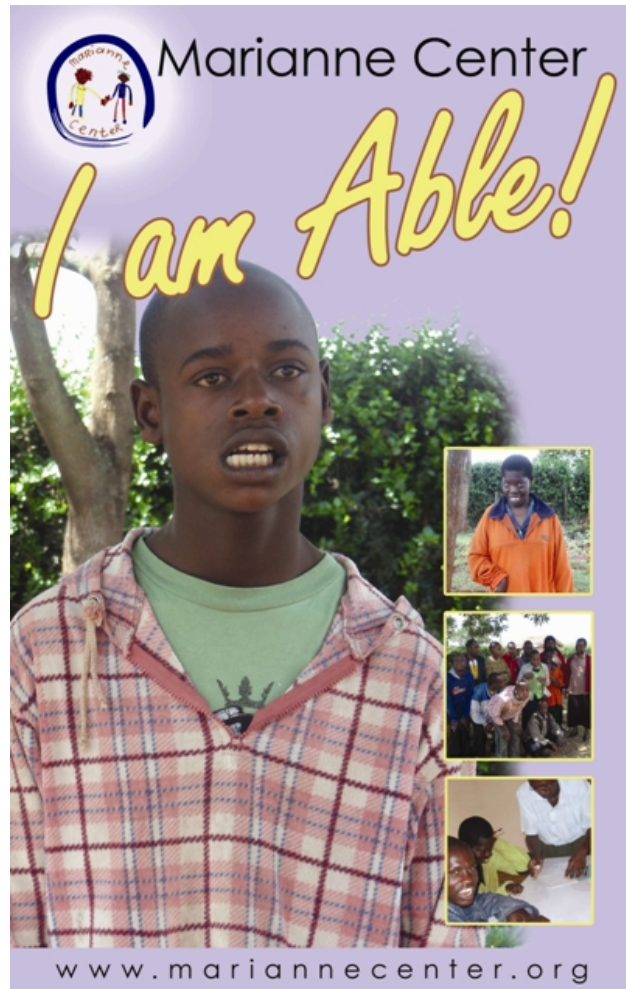


Report Marianne Center

2016



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INTRODUCTION

In 2016 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 2016

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:

- 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 who are mentally challenged;
- The construction of an access road to Marianne Center.

Our objectives for 2016-2018 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

Below we indicate per objective which activities we have executed to achieve our goals.

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

In January 2010 we opened our doors for the mentally challenged (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 48 mentally challenged students among which half are female. In November 26 of our students graduated.

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. The agriculturalist teaches our students how to grow crops and the bakery teaches them to make bread and other pastries. The tailor supports our students in garment making. 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.

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'.

Graduation

On the 9th of November 26 of our students graduated, 11 men and 15 women. The graduated students will be supported in the process of integration in society. At this moment 16 of our students already have a job. One of students, as you can read below, has been hired as one of our teachers. Other students found work (either from home or for an employer); in a beauty salon, as security, in a bakery, as a tailor, in catering, in housekeeping, in construction, in farming, as cleaner and making jewellery. We are currently searching for work for the other graduated students.



Our graduated students



Success story!

Daniel is one of the staff members here at Marianne Center. He teaches the subjects Beadwork and Tapestry. But before Daniel became a teacher, he was a student at Marianne Center. Together with his brother Ibrahim he has been at the Center for 5 years, from the beginning 2010 until April 2015. Daniel and Ibrahim have been orphans since they were very young. Their mother died in childbirth and their father disappeared with the first-born child. Therefore the grandparents took care of them. Later they were brought to a children's home. The owner of this orphanage realized that Daniel and Ibrahim have some mental issues. He therefore brought them to Marianne Center. After the two brothers left the Center at April 2015 Daniel worked at a school, where he cooked for the students. He also worked at a hotel. Daniel's (most people call him Dan) favorite activity at Marianne was beadwork. He created beautiful bags, necklaces and bracelets. Because he was really good at beadwork the Board decided to employ him in May 2016 as a teacher for Beadwork and Tapestry.

Daniel has a great personality. He gets along with the students very well and everyone respects him. They also have a lot of fun together. Dan always tries to make the students happy and he really likes to spend a lot of time with them. He knows the students well. Dan is a great role model for them. Furthermore, he is a very cooperative staff member.

Dan has a close relationship with his brother. The love to his brother is so deep, that when Ibrahim is sick Dan is affected too.

Today, Daniel lives in a small house near the Center on his own. He and Ibrahim are two of the students, who will be graduating on 9th of November. We cannot be more proud!!

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

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.

Construction

In January we continued the construction of our premises, due to funding from multiple donors among which is Wild Geese. The classroom and dormitory block has been finalized and is in use. Unfortunately we didn't manage to finish the kitchen and dorm block. The kitchen will be finalized soon and will be used together with the dining hall. The admin block however has been finished only up to wall level. The reason that it hasn't been finished as planned, is because the exchange rate with the Euro had gone down compared to our budget, which was a great loss for us. At the same time prices increased and we adjusted the drawing so we could host the bakery in our own premises instead of having to rent it somewhere else, which made the plan a bit more expensive. We expect Kenyan donors to fund the remaining part of the construction.



Dors and classroom block



Kitchen and admin block

Access road

Last year we requested from the local government to provide an access road to Marianne Center because our location is hard to reach. The government acknowledged the need and provided an access road, which improved the accessibility to Marianne Center a lot. We are very grateful they approved our request.



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

Currently all running costs of Marianne Center are being covered locally, through school fees, financial support from our board members and through donations of other Kenyan parties. Our goal is to become financial independent before the end of 2018. We hope to achieve this by setting up income generating activities. We recently received funding to set up a bakery and a garment enterprise, which we believe will help us to achieve our goal.

Bakery and garment enterprise

The goal of setting up these enterprises is to be able to cover the running costs at MC and to provide job opportunities for our graduated students. The students are being taught how to make bread and pastries and how to make uniform and repair clothes. Baking goods will be delivered to households, shops and schools. We are targeting factories, churches, corporations and any institution that require uniforms that can be made by our students. These enterprises will start early next year.



The oven, ready to be used

Greenhouse project

The greenhouse provides for our feeding programme. It has proven to be very successful and this is the reason why we would like to set up another greenhouse. The crops grow much better in a greenhouse climate compared to outdoors. Since the investment and running costs of a greenhouse is low, it's very beneficial for us. Next to this our students learn how to grow crops. That knowledge they can also use at their own households.



Greenhouse

3. Fight the social stigma associated with people who are mentally challenged

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 who are mentally challenged. 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.

Events 2016

In November we organized an awareness walk, a network event and an employers forum. This to become more known, to find partners who can support us in achieving our mission and vision and to set up a network with potential employers for our students. During the awareness walk we distributed 800 flyers. Some employers and other organizations, next to other well-wishers, joined the walk as well.



The goal of the network event was to focus on the capabilities of people who are mentally challenged and how we can join hands together as different parties to improve the wellbeing and opportunities of this marginalized group of people. During the employers forum we talked about carrier opportunities and the integration of people who are mentally challenged into

society. Unfortunately only a few people came to these events, since most of them were present during the graduation and couldn't join both events.

Graduation

The graduation of our students was amazing. 900 people came to witness this event. Parents, national and local government officials, employers, education institutions and people from outside who wanted to see our exhibition. This was also a great way of creating awareness about people who are mentally challenged.

Documentaries

Marianne Center created a new documentary that you can watch via this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0e4C8I_Kc2Q

One of our volunteers also made a documentary that gives you a bit of an idea about the activities at Marianne Center; <http://m.dw.com/en/i-almost-feel-better-here-than-in-germany/av-19370168?maca=en-Facebook-sharing>

These documentaries are being used during our open days and other events.

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.

Media

Our goal for 2016 was to reach at least 3 million people about Marianne Center and her mentally challenged students through media and (awareness) events. Three radio stations broadcasted messages about Marianne Center (Ingo FM, Lolwe FM and Ghetto Radio). They mainly promoted the awareness walk and employer and networking events at Marianne Center. Next to this those radio stations shared more often positive stories about people who are mentally challenged. The stations have together over 12 million listeners. We expected to have reached 40% of the listeners, totalling to about 4.8 million people. Through nature walks, our Facebook page, church visits, lunch meetings, etc. we managed to reach even more people.

All of these activities have contributed to fighting the social stigma associated with people who are mentally challenged and it is therefore important that we continue with our activities.

4. Sensitize the government of the need to support people who are mentally challenged 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 who are mentally challenged. 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 mentally challenged students. The application however does require a lot of follow-up, which parents find hard to do. We therefore started a parent committee to, among other things, together lobby for support from the government.

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 who are mentally challenged and give them and their families hope for a better life

Marianne Center can only accommodate a certain number of mentally challenged people and therefore reaching out to 2.9 million mentally challenged people is hard to do. To make sure that besides our students other mentally challenged people 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 who are mentally challenged. This year we managed to reach about 4.8 million people about Marianne Center and her students.

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 challenged 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 who are mentally challenged which results into reducing the stigma associated with this marginalized group. Not only did our students benefit from our activities but also other mentally challenged 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 challenged and in creating awareness about the capacities of people who are mentally challenged. 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 week. 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 challenged 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.

When students graduate they leave with an 'exit summary graduation report'. This contains all the subjects they participated in and how they progressed and mastered the skills.

Financial reports are made every month 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 learning difficulties. 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 2017

Goals 2017

We would like to have achieved the following by the end of 2017:

- Rest of the construction to be finalized;
- Bakery and garment enterprise to generate income to cover part of the running cost;
- Minimum of two awareness events (among which an open day);
- 4.2 million have been reached through media activities about the capabilities of people who are mentally challenged;
- 60 students to have joined Marianne Center.

PHOTOS MARIANNE CENTER





