
CLOSURE OF ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE HOME CHEKALINI



St. Madeleine Sophie home was born in 2007 and officially blessed in 2009 by the Vicar General Very Rev Fr Bede Marandu as one of the ministries for the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Its mission was to provide boarding and conducive learning environment for children with different capacities. There is no such facility in and around Lugari Sub County. Up to date this has been the only home in the sub county dedicated to helping persons with different capacities.

The home had eighteen children between the ages of seven and twenty five years at the end of 2022. Two of the children are on rehabilitation. Two joined regular school because they had displayed the capacity of climbing the ladder of education. Therefore, the home closed officially sending home sixteen children and seven helpers

It has been a year's journey preparing the helpers, parents and children for total closure of all interactions with them. It has not been an easy encounter for all those who have been part of this process and those who have been involved in different activities in the home. Most have left with pain especially parents of not knowing what the future holds for their sons and daughters.

We had mass and a get together with the parents, the helper, St. Charles health Center staff, our sisters from Eldoret community, and members from the locality. At the end, each child went home with his/her parent. All the parents were present. They went home instead of DISABIE eliminating "D" and putting "G" the slogan became **God Is Able**.

We sincerely thank the Mother House through solidarity Fund and Rennie Cullen who have generously supported most of the activities in the home. In the same vein, we thank Carmel Flynn and Mary Roe who have equally been our supporters. The Pontifical Missionary Childhood through the Catholic Diocese of Kakamega. The parents are part of this. In-kind they have come in with special styles, vegetable, firewood, bananas etc.

Hearty felt gratitude to the Province for allowing me share life with persons of different capacities. Although I have been alone in the mission, it has been our mission. Join me in praying for all those who were affected greatly with the closure to find places that will accommodate their yearnings and gifts in service.

Ribabella Musina, RSCJ