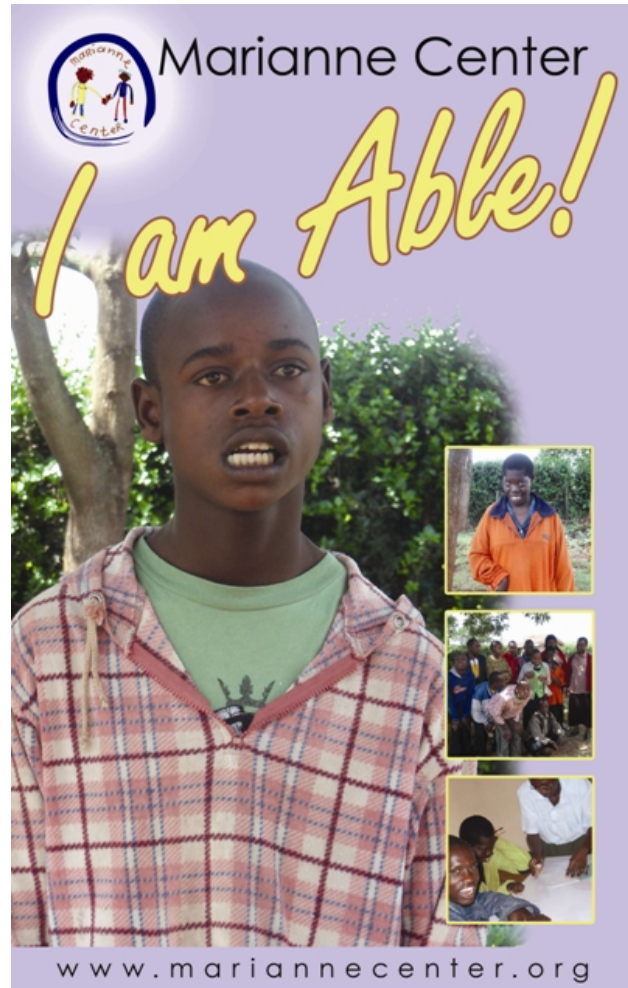


Report Marianne Center

2021



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CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	3
RESULTS 2021	3
Activities	3
GOALS 2022.....	6
ASSESSMENT PROJECT	6
PHOTOS MARIANNE CENTER.....	7

INTRODUCTION

In the past year we received several donations for the activities of Marianne Center. Through this report we want to update you about what we have achieved with the help of these donations.

RESULTS 2021

Since we opened our doors in January 2010, we have achieved a lot. We are very grateful for this and we are planning to continue our activities in 2021.

Our objectives are as follows;

1. To support (young) adults who are mentally challenged, by providing specialized training and equipment, social functions including personal hygiene, gardening, cooking and uncomplicated vocational skills that can enable them to get basic employment
2. To be fully financial independent from support from outside of Kenya
3. Fight the social stigma associated with people who are mentally challenged
4. Sensitize the government of the need to support people who are mentally challenged in education
5. To reach out to the 2,9 million people who are mentally challenged and give them and their families hope for a better life

Activities

Because of Corona we had to close our doors early 2020. All our activities came to a halt. Together with the Dutch Foundation we planned for a restart end of 2020. With the help of a caring donor and our new Center Manager Anthony Wairegi, we managed to reopen in January 2021. Because of the challenges Covid brought us, we could only work on the first objective. The reopening alone costs us a lot of time and energy, but we did it! Early 2021 we started with 15 students, who have received their vaccinations later in the year as well as our staff. The number of students increases slowly due to the restrictions that Covid brings. During our last term we had 8 female and 10 male students.

Our teachers have been doing an excellent job. We want to keep improving their skills and knowledge by offering them special courses in 2022.



The activities we did in 2021 were: weaving, computer training, knitting, basic math, writing skills, arts and crafts, making matts and beads, agriculture, gardening and hairdressing. Personal care is also a topic that is always being focussed on.

Parents are also actively involved in the development of their children at MC. This is important so they can also implement it in their home situation.

It's a fact that due to Covid we couldn't work on all of our objectives. But we're grateful that Marianne Center is up and running again. Below we shall discuss the activities more in detail that we undertook this year.

Nature walks

Among the activities at Marianne Center are the weekly nature walks that take place every Friday afternoon. This is one of the activities that students and staff enjoy most and always look forward to. The Center is located in a very scenic area of Kiambu County bordering a natural forest with vervet monkeys, plenty of bird species and butterflies. About three kilometres from the center is the breath-taking Great Rift Valley View Point.

The nature walks are a physical therapy necessary for the students who are mentally challenged because they help to relax mind and body. Walking helps some of them firm their body muscles and exercise the joints. Students are exposed to different environments apart from the one they are used to at the center complex. It also helps them to learn the various tree species and their properties. On some of the trips, they pass through farmlands seeing different farming practices in the area. They are able to appreciate nature more and begin to understand the need to conserve the environment.



Great Rift Valley View Point

During the walks, the students interact with other people in the community as they meet on the way. Greetings are encouraged and staff accompanying students always takes this opportunity to talk about training activities at Marianne center. This interaction is very helpful as it makes them feel part of the society. This exercise is also a way of exposing Marianne Center to the local community, creating awareness about the existence of such a center and the need to embrace people with special needs in the society. This activity we also starting doing again in 2021.

Construction



The classroom and dormitory block had been finalized and is in use since 2016. The admin and kitchen block however had been finished only up to wall level. End 2020 we managed to find funding to finalize this building.

Early 2021 the construction restarted. The roof has been placed. Unfortunately, the rest of the construction couldn't continue because of new regulations around the construction. This required extra inspections and approvals, which due to Covid took a lot of time and is still not finalized at this moment. We expect to receive the approvals early 2022, so we can continue with the construction as soon as possible.

Thanks to a sponsor, in addition to the solar panels on the roof, we were also able to install solar boilers that supply hot water. The students can take a warm shower, there is hot water for the kitchen, it saves energy and, above all, a lot of repair costs for the complicated electric shower heads that have been used until now. So a valuable investment.



In order to be able to get official registration from TVET (technical and vocational education and training), National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) and Ministry of Education, we also need a fence around our site in addition to the completed construction. This fence will be installed at the beginning of 2022.

Income Generating Activities



Self-reliance is of great importance to the Marianne Center (SMC) Foundation. We therefore want Marianne Center Foundation in Kenya to increasingly take matters into their own hands and guarantee the progress of Marianne Center. In order to achieve financial independence of Marianne Center in Kenya, we want to start income generating activities. After the reopening, work was done on installing good internet and a space for a small internet café. People from the neighborhood can go to Marianne Center to (learn to) use a computer. There is a demand for this because not many people have a computer at home. We expect that more people will be able to use our Internet café in 2022.

The greenhouse was also renovated last year and vegetables were grown. They were harvested in December and sold on the local markets. We plan to start up new revenue generating activities again in 2022.

Networking

We have established good cooperation with the local government and the local chief. These relationships have been renewed and expanded again this year by our new manager. The local government and chief help provide information about Marianne Center to the community and motivate parents to send their mentally handicapped child to us. We also work closely with the assessment centers in Nairobi. These are government agencies that test what kind of intellectual disability a person has and then refer them to Marianne Center or another institution.

The parents of the students who have not received sponsorship are referred to the National Council for People with a Mental Disability (NCPDW). This government agency has become a lot more frugal in paying school fees in recent years because of restrictions on the government budget. It also requires a lot of effort and perseverance from the parents, who often do not have much time and energy for this. Despite regular urging from our manager at NCPDW, we were unfortunately unable to receive financial support for our students this year.

In addition, we try to meet government requirements in order to apply for official registration for TVET (technical and vocational education and training). This gives us the opportunity to take advantage of government-accredited courses and exams. In addition, we will also receive recognition from National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) and Ministry of Education. This will help us in local fundraising, but also in receiving subsidies and payment of teachers' salaries by the government.

Not only are contacts with the government important, but it is just as important to build a good relationship with local organizations and companies. More support can often be expected from this angle and our attention is therefore focused on this. We do this by raising more funds locally and inviting local organizations to take a look at Marianne Center. Our manager has resumed and renewed contacts with all kinds of organizations. This required a lot of time and energy, as offices were often closed due to Covid-19. We certainly experience the involvement of the local community, through donations in the form of food and clothing that we received a number of times this year.

GOALS 2022

We want to achieve the following specific things - in order to achieve the general objectives - by the end of 2022;

- The construction is fully completed;
- Income-generating activities in Kenya that contribute to at least 50% financial independence;
- Application for official registration for TVET (technical and vocational education and training), National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) and Ministry of Education;
- Inform 2 million people about Marianne Center and the possibilities for the mentally handicapped through our training through articles in national newspapers, radio reports and television moments;
- 25 students at Marianne Center.

ASSESSMENT PROJECT

The overall activities of Marianne Center are constantly monitored and regularly evaluated against our mission and objectives. Monitoring is done regularly, especially during the management meetings that take place on a monthly basis. We also strive to have an annual evaluation of our activities carried out by the Ministry of Education in Kenya, although this has not taken place in recent years. We want to keep improving and optimizing our activities to provide the best training for the mentally handicapped people in Kenya. As a result, we are always open to advice, expertise, etc. from partners, the government or other persons/institutions.

Each term, a performance report is made for each student by our teachers. This helps us in assessing progress in the development of the students. Performance assessment of our employees takes place every year. Upon graduation, our students receive an exit summary graduation report. This states for each component how they have developed and what level they have achieved.

Every month our manager makes a (financial) report. It is also the intention that the financial administration will be audited annually by an external auditor.

Our Kenyan board consists of four directors, they are all professionals with extensive experience in matters such as management, entrepreneurship, organizational development, health care and knowledge about intellectual disabilities. For example, our chairman, Bernard Thairu, has seven years' experience in a similar position at a similar training center in England. Our center manager Anthony has years of experience as a project manager for non-governmental organizations. All employees hired at the training center are professionals with extensive experience in related fields. All staff, apart from one Dutch director, are Kenyan and they are responsible for the ins and outs of Marianne Center.

PHOTOS MARIANNE CENTER



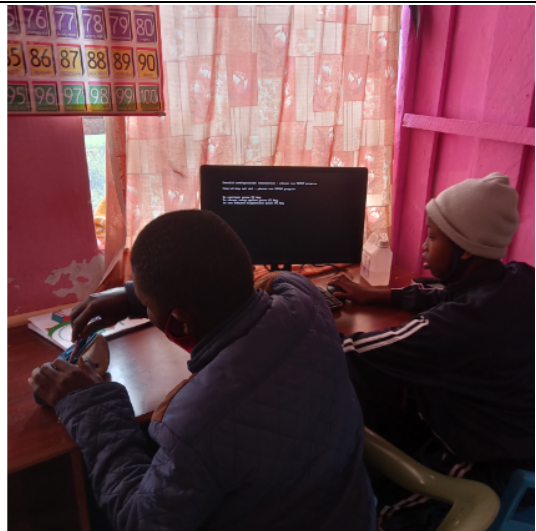
Covid measure at MC



Nature walks



The roof has been placed



ICT department



Donation to Marianne Center



Solar boilers placed by Our Energy Foundation



Planting crops in our renovated greenhouse



Growing crops in our greenhouse



Our students and teachers



Denis Kamau Njoroge graduated