

A REPORT ON CARING FOR STREET CHILDREN By Faith Rutto, ILI Student



In my town, Eldoret, there are quite a number of children of different ages, gender, tribes, religion and backgrounds who are homeless and have taken to the streets to survive. It pains me each day seeing them on the streets on my way home. They are always dressed in rugged clothes, they have little to nothing at all to eat, they lack parental love and guidance, and they don't have access to the very basic necessities in life. These children never chose that kind of life, most of them were born there or circumstances in their lives such as the 2007/2008 post-election violence made them orphans and homeless. I put myself in their shoes and that is when I realized they needed care, love, respect, education as well as general life skills. They are our brothers and sisters and there is no better way we can love God if we can't love the people who are with us.

I and my friends decided to join an organization called FABWIL, that is, **Fill A Bucket with Love** that is a non-profit organization and whose members are young people who have come together and decided to help the vulnerable in the society.

Last month, we had a campaign dubbed “**Feed the Street Campaign**” and we came together with the little we had such as clothes and food, and dedicated a whole day with the street children in Langas interacting with them, getting to know them better and the reasons why they ended up in the streets.

In the process we learnt a lot and the bitter part is the fact that these are children who are talented, they can sing, dance and even play really good football but they have lost hope in life, they have become drug addicts. They are very bright children but lack access to education, young girls are mothers.



Next month, we have another campaign dubbed “**Put a Smile Campaign**” on the 30th of August at Rescue Centre Eldoret aimed at making the children there feel loved and cared for. It is a day we have set aside to spend quality time with the children. We have youth making pledges now such as food, clothes, shoes, shopping etc. for the children there.

I am very passionate about working with children and giving the best I can to help improve their livelihoods. As I do this, I am always making sure the light of ILI is seen in me by impacting positively on the lives of children in my community.

(Attached are some of the pictures of the work we have been doing so far.)

Thank you Judge LaJune, Clarence and the whole ILI team for being there for us, encouraging us every time you come (to Uasin Gishu) and being a part of us.



