

## INTERVIEW with Jaime Correa *International Programs Director, SALESIAN MISSIONS*

***Why is the education and training provided in these schools so important not only to the youth attending but to the surrounding communities? What positive changes can you report on because of this vocational education?***

“Our programs are highly unique in that they focus on the gradual and integral development of a young person. The customized programs provided can direct and guide the education process within their specific communities. **It is more than just education, it is a transformative process.**”

“Vocational education and training in these schools has had various benefits to youth attending and the surrounding communities.”

“Vocational education and training in our schools provides a way to listen to the appeals addressed to us by young people, especially their questions on fundamental problems which indicate the intense desire they nourish for full life, authentic love and constructive freedom.”

“These schools help the poor and marginalized access good quality education. The youth attending acquire skills, knowledge and attitudes in areas which help them to obtain gainful employment. The entire community therefore benefits.”

“Through education and the dissemination of information, we can actually change social norms and thinking regarding risky behavior. Information is power and can change lives for the better, and entire communities as a result.”

SALESIAN MISSIONS  
2 LEFEVRE LANE, NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10801  
[www.salesianmissions.org](http://www.salesianmissions.org)

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International Programs Director, SALESIAN MISSIONS**

***Youth empowerment seems to be a focus of much of the work of the Salesians, please describe the work at Don Bosco Youth Educational and why it is important.***

- “The Don Bosco Youth Educational Services Center is a holistic training center, situated along Dagoretti Market Road in Karen, Kenya. In its 10 years of service to the nation, the Center has promoted a multifaceted approach to youth training.”
- “The Center has helped the Ministry of Youth Affairs in Kenya to draw a youth policy for the nation.”
- “In the field of education, the center runs training in class room management, teacher effectiveness, educational leadership and new learning theories to teachers, teacher trainees and school heads. The flag-ship training program, ‘Train the Trainer’ has trained over 2,900 persons over the years. This program focuses on building resourceful youth ministers who can begin and effectively run youth groups. The experiences culled from this training have been put together into a syllabus based training manual called ‘Scaffoldings’ by Gnanaselvam Sahaya.”
- “The Don Bosco Youth Educational Services Center also houses the media production unit of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Bosco Eastern Africa Multimedia Services (BEAMS), which produces resource materials for training for youth, educators and youth ministers.”

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***Please describe the work of Bosco Boys programs that are providing education for street youth in several areas of Kenya.***

“The objective of Bosco Boys is to reduce problems affecting vulnerable children in Nairobi and its environs. It persuades street boys to leave the streets and voluntarily get rehabilitation at the center where they learn to live with others and as part of the larger society.”

“At this center they are maintained and supported through feeding, accommodation, counseling and education to help them lead normal lives. 1,814 street youth have been rehabilitated and educated since its inception in 1994.”

“Currently 9 boys are in various universities, 17 in secondary schools, 265 in primary schools and 64 working at various companies while 27 are at the rehabilitation unit in Utume center waiting to join Bosco Boys.”