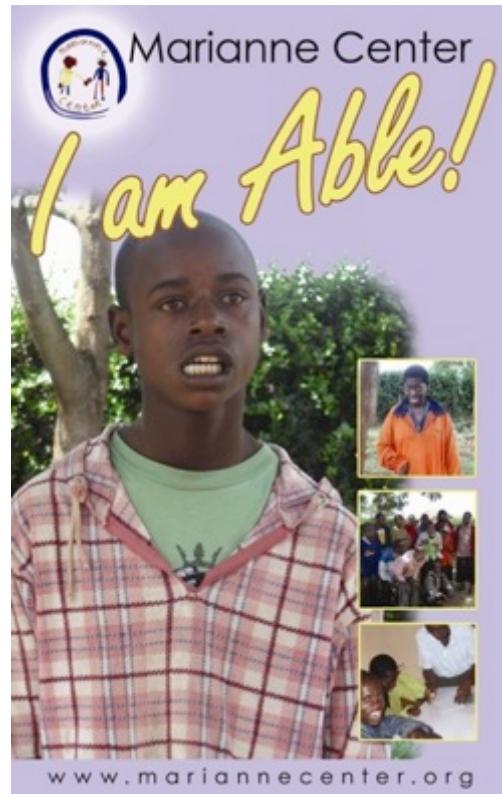


Report Marianne Center

2023



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CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	3
RESULTS 2023	3
GOALS 2023	3
Activities.....	3
Nature walks	5
Construction	5
Financial independency	7
Networking.....	7
GOALS 2024	9
ASSESSMENT PROJECT	9

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 2023

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 2024.

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

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.



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

Activities

The number of students has increased from 25 to 36 in the past year, there are 18 female and 18 male students. We hope to grow to more than 40 students by 2024. With the new building completed, we will have plenty of room for this growth.

- Activities of Daily Living
- Communication skills
- English & Kiswahili
- Arithmetic & handling money
- Gardening and farming
- Cooking & Baking
- Sewing & Weaving & Mat making & Drawing & Beadwork
- Hairdresser & Make-up & Nail care
- ICT skills
- Job preparation & basic business skills
- Sports

In 2023 we had 9 staff members, of whom 5 are teachers. It is important to offer our staff targeted training, so that we can provide optimal care and education. Such training took place in 2023. The training was provided by the Kenyan Institute for Special Education (KISE). We will offer training to our staff again at the beginning of 2024. This training is financed by Wild Geese and other foundations.

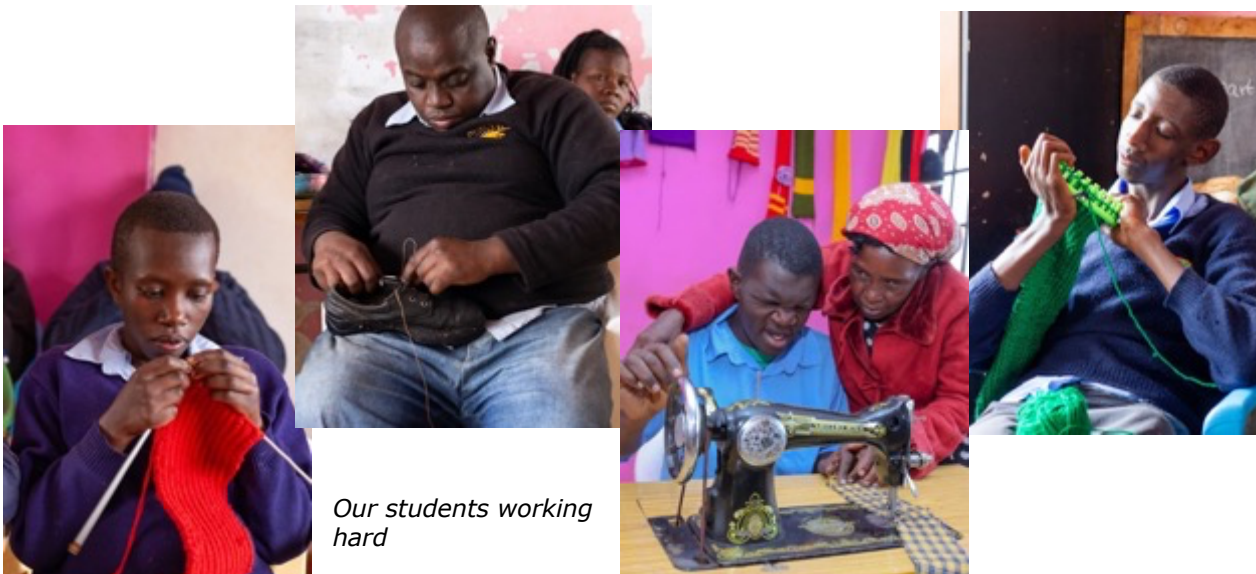


Our staff and our manager



During the holiday periods, our teachers visit the students at home to see what the home situation is like and whether the students can put into practice what they have learned at Marianne Center. Where necessary, support is also provided for the implementation of the students' knowledge to the parents.

Parents are actively involved in understanding what their children are learning, so that they can also put it into practice at their home. Next year we will set up a parent council to make it easier for parents to share their opinions and provide ideas. The cooperation and support of parents is extremely important to us.



Our students working hard

Nature walks

One of the activities of Marianne Center is the nature walk that normally takes place every Friday. Marianne Center is located in beautiful Kiambu County. Vervet monkeys, many bird species and butterflies are found there. About 3 kilometers from our center is the breathtaking Great Rift Valley View Point.

The walks are also a form of physiotherapy, which is important for our students who, in addition to their intellectual disability, often also have physical challenges. Walking helps them to strengthen their muscles but also to relax mentally. During the walks, the students see different environments that are different from what they are used to. They often pass farmland and can see with their own eyes how this land is used. This way they learn more about agriculture and horticulture. We also teach students about the various tree and bird species that we encounter during the walk. We also want them to be more conscious of the environment and learn to appreciate nature. These walks contribute to this.



Great Rift Valley View Point

Along the way, students also come into contact with other people. Greetings from our students are encouraged. The staff always takes the opportunity to talk to people about our activities. This interaction is very important, because it brings Marianne Center to the attention of the local population and creates awareness about the potential of people with a mental disability.

Lately we haven't been able to do walks as often, because wild animals had attacked people in the area. Instead of walks, we have focused on sports activities in our compound to ensure the safety of our students.

Construction

Construction was finally completed in January 2024. That was a huge relief, because it was a slow and difficult process. The furnishing of the new building, constructing a ramp, improving the kitchen and the installation of a biodigester and rainwater collection recently started. This was sponsored with the help of donations from various foundations, which were then increased by 50% by Wild Geese.

The two 10,000 liter tanks can collect rainwater from our roof, allowing us to reduce our water costs and facilitate access to water. By constructing a ramp in front of our building, people with physical disabilities can also enter the building.

Rainwater collecting



The ramp



Biodigester is almost finished

This system is much more efficient and requires a smaller installation space, digests any harmful bacteria and purifies the wastewater for reuse. The waste water can then be used for our crops.



The kitchen has been tiled and the kitchen cabinets and gas stove are currently being installed. This will make cooking a lot more pleasant and hygienic.

Financial independency

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 its own hands and guarantee the progress of Marianne Center. Experience shows that it is not very easy to become financially independent with the help of income-generating activities. These activities often take a lot of time, often require a lot of investment money, but are not always successful.

The Internet café and the cultivation of vegetables in the greenhouse have generate some income this year, but it is still not enough to cover a substantial part of our costs. The school fees paid by parents were half of what they should be. Due to inflation, high prices in Kenya and widespread poverty, many families struggle to raise the full amount.

We do not want students to be rejected as a result, which is why we have the Sponsor a Student program. The school fees cover approximately 50% of our running costs for the past year. About half of our costs are staff costs.

Our plan was to get staff costs subsidized by the government, so that Marianne Center can become financially independent of support from the Netherlands. We spent a lot of time making this wish come true. Unfortunately, this appears not to be possible for our institute. Our teachers themselves cannot be on the government payroll and to be eligible to receive government teachers you must be a public entity.

We are therefore now trying to focus on finding local partners who can support Marianne Center financially.

We have taken the first steps to obtain official registration and recognition from the government. With the registration and recognition we hope that this will also help in local fundraising. At the same time, this gives us the opportunity to use government-accredited courses and exams. The registration process is a lot of complicated work and will take some time. Nevertheless, we don't give up. The inspection will be the first step in this process. Our new building and its furnishings will certainly help to make this process successful.

Networking

This year we spend a lot of time connecting with business organizations, government departments, potential sponsors, community organizations, local governments and the church in Kenya.

Social media

One of our student's mothers is a social media influencer and shared a YouTube video about her daughter who has an intellectual disability. Her daughter has made great progress through the activities at Marianne Center, and this was discussed in detail in this video. This YouTube post has already been viewed 147,000 times! Because of her post, many people have already contacted us to inquire about the placement of their mentally disabled family member.



WAIRIMU GUTAARIRIA ATI
AINGATIRWO KANITHA NA AKIHURW...
SYMO K OFFICIAL · 133K views · 9 months ago

RFM radio had promised us last year to broadcast an item about Marianne Center. RFM radio reaches around 10,000 listeners every day. The live stream on their Facebook page is listened to by around 25,000 people. With this one-off broadcast we reached approximately 35,000 listeners. During the year we also had an event of the SUNSHINE rally, which was organized by the ROTARIAN District. Using this platform we were able to inform approximately 1,000 people about the activities of Marianne Center. We look forward to being part of it again in the coming year. We reach even more people about the impact of our activities through our website, Facebook page, the church and sponsors. We would like to reach more people, but that is currently not financially feasible for us.

Local authorities

We regularly have contact with the local government and chief who help provide information about Marianne Center to the community and motivate parents to send their mentally challenged 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 the Marianne Center or another appropriate institution.

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 become a lot more sparing in paying school fees in recent years due to the elections that took place this year. It also requires a lot of effort and perseverance from parents who often do not have much time and energy for this. Despite regular insistence from our manager at NCPDW, we have had very limited success in receiving financial support for our students this year.

In addition, our manager regularly visited the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE) and discussed further cooperation. KISE continues to support MC by sending referrals from parents looking for an organization with vocational facilities for their children with special needs. We continue to deepen our relationship and the focus is to be an official reference point for them as a vocational training institute for intellectually disabled young adults. KISE also provides training for our staff.

Visitors and other support

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

A few months ago, a volunteer took photos of Marianne Center, which she also used on her social media. Her interactions with the students were very nice. She was a good inspiration for the students, as she was a slow learner earlier in her life and had intellectual challenges. By not giving up and working hard, she got further and can now function well in society.

Njoki is an entrepreneur who leads several projects aimed at the vulnerable people in the slums of Nairobi. She is currently helping Marianne Center train in the production of scarves and blankets. The products are now for sale in various places.



Marianne Center has started a collaboration with a local organization that is committed to restoring the environment, through among other things, planting trees. They encourage the planting and maintenance of trees in the areas that have been eroded due to felling of trees, burning of charcoal or overgrazing. We spent a day with this team and planted trees on our own property, which are currently doing very well. This organization visited us and brought fruit and tree seedlings. We spent hours planting trees in our center. The students each planted and adopted a tree. By adopting the tree, the students take good care of it, watering it when necessary, and providing shade when necessary. The students are proud to report that their tree is doing well.



GOALS 2024

We want to achieve the following specific things - in order to achieve the general objectives - before the end of 2024;

- The furnishing of the new building, bio-digester installation, and the paving the compound;
- Training of our staff;
- Obtained official registration for TVET (technical and vocational education and training);
- Finding local partners who can take Marianne Center under their wing;
- Inform 200,000 people about Marianne Center and the possibilities for the mentally disabled through our training;
- 45-50 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!

