

News from Centro Madre



October 2013

In Venezuela we are going through a very difficult economic crises as the prices of many basic items have gone up from 50 to 300 percent. Sugar, cooking oil and toilet paper are sometimes not available, and when they reappear on the market, they are more expensive than before. Clothes have gone up 100 to 200 percent. For people who already live on a very low income, this truly is a financial nightmare.

Social Service

We extend our help to the ones most in need. We continue to support poor families with disabled sons or daughters, such as Señora Josefa whose daughter Dominga is mentally handicapped. Their family earns a meager income from agriculture, and they find it difficult to pay for the special needs of their daughter. Señora Nora has three children; her husband was killed four years ago by thieves. Her 15-year-old daughter has a visual disability and her 14-year-old son is physically and mentally disabled – he needs to wear a helmet to prevent him from hurting his head. His constant need for diapers and medicines is too much for this poor mother. We regularly provide her diapers and have donated sheets and mattresses. We are also exploring with her and other mothers various micro enterprises that would enable them to earn a regular income.



Hendrika and Dominga



Señora Nora and her children



Hendrika, Lely and daughter

Some of the nearby rural villages have no regular public transportation, no internet connection and no public library; teenagers face many obstacles to attend high school and do their homework. Centro Madre donates school textbooks, used and new, to these students.

Tree planting ceremony

We planted 50 seedlings of the highly nutritious and medicinal moringa tree; afterwards we performed a tree planting ceremony to express our good wishes for their growth and gratitude for their gifts.



Village library in La Guarita



Planting moringa trees



Community Store

To increase the income of Centro Madre and the local community we are constructing a community store which will sell our products and that of other farmers and local cottage industries. The construction is underway and is becoming very beautiful. After the construction is finished in another month, we need to furnish the store, complete an industrial kitchen and get a health and sanitation permit for food production. In the meantime several clients come each day to buy our produce and seedlings.

Volunteers

Centro Madre continues to receive volunteers from different countries such as Italy, Holland, the United States and Venezuela who work with us in both agriculture, construction and community projects. One Dutch volunteer, a student of cultural anthropology, stayed for three months to do her Masters thesis research on Centro Madre's history, goals and social vision. During the summer vacation the employees of Centro Madre brought their children each day to play and help us with chores around the farm. When 15-20 workers, volunteers and children sat together for meals, we felt a strong feeling of community and of our collective future.

You can follow us on facebook: [centromadrebardovento](https://www.facebook.com/centromadrebardovento). You can also donate diapers, text books and other items. Contact centromadrebardovento@gmail.com or +58 416 400 3628

Thank you very much to the many people who donated items and money to make this possible.

Hendrika Renkers
Directora Centro Madre

For more information about Hendrika's work in Barlovento please refer to her website www.centromadre.org . You can also contact our Dutch organisation: www.centromadre.nl

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