

## **Creative Hand of Hope: Empowering Children with Special Needs**

### **Introduction**

Sheilah Sheldone Arts for Social Change (SSASC) CBO was founded on March 2019 by community members in Mombasa county to support the dreams of a child prodigy, Sheilah Sheldone Charles to impact on the lives of children suffering from neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) in her community through creative work. Neurodevelopmental disorders include; autism spectrum disorders, down syndrome, as well as cerebral palsy.

### **Problem Statement**

SSASC CBO recognizes that neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) compromise the development and attainment of full social and economic potential at individual, family, community, and country levels. Globally, one in 160 children has autism spectrum disorder (ASD), according to the World Health Organization. In Kenya, an estimate 3 in 100 children are living with cerebral palsy. Parents of children with autism experience common challenges including stigma, lack of appropriate treatment, financial and caring burdens. In addition, the day to day care of children who suffer from cerebral palsy can be so demanding that it is virtually impossible to keep a regular nanny. Mothers are frustrated into quitting their jobs to care for their baby fulltime. It is therefore Sheilah's dream to work with families of children with neurodevelopmental disorders through her Artistry.

### **Project Objectives**

- This project will use the arts as a vehicle to promote social change and economic empowerment among children with special needs and their families in Mombasa County.
- Children with talents in Mombasa shall be able to fully exploit their artistic talents and earn money in return.

- With a strong focus on capacity building, families of children with special needs will acquire skills on Arts, Technical & Business Skills, Intellectual Properties and Marketing Strategies.
- Children with special needs will have access to a sensory stimulation theatre where they shall receive regular therapy and rehabilitation treatment.
- Community sensitization forums to create awareness on special needs will increase the level of identification, assessment, referral, and placement of children with special needs in education and rehabilitation centres.

### **Implementation Strategies**

SSASC intends to implement Creative Hand of Hope project by: nurturing the artistic talents of children in Mombasa County through the provision of free access to Art and Painting gallery and materials; providing children with neurodevelopmental disorders access to a therapy room for sensory stimulation and rehabilitation; establishing an art gallery for the exhibition and auctioning of Sheilah's artworks and paintings to the residents and visitors of Mombasa County, and part of revenue received used to educate children with special needs; organising families of children with special needs to form support groups and start socio-economic programmes towards raising school fees for children with special needs.

### **Sustainability Plan**

The Arts Theatre and Resource Centre established and equipped to support artists shall be the symbol of continuity and community ownership. It shall be safe space where children and youth artists in Mombasa county can freely express themselves, as well as provide a platform for all art lovers to engage with unbridled creativity that exists in Mombasa and earn money from their talents. In addition, there shall be service commission charged from every Arts sale or auction conducted in the centre to cover recurrent expenditures. Empowered families who form support groups shall be

empowered to initiate economic programmes towards poverty elevation and inclusive education for their children.

### Project Budget

Item	Unit Cost	Total
Purchase of furniture, equipment, and sensory stimulation devices (bulk purchase)	500,000.00	500,000.00
Purchase of Art materials and supplies (per month for 12 months)	100,000.00	1,200,000.00
Sensitization forums for families of children with special needs (per month for 12 months)	20,000.00	240,000.00
Capacity building and training of care-givers on Art, Technical & Business Skills, Intellectual Properties and Marketing Strategies. (training 50 members per quarter)	15,000.00	750,000.00
Administrative cost (per month for 12 months)	50,000.00	600,000.00
Miscellaneous (10%)		329,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,619,000.00</b>