

Newsletter Mutanyana Weru, December 2012.

This year it is 10 years ago that our Foundation started to officially support Father André and his work in and around Maputo (former Lauro Marques) in Mozambique. Before our Foundations started the donations were handled by his Congregation. Below pls. find an overview of the activities.



1. Overview of 10 years Mutanyana Weru

Until the year 1992 Mozambique suffered from the civil war. During peace negotiations it had been agreed (a.o) that UN troops would come and clear the land from the thousands of mines which were left behind; and this actually happened in the following years. Before their work was completely finished a lot of people (mainly the women) went, far to early, to their fields again in order to grow crops and thus to feed their families. The result was that a lot of mines exploded with dramatic results. Father André, who lived for quite a number of years in Mozambique, was (and still is) also connected to the Main Hospital of Maputo. He was almost daily confronted with victims of this war and its mine fields. But he also met victims from malnourishment, traffic accidents, severe illnesses, etc. He also was confronted with a lot of children who were orphan or simply had been left behind by their parents. In the years of 1991-1993 he provided very simple housing. The number of people he cared for, grew steadily and he even managed to provide housing for these people with friend and acquaintances. This situation could not last longer and the need for more professional housing became urgent. In 1993 funds became available to start extension of the project and in 1994-1995 a permanent centre was built in one of the outskirts of Maputo. In December 1995 people moved into this new Centre, which was



named Mutanyana Weru (Our little Village).

Five years later (in December 1999) the Centre housed 55 people most of which were under the age of 18. Since then the number of inhabitants gradually grew to 70 in 2003 and to 90 women and children in 2008. The maximum capacity of the Centre had been reached by then.

Already in the year 2000 a start was made to re-integrate the women and children, who were capable, into the local society. For this purpose housing was created with, but mostly without, the support of family. Because Father André slowly grow older and no successors were available from his own Congregation, he started to think about how to provide continuity to his project. Contacts with some local organisation did no bring the wanted results. This situation lasted until 2007 when the Brazilian Congregation of Orionites responded in a positive way to Father André's plans. They were experienced in housing of single women and orphans.

After mutual discussion and agreements and with the permission of the Archbishop of Maputo, the Centre finally was taken over by the Orionites on September 30 2008.

Immediately following the take-over the renovation of the Centre started, bringing the re-integration process in higher gear.

The take-over had a lot of problems to overcome and needed a lot of energy, time and money for all people involved.



Houses and huts had to be build or bought for those people who qualified for the re-integration process. The employees of the Centre had to be laid off in accordance to the local rules. Contract and pensions had to be terminated and the resulting compensations had to be paid, etc., etc.

With the help of financial extra support from Holland and Belgium, and with the great work of Father André

and the inhabitants of the Centre, the take-over was closed to mutual satisfaction. In that period of time 9 small houses, including pieces of land, have been bought or built around Maputo for 30 persons, 2 huts a bit further away from the town, in Bobole for 5 persons and 4 houses in Maputo for 15 persons. The available fields offer enough vegetables and fruits to live from and what is left over is being sold on the local market.



It is hard work for the women to build on a new future, but this is done very seriously and with a lot of enthusiasm. In this work they are being supported by some local expats who help them with their experience and they also provide training on a variety of subject like agriculture, hygiene, sales etc. The children attend the local schools and one girl even studies on Maputo's university.

2. Finances:

Every quarter Father André receives our donation and he is very content with this continuous stream of income, so he knows exactly what his budget is. From his financial overview 2011 one can see that the money not only is used for 88 women and children, but also for emergency help, education, training and aids fighting.

The recession is worldwide and also hurts Mozambique. We therefore kindly request you for some additional effort to make sure that Father André and his volunteers will be able to continue to support the handicapped and sick people of the project. And also to allow the children to continue to go to school to receive their basis education which helps them to get a better future life.

3. Donations and Legacies

We are only a relatively small Foundation with the main goal to financially support Father André in his activities with handicapped people in Maputo – Mozambique. We can not organise large campaigns or spend money on advertising, but be assured that all your donated money comes at the right place. The

current recession has lead to raised cost for food, fuel, education, etc. not only in our country but these poorest countries, like Mozambique, have been hit most. In order to cope with this situation we need your financial support.

May we count on an additional gift?

It is good to know that periodic gifts are fiscally most attractive. If necessary our Chairman, Sjef van Zon, can give detailed information. (phone +31492321626)

4. FIRE!

Early September we received the message that one of the small huts burnt down. By accident one of the children fell on an oil lamp causing a fire in Marieta's small hut. You can see the devastating result on the picture. Fortunately no people were injured but the huts with everything in it, got completely lost. This of course is a pity but can happen.



Meanwhile we heard that the hut has been rebuild with help of neighbours, family and Father André.

5. Finally

We wish you a very good Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Thank you for your support!

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