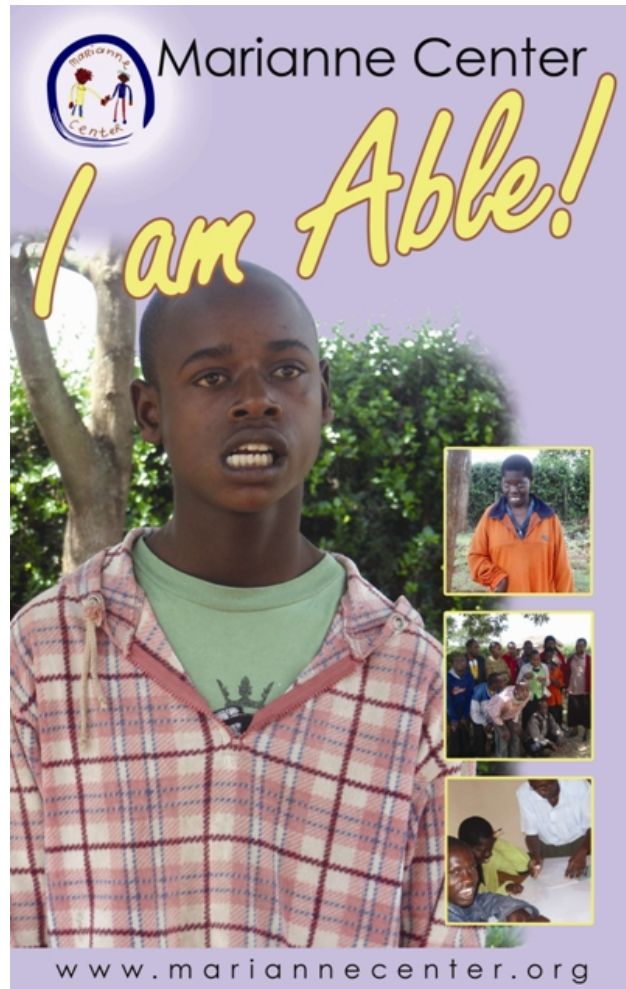


Report Marianne Center

2015



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CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	3
RESULTS 2015	3
EFFICIENCY	10
MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	10
PLANS 2016	11
Goals 2016	11
PHOTOS MARIANNE CENTER.....	12

INTRODUCTION

In 2015 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 2015

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 2016.

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

- Approximately 10 students who have graduated;
- Rest of the construction to be finalized;
- Minimum of two 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 3 income generating activities have been set up;

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 we have executed 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 about 50 disabled students among which half are female. We have more than 55 students who applied, but due to the lack of space at our new location we can't host more students.

Our teachers support our students in a variety of different activities, a janitor takes care of the boys, a matron takes care of the girls and the cleaning of the centre and our cook teaches our students cooking skills. Our agricultural trainer shows our students how to grow crops and the security guards ensure the safety of our students, staff and our belongings. 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 the training they need and deserve.

Volunteers

Through Marianne Center's partner CIVS – Center for International Volunteer Service, we have received two volunteers from Germany, Sophie and Lukas. They arrived in the beginning of September 2015 and will be working at Marianne Center for the next 10 months or so.

Both of them have some experience in caring for people with mental disability in Germany where they have volunteered on part time basis while still attending school. They like

engaging themselves with daily things that can make a positive change in the lives of people with mental disability.



With the assistance from the teachers, Sophie and Lukas have worked on a timetable for the Center that is already being followed and is working well. They are also working on new comprehensive registration forms for the students to be able to capture all the necessary information and details for each student enrolled at Marianne Center. Besides this they are training the computer class on the basics of handling a computer. The current computer class has six students.

Construction

With the help of subsidies and donations from The Netherlands we were able to raise the last funds to enable to finish the construction. This will take place in 2016. We are only left with the construction of the kitchen, workshop, dining hall and admin block. When the construction of the whole premises is completed we can host up to 110 students and expand our (income generating) activities. This opens up more possibilities for us and the mentally disabled in Kenya.



Dormitory block



Classroom block

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.

Income generating activities

Our goal is to become financial independent. 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 bakery and even a biogas installation.

Poultry project

We have experienced that a poultry farm can help us to become more financial independent. So far our poultry farm remains small, and is mainly used to feed our students (meat and eggs). The sale of the chickens and eggs helps to fund the poultry farm. Our students are being taught how to keep a poultry farm, which will benefit them when they have graduated.



Greenhouse project

Our first harvest took place in January. Unfortunately, due to hot weather the harvest turned out much lower than predicted. Getting rid of pests was not easy since they love hot weather conditions. However, we did manage to harvest about 600 kg of tomatoes. This has been used to feed our students. The students were also taught in how to grow tomatoes using a greenhouse.



Greenhouse

Biogas digester

With the help of SACDEP we managed to construct a biogas installation. The installation has not been completed yet. We are still looking for funds for complete the installation. We expect the biogas digester to produce gas to cook for up to 150 people per day.



Installation of the biogas digester

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, beauty lessons, sewing, cooking, music, animal husbandry, computer lessons and handicrafts. Additionally we also prepare them for a job or to start their own 'business'.

Since 2012 we have the plan to graduate some of our students. Because of delay in the construction of our premises this has not taken place yet. Not only was the postponement of the graduation due to construction delays, but it also seems to be a bit complicated to have graduation process be recognized by the government. We are now searching for solutions to give our students the opportunity to graduate with a recognized diploma.

We are already in contact with several employers who are willing to provide employment opportunities to our students as soon as they have graduated. 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.

Health

At Marianne Center we ensure that our students stay in good health. We do that by providing a proper diet, ensuring hygiene, providing them with exercise and medical care if needed. Costs involving medical care are covered by one of our partners or the local church.

Feeding programme

The kitchen and serving area is still a temporary structure as the center tries has not started the construction of a dining hall and kitchen. Despite that we are able to offer our students proper meals.

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.

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

To achieve this goal we organise several activities. The previous years were financially wise quite difficult for us and we were therefore not able to organize many (costly) activities. However, we did organize an open day and attended some events, 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 get in contact with our students. This often results into them asking questions and visiting Marianne Center.

In June 2015 we organized an open day of which more than 30 staff and the CEO of Micro Africa attended the event. Last year this organisation donated a water tank and food. Also inhabitants of Limuru and the family of our students were among the attendees.

In October we organized a caretaker-meeting. This is to keep the caretakers of our students up to date and connected to our activities. Caretaker-meetings tend to be held every term. During these meetings caretakers have the opportunity to share their concerns, appreciation and/or ideas.

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 with mental disability 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.

Kiambu Marathon

This year's Kiambu marathon took place on 13th of June. As it has been the norm for the last three years, Marianne Center was well represented by a team of participants and a large cheering group. The Marathon was at the sports grounds of Kamandura primary school at Rironi village. Marianne Center had five participants who were Timothy, Victor, Joseph, Janett and Martha. All of them did their best to deliver victory for the center. Among these participants, three of them, that is Joseph, Victor and Timothy finished the race in the top five!



About ten special schools took part and each of them performed two celebration songs. Through the songs students expressed their wish not to be discriminated and to be recognized in the same way as everyone else. At least they request people to have an open heart. This was a great outing for Marianne Center students.

Media

Our goal for 2015 was to reach at least 7.5 million people about Marianne Center and her mentally disabled students through media and (awareness) events. During the previous years 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 only able to organize one open day this year and therefore were not able to reach our goal of 7.5 million people. We realize that organizing events is often of high costs and are therefore not always achievable for us. As a result we adjusted our goal; we hope to have reached at least 10 million people before the end of 2018 (starting to count as of 2016) through the use of media.

Through nature walks, our Facebook page, church visits, marathon, 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 board members, Jane Ngiria and Samuel Kago are working for these institutions. This makes our connection to the government much easier.

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. Because of many changes this year at government level, the expected support from NCPDW was limited this year. We hope to see a positive change in their support next year.

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.

We occasionally receive food items or small donations from the local government and county.

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 Kenyans about people with a mental disability. The previous years were financially seen quite difficult for Marianne Center. Due to lack of finances we were not able to carry out some of our activities, like 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, our Facebook page, attending events, 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 every month. 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.

On our Facebook page and our website we place updates about our activities. This, among other things, contains a note about our donors and success stories about our students.

Our team of directors consists of seven professionals with broad experience in subjects as management, entrepreneurship, organizational development, networking, fundraising, 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 2016

Below you can read our reviewed goals for 2016-2018.

1. 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
2. To be fully financial independent from support from outside of Kenya
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

Goals 2016

We would like to have achieved the following by the end of 2016:

- The first few students to have graduated;
- Rest of the construction to be finalized;
- Minimum of two awareness events (among which an open day);
- 3 million have been reached through media activities about the capabilities of people with a mental disability;
- The construction of an access road to Marianne Center.

PHOTOS MARIANNE CENTER



Our new products



Dormitory block



Classroom block