



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES



Mildred Shikondi: Nurturing Hearts and Homes at SOS Children's Villages

By Jonathan Wamanji

In the heart of Kisumu Village, exists a guiding light named Mildred Shikondi, a beacon of care and strength for a family of twelve children.

As an SOS Parent in House 1, Mildred's story is one of dedication, love and tireless commitment to shaping the lives of those she holds close to her heart.

Her days are a symphony of responsibility and affection. Beyond the basic caretaker's role, Mildred has woven a tapestry of guidance and nurturing.

Ensuring education takes centre stage, she makes sure the children not only attend school but thrive in their studies. With a watchful eye, she tends to their health, their growth, and their spiritual well-being. Yet, her nurturing isn't confined to academics and health alone. She imparts vital life skills - from cooking to caring for one another and the art of maintaining a home - essential tools for their journey into adulthood.

Monthly family meetings are a testament to the harmonious household she's cultivated. Children gather to discuss matters that affect their lives, each voice equally valued. Through their elected leaders, concerns are raised and resolutions made, forming a sense of belonging and responsibility that only a true family can provide.

Mildred's nurturing embrace extends beyond her household. She is not just a beacon within her home, but a representative for the entire Kisumu Village. In monthly meetings, she raises the voices of her fellow parents, addressing challenges, seeking guidance, and fostering unity among the village families.

Her journey at SOS Children's Villages is a tapestry of experiences. It began in Kakamega County, where she cared for children under the guidance of a religious organization for a decade. Drawn to the mission, Mildred's path led her to Nairobi, her curiosity guiding her steps to the SOS Village there. Her commitment and skills soon found a home within the organization, and she embarked on a new role as an SOS Parent.

The journey from Nairobi to Kisumu saw her take on pioneering responsibilities as the village director of Nyalenda. She played a key role in establishing the village, setting up the family houses that provide warmth and stability for children who have often known neither. With six houses and a dedicated team, they crafted a haven of hope.

As Mildred's journey continues, her children grow alongside her guidance. Her eldest ones tread the halls of university, while others pursue their dreams through high school and primary education.

Reflecting on her journey, Mildred's voice carries a profound gratitude: "Thank you for the good work you started," she says, addressing SOS Children's Villages Founder Herman Gmeiner. "He has touched many lives of children. Without SOS Children's Villages, many children would have suffered in the world."

Mildred Shikondi's story shines as a testament to the transformative power of love and dedication. Through her actions, she embodies the core principles of SOS Children's Villages, crafting futures that were once mere dreams, and nurturing children into resilient individuals ready to embrace the world.

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