

GATESI EXCELLENCE DAY CARE UPDATE

March 10, 2021



Gatesi Excellence Day Care was founded by Athanasie and Emmanuel Gatera and first launched in January 2020. Their dream was to help vulnerable women who were working hard to put food on the table but had difficulty finding a safe place to leave their children while they went to work. The day care was a solution to help a lot of women – especially vulnerable single mothers with YEGO Rwanda – to find jobs so they could provide for their families while their children were safe and well taken care of.

Unfortunately, due to the rise of the pandemic and lockdown, the day care was forced to close. Vulnerable women and their children remained indoors with a lot of issues, including lack of food. During the quarantine, we were talking to these families to find out how the pandemic was affecting them. They all shared with us how the pandemic was devastating to them, rendering them unable to provide for their children. It is in this context that YEGO staff kept in touch to provide comfort and food to meet their needs.



When the lockdown was over, the schools remained closed until November 2020 when the upper schools were allowed to reopen but the lower middle schools had to stay closed. YEGO continued to support these families with food and counselling services. The lower schools were set to reopen in January 2021 when the second quarantine was issued.

The new lockdown brought additional problems but YEGO kept supporting its beneficiaries during these difficult situations. Fortunately, the lower schools reopened on February 23, 2021. Gatesi Excellence Day Care also reopened on the same date.

The attendance of children was remarkable. On the first day, 17 children attended. Today, Gatesi has 76 children, three teachers and three supporting staff. Many of the

parents and single mothers are now happy and ready to go back to work to put food on the table. The children are just excited to socialize, learn and enjoy the day care's caring environment.

Important safety measures have been put in place due to Covid-19. All children are tested before they enter the school. They wash their hands regularly and are practicing social distancing in class. We've brought on more teachers and staff to help because of the increase in students. The day care is running smoothly and efficiently and we are hoping for the best.

Gatesi Excellence has indeed been a very amazing experience. We are grateful to all who have contributed to make this project a reality.

Submitted by:

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