

SPEECH BY MARY NJERI IKERE, VOLUNTEER AT ART FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION, ON SATURDSAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2021, DURING THE LAUNCH OF PROJECTS AT NAIVASHA GATE HOTEL

Thank you, moderator, for the opportunity you have given me to speak.

Our guest of honour, Mr. Yemi Babington-Ashaye, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Mary Njeru Ikere. I am a teacher by profession. I am an actress with a group called Glorywood film production. I minister through music in church. I came across a friend from my former church called PCEA, where we ran a programme called Vocational Bible Study (VBS) for church school children. He informed me about the A4C.

I got interested since it involved children. So, I thought to myself, apart from doing VBS why don't I also extend this further and create a platform for the young talented children where I can also impact moral values through art and become a great leader in the society. That is when I decided to join A4C 2 years ago.

I am a volunteer at A4C where I have since been nominated as a head of department – Performing Arts Programme. The programme entails dance, drama and poetry, and music. In our visits, teach the vulnerable children how to express themselves through art, in such a way that their voice is heard in the society. I encourage them to fight crime, drug abuse, and immoral acts through art. For instance, I can tell them to role play against theft or write a poem talking about demerits on drugs and substance abuse.

A4C has been an advantage to us as volunteers since most volunteers have acquired jobs in different institutions, I included. One of the places we visit is Asante Children's Home where they have a school called Zasante, and I currently work there as the headteacher.

A4C has created interest to so many children where most of them were aggressive, violent, and introverts are now turning out to have high self-esteem and can also express themselves freely.

I believe we shall empower many children when we have more support.

Thank you for listening to me., God bless you.