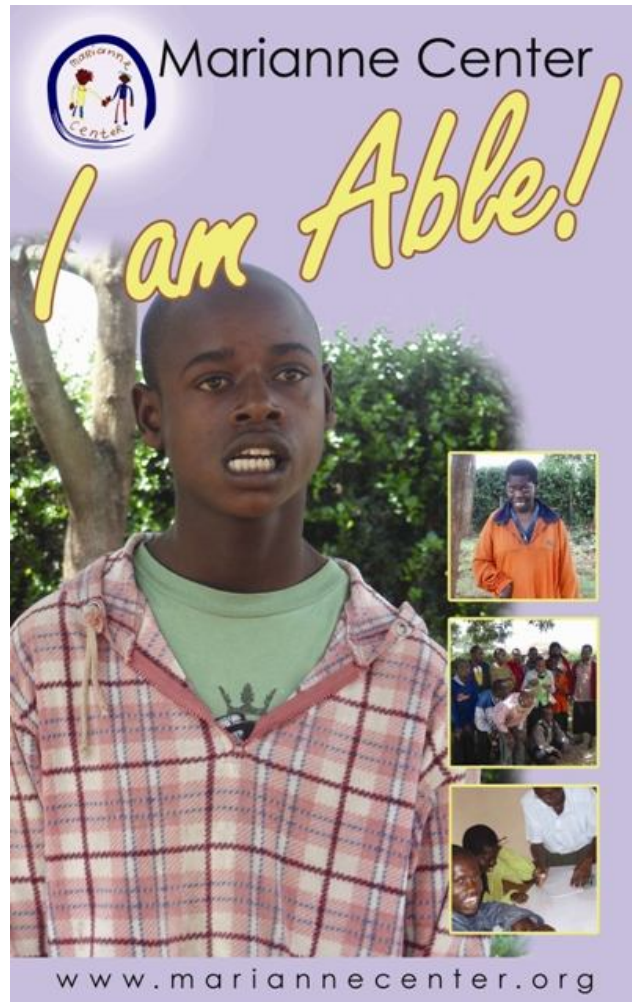


# Marianne Center Report 2010



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## INTRODUCTION

In 2010 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 2010

We have started our activities in January 2010 and many things have been accomplished so far. Below we indicate per objective which activities have been done to achieve our goals and what needs to be done in 2011 if the goal hasn't been achieved.

### *1. Start a training center for (young) adults with mental disabilities*

In January 2010 we opened our doors for the mental disabled (young) adults. Together with the local authorities, community leaders and churches we spread the news about Marianne Center and her activities. At the moment we have 32 disabled students and we expect to receive more students in 2011 up to 60 students.

*The students;*



Class room



Marianne Center

2. To support (young) adults with a mental disability, 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

We are offering the following programs at Marianne Center; gardening, personal hygiene, cooking, housekeeping activities, farming, animal husbandry, computer lessons, language, math, arts and crafts. This will be continued the next coming years.



Bead work



Housekeeping activities



Farming



Sewing



Rabbit rearing



Pig farming



Gardening



Bal activity during break time

In July 2010 we started our physiotherapy which helps to improve the physical condition of our students. Elizabeth and Joseph for instance benefit greatly from this program. Their drooling has reduced due to exercises where they have to drink with a straw and chew gum. They can use their spastic hands much better now because of the stretching and massaging of their hand.



Physiotherapy room



Elizabeth



Joseph

### 3. Fight the social stigma associated with people with mental disabilities

To achieve his goal we started with informing the nearest churches about people with a mental disability. Together with the students we joined a service of the Anglican Church near Marianne Center. Many people were moved when Patrick, one of our students, prayed in front of the congregation and when Susan shared a poem.

We also conducted two workshops for the parents/care takers of the students and for our staff about mental disabilities. Next to this parents are invited at least two times a year to our visiting days where they can see the activities their children are doing. Of course parents/care takers are always welcome to visit Marianne Center but the visiting days motivate them to come more often.

In July we organized an awareness walk to sensitize the people in the neighbourhood about Marianne Center. Banners and t-shirt were made to let people know we all belong to the group who support people with a mental disability. Over 400 people joined the walk through Kiambu District.

During our two open days this year we invited local authorities, the ministry and other organizations and companies. Many people attended and got to learn more about our activities and the capabilities of people with a mental disability.

In October 2010 we welcomed UC Media Productions at Marianne Center. The producer spent two weeks in Kenya to get footage to make a documentary about people with a mental disability. The government, parents of people with a mental disability, our staff and several people on the street were interviewed about the mentally disabled and how they think this group can become part of society. We expect that this documentary will help in creating awareness about mentally disabled people and in fighting the social stigma which is associated with them.

Our activities were also mentioned in two newspapers and on three radio stations. These activities will continue for the next coming years to make more and more people aware and meet our objectives. We have seen changes in the community where Marianne Center is located. Parents are not afraid any more to send their children to our Center and churches allow mentally disabled people to join the service and even tell the congregation that they are also children of God. We noticed that families of our students are less abusive towards them because of our affords to educate them.



Awareness walk



Church visit



Open day 2010



Workshop for parents

*4. Sensitize the government of the need to support people with mental disabilities in education*

We are working closely with the local authorities and the chief of Karura Village. They are helping us in informing the community about Marianne Center and motivating parents to send their children to us.

We also closely work with the government assessment centres in Nairobi. They often join us for meetings and advices where needed.

In 2011 we will try to work even closer with the government by inviting them to many more of our events and by visiting them more regularly. This is important in the integration of the mentally disabled in the society.

*5. To reach out to the 2.9 million people with mental disabilities and give them and their families hope for a better life*

Marianne Center can only accommodate a certain number of mentally disabled people and therefore reaching out to 2.9 million mentally disabled people is a big challenge. At the moment we have 32 students who are benefitting from our programs. To make sure that besides our students other mentally disabled can benefit from our activities as well, we are organizing awareness activities. This includes open days, annual event, awareness walks and media attention where we inform people about people with a mental disability. In June we managed to be on the news of three radio stations and in one newspaper. With our awareness walk we also generated a newspaper article. In this way we hope that more people become aware of the capabilities of people with a mental disability and accept them of who they are. The documentary which will be finished in 2011 will help us in reaching out to the mentally disabled people in Kenya. In 2011 we will keep on organizing awareness events so that not only our students can benefit from our activities but also other mentally disabled people in Kenya.

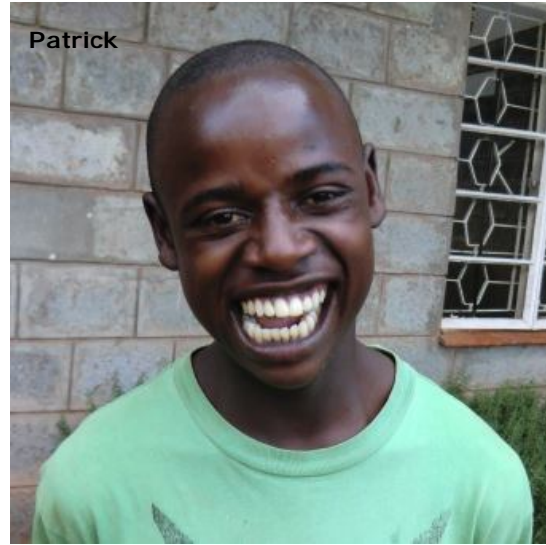
**Objectives 2010**

In our proposal we wanted to achieve the following things;

- Start a training center for (young) adults with a mental disability
- To support (young) adults with a mental disability, 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
- Fight the social stigma associated with people with mental disabilities
- Sensitize the government of the need to support people with mental disability in education
- To reach out to the 2,9 million people with mental disabilities and give them and their families hope for a better life

We can confidently say we have achieved more than we expected. At the moment we have 32 students and we are expecting more students to join us in 2011.

Here are some of our students we like to introduce to you;



Our activities are running well and students show improvement every day. The teachers are making sure the students who need more guidance receive it. Because of physiotherapy some of students show improved physical condition. They drool less and their movement becomes more controlled.

We recently have started with our income generating activities and hope to generate finances out of it. Our broilers, chicks, rabbits and piglets which are reared by our students will be sold which will help us financially sustain Marianne Center. Planned activities like carpentry, expansion of the poultry farming and the bead work will help our students gain vocational skills plus also help us generate income.

Because of our media attention we estimated to have reached 2.5 million Kenyan people. With this we hope to make many Kenyans aware of the capabilities of people with a mental disability and that Kenyans will accept these wonderful people.



## **Goals 2011**

We like to achieve the following goals in 2011:

- 60 students participating in our programmes;
- The three workshops up and running;
- The documentary shown on the Kenyan television, during church services, open days and other events;
- 3,5 million Kenyans reach about mentally disabled people through our awareness programmes;
- Organizing 3 awareness events.

## ***Effectiveness***

The workshops, church visits, open days and media attention has proven to be very effective in achieving our goals. With this we were able to inform many Kenyans about people with a mental disability which result in to reducing the stigma associated with this marginalized group. Not only had our students benefited from our activities but also other mentally disabled Kenyans. The students at Marianne Center benefit greatly from our activities and show improvements every day.

The support from the chief, the local government, the assessment centres and our other partners have helped us in reaching the families of the mentally disabled and in creating awareness about the capacities of people with a mental disability.

## **MONITORING & EVALUATION**

The project is monitored and evaluated against the project goal and objectives. The evaluation was done twice by an external and professional evaluator.

The evaluation of our activities of 2010 was done by the Ministry of Education and concluded as "an ideal institution for people with a mental disability".

Monitoring is done on a regular basis, which is during every management meeting which takes place at least every month.

Student Performance Reports are prepared every term. These reports assist in assessing any changes in the development of the students. Performance appraisal for project staff will be carried out twice a year.

Twice a year we send all donors, partners and other people connected to Marianne Center a newsletter, which will contain update about the activities, a note about our donors and the success stories about our students.

Marianne Center is financed through school fees, generated income, funds and grants. We applied for official recognition from the Kenyan Ministry of Education, and a share of the government funding which is reserved for secondary schools. The Ministry of Education has acknowledged the need for a training center. Complication is that the government will only support already existing 'public' projects. This means that the initial investment to set up the center will have to be raised without government support. The government has informed us that they are willing to advise us on whatever necessary. We also network with Members of Parliament (MP) and other individual government officials. This led to the payment of school fees for six of our students.

Next to the school fees we also gain money through income generating activities within the center such as selling products of the students, selling the eggs, chicks and meat from the broilers and selling the handicrafts and vegetables. Our carpentry and the expansion of the poultry farming will also help to the sustainability of the center.

Our goal is to be financial independent from funds from outside of Kenya after three years. Because we have already started with setting up our income generating activities at the center and with networking with local organizations, it is most likely we achieve this goal after three years.

Our team of directors consists of professionals with broad experience in subjects as management, entrepreneurship, organizational development, healthcare and mental disabilities. Our general manager and board member has 7 years of experience in a similar occupation at a comparable training center in the UK. Also other employees who are or will be hired by the training center will be professionals with extensive experience in related fields.

All staff, except for one board member, is Kenyan and they are responsible for the daily activities of Marianne Center.