

## **MAGENA YOUTH GROUP**

### **Report #K21**

#### **ABSTRACT**

The Magena Youth Group is a Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) youth group intended to help youth in Magena avoid moral decadence, and instead, to help them grow spiritually. The Magena Youth Group began by helping the elderly to build houses. Further, they help the community by visiting the sick and the aged and assisting those in need like the disabled. They also engage in income-generating activities such as planting and selling trees, planting and selling nappier grass, and selling compact disc albums of songs that they have recorded. The group has become a model for other youth groups with a number of other groups formed to serve a similar purpose.

#### **HISTORY**

Magena youth group began in May 2006 after Nyanchwa Adventist college choir (also known as Pilgrims Choir), visited Magena Main SDA church. At the time of the visit, Pilgrims Choir challenged the youth group to serve the community. Further, they inspired the youth by going around the community and helping needy people as well as singing and preaching. The group is located in Magena SDA main church. The Magena SDA church is one of the oldest churches in Kenyena District, now serving as the main church in the district. It is located, on the outskirts of Kisii town, 45-minutes drive from Kisii town on the way to Kilgoris (11Km to Kilgoris town). The area is densely populated ethnically by the Kisii and depends on farming and brick making as the main economic activities. The church has a membership of more than 400 members. It has a well-organized church leadership, a church choir, and supports a disabled children's home.

The Youth Group began with six young people who came together under the guidance of elder Bimac Endare, and elder Richard Onserio, both of Magena SDA church. Their first activity was prayer for an increase in the number of youth in the group, and by 2007, the number had increased to 30. The current number stands at 80, though only 56 youths are active, with most members being students in high schools, colleges, and university.

Their community activities are based on researching the needs of the people in the society, their requirements, and then taking action to assist them. The group seeks to enable people to be aware of the good news of Jesus Christ through spreading the gospel.

#### **VISION AND MISSION**

Magena Youth Group targets to help youth in Magena to grow spiritually. The group began helping those who didn't have houses by giving them material support to build their houses. The group helps the community through teachings, songs, visiting the sick and the aged, assisting those in need like the disabled and financial support. This is mostly done during the church revivals which are carried out bimonthly. The disabled children are assisted by the youth group on Sundays when they visit the church; the youth help to control them during the service, assist them in seating and standing, walking and even playing.

The group has trained a number of people to read, and also assisted in developing youth leaders in other churches. They have also recorded two albums and entertain people on different occasions. They plant trees and Napier grass for livestock feed as part of their income generating activities. The group leaders desire to see changed youth away from drugs, alcoholism and immorality.

## **ORGANIZATIONS WITH SIMILAR FOCUS AS THE CENTRE**

Magena Youth Group carries out activities similar to those of the church choir (Magena main church choir). The Pilgrims Choir (an external group) motivated the formation of Magena youth group.

## **BOARD STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION**

The leadership is at two levels. There are Magena leaders that are elected as church youth leaders, and also become Magena youth group leaders. Then, there are those selected by the youth themselves on a need basis. Once the church elects its leaders, they are then tasked to elect youth leaders who include: youth elders (sponsors), chairperson, vice-chairperson and the Constar. The selection of these leaders is based on their experience of leadership and church service. Other leaders are appointed by the executive leaders of the youth based on their experience. All leaders are young people except the sponsors.

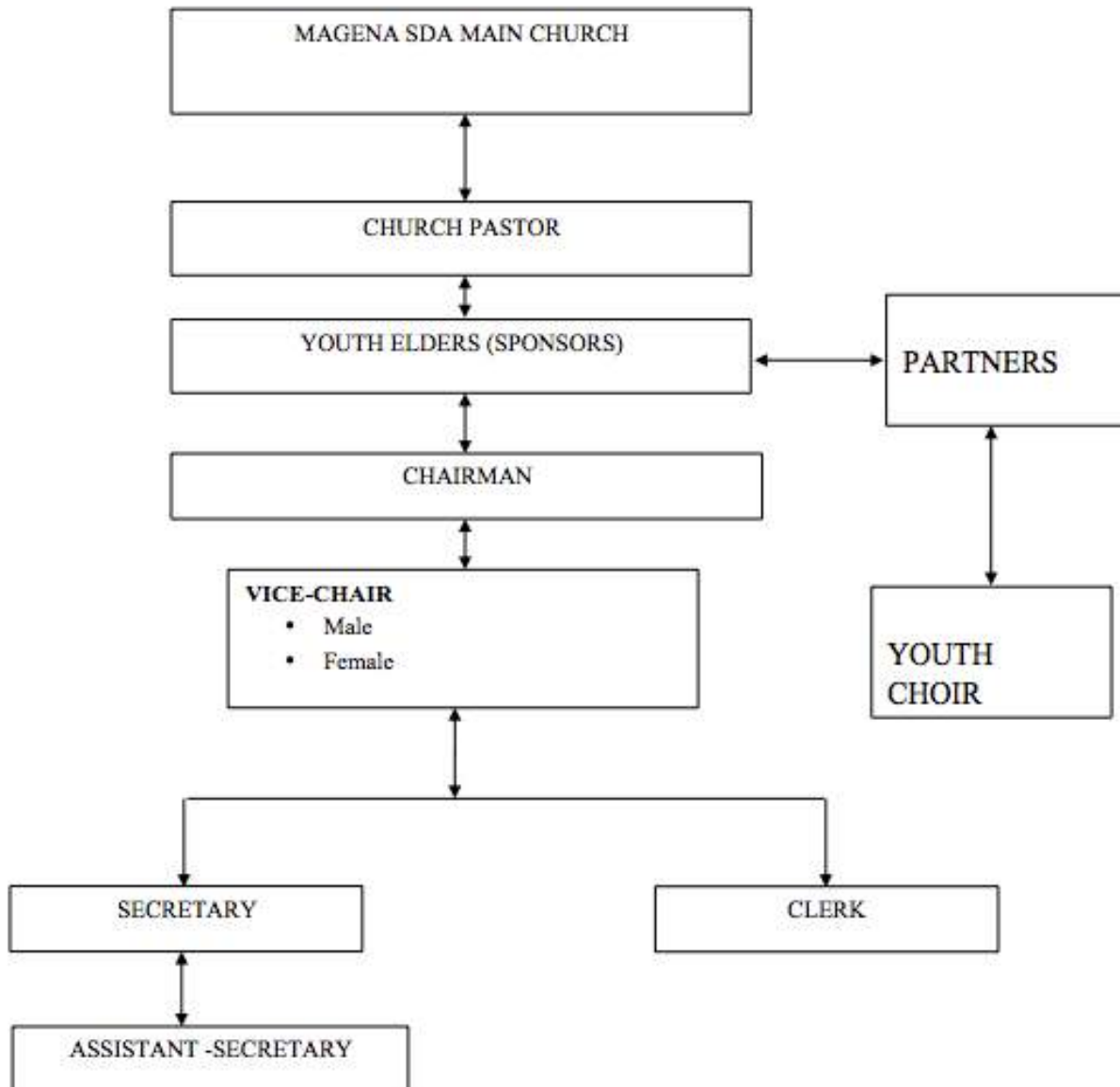
Year of service on the board as a leader;

Chairman	—	4 years
Vice chairman	-	4 years
Vice chairlady	-	2 years
Secretary	-	7 month
Assistant secretary	-	1 year
Constar	-	1 year
Sponsors (elder)	-	1 year
Clerk (In charge of finance)	-	3 years

Educationally, only the chairman and the vice-chairman hold post-secondary certificates. The chairman holds a diploma in community development and social work, and the vice-chairman holds a certificate in electronics.

The two youth elders also known as (sponsors) are elected in church, and their work includes: accompany the youth in various function, support them financially, and communicate to the church pastors when there is a need (acts as the link between the youths and the church).

## ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



## PARTNERSHIP AND STAKEHOLDERS

Magena youth group generally depends on the elder, parents and the church in general as their main sponsors and their main stakeholders. They currently do not have any external partners. The elders, parents, and church, are also the stakeholders and they assist the group through the provision of finance, moral and spiritual needs and support of their activities. The church has also allocated a quarter of an acre piece of land where the youth have planted nappies grass and previously planted trees. The youth group also works closely with Kenyatta University SDA group.

## FINANCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

The youth group gets their finance from selling music, trees and nappier grass project. They are currently planning to record their third volume in December 2013. From their first two volumes, they have sold about 350 compact discs. Audio cassettes are sold at Kshs 100 and audio-visual at Kshs 200. Nappier grasses are sold four times a year with each sell accounting for Kshs. 3000 to Kshs. 4000.

The youth clerk keeps the money and presents reports to the group every third week of the month. However, the youth clerk is not equipped with any accounting knowledge. The church clerk counter checks the expenditure and the bank transactions of Magena youth group finances after every three months. Further, as required by the church, the youth group also prepares their annual budget at the beginning of the year. Their budget surpasses their income mainly due to music recording costs, travelling costs, crusade costs and meetings and financial assistance to the elderly. The church, therefore, supports the youth to meet their budget.

## SWOT: STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS

### *Leadership Management SWOT Analysis*

Strengths/Achievements	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leadership skills</li><li>• Good decision-making skills</li><li>• Good advisory leaders</li><li>• Leadership training</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inadequate training</li><li>• Poor gender representation of women</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More training on capacity building and development; farming, finance, governance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relatively low education levels</li></ul>

### ***Overall Swot For The Group***

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats (Challenges)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Social Sundays</li><li>➤ Leadership training</li><li>➤ Leadership Mentorship</li><li>➤ Unity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Inadequate leadership training</li><li>➤ Negative perception of the community</li><li>➤ Inadequate finance</li><li>➤ Low attendance in meetings</li><li>➤ Poor record keeping and formal planning.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Reaching out to more youths in the community</li><li>➤ Train members to read more materials on changes and generations</li><li>➤ Reach more people in community who are suffering</li><li>➤ Empower more youths in the community</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Lack of finance</li><li>➤ Lack of jobs after school</li><li>➤ Challenges of Adolescents</li></ul>

### **IMPACT/SUCCESS/ASSESSMENT**

The group has achieved positive impact:

- In 2011, they started a Napier grass project which enables them to harvest and sell the grass to earn income.
- The group has gained trust from parents and community members; hence youth are encouraged to join the group. Youth members who have joined the group have also changed their character (positively).
- Magena Youth Group has motivated most churches in Kenya to begin youth groups modeled along Magena youth group; both directly and indirectly.
- The group has planted approximately 300 trees in the church compound and fenced the church using barbed wire.
- The youth group has assisted the elderly through visits and the provision of manual work such as fetching water, bush clearing, house repair, etc. They have also ministered to the elderly through singing, reading the Bible, and encouraging them.
- The group uses Facebook to sell their music online.
- They have recorded and produced albums; They have attended various musical competitions at the national level.
- They currently network with other groups outside the community i.e. Kenyatta University SDA students group.

Magena youth group sees the following as its main success:

- Some youth who used to smoke tobacco/bhang have now stopped and become full, active members of the group.

- b. The youth group is the role model in the community and is also a role model to other church youth group.
- c. The group has been able to conduct bimonthly crusades, visit the elderly in the community and assist them and also the sick people.
- d. The youth have also recorded and produced two volumes of music.
- e. Nappier grass and planting of trees are two income generating activities that they have undertaken.
- f. They currently assist 50 children with special needs from Magena Primary school.

## **REPORT PREPARATION INFORMATION**

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Date of Interview; 24<sup>th</sup> August 2013