

**Newsletter Mutanyana Weru,
December 2005.**

**1 FATHER ANDRÉ'S 40 YEARS
PRIESTHOOD**

Father André, who manages the Centre, celebrated his forty years of priesthood last September. It was a great and beautiful festivity for Father André. The day started with a special mess in the picturesque church of Venhorst (Netherlands) and continued with a party giving everybody the opportunity to congratulate Father André with this milestone. All appreciation for his work and the Centre in Maputo was underlined by the presence of hundreds of guests and a very successful sponsor action. Euro 15000, - was collected for the Centre!

Thanks to all donators.



2 SPONSORING OF THE CENTRE IN 2005

It is good to mention that the Foundation's sponsoring of the Centre for this year progresses to full satisfaction. Already €20000, - has been donated, which is a quarter more than last year. Hopefully this trend will continue. The Centre's activities have grown, resulting in a growth of the expenditures as well.

Housing for more residents has to be provided and of course these additional people have to be fed.

3 HOUSES FOR HANDICAPPED

Outside the Centre's location a reintegration project has been realised. This was done

with the financial help of two Dutch organisations, 'Sport en Spel Maasland' and 'de Wilde Ganzen' (www.wildeganzen.nl) The purpose of this project is to create home facilities for abandoned women (with or without children) and without almost any income. Very often these women are handicapped as well.

After a process of revalidation in the Centre, these women are able to live independently and to take part in a normal social community. Thirty people have already benefited from this project. Amongst them are 15 adult women and 15 minors (10 girls and 5 boys).

These adults can now live independently, which gives them more privacy but also forces them to take responsibility for their lives. Their children will grow up in a family setting which is better and healthier than the life at the Centre.

For some time these people can still rely on the Centre's support, but they also have to do their utmost best to become self-supporting as soon as possible.

For the realisation of this project the Centre's management selected unfinished houses that were bought or donated for this purpose. Also some pieces of land were purchased to build cabins on it, thus providing decent housing for more people. In some occasions the mothers asked if they could have additional children (often orphans) with them in their new homes. This project turned out to be a big success. We are greatly indebted to the two above-mentioned sponsoring organisations.



4 LEGACIES

The Foundation investigates the possibilities for our donators to change their regular gifts

to so-called legacies. These legacies are eligible for tax reduction. A contract for an annual donation need to be made by a legal notary for a minimum of 5 successive years. More information will follow in the next newsletter.

It is good to know that the first person has already changed his donations to this alternative way of donating. Hopefully more will follow.



5 VISIT TO THE CENTRE

Last August one of the members of our Committee, Marja Dijkshoorn, visited the Centre with her husband. Of course they did this at their own expenses. Below is an impression of some activities and contacts with people they had during their visit.

“We like to introduce Dorka, one of the very young residents of the Centre. On our way to the Aids-centre of Maputo’s Central Hospital we met Dorka. She was accompanied by Father André and was getting the results of tests. Although she is less than one year old she has gone through a great deal. She was born in the Central Hospital and soon after that she lost her mother who died as a result of Aids. Dorka, who stayed for some months in the hospital, did not have any family to take care of her. Father André visited her daily, and she was given home in the Centre. At first there was big concern about Dorka’s health: was she infected with the Aids virus? After repeated tests this turned out not to be the case. Gladness all over, although Dorka did not realise this. On our way home she sleeps, tired of all the time of waiting in the busy waiting room”

“There is little educational material, like books etc. on the Centre. We therefore requested the Dutch organisation ‘Bibliodef’ to submit books (www.bibliodef.nl). In the meantime we received some beautiful books for children. Cheerful books with beautiful coloured pictures and a variety of books with themes like animals, cars, flowers, etc. The curious faces of the children of what they saw in the books were heart-warming. The books changed continuously from owner and it was a very happy get-together. That day a start was made for a real library. It is however very difficult to get Portuguese language books in Holland and the shipping costs are high. We are looking for a proper solution”

“The new pavilion was being constructed during our stay. A foreign charity organisation took the responsibility for it and will manage the project. The new pavilion is specially adapted to handicapped children. During our visit we saw the walls a meter and a half above the ground level and the door- and window posts already in position. However, the budget is tight and has to be adapted. What this means for the Centre has not become clear during our stay. We hope that the construction works will not be delayed and that it will finished quickly”.



6 OUR ORGANISATION

Herco Jansen resigned as membership committee but stays active for the Foundation. We herewith thank Herco for all the work he did for the Foundation.

7 NEWS OF FATHER ANDRÉ.

The Centre is fully occupied. In the course of the year a number of residents, mothers with children, have started to live in their new homes. This is part of the reintegration project.

This created new space for new residents and a couple of very young children could be admitted to the Centre. Fortunately the Centre was less confronted with deceased people this year. Also infectious diseases did not spread in the Centre. Treatment and care of people with incurable illnesses like Aids ask for permanent care and medical support.

The new pavilion that is now being constructed with the help of foreign charity organisations, suffers from delays because of insufficient finances. This will take some time. This to the disappointment of the heaviest handicapped people for whom this pavilion is intended.

The daily organisation of the Centre continues to be a headache. The circumstances in and around the Centre ask maximum attention of the responsible staff. Language problems and cultural differences with the local staff ask for permanent support and flexibility of the European management and the volunteers.

Hopefully a proper solution will be found to lower the work pressure.

Affordable and qualified personnel are hardly available. Additional staff would also put an extra pressure on the financial resources. Therefore there is a big need for more moral and financial support.

8 FUTURE

For the Foundation's management emphasis will be on activities to raise money in Holland. We also look with Father André to the future of the Centre. The following questions have our attention:

- Will it be possible to integrate the Centre into the local Mozambican society and can it therefore be more independent of European support, funds and management?
- Can we further raise the quality of the care situation, without using European standards that do not fit in this country?

We realise that such questions can not be solved in Holland and we therefore stimulate Father André to investigate local solutions.

9 FINALLY

We all wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Mail address:

Mutanyana Weru Foundation
Van Lennepweg 7, 2597 LG, Den Haag
The Netherlands

Bank account:

Mutanyana Weru Foundation
ABN-Amro 57.09.72.345
Kerkplein 2
6578 AN Leuth
The Netherlands
BIC: ABNANL2A
IBAN: NL32ABNA0570972345
E-mail: bjmgiesen@planet.nl

www.mutanyanaweru.nl

Contact persons:

Sjef van Zon
+31 492 32 16 26
Marja Dijkshoorn-van Buuren
+31 10 59 10 607
Ben Giesen
+31 70 35 22 383
Jan van Mil
+31 24 66 31 234
Matthijs Theunissen
024 39 76 344

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