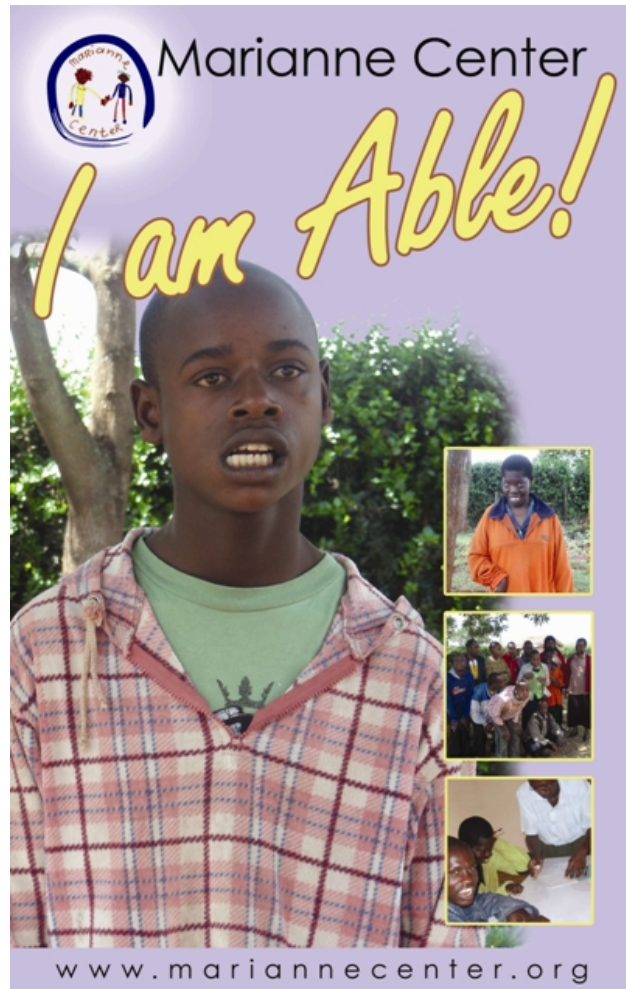


Report Marianne Center

2017-2019



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CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	3
RESULTS till 2019	3
MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	7
PHOTOS MARIANNE CENTER.....	8

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few years 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 till 2019

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 2020.

In our proposal we wanted to achieve the following things:

- Rest of the construction to be finalized;
- Minimum of two awareness events (among which an open day);
- Bakery and tailor businesses to make MC 50% financial independent;
- 4.2 million have been reached through media activities about the capabilities of people who are mentally challenged;
- 60 students at Marianne Center.

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

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 about 40 mentally challenged students among which half are female. In November 2016, 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, computer lessons and handicrafts. Additionally we also prepare them for a job or to start their own 'business'.

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 our cook.

Construction

The classroom and dormitory block has been finalized and is in use. The admin and kitchen 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 hope that Kenyan donors fund the remaining part of the construction, which would be about 6 million shilling.



Kitchen and admin block

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 as soon as possible. We hope to achieve this through our income generating activities, the bakery and garment enterprise. So far income from these activities are too low to cover the running costs of Marianne Center. This requires us to review and adjust our plans for these activities.

Greenhouse project

The greenhouse provides for our feeding programme. It has proven to be very successful. 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. 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.

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 was to reach at least 4.2 million people about Marianne Center and her mentally challenged students through media and (awareness) events. In the past years we unfortunately didn't manage to get a newspaper article, or radio and TV moment. We therefore most likely did not achieve our goal of 4.2 million.

Through nature walks, our Facebook page, church visits, lunch meetings, etc. we do reach quite a number of people.

This has contributed to fighting the social stigma associated with people who are mentally challenged and it is therefore important that we continue 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.

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. Unfortunately this institution has not been supporting us that much in the past year. The application also requires a lot of follow-up, which parents find hard to do. We therefore started a parent committee to, among other things, lobby for support from the government. This has not been very fruitful yet.

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, county and individuals.

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. Because of financial restrictions we didn't manage to organize those events.

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.

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.

Our team of directors consists of four 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.

PHOTOS MARIANNE CENTER





