



It was a busy summer at the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre!

In May, a group of students and faculty from Penn State spent a few weeks at the CYEC working on a couple initiatives alongside CYEC staff and students.

Four students from Kansas State University spent the summer at the CYEC working on a number of projects.

The dream of opening a polytechnic school has finally been realized! The polytechnic provides students the opportunity to learn vocational skills, helping ensure they'll be able to support themselves in the future with a successful career.

Keep reading to learn more about how the variety of work accomplished this summer leads to new and exciting opportunities for youth at the CYEC.



Once again, students from Penn State spent the better part of May at the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre working on projects identified by staff at the CYEC. Penn State and the CYEC have been collaborating for more than 10 years to provide PSU students with the opportunity to gain practical experience working and learning about community development while supporting the initiatives of the Centre.



Food insecurity is a challenge in the area, and it potentially contributes to children and youth ending up on the streets. However, there is no real understanding of the incidence of or risk factors for food insecurity. The Centre asked the Penn State students to develop a survey instrument and methodology to help them identify how prevalent (and deep) food insecurity is and to identify who is at greatest risk of lacking adequate food. Penn State

students, Kaitlin Morton and Miranda Pace, developed an instrument includes the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), as well as general information on household demographics and dietary diversity. The FIES is used globally and identifies mild, moderate or severe levels of food insecurity. Penn State students worked with staff at the Centre to ensure the survey was culturally appropriate and to train the enumerators. The survey was carried out in three communities where the Centre is engaged. Penn State students started to enter the survey data, then passed this task on to Kansas State students to complete.



Nyeri, like most communities in Kenya, lacks a safe way to handle its waste. Two youth volunteers at the Centre, Bonny and Kiki, have been working to develop and commercialize 'waste to value' initiatives including making charcoal briquettes from waste and recycling other materials. When the local municipality decided to build a new landfill, Bonny and Kiki wanted to ensure it would be safe, taking into consideration air and water quality in both the design and management of the site. Penn State students, Kayla McCauley, Peter Savchick and Javier Montaner, researched the design of landfills in resource-poor environments and worked with them to design and build a prototype landfill at the current dumpsite.



Making charcoal briquettes from landfill waste.



Penn State students and CYEC students also spent time getting to know each other, play soccer (football) and relax.



Four Kansas State University students spent the summer at the CYEC working on a variety of projects.



The K-State team worked together to facilitate a 6 week leadership development course for students at the new Rathithi Polytechnic. A few course topics included communication, self-awareness, conflict/resolution and a project that required students to identify and create an action plan to make progress on a local community need.



Kat Gregerson continued Penn State's food insecurity surveys by analyzing evidence and data on the current food security situation in the communities of Thunguma, Majengo, and Rathithi. As anticipated, the surveys show that one of the main reasons children go to the streets in these areas is because they lack food in their homes. With this data, the CYEC can move forward in pinpointing high-risk areas, present the county government with specific statistics, and take purposeful steps to reduce hunger in these communities.

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*It's the very best home
and it helps people. It
helps make sure we
succeed in life.*

”

-Stanley, Age 16

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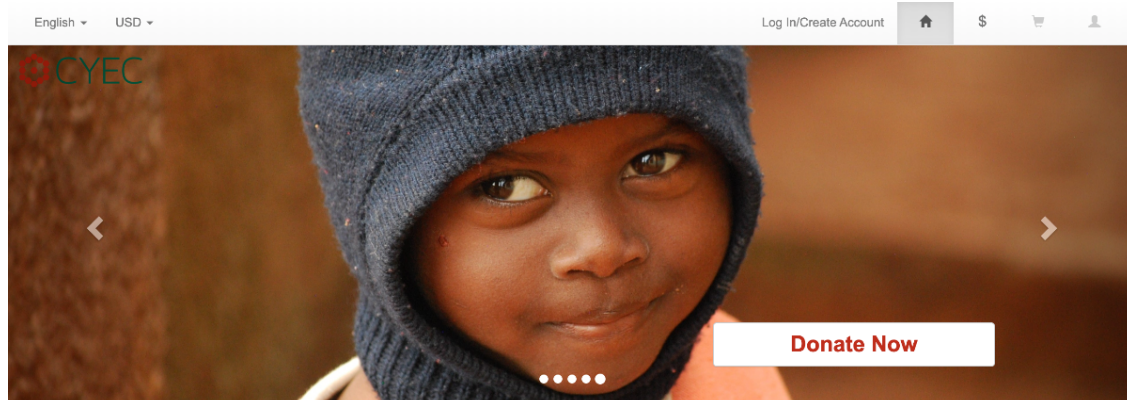
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Tori Burkhart, with the help of Marisa Larson and Gladwell Anangwe, focused on

creating a marketing and communications plan for the CYEC/ZFI in order to ultimately generate more awareness and resources for the Centre. This new communications plan includes branding guidelines, social media campaigns, a promotional brochure, website updates, student testimonies and more!



Welcome to the CYEC's Donation Center!

Thank you for your interest in supporting the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre! Here, you will find the current needs of the CYEC and have the opportunity to donate directly to those needs. Our goal is to help you better understand the impact your donation can have at the CYEC. For more information about our vision, current projects, and future goals check out cyec.net.

The Centre has cultivated strong relationships with local civic, educational and religious groups over the years. Many of these groups, as well as individuals, have provided in-kind support for the Centre's programs. To facilitate this, Alex Burroughs is creating a website that shows what the Centre's current needs are to enable donors to prioritize giving. This site will also accept mpesa, a widely used mobile money system in Kenya.



Brad Richards developed, distributed and analyzed a CYEC student survey in order to better understand the students' experience at the Centre. The survey

focused on the students' educational/professional aspirations, recommendations on how to improve and looked at what the Centre is doing well. The results of the survey were presented to the CYEC staff to review.



Outside of their many projects, the K-State team found time to spend with the students at the CYEC and ended their time at the Centre by putting on a field day for all!



The Polytechnic has officially opened! We'll send more information soon.



Zawadi Fund International



2017-18 Biennial Report

www.cyec.net

Read the 2017-18 biennial report to learn more about activities at the CYEC, Polytechnic and the Ecovillages. <https://cyec.net/zawadi-fund-international/>



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