



Gabriella Children's on Centre

Improving quality of life and empowering families

December 2011

Gabriella Children Rehabilitation Centre is non government organization situated at Moshi Kilimanjaro. It is located at Sambarai kibosho road about 1.4km from Moshi Arusha road.

It started functioning in July 2009. With the registration number. 00NGO/OOOO3511

Gabriella Children's Rehabilitation Centre works with the mission to ensure that children with disability are early identified properly assessed and get early intervention which will enable them to become acceptable members of the community.

We provide assessment, education and awareness rising about disability to parents, teachers, and community at large. Assistance to children with Autism and Learning disabilities, who require extra support in areas of physical, social emotional, communicative and cognitive development.

We support children in school and in their homes to realize their potential.



ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE

To have good outcome in the therapy Gabriella centre uses family centered approach by working directly with the family and the community. This is done in the following activities run by Gabriella

1. Therapeutic and special skill training groups

Intensive therapy weeks

Centre has conducted 6 therapy weeks with average of 6 children each week. The children were referred by different centre and had an opportunity to be seen by therapists and Pediatrician and some got special seat and others adaptive equipments.

Boarding facilities

The need of having more beds has come in response to so many children in the waiting list who comes from outside Kilimanjaro region and it become so expensive for them to just come for a week.

We have had 23 children who benefited from the 3 month program. It is not our aim to detach children from their families. So the centre runs this program in the following way

There are children who the ability allows him/her to stay with centre caregiver(matron) but normally mother/caregiver comes and stays with us for at least one week in order to ensure that the child has been well oriented to the facilities as well as establishing a joint therapy goal. That does not end there to ensure the continuity after 3 months when the child is prepared to go back home the caregiver comes back in the last week of this 3 month and together we evaluate the therapy outcomes as well as discuss a home program . There after then depending on the need, the child is given a one month break before coming back.

In the centre this group also is exposed to vocational training activities such as garden



Garden activities that children at the centre are exposed to start developing community skills including the income generation.



One of the bed rooms

The availability of beds has been made possible by founder members and well wishers who passed by and gave their gift .

One to one assessment and advice

We have had assessment done at the centre at children have been advised accordingly. This includes full occupational therapy assessment and doctor examination.

2. Kindergarten for children with and without disabilities

This is 5 days program Monday to Friday montesori kindergarten which run throughout and children with

disabilities and without disabilities is integrated together. The program also aimed at ensuring the children in the neighborhood are benefiting from the existence of centre.

Enrollment of kindergarten children was 17 children, 9 with disabilities and 8 without disabilities



Children doing hand painting



we also involve caregiver

Outreach activities

The Gabriella centre conducts home visits to do follow up of the therapy programme wherever possible and also does the visit in villages. As part of the extension of outreach activities, the centre in collaborations with the PHEDA, ELCT Northern dioceses, mobility care conducted a survey in 151 parishes, to establish data on the number of people with disabilities and their needs, 3 outreach programs in HAI were possible this year. Total number of 5 wheel chair were measured and given to the needy one and it is scheduled for the coming year to continue visiting other parts

OUR TEAM

Gabriella has one full time therapist who also direct the centre, Montessori teacher and other 2 part time therapists who work under contract basis. Physiotherapist and pediatricians works with us on consultation. We do not work in isolation we network with several centre and organization such as KCMC, CACHA, and Rehabilitation centre around.

Meet Brenda shuma



Senior Paediatric Occupational Therapist and Director of the centre. Trained in Tanzania 9 years ago. Experience in children with sensory integration disorder

Brenda has been working with children with disabilities for many years. Her experience based on working in the centre and in the community. She was one of the therapist who designed and ran one of the first and of its own type therapeutic weeks in Tanzania when she worked with YWCA children rehabilitation centre. As a part of her work she conducted school visits in intellectual impaired units placed at normal primary

schools at arusha.

Brenda saw that the needs of children with disabilities were not given necessary and required attention at these units and community. She says *“children with autism and learning disabilities are not given an opportunity for therapy, more needs to be done. I like the fact that there is an initiative from the government and other stakeholders. But my wish is that these kids have their maximum potential fully revealed”* together with other therapists Brenda started Gabriella with the mission that children can have early assessment and early intervention without duplicating the service provided by rehabilitation services around Kilimanjaro. She says *‘ our focus is mainly working with families emphasizing on putting the family goal as the central focus, we want to have a good outcome measure, we are currently working on a good evaluation tool that can be used and which gives a reliable measure of the impact of the therapy we are open for any idea that ensures quality service for this needy group’*

Though with a lot of challenges and limited resources she has worked tirelessly to ensure that even the life of one child can be changed.

Volunteers

One of the Gabriella objective is to share idea and knowledge with local and international volunteer, we have received volunteer from America, united kingdom, Switzerland Sweden etc and we are so much open for the volunteer



Martina Schell our volunteer from Switzerland who is a kindergarten teacher. Together with our children at the center.

Revealed hope

Case success story

Elisante (not his real name) IS A 13 old boy who come to the centre through his sister who heard of our services. Elisante had been in normal primary school up to class 6. But was not able to even write his own name .

He come to us as a very depressed and sad boy very fearful of attempting or indulging in any activity. If the therapist ask him to do any activity he would want to cry and run away wanting to go back home giving various excuses. Such behavior was brought by him not been understood in school by teachers ,others pupils and parents, The assessment done at our centre revealed that Elisante had learning difficulties i.e DYSLEXIA whereby he has average IQ but has difficulties' in school activities including perceiving letters and numbers. Due to this difficulties most of time he is seen as arrogant ,does not want to learn, called many bad names, scolded, beaten by teacher and family members a lot, leading to traumatizing the boy psychologically, also putting him at the risk of starting to join bad groups in the streets.

On his stay at Gabriella the following were the therapy goal.

To uplift him psychologically, by building up his confidence and self esteem in doing or attempting new things. This was through use of understanding approach which focused on positive reinforcement and ensuring activities are graded to the right challenge with success.

Using compensatory techniques to be able to learn how to use letters and numbers and gain basic knowledge of reading and writing ie using multisensory approach instead of only reading from the board.

Finding out his talents which could then be encouraged for the future to promote independent,

After a year of attendance to the centre Elisante could read basic things i.e short 3 words sentences, can write his name do simple mathematics and become very motivated child in participating in activities

Did an interview in the vocational training centre he qualified and he is to be enrolled in January 2011 at USA RIVER rehabilitation centre.

We believe he will do well and he will a productive independent member of society instead of being seen as a failure.

Future plan

- Networking – to have a strong board that includes people with disability who will work on policy influencing at government level. On issues related to disabilities
- Lease with primary schools around Moshi to ensure children with learning disabilities have access to proper assessment as well as proper intervention. So the centre is aiming at becoming assessment centre for all school age children
- Research on various issues related to disabilities being social economical factor, geographical and seasonal dynamic concerned and to ensure the interested parties are well informed on their roles
- To support and facilitate the development of new rehabilitation centre all over Tanzania
- Improve facility at centre including play ground and boarding facilities
- Have vocational program for older children with disabilities

- To have TV and radio program to ensure many people are aware of disabilities
- Film making(documentary) focus on children and people with disability.

Challenges Not being able to use full therapeutic team as expected due to financial limitation i.e involving physiotherapist, pediatrician social worker, special need teacher and caretaker

Not being able to have extended programmes for children i.e afternoon session due to limited staff and equipment i.e food, beds and mattress

It has been observed that the number of children are coming outside Moshi municipal and other are from the area where there is very little awareness about disability so the outreach activities could be the cost effective way of raising awareness thereafter to come to Gabriella centre for further therapeutic intervention

Some children come from town and their parents can hardly pay for the transport

The number of children who attend kindergarten from the neighborhood is still low compare to the population and community have a stigma that their children should not study in the same kindergarten with children with disability- need more community awareness.

The achievement we have had has being highly from individual contribution from the founder members and friend of Gabriella children rehabilitation centre. We also have special thanks for volunteers from America Sweden, and Switzerland

We also give special thanks to all of our well wishers and supporters who have worked with us shoulder to shoulder in ensuring that we keep the ball rolling at Gabriella.

We want to deliver quality service. Your contribution will make a great change for individual child who will be able to access service at Gabriella

So be a friend of Gabriella children's rehabilitation centre and receive a quarterly report on the progress of the children and financial management

The immediate needs of GABRIELLA REHABILITATION CENTRE

Gabriella as it is in infancy stage has a lot of needs. our service delivery will be so much improved if we have the following in place immediately.

Staff member– a full employed Occupational Therapists, Special need teacher.

Part time physiotherapist, speech therapist and Pediatrician

Equipment

- ◆ Play ground, adaptive and therapeutic material, Stationary
- ◆ Boarding facilities which will help us to see more children from and outside Moshi
- ◆ Transportation

Support for children who cannot afford medication

Parents are encouraged to contribute and also our staff members are willing to see children in private basis who need specialized and special time allocation.

It can be done

The rehabilitation service in Tanzania has been in existence since few years ago. The community has limited information on what can be done for people with disabilities. Children with disabilities are still hidden in the shelter without any help. Early identification followed by the early intervention can change the outcome and improve the level of independence.

It can be done by you. By telling one child about our service you are already helping this needy group.

Put a smile on a child's face today



You can make changes by being a friend of Gabriela

Be involved in making changes for many children who your help will be another step in their lives and families. You can make monthly contribution or you can specifically choose to support individual child. As little as 10 USD or 10,000 TZS monthly will make great changes.



