 SOWETO YOUTH INITIATIVE

*Together we move.. since 1999*

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GROUP PROFILE

WHO WE ARE

Soweto Youth I initiative is a registered group based in Kahawa Soweto slum in Kahawa West in the outskirt of Nairobi 10 km to the city center .The group has 250 members both boys and girls from 3-35 yrs .Those in school and out of school and we have 15 volunteers .

The group started in 1999 as a scout movement club as Soweto scouts but changed to Soweto Youth Initiative. The main aim of the group is to nurture and empower the youth, children and disabled to develop at their formative age so that they become responsible citizens through social physical and spiritual development .

OUR VISION

To achieve new goals and develop our skills.

OUR MISSION

To encourage young people to have better life .

OUR PURPOSE

To help young people to do better things in the society.

We focus in six-time plans

* Sanitary towels
* stationary distribution
* Nishike mkono
* Children programe
* Annual events
* Volunteers work

OUR TIME PLAN

1.**Sanitary towels**

Since the residents of Soweto slum are low income earners and casual labourers ,they cannot afford to buy sanitary pads to their teens every month ,and as a result ,these girls miss out of class during their periods hence lagging behind in class for 3-4 days every month.

As an organization ,we came up with a program of providing the sanitary pads from well wishers every month in order to keep the girls in school every time without missing out.

2.**Stationary distribution**

As an organization, we also provide free books, rulers ,erasers ,bags ,pencils ,crayons and pens to school going children as most parents cannot afford to provide writing materials to their children.

On some occasions we have been forced to provide school uniform and shoes because the parent cannot afford one or the existing uniform is badly torn.

3.**Nishike mkono**

This is a program of empowering the youth ,people living with disabilities, ,teens, ,mums and young fathers .We train them to be self –reliant and we offer them skills training courses in hairdressing, computer lessons and tailoring. After successful completion of the course ,the student can access a soft loan of 20,000ksh for start up of an income generating project .The loan has a grace period of two months ,then the individual will start paying the loan at 1% interest .The repayment period is 2 years.

4.**Children program**

Each child has a future :most of the children especially from slums and informal settlements are faced with many challenges and therefore they may fail to realise their full potential as they grow.In order to maximize their full potential to grow into responsible citizens.This cannot be achieved if the children are neglected as it happens in these settlements in this initiative we train the children from age 2-14 years to know how to be self-reliant in their young age by taking them to camps in different areas.We also train them painting ,farming ,clean up, drawing and sports.

5.**Annual events**

Each year we organize events which include;

* Teens festival(April) -in this event we create awareness for the teens by bringing a mentor who talks to boys and girls. This event is aimed at reducing the fear in the teens so that they can speak up and get the solutions.
* beauty pageants(august)-This event where young mother, father and teens showcase their talents in the society .This is aimed to develop their talent and make them believe in themselves.
* Kids festival(December)-Is a program made for kids in December to celebrate so that they can enjoy and feel the same as other children from other children from other communities.