

# Friends of Marimanti

## Annual report 2023



From left to right:  
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## Introduction

Proudly we present you the first annual report of Foundation “Friends of Marimanti.” Friends of Marimanti is a Kenyan – Dutch foundation that aims to support sustainable projects and measures to improve quality of care in Marimanti hospital and surrounding health centres.

The foundation was officially founded in December 2022, so 2023 was the first year of action. Finalizing practical issues such as opening a bank account, registering as Dutch “ANBI foundation” and launching the website took effort. But we managed, as we say in Dutch “de aanhouder wint” (persistence pays off).

In January 2023, three of the Dutch board members paid a visit to Chuka and Marimanti. A great way to get to know each other and to formulate our goals together with local staff. We had a fruitful meeting with the county Minister of Health; this resulted in the signing of a “Memorandum of Understanding” in December 2023. Since Marimanti is a government hospital, good collaboration with the authorities is a necessity.

Another highlight in 2023 was the first big fundraising event, the “Bazaar in Grijpskerke”. A great event organized by many volunteers of the village of Grijpskerke, Zeeland. As much as 11.150 euro was collected! We’re very grateful for this support.

In conclusion, in 2023 a solid foundation was laid for further collaboration and success to support the people who need it: the patients and staff of Marimanti, our friends.

## The rise of the foundation

“Tussen droom en daad staan wetten in dit land en praktische bezwaren”  
“Between dream and action are laws in this country and practical objections”  
Willem Elsschot (1910)

To establish a charitable foundation, several legal steps need to be taken to achieve the desired outcome.

### 1. Notarial Deed of Establishment:

Firstly, a notarial deed of establishment is necessary. This deed was signed on 06-12-22 in Alkmaar. It's worth noting that, following discussions with the tax authorities, the statutes of the Foundation were amended on 25-07-23 to comply with the ANBI status requirements.

### 2. ANBI Status:

Obtaining an ANBI (Public Benefit Organization) status is desirable. This status not only indicates that the Foundation meets all requirements set by the Dutch government but also allows donors, both business and private, to deduct their donations for tax purposes.

The ANBI status was granted by decision dated 09-09-23, retroactively from the date of the deed of establishment (06-12-23).

### 3. **Bank Account:**

To function properly as an ANBI foundation, a bank account is necessary. Due to tightened government regulations, banks are cautious about opening accounts for charitable foundations.

After a long and difficult process, the first application for a bank account was made in December 2022. In September 2023, a current account (NL 54 RABO 0369 1291 91) for the Foundation "Vrienden van Marimanti" was opened at Rabobank.

### 4. **Board of Supervision/Advisory Board:**

To ensure that the directors of the Foundation meet all the conditions set out in the deed of establishment, a Board of Supervision is necessary. At the instigation of the tax authorities regarding obtaining the ANBI status, the Board of Supervision, after the amendment of the statutes on 25-07-23, consists of three (3) persons.

### 5. **MOU (Memorandum of Understanding):**

As the hospital in Marimanti falls under the responsibility of the Tharaka Nithi County Government, an agreement between the Foundation "Vrienden van Marimanti" and the County is necessary to establish good agreements for the actual execution and realization of the set goals.

Work has been done to achieve this, and after much correspondence between the chairman of the Foundation and the county minister, the (draft) version was completed by the end of 2023.

### 6. **Fundraising:**

A cautious start to the fundraising process was made during the year. Especially the Bazaar in Grijpskerke (09-09-23), alongside various donations, contributed to the positive bank balance as of 01-01-24.

## Visit to Marimanti

In January 2023, three board members visited Marimanti, namely Mimosa Bruinooge, Myrrieth Hulsbergen and Senned Karrar. Aim of this visit was to increase knowledge about Marimanti Hospital and to perform a needs assessment, to meet the Kenyan members of the foundation, and to meet several persons as the county Minister of Health and the management team of the hospital. Cooperation with the hospital management and management at district level is necessary, to ensure that the foundation is approved by and embedded in the local system.

Marimanti Hospital is situated in a beautiful green hilly environment with many flowers, goats on some dirt roads and women in beautiful coloured local dresses. The hospital compound was clean, velvet monkeys were playing around. A lecture room with beamer was available to serve around twenty attendants. The different wards were visited, and the staff was friendly and cooperative. In the labour ward protocols, when available, were put on the walls. The ultrasound machine needed to be replaced since it was partly broken. The maternal and child health (MCH) clinic was quite organized being equipped for consultations on prevention like vaccinations, but also with a consultation room for sick children and a room for family planning and postnatal care for mothers. However, some hospital services were unavailable due to shortage of materials or staff. For example, the male and female ward were covered by only one nurse, and sick children were admitted here as well, since the hospital has no separate children ward.

The full board of the foundation performed a needs assessment. The most pressing needs of the hospital and the surrounding health facilities were discussed resulting in a needs assessment report.

A meeting with the hospital management team was held with representatives from all departments. It was discussed that, next to the importance of the requested solar system, the hospital has more needs: an increase in staff, education, the high rate of teenage pregnancies in the county and the need to improve the labour and maternity ward. It was brought up that some staff are not efficient in their work and seem to have enough time to get other tasks as well, and it should be evaluated whether job descriptions could be adjusted accordingly. It turns out this is quite challenging since the hospital cannot contract workers itself as staff employment is managed by the county.

After a lecture about primary survey of the acutely ill/injured patient, scenario training on neonatal resuscitation and postpartum haemorrhage followed. Scenario training is not common in this setting. However, as we know there is only 5% knowledge retention in the long run, we opted to give scenario training in hopes of having better retention of skills and knowledge. The next day, the scenario training was repeated after a lecture and a demonstration of resuscitation methods.

We met Dr Gichuyia Nthuraku M'Riara, county minister of health and Rose Micheni, chief officer public health and sanitation are supportive and interested people with a huge amount of knowledge of Public Health and of the local situation. The meeting was held in Chuka Hospital, the referral hospital for Marimanti Hospital. The following topics were discussed: 1) the aim to implement a solar system to save money on generator fuel and electricity. This should be guided by an MoU to be able to reallocate the saved money to the hospital. A needs assessment was deemed essential to support this reallocation. 2) The major county-wise health challenges: low attendance of antenatal care, low human resources, skills need to be improved with training and the problem of malnutrition. 3) The exchange of medical staff (midwives, doctors, interns, research students) was appointed, and Dr Gichuyia offered his help arranging work permits when necessary.



Training: neonatal resuscitation

## Working groups

To improve efficiency in the drawing and implementation of plans besides the attention given to implementation of a solar system, three working groups were established in September 2023. At least one board member from both countries is seated in every working group, as well as one other staff member from Marimanti Hospital. The involvement of staff will in the best case improve awareness, increase support and result in more sustainable developments. For now, these three working groups focus on the following topics in the maternity ward.

- 1) Renovation of the ward (privacy, hygiene, efficiency, materials)
- 2) Improvement of quality of care (hygiene, ANC, peri- and postpartum care, emergency obstetric care trainings)
- 3) Improvement of education

### Working group 1: Renovation of the ward

In the meeting between Dr Andrew Njoroge and Piet Bruinooge it was decided that plans would further be developed during the visit in Januari 2024.

### Working Group 2: Improvement of quality of care

Dr Martin Mugambi, Dr Myrrith Hulsbergen and midwife Charity took place in the working party. The first meeting was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2023 and was followed up one month later. It was discussed that total staff working at the maternity ward is 15 midwives and 4 doctors, working in shifts. In the morning two midwives are available, in the afternoon one and at night two midwives. Training of staff and the use of protocols seem to be mostly urgent. In-hospital training seems to be most cost-effective and can involve most staff. Gaps are seen in the postpartum care at the ward for uncomplicated delivered mothers. This is due to a shortage of staff and materials (manual BP machine for example). Protocols are partly available. Dr Martin and midwife Charity have gone through the protocols, added new protocols and Dr Martin is training the staff on the job. A manual BP machine will be brought to Marimanti during the next visit from Dutch board members. Emergency obstetric care training in Nairobi in 2024 (LSTM) will be possibly attended by one or two staff (Dr and Midwife?).

### Working Group 3: Education

Dr. Pius Mutuma and Dr Senned Karrar took place in the working party. The aim of our education working group is to identify knowledge gaps and in which way our charity can offer support. Currently, several ideas are on the table. Our main idea is to start off with training nurses in either neonatal care or pediatric care. By offering nurses this additional training, we hope to bring more expertise to the hospital and thereby other nurses also get trained in these specific areas. Through our charity, we hope to finance this additional training and to ensure replacement nurses in the meanwhile. Currently, we are exploring the regional options for providing this training and are aiming to collaborate with local authorities to ensure adequate replacement.



## Bazaar Grijpskerke

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the yearly event “Bazaar Grijpskerke” took place. During this event, inhabitants of the village of Grijpskerke and surroundings organize a big event where people can buy second hand items (donated and collected by the villagers), children can play games and people can join a lottery.

The preparations took all week because volunteers had to collect the items, put up a big tent and had to prepare the stalls. During the day itself, even more volunteers did their best to make this day an enormous success. Also, friends and relatives of our board members helped during the preparations and during the day itself. Our foundation had its own stall where people could get information about the foundation and buy nice handmade gifts from Marimanti town.

It was a sweltering day for Dutch standards, but still the bazaar was tremendous. The atmosphere was great and joyful with many visitors passing by. As much as 11.150 euro was collected for our foundation to support the solar project.

We are incredibly grateful to all volunteers who made this possible, asanteni sana!

For more information: <https://grijpskerke.info/stichting-bazaar-grijpskerke/>.



## Financial Report 2023

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2023

#### Income

Gifts	€ 11.150,00
	€ 40,00
	€ 2.479,83
	€ 1.000,00
	€ 1.000,00
	€ 2.000,00
Total income	<u>€ 17.687,83</u>

#### Expenditure

Costs	€ 52,70
Debit interest	€ 0,08
Treasurer's declaration (see appendix)	€ 2.479,83
Total expenditure	<u>€ 2.532,61</u>

<b>Surplus</b> (income – expenses)	€ 15.155,12
<b>Saldo Rabobank</b>	<b>€ 15.151,61</b>

Before opening the bank account, the foundation incurred various expenses, amongst which the notarial costs for drawing up the deed of the incorporation. These costs as described in appendix 1 (page 11) were privately advanced by the treasurer and refunded by the foundation after opening of the bank account. The treasurer donated the same amount as a gift to the foundation on the same day of payment of the invoice.

#### Other donors:

- Mr. and Mrs. Bollebakker-Seijbel
- HARVEST HOLDING B.V.
- MGB Zeeland B.V.
- The Bazaar Foundation Grijskerke (village).



## Conclusion

In conclusion, the foundation Friends of Marimanti was launched in December 2022, and received ANBI status on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Friends of Marimanti aims to support sustainable projects and measures to improve quality of care in Marimanti hospital and surrounding health centres. A Memorandum of Understanding supports good collaboration between the government and the foundations, since Marimanti Hospital is a governmental district hospital. A needs assessment gives direction to the plans of development. Priorities are the implementation of a solar system, the renovation of the maternity ward and improvement of quality of care and education.



Published with verbal consent.

## Board members and contact details

### Board members, the Netherlands

Dr. Mimosa Bruinooge, co-chair

Mr. Piet Bruinooge, co-treasurer

Dr. Myrrith Hulsbergen, co-secretary

Dr. Senned Karrar, public relations

### Board members, Kenya

Dr. Andrew Njorge, co-chair

Dr. Martin Muwira, co-chair

Mrs. Angelica Mtuura, co-secretary

### Supervisory Board

Prof. Dr. Jelle Stekelenburg

Dr. Irene de Vries

Mr. Simon Jongepier till November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Mr. Alex Muia from November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Address Marimanti Hospital

Marimanti, Tharaka Nithi, Kenya

### Website “Friends of Marimanti”

<https://www.friendsofmarimanti.org/>

## Appendix 1

### Details expenditures

Date	Description	Amount (euro)	
20-11-2022	Legalisation signature MH	60	
02-01-2023	Notarial deed of establishment	1086,85	
02-01-23	Subscription Kamer van Koophandel (KvK)	51,95	
07-02-23	Legislation signature IdV	50	
16-03-23	Declaration SK	534,80	
24-04-23	Website	145,20	
08-09-23	Declaration SK	147,08	
08-09-23	Flyers	90,00	
13-09-23	Discount T-shirts Foundation		+31,05
12-10-23	Improvements website	363,00	
Total t/m 01-11-23		2528,88	+31,05
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2497,83</b>	