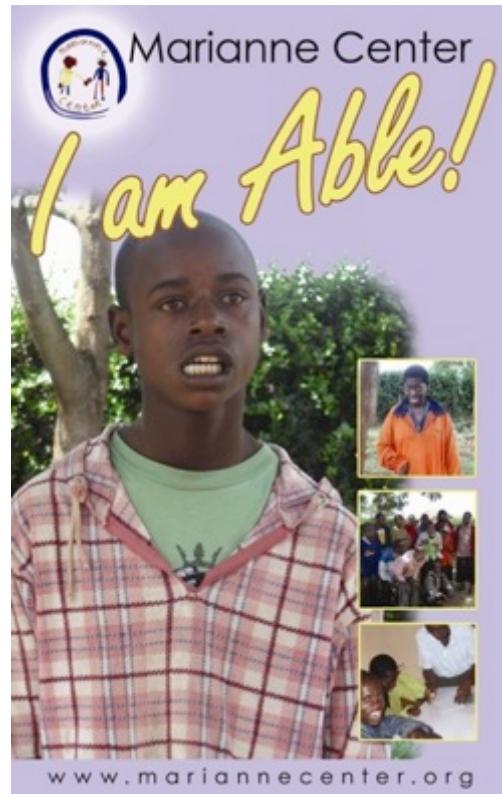


Report Marianne Center

2022



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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 2022

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 2023.

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

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

- Construction completed;
- Income-generating activities in Kenya that ensure 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 messages and television moments;
- 25 students at Marianne Center.

Below we will describe how and whether we have achieved these objectives.

Activities

The number of students has increased from 17 to 25 in the past year, there are 13 female and 12 male students. In 2023 we hope to grow to 40 students. With the new building almost finished, we will have enough space for this growth.



The subjects taught this year were: personal care and general activities of daily living; various handicrafts: weaving, working with beads, embroidery, knitting, decorating, sewing, making mats and rugs, drawing and painting; basic arithmetic, writing and reading; IT; practical arithmetic: dealing with money; and gardening. In 2023 we will expand the lessons with music and drama.



In 2022 we had 9 staff, 5 of which were teachers. Attention was also paid to their knowledge and skills through special courses to equip them well for their work. We believe it is important that the knowledge of the staff remains up to date. Also, to be eligible for recognition and therefore subsidization by the government. There is currently a focus on training in first aid and special care that the students need. This will remain a spearhead in our policy in the coming year.

During the holiday periods, our teachers make home visits to the students to see how the home situation is and whether the students can

put into practice everything they have learned at the Marianne Center. Where necessary, support is also provided for the implementation of the knowledge of the students to the parents.

Parents are actively involved in the work to discover what their children are learning, so that they can also put it into practice at home.



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.

The construction

In 2016, the classroom and dormitory complex were fully completed. The kitchen and dining hall/administration building was in use and the walls for the offices on the first floor were in place. Unfortunately, we were unable to complete this complex at the time. At the end of 2020, sponsors were found to finish this building. The construction process could therefore be resumed in 2021.

Finally, the new building is almost finished, much to the delight of everyone. What time and energy this has taken, especially from our manager Anthony! Time and time again, different requirements were set, permits were granted with difficulty, all while prices were rising in the meantime. All areas have now been finished and can now be furnished. We are still looking for financing for the furnishing.





In order to obtain official registration from TVET (technical and vocational education and training), National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) and Ministry of Education, in addition to the completed construction, a fence around our site was required as well. This fence was installed in early 2022.

Income generating activities/financial independence

Self-reliance is of great importance to the Marianne Center Foundation (SMC). We therefore want Marianne Center Foundation in Kenya to increasingly take matters into their own hands and guarantee the progress of Marianne Center. Experience shows that it is not very easy to become financially independent through income generating activities. These activities often take a lot of time, often require a lot of investment money, but are not always successful in generating enough income.

The Internet café and the cultivation of vegetables from our greenhouse have generated some income this year, but it is still too little to cover a substantial part of our costs. The school fees paid by parents was about 16,000 Euros this year, which is not the full amount we should receive. Due to the high prices in Kenya and widespread poverty, many families struggle to pay the full amount. We do not want students to be refused because of this, which is why we have set up the Sponsor a Student program. The school fees covered about 50% of all our expenses for the past year (apart from construction). About half of our costs are personnel costs. If we can get the personnel costs subsidized by the government, Marianne Center can become financially independent from support from the Netherlands. In 2023 we will therefore devote all our energy and time to obtaining official registration and recognition from the government. This is a very slow process and that is why we want to accelerate this. Now that the elections are over, a fence has been placed, and construction has been completed, we hope that progress will now be made. With the registration and recognition, we hope that in addition to the subsidy, this will also help in local fundraising. At the same time, this gives us the opportunity to use government-accredited courses and exams.

Networking

We have built up a good cooperation with the local government and the local chief. Our manager puts a lot of time and energy into maintaining these relationships. The local government and chief help provide information about Marianne Center to the community and encourage 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 appropriate institution.

The parents of students who have not received sponsorship will be referred to the National Council for People with a Mental Disability (NCPDW). This government institution has reduced their support a lot more in recent years, because of covid and the elections that took place. 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 visits from our manager at NCPDW, we have not been very successful in receiving financial aid for our students this year.

In addition, our manager has regularly visited the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE) and a community radio that broadcasts to the community of Limuru sub-county. KISE continues

to support MC by sending referrals from parents looking for an organization with career facilities for their children with special needs. We continue to deepen our relationship and the focus is to be on their books as an official reference point of a vocational training institution for young adults with intellectual disabilities.

The community radio, R-FM, is a young organization based in the city of Limuru and has a radius of about 5 km. It broadcasts all day until late at night and has several online platforms. The audience has gradually grown and over the past 4 years they can reach about 25-30,000 listeners in one show. As we go into the next year, we will participate in their station activities. This means that we will reach more people, create more awareness about mental disabilities and become more accessible and better known to the general public through advertising. This also provides opportunities to network with potential donors through broadcasts or live interviews.

We also experience involvement from the local community through donations in the form of food and clothing that we received a number of times this year.



GOALS 2023

We want to have achieved the following specific things - in order to achieve the general objectives - before the end of 2023;

- Furnished the new building;
- Obtained 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 via R-FM;
- 40 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.



We thank all our donors and well-wisher for their support!