

Newsletter Centro Madre

December 2022



Dear friends of Centro Madre

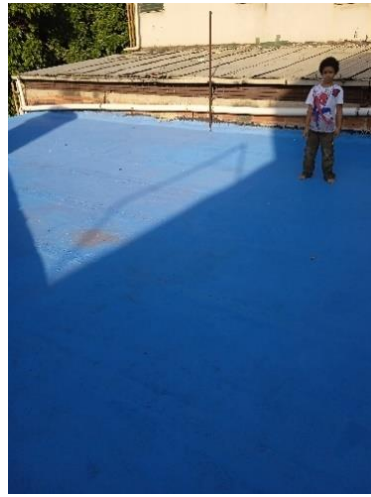
Here in Venezuela, with the help of Centro Madre in the Netherlands, we continue our commitment to support the people in Venezuela in their daily struggle for survival. The political and economic situation, the corruption, the breakdown of the infrastructure and a trade embargo, make daily life difficult for the common people. For a few months, inflation wasn't very high, for Venezuelan standards, but recently it has started to increase again. We have inflation here in local money, as well as in dollars. It puts everybody under the continuous stress of struggling for survival. Living costs are very high. Many people who have a car, cannot keep up the cost of maintaining it anymore. House rentals continue to rise, putting more and more people on the streets. Many garbage containers in the street, have a group of people "living" nearby, who look through the garbage for food and other items that others throw away. The phone company is not able to maintain its infrastructure. Many have lost their landline phone connection and, as a result, internet. Safety is a daily problem. A lot of thefts in the metro and buses. Particularly hard is life for people outside the cities due to lack of opportunity for work and high transportation costs. Many continue to leave Venezuela to look for better opportunities, often not finding them. For the last 3 months we have had excessive rain in the country, causing landslides, loss of houses, roads and agricultural land.

PRAMA



PRAMA is a project that serves people in need. It is run by volunteers. We continue to weekly offer a hot meal to people living in the streets or are facing

other difficulties. The meal is simple and nutritious. Sympathizers donate rice, spaghetti and corn flour. We buy fruits, vegetables, oil and sugar. They often express their gratitude. It is not only the food they are grateful for, but also the fact that others care for them in their difficult living conditions.



The excessive rain for weeks caused water to filter through the roof in the building of PRAMA. We bought special paint to control the problem.

FARMERS SUPPORT AND FOOD SECURITY

Farmers are hit hard by the poor economy and additionally by torrential rains that have been affecting Venezuela for the last few months and is predicted to last until February next year. Landslides are common, crops are seriously affected. In some places in the mountains they barely receive any sun for weeks. It is estimated that in Venezuela small and medium farmers provide 80% of the food. Therefore we consider it essential for the food security of the region and the country that there is support for these farmers.

Kurumba is a small community 2 hours west from Caracas, along the coastline towards Chichirivichy. The road to get there was blocked several times by landslides making access difficult. Farmers lost their crops and several families lost their homes, their belongings and agricultural land. We visited and donated agricultural tools, clothes and medicines. On the way back to Caracas, it started to rain and we faced some difficulties to get out of there.



Giselle lives in Caracas in a big house meant for a big family. But everybody moved out looking for better luck in other countries. She continues to live there with her mother and her young daughter. She grows food on the roof of the house for personal consumption and for selling in the area where she lives. She needed to make weather proof boxes for the vegetable plants on the roof and found a company that makes “plastic wood”. The material is made out of recycled plastic and can be treated like wood. It withstands the effect of water and will last a life time.



Centro Madre gave her the money for the initial investment.

Juliaines is from Barlovento and studies in Caracas. She used “plastic wood” to make 4 divisions in her backyard to create an area for compost. Fresh compost is located in the first section and left there for a week.



Then it is moved to the second section, later to the third and finally to the fourth, until it has become compost ready for plants or for further processing by Californian worms.



Children urinating on the compost helps the process of decomposing. Processing kitchen and garden waste reduces garbage waste.



Jefferson lives in Guatire and grows organic tomatoes. His watering system broke down. We helped him with a new pump and technical assistance from Mario Moto, electrical engineer and member of our team.

Pedro lives in Parque Gaiza and needed a telephone to be able to contact his clients and participate in the meetings of his community. In this picture he is taking a selfie.



Armando lives in Guatire. He grows different vegetables and has pigs. The roof was full of holes and his pigs were suffering. With their new roof, they are doing much better.

FOOD DEHYDRATORS

Farmers lose much of their fresh produce if they have no transportation to transport their harvest to the market. They could dehydrate it to preserve and add value to sell it, or preserve it for their own consumption. We are collecting old refrigerators to turn them into food dehydrators and give



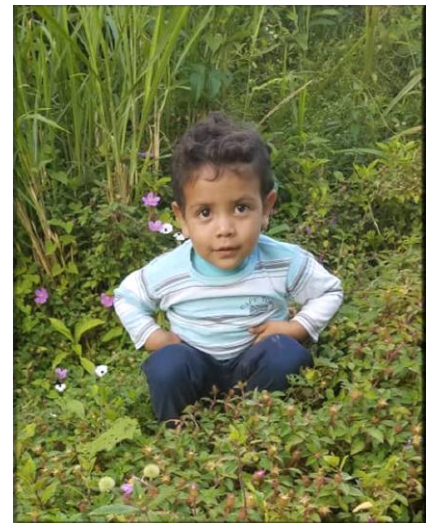
them to these farmers. It is a project in process.



Mario Moto is from Guatire and knows many farmers who have difficulty to get their produce to the market, mainly due to lack of transportation and bad roads. He is the one responsible for the project.

MEDICAL CARE

We receive constant requests for medical help which we try to respond to whenever possible. Johan is a sweet boy, 2 years old, living outside of Caracas in a mountainous area. One night he got several seizures and it was not possible to get him to a doctor due to excessive rain and lack of transportation. Afterwards he needed several examinations and treatment which we were able to help him with. He recovered and is doing well again.



TRANSPORTATION

To visit the farmers who live outside the city in rural areas, I have an old Volkswagen Spacefox, 2008. I bought it second hand in 2017. It needs regular repair. I need a better car for doing the work.

JUAN DAVID

Juan David is 8 years old. His parents are from Barlovento and now live in Colombia, each having started a new family. I am raising him since birth. He is growing fast and just got his orange belt in Karate.

It is thanks to your donations that the team of Centro Madre finds strength and hope to continue, in spite of the difficult circumstances the country is facing. Thank you for making this possible.

Wishing you wonderful Holidays

From Hendrika, Juan David and the team of Centro Madre



For more information about Hendrika's work in Venezuela please refer to her website www.centromadre.org . If you want to contact her, or support a project, please write to centromadrebarlovento@gmail.com .

You can also contact our Dutch organisation: www.centromadre.nl .

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| Michele Montenegro, Secretary Hugo Verrieststraat 53 5044 PH Tilburg Nederland +31 6 5580 3337 info@centromadre.nl | Maarten Broekers, Treasurer +31 592 310 853 Donations are welcome on our bank account: Stichting Centro Madre, IBAN: NL02ABNA0418992800 BIC: ABNANL2A, Assen, NL info@centromadre.nl |
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