**Project title: Reducing on absenteeism and strengthening retention of children with disability through improving on the mobility and transport.**

**Introduction**

Empowering children with disability centers a lot on the consistence and persistence in accessing social services. Looking at the nature of terrain and roads in Uganda there is a lot contests for the inclusion and involvement of these children, transport being a major hindrance.

**Rationale**

The center made an analysis and report revealed that out of the 12 children who attend Angel’s center only one child uses vehicle to come to school. The rest of the children use motor cycles (or literally known as boda bodas in the local language). The risk of accidents on these children are enormous considering the fact that some of our children have weak muscles in the limbs and the neck to firmly hold themselves for safety. In addition the analysis report also revealed that it is only one parent who can carry the child on the back due to short distance. We further analysed the different forms of disability of the children who come to the center. The analysis reveals that 6 of the children have cerebral palsy who are physically disabled, 2 of the children have down syndrome and one child with hydrocephalus. Looking at their ages which range from 2-12 years mobility is still challenge and moreover, wheel chairs may not help due to the design of the roads they do not have pavers to allow safe movement.

By this proposal the project requests for 7 setter van, Toyota Regius or land cruiser 4 wheel (used) that can transport children on daily basis to attend early learning and therapy services at Angel’s Center. The Van will further be used for home visits/ follow up for children in their homes to support in extending our services in their homes. We intend to further use this van during the co-curricular activities like taking children for hydro- therapy (swimming), picnics and emergency treatment or early health care seeking. Transport is so critical at the center, as it will be a means of advocacy in communities especially those families that are still stigmatized or hiding their children and afraid of bringing them in the public. If Angel’s center is facilitated with transport we hope for improved participation and independence of these children in their daily living activities and also there will be more reason for families to have psychological healing.

**Operation and maintenance**

The van will be kept at Angel’s center for safety reasons; we shall hire a driver who will be responsible for taking children to and from school in addition to any other activities that shall be implemented. The parents will contribute towards fuel and they will pay a certain fee to meet the servicing of the vehicle. In addition the center will support some of the costs that run the vehicle when applying for grants from other donors.

**Who we are**

Angel’s Center for Children with special Needs is one stop center that provides a range of services for children with disability. The center is legally registered as a community based organization (WCBO/1131/12) and works together with the parents support group to share experience and to reach out to families that need guidance. The center has over 12 children (8males and 4Females) who attend daily early learning and day care services. Then we also have 5 children who come twice a week to receive occupational therapy services. Angel’s center believes in **a** Society which integrates children with special needs to fully realize their potentials. Our task is: to be a voice and to break the silence of disability in communities, through increasing access to information and service delivery. A critical service is strengthening the capacity of families to cope with raising children with development challenges. We work towards improving the image of disability in communities through ensuring that children rights and responsibilities are strengthened and discriminatory practices are addressed.