

Background Information

Little Angels Network is an initiative that was established in 2001 by three professional Christian women out of concern of the plight of the increasing numbers of disadvantaged children in Kenya due to HIV/AIDS, abuse, neglect and abandonment. It was registered as a Society in April 2002 and in January 2005, it was launched as a fully-fledged organisation to address issues and concerns of children, now referred to as Little Angels Network Society (LANS).

LANS is founded on the principles of the best interests and rights of the child as enshrined in the Kenya's Children's Act, 2001. The founding women, both as professionals and mothers, are guided by a strong belief that children's needs could better be met in a family than in an institution. This is in line with the biblical teaching in James 1:27 where it says; "Religion that God our father accepts as pure and faultless is this – to look after orphans and widows in their distress".

LANS is committed to facilitating the provision of a quality life to any child in need. It is geared towards bringing together people and community networks with positive, compassionate resolve and sensitivity to strengthen, protect, enlighten and ensure the rights of the child are upheld. LANS believes that "One life saved and changed, is one more celebrating the gift of life". LANS vision is "A society where all children have equal chances to a dignified growth, regardless of their circumstances at birth" while the mission is "to ensure that all vulnerable children; at risk of abandonment or neglect, have a chance to enjoy love, care and harmony in a family".

LANS primary target is children aged between one and three years, but works towards a better life for children of all ages by promoting adoption locally and internationally and enhancing the capacities of communities to take care of their own children. It has focussed more on the promotion of adoption and fostering of HIV positive abandoned or neglected children by families locally and internationally. The organisation has continued to network with existing children's homes all over the country. Most of the children are received through the police, hospitals, offices of the Department of Children Services and the general public after abandonment. LANS social workers then follow up these cases until court proceedings are over and the children are finally adopted or fostered. A lasting relationship is established between those adopting the children and LANS to ensure proper care and development of the children.