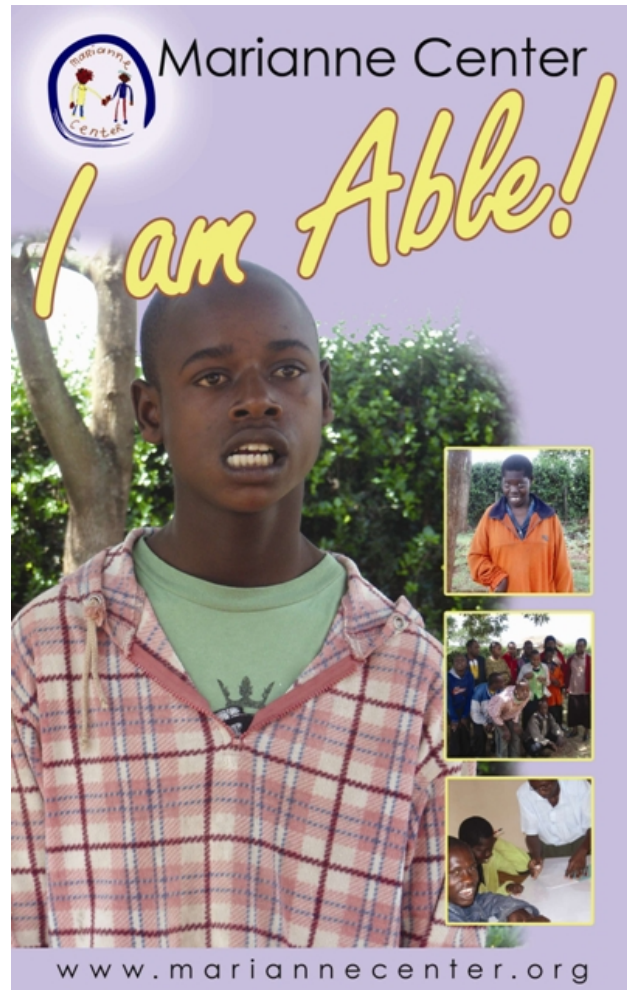


Report Marianne Center

2013



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INTRODUCTION

In 2013 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 2013

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 2014.

In our proposal of last year we wanted to achieve the following things:

- 25 students who took their exams;
- Construction of dormitories and classrooms finished;
- At least three awareness events organized (including open day);
- 7.5 million Kenyans reached about Marianne Center and the capabilities of people with a mental disability through an article in at least 2 newspapers, one radio and TV broadcast;
- At least have set up three income generating activities;
- 80% income for running cost has to come from Kenya.

Our objectives for 2010-2015 are as follows:

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

Below we indicate per objective which activities in 2013 have been done to achieve our goals.

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

In January 2010 we opened our doors for the mentally 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 among which 12 are female. We recently had 55 students but due to the lack of space at our new location we can't host more students.

At this moment we have 3 full time teachers, a janitor who takes care of the boys, a matron who takes care of the girls and the cleaning of the centre, a cook and security guards. The cook and cleaner also train our students in domestic activities. We also regularly have volunteers who support our teachers in executing their tasks. In this way we can ensure that every student, including the weaker students, receives the attention and training they deserve.

Work camp

Our partner Centre for International Voluntary Service organizes work camps for different projects. This year they helped to organize a work camp at Marianne Center. The work camp took place from the 10th –17th February 2013. Volunteers from different parts of the world, young and old, engaged themselves in several activities with our students. They played with the handicapped students, taught them how to prepare food and enjoyed walks with them to parts of the Rift Valley. Not only the students, but also the volunteers, fully enjoyed this week. The volunteers also helped out in leveling and marking the volleyball pitch, cultivating

our plot for growing maize and preparing the parking area for our visitors. The volunteers were of great help and joy to all of us!



The team of volunteers

Construction

We managed to finalize the construction of our first dorm in May. We are very grateful for the donors who supported us in the construction of this dorm. Though it is still in need of some finishing touches –painting of the inner and outer walls and tiling it- we are able to use it. This dorm offers space to 48 students and is at the moment being used by our female students. The second dorm will be constructed for the use of our male students. We currently are in search for donors who want to support us in the construction of this second dorm.



Construction of the first dormitory

Because we received a subsidy, private donations and a personal donation from a board member, we were able to start the construction of our classroom building. The first classroom has been finalized in October.

Not only do we need funding for the construction of our second classroom and dorm, we are also searching for funds for the construction of our workshop, kitchen and teachers rooms.

The recession in the West has a negative effect on Marianne Center as well. Our plans for the mentally disabled students are very promising, though this does require investments for activities like the construction and the set up of income generating activities. These activities will largely contribute to the financial independency of Marianne Center. Due to the fact that funds are released in low amounts and are hard to find, our goal will most likely be reached at a much later stage. Even so, we are still able to offer our students the programmes, support and care they need.



Our first classroom

The board

Last year we decided to expand our board with three new members. This to draw more expertise to Marianne Center, to be able to have a better control mechanism over the execution of the projects and the use of funds and to generate more awareness about Marianne Center through their networks.

The board's tasks involve networking, fund raising, developing and revising policies and procedures of the centre. Through participation in local events organized for people with a disability, by visiting special education classes and by organizing open days we are expanding our network.

Income generating activities

Our goal is to become financial independent before the end of 2015, preferably even sooner. Currently all running costs of Marianne Center is being covered locally, through school fees, financial support from the board members or through donations of other Kenyan parties. We are working hard to set up income generating activities like a poultry farm and even a biogas installation.

SACDEP Kenya organized a two-day workshop about Biogas. We were privileged to take one of our teachers to attend this workshops. The biogas technology is an alternative energy source for cooking and lighting. The biogas technology mainly utilizes the waste produced at the farm (animal dung, farm and kitchen wastes) to produce clean renewable energy.

SACDEP is willing to construct a biogas plant at the center, with us paying only 25 percent of the total cost. We are currently looking into the option of introducing a biogas plant at the center. This project might help to reduce running costs in the long run, which would make Marianne Center more financial independent.

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, ADL (Activities of Daily Living), sports, sewing, farming, computer lessons and handicrafts. Some of our activities have not been carried out last year due to lack of power.

In March the government had organized a sports and games day for children with disabilities. Marianne Center was also invited to join this event. It was held at Manguo Primary School in Limuru. Many games were played during this day among which was football, short and long races, shot put and jumping games. All our students attended and were accompanied by our teachers and two caretakers. One of our students, Ibrahim Mwaniki, won a place to the District Level and continued joining the local competitions. As you can imagine, we are very proud of Ibrahim!



Ibrahim

We had the hope of graduating our first students since 2012. Because of the delay in the construction of our own premises and connecting to electricity, due to lack of funds, we didn't manage to graduate any of our students. We have the hope to start the graduation in 2014, but this is fully dependent on the availability of funds to continue the construction of our premises and to connect to power.

We are planning to have a few graduated students work at Marianne Center as we are in need of cleaners, which is a task a disabled person can do as well.

We are already contacting several employers who are willing to provide employment opportunities to our students. Task descriptions may include packing groceries in supermarkets, car washing, cleaning, gardening, and doing laundry and other basic jobs. Other students might be better fit with a small business at home, like clothes making. Initially students will receive close supervision and support, but in time, as the tasks become a routine and the student can work more independently, this support can be phased out gradually.

Medical

We find it important that our students are healthy. We therefore regularly provide them with a medical check-up. These medical check-ups are funded by a partner organisation or the local church. Marianne Center ensures that her students are in good condition, eat a variety of healthy food and get regular exercise.

Feeding programme

The kitchen and serving area is still a temporary structure as the center tries to raise funds to put up a proper facility. Despite that we are able to offer our students proper meals. Cooking is mainly done with firewood and saw dust.



Meals being served at the center

Meals at the center consist out of a variety of food items. Some days we serve rice with beans and vegetables, and other days maize with beans and potatoes – also known as 'githeri' in the local Kikuyu language. Also ugali, chapati and green grams are local food items, which are being eaten regularly. Of course meat is also occasionally part of the diet as well as fruits. A varying diet will help our students stay in good health.

The initial food preparations are done by the students under supervision of Regina Wambui who is the cook at Marianne Center.

Marianne Center faces a challenge on the center's feeding program. Funds to purchase food items for our feeding program is often limited, yet students need to be fed.

In this regard, the center has partnered with Mr. Muya, the owner of Redeem Cereal shop based in Limuru town. Through this partnership we can ensure that there is enough food for the students at all times. This partnership is based on flexible payment terms, whereby the center can get food supplies on credit and pay when funds become available.

The food items that the center receives from Redeem Cereal Shop include maize, maize flour, beans, rice, cooking fat, salt, wheat flour, sugar and green grams.



Food items from Redeem Cereal Shop

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

To achieve this goal we organise several activities. 2013 was financially seen a difficult year for us and we were therefore not able to organize costly activities like open days. We did organize workshops or other smaller activities, to fight the social stigma associated with people with a mental disability. We try to connect Kenyans with our students through church services and visits to e.g. farms. Next to this we have our weekly nature walks with our students where other pedestrians are getting in contact with our students. This often results into them asking questions and/or visiting Marianne Center.

Peer education

At the beginning of this year we invited Counsellor Anne Wanjiku Njenga to teach the parents of our students on peer influence with the focus on sexual matters and abuse. She talked about sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS and drugs abuse. Parents should be a rolemodel for their children and should therefore understand the consequences of drug abuse and sexual matters. They are responsible for giving a good example and for keeping their children away from any of these harmful matters.



CDF

We recently got in touch with Martha who works with the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in Limuru. She sought out bursaries and managed to support two of our students. She visited Marianne Center and was accompanied by her family and friends, who donated one sack of potatoes, a bale of wheat flour, 4 kg beans and clothes. We were very thankful for this sincere and caring gesture.



Donated items

Martha was so kind to prepare lunch for 100 people at Marianne Center. Among the guests were mr. Alex from CDF Limuru, mr. Kahare, the agricultural officer, and the District Officer mr. Ndeiya. For Marianne Center it is important to have good connections with the local authorities and organizations. Together we can achieve much more!

Martha has also rallied some women farmers around Marianne Center to be assisting us with vegetables. We feel supported by the local community and appreciate their concern for the mentally disabled people in Kenya.



Martha

Media

Our goal for 2013 was to reach at least 7.5 million people about Marianne Center and her mentally disabled students through media and (awareness) events. In 2012 we managed to reach more than 5 million and therefore increased our goal for this year to 7.5 million. The reason why we easily reached our goals the previous years is because of the open days and other events we had organized. Due to the lack of funds we were not able to organize these events this year and therefore were not able to reach our goal of 7.5 million people. Through workshops, nature walks, church visits, lunch meetings, etc. we managed to reach at least a few thousand people this year.

All of these activities have contributed to fighting the social stigma associated with people with a mental disability and it is therefore important that we continue with our activities.

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 advise us where needed. Two of our new board members, Jane Ngiria and Samuel Kago are working for these institutions. This makes our connection to the government much easier. The government was also present during the KAIH workshop and our open day.

We are very grateful for the Member of Parliament who donated school fees for seventeen of our students!

Some of the parents are not able to pay for the school fees of their handicapped children. They therefore request support from the National Council for People with a Mental Disability. This government institution pays 2/3 of the school fees of our students. With this we can continue our programmes at Marianne Center and take care of our disabled students.

Not only is communicating with the government important to make Marianne Center successful. It is as important to have a good connection with the local government, organisations and businesses. These actors are often willing to support Marianne Center. By fund raising locally and inviting them to take a closer look at our programmes we encourage them to fund our activities.

The Public Procurement Oversight Authority in Kenya demonstrated its commitment to ensuring that 30% of all public procurement is allocated to the youth, women and persons with disability by organizing an educational day at KICC. Those in attendance were taken through the requirements and guidelines on how to access this tender allocation. Marianne Center was represented in this forum by teacher Margaret.

The Government of Kenya is a ready market for some of the products made by students at Marianne Center. These include mats made from beads, uniforms and furniture. Currently, Marianne Center is making only limited quantities of these products but with opportunities for stable market, we hope to commercialize the products from 2014.

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. 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. 2013 was relatively seen a difficult year for Marianne Center. Due to lack of finances we were not able to carry out some of our activities, like open days and awareness events. We therefore were not able to reach as many people as we had hoped for.

We will keep on organizing awareness events (if funds allow) and networking with the local government so that not only our students can benefit from our activities but also other mentally disabled people in Kenya.

EFFICIENCY

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 activities at Marianne Center will help our students to be able to contribute towards the (financial) needs of their families and to society at large.

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. The fact that local government and partners have supported us financially will make us confident that in the nearby future Marianne Center can fully be run and supported by Kenyan professionals and organisations.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Our activities are monitored and evaluated against the project goal and objectives. Monitoring is done on a regular basis during every management meeting, which takes place on a monthly basis. We want to keep on improving and optimizing our activities to be able to provide the best training based on the needs of the mentally disabled people. We therefore gladly receive any advice, comments, and critique from government or other actors.

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 is being carried out at least once a year.

Financial reports are made every quarter and our aim is to have an audit report done annually.

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

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.

PLANS 2014

Marianne Center Foundation (MCF) wants to start actively fund raising locally. Fund raising in The Netherlands has proven to be quite a challenge because of the recession. Due to lack of funds we couldn't execute some of our planned activities. Therefore searching for funds locally is necessary.

Goals 2014

We would like to have achieved the following by the end of 2014:

- Approximately 20 students who have graduated;
- Construction of dorms and class rooms finished;
- Minimum of three awareness events (among which an open day);
- 7.5 million have been reached through media activities about the capabilities of people with a mental disability;
- At least 2 income generating activities have been set up;