer MH student, friend of Fr Gianelli- Provided humor in Church-(*2004-RIP)**
 Rev Daniel Kariuki-Vicar general Nyahururu Diocese(2005-Car Accident-RIP).
 Rev Mzee Anthony Mathenge-(SIMBA)- Fundraiser and Guest(ELDER-2005-RIP)
 Sammy Muraya Waire -Artiste and musician Fundraiser-(2005-Illness-RIP)
 MZEE SISTO WANJOHI- Fundraiser and Guest>(*ELDER-Centurian-RIP)
 Mrs Peninah Wachira-Member 1st Board of Governors-(*Collapsed-RIP)
 Archbishop Nicodemus kirima- Principal Trustee/Custodian-(2007-Illness-RIP)
 James Makibi- Artiste musician and Donor-(2008*Illness)
 Rev Sister Mary Teresa Migwi SMI- Trustee and Mother General-(2010-ILLness)
 Ms Cecilia wanjiru- 1st House Mother and support Staff-(collapsed-2010-RIP)
 Rev Fr Silverius kibui-Trustee-WAMAGANA succeeded Fr Antonio Gianelli-
 (Friday 4th Feb 2011-RIP)

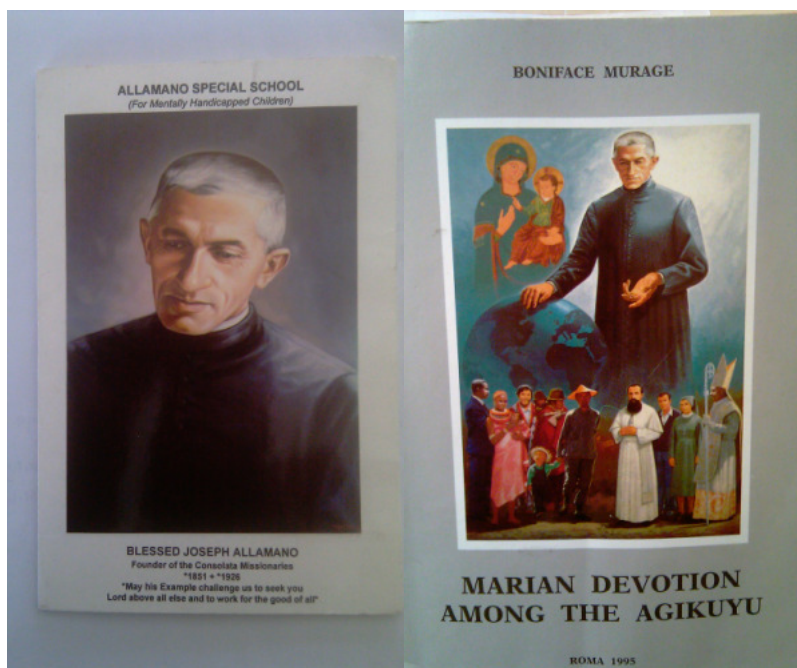
*For those whose details are not listed above. REST IN PEACE and THANK YOU.

***We invite people who are still able to share any talents, skills and knowledge that will help in shaping the future attitudes, perceptions and destiny of the persons with disabilities, to help us fill knowledge and resource gaps that exist locally or in the international communities and libraries in advancing disabilities outreaches among those endowed with “temporary Physical, mental/intellectual abilities in society “ capable and willing to make a positive difference , and those who have already succumbed to terminal or incapacitating disabilities to share “BEYOND THE GATES” of our temporary comfort zones and facilitate a well informed [w]holistic outreach approach to disability issues.**

Compiled by John Patrick Kamau warui Email:

JohnPatrick33K@Gmail.com

WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org



Refer to

page 36 in the above book on the “DARK NIGHTS” for Persons with Disabilities as cited in the article published in the United states magazine “THE AMERICAN IDEALS” April 2011 Edition

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WE REMEMBER OUR ANCESTORS WHO PRECEDED US IN FAITH

Compiled by John Patrick Kamau warui Email: JohnPatrick33K@Gmail.com
WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org

SPRING TIME @ ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL

GENERIC NOTES ON ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL THE EARLY YEARS: and THE FIRST BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Most if not all of the physical facilities and disability aides have been provided by generous DONORS. It is over 14 years since *Fr Antonio Gianelli* of the *Consolata Missionaries* adopted the “*Allamano Special school*” and children, Mothered by *Wamagana Primary school* 1988, over 21 years ago, as a Special unit for Mentally handicapped Children whose first head teacher **Mr Daniel Githae Murigu** was himself an agonizing Parent . Mr. Daniel Githae was the 1st secretary of the **Friends Of Allamano** and Head Master of **Allamano Special School**. The **Consolata Missionaries** through the initial efforts and lobbying of **Fr Antonio Gianelli** laid the foundations for the building and funding of physical structures and sponsorships for the mentally challenged children some who are from highly disadvantaged backgrounds. A personal brief from Fr Gianelli on 10th August 1996 advised that he *constructed a block of classes within the compound of Wamagana Primary School in exchange for some existing structures that stood on the compound of what later became Allamano Special School.*

A special note of gratitude and salutation is extended to **Fr Francesco Viotto IMC** of the **Consolata Missionaries** now in his 80s who from those early days when he served as **Regional Superior of the Consolata Missionaries** has continued to tirelessly execute his role as one of the original 'TRUSTEES'. **THANK YOU**. The Church through the congregation of **Sisters of Mary Immaculate*** continues with the tradition [*] of taking care of the mentally handicapped children. *For the Nuns it is part of their extended Spiritual vocation of service to the community. For the Teachers and Support staff it is more than an income generating career opportunity, it is more than a daily sacrifice, a passion, a way of life. And for all at Allamano Special School it is a special calling.* They are highly qualified and could have elected to serve in other professional areas. And for the many volunteers from the community, schools, persons of various religious affiliations and churches, members of various charitable organizations, the ELDERLY and the YOUTH it is a response to a noble call of **"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"**. **THANK YOU**. And to all those who have traveled from afar, from Europe, the United States, Asia and other African Countries as volunteers or as students on attachment. **THANK YOU**. We continue to appreciate your continued support and contribution. The concept of the ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF ALLAMANO was first announced in public on Sunday December 8th 1996 during a major record breaking fund raising event in aid of Allamano Special School. This website was launched on Monday January 17th, 2011. The ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL ENDOWMENT and TRUST FUND ACCOUNT was started with an initial personal donation from Fr Antonio Gianelli's legacy to the Children of Allamano Special School[*].



Pope John Paul 11 and The Story of Allamano Special School



Tuesday, March 22, 2011

WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org

The TWO ELDERS Fr Anthony Mathenge and Fr Antonio Giannelli



I GAVE my "WORD OF HONOR", I KEPT IT, and now "PASS IT ON" to a NEW GENERATION.



In the words of Fr Antonio Giannelli: IQUOTE from the **Obituary**, "On the same day the school was inaugurated we established the "Friends of Allamano." This association will sponsor and support the school, as well as spread knowledge of and devotion to our Founder is highly esteemed by all the Christians at Wamagana. "With this work I believe I have fulfilled my obligation towards him who made it possible for me to become a missionary. Next year I will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of my ordination; in these fifty years my greatest accomplishment has been this school for the handicapped. For this I thank God, Our Lady and our Founder" (December 11, 1996). WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org John Patrick Kamau warui Friday, March 11, 2011 2:39:46 AM updated:-Tuesday, March 22, 2011

The 20 pages PDF version of the American Ideals Magazine featuring The Allamano Special School for Mentally Handicapped Children on pages 14, 15 and 16 has been availed on the Internet.

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WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org
Thursday, March 31, 2011

The document has been prepared with information available from private sources and the Internet. All sources are acknowledged for their valuable contribution in promoting the welfare of physically and mentally handicapped children.