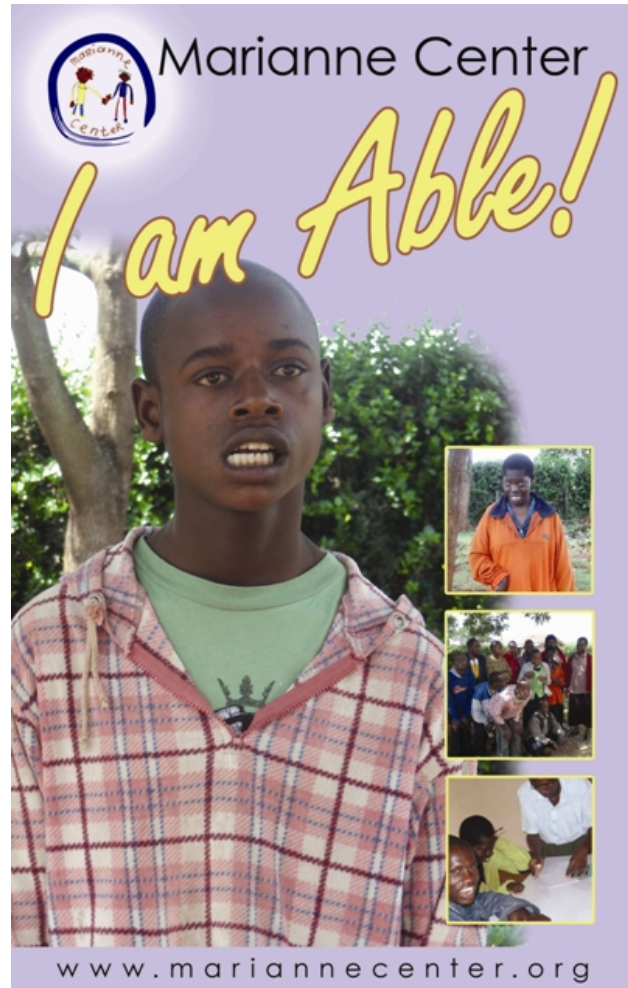


Report Marianne Center

2020



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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 2020

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 2021.

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. Unfortunately we had to close our doors and sent our 25 students home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Because of this we weren't able to pay our teachers and many lost their jobs.

With the help of a generous donor we were able to hire a new manager for our center so we could plan for the reopening of Marianne Center. He started in September and has shown he is excellent in executing his job.

Construction

The classroom and dormitory block has been finalized and is in use since 2016. The admin and kitchen block however has been finished only up to wall level. In 2020 due to the pandemic we couldn't continue with the construction. By the end of 2020 we received enough funding to finish the construction in 2021.

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

Our goal is to become financial independent as soon as possible, but due to Covid-19 we pretty much have to start off fresh again. We hope to achieve financial independency through income generating activities, the bakery and garment enterprise, which we hope to set up in 2021. We also try to meet the government requirements so we can officially be registered as a TVET (technical and vocational education and training) Institution. This will give us a chance to use accredited trainings and exams. We will then also receive recognition of the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) and Ministry of Education. This will help us to fundraise locally and to receive government paid teachers.

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

To achieve this goal we organise several activities. Due to covid-19 we weren't able to organize any activities this year.

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. But this also hasn't happened much in 2020.

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.

Also through nature walks, our Facebook page, church visits, lunch meetings, etc. we try to reach quite a number of people, but this year we didn't get the chance to reach many.

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 expect that with our new manager this would be easier to follow up on.

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. Our manager will also be in charge of networking with these parties.

We also occasionally receive food items or small donations from the local government, county and individuals, although this year we haven't received much.

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 due to Covid-19 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 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 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 twice 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.

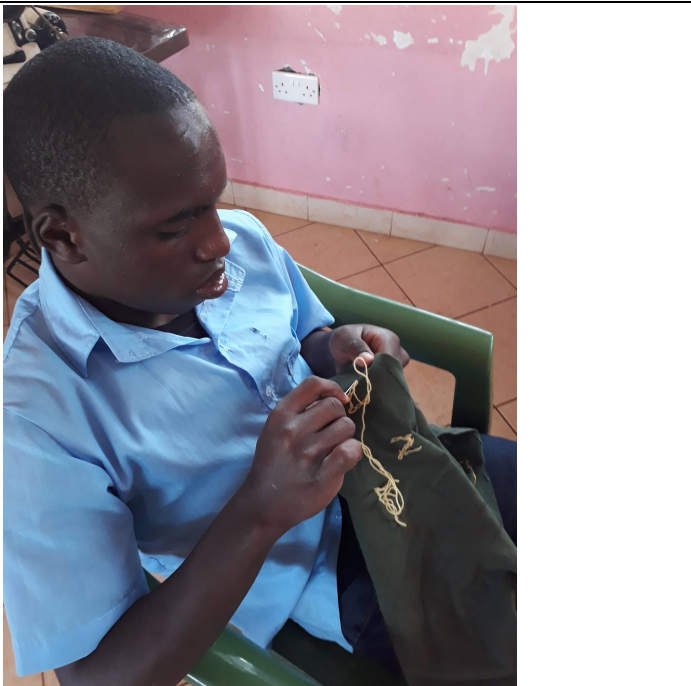
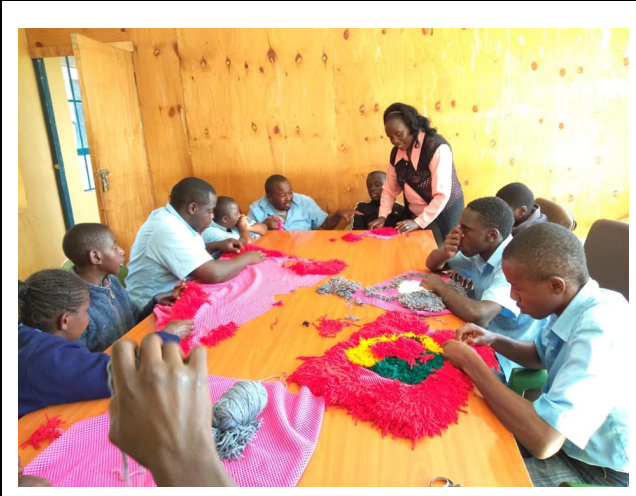
Financial reports are made every month and our aim is to have an audit report done annually. On our Facebook page and our website we place updates about our activities.

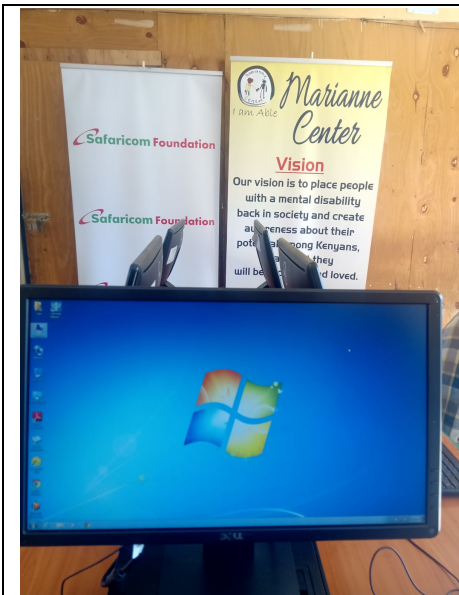
Our team of directors consists of four professionals with broad experience in subjects as management, entrepreneurship, organizational development, networking, fundraising, healthcare and learning difficulties. Our general manager and board member has 7 years of experience in a similar occupation at 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.

Our Kenyan manager has many years of experience in working as a program manager for multiple NGOs. He has proven in his first months at MC to be very valuable to MC.

PHOTOS MARIANNE CENTER





Safaricom donated 5 computers.



One of our students can't wait to start again!



We're ready for the opening!