



**G**abriella 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.

### Mayor commended the effort being done by Gabriella Centre

The mayor of Moshi Municipal honorable Mr. Jaffary Michael received the crowd who participated on the rally in town on **World Autism Awareness Day On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014**. The mayor emphasized that the time has come for families and communities to start to bring out children with disabilities who are still hidden. He says the initiative done by Gabriella to rise community awareness should be grabbed by communities to help these group of disadvantaged children who are most of time left out. He said government supports these effort as it aims at alleviate the poverty in the community. World autism awareness day is used all over the world to raise awareness about AUTISM. Gabriella Centre in collaboration with other stakeholders organized the march in town to raise awareness. More than 2000 brochures were distributed. More than 140 people including Children, parents, students and staff members participated



**World Autism awareness day**



### It was a graduation day –revealing hidden potential

Being a youth with disability in Tanzania you will be faced with many challenges such as an environment that is not set in a way that equips youth with disability with necessary skills for life. Those who are enrolled in special need units in primary are not well prepared to face life challenges ahead of them. These youth are left without a plan and this puts them in a lot of risks including abuse. Gabriella center has seen the gap and try to address it by giving youth opportunities to learn different skills that are offered by our rehabilitation professional team. This includes Basic community skills such as learning money, self-protection skills, shopping, record keeping and basic writing and reading for those who can. They are also given opportunities to explore vocational activities like chicken rearing whereby we have 90 local chicken as a class, goat keeping, whereby they learnt how to take care of them including milking, garden activities as well as art and crafts. The products are used as food to improve childrens' health as well as income generation for the center.

These year we have managed to integrate back 5 youth in the community to start their own self project. It was a very happy day for the youth for them to reach graduation level and gain skills for life.

*Tigo/Reach for Change for second year continue to provides support to children and youth at Gabriella centre*



## HIGHLIGHTS

- 8 Therapeutic weeks
- 9 Outreach activists
- 3 Workshops
- 3 Awareness rising campaign
- 3 Radio session
- 4 Newspapers coverage



## Gabriella Newsletter June 2014

### The visit by national board of NGO – Need Health Insurance

As Gabriella center grows we get more recognition and people become more interested to visit and know what we do. In June we had the privilege of being visited by the national board of coordinators of NGO's. The board members were very touched by the local initiatives which really reflects the need of the

society. They shared their experience and they put forward the need of children with disability to have support and access to free health insurance. This is due to the fact that most of them come from poor families and are not enrolled in any insurance scheme. Supporting children with disability will lessen the costs.

They also talked about the collaboration with local government in tackling the needs that are within their limits. The visit was followed by a meeting of all NGOs' in Moshi in which our director attended and it was an opportunity to create more networks with NGOs' in Moshi.



### The whole families benefit too.

Theresia One of our youth who graduated in March after attending 2 years of vocational training at the center. She is the second born in the family of 3, where by her brother also had disability. She was exposed in many activities and she showed interest and ability to do more of

cooking activities. She was given startup kit and small capital to have her own business. She is now making popcorn, groundnuts and bites and sells them to the surrounding shops. She has had a very positive sale. She keeps her records. She knows where

to buy material and Gabriella center has become one of the buyer of the product to be sold at the center.

She managed to buy exercise books for her young sister and also she supports the rest of the family members

### Intensive therapeutic week -The uniqueness

Intensive therapeutic week is an approach that aims at providing more close one to one therapeutic intervention. This provides enough time for the team to have more time with a child and

caregiver. Last year we hosted 14 intensive therapy week reaching more than 180 children. This year we target to have 18 weeks and each week having the average of 12 to 15 children with

their caregivers. The week involves thorough assessment which including observation of activities of daily living,therapies,equipment ,medical care (seen by Pediatrician)

## Reach more through media

As part of awareness campaign Gabriella has used media as much as possible to reach as many people as possible.

we had 1 live radio show for one hour at radio sauti ya injili and 2 other sessions each one hour at radio sauti ya injili. 4 newspaper coverages on Gabriella on citizen, the guardian and mwananchi. Also an interview with united nation radio. [www.unmultimedia.org/radio/.../kituo-chagabriella-na-autism-connects](http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/.../kituo-chagabriella-na-autism-connects), [www.ipmedia.com](http://www.ipmedia.com) > Home > Features



Teachers attended in the workshop

## Expanding our horizon

Need to see more children increases day by day and Gabriella center has expanded the service through our outreach to new areas like Rombo and mto wa mbu. More than 70 children were assessed in regular primary schools 3 workshops where by 43 teachers were reached and given advice on how to deal with their students in the class room

## Awareness Rising a key approach

Gabriella centre was established 2009. with a major goal of showing that children with disability are able to be independent, productive members of the community. 2013 was remarkable year since we embarked on more services in response to the communities need.

Our main focus being children with learning disability and particularly with autism. In our work we faced the challenge of stigma against these children that was brought about by lack of knowledge about disability and negative local beliefs towards disability. These further

leads to low response to assist these children from the community at large. For these reason for our team to have positive results, awareness rising is a major approach in order to get proper response and cooperation from the family level to communities at large.



## RIGHT TO ENJOY AND SOCIALIZE

Gabriella center strives for inclusive society where by children get the opportunity to show their ability and talents Children and youth at Gabriella this year participated in Kilimanjaro international marathon, and also in games outside the center through visits to

other centers, playing different games like chasing a rooster, sack race, and sports talents were realized and valued.

They enjoyed the visit to Manyara national park, and experienced reality in nature as they could see animals that they learn in school.

Children also have the opportunity to go to church every Sunday which also has been a good way of involving them in the community activities



### African child day

On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 our Gabriella children and youth joined Bahath centre in celebrating this day. It was done in Mwenge university play ground

## Networking- local and international

We have received students from Kilimanjaro Christian medical university college, Umea University Sweden, Fontys University, Holland and others coming on October from Norway and Sweden.

The center also has been networking with local and international institutions to get volunteers, and students to come to the center to share knowledge and experience with our team.

It is always an interesting experience to see difference in culture and practices in

rehabilitation and through the sharing improve our services to the children and youth. Having volunteers gives us a hand in decreasing the heavy load at the center and it gives learning opportunities for students. We encourage professionals to volunteer.

### Our team

Gabriella center strengthens its team day by day to ensure services provided are professional, quality and adequate. Our team comprises of 17 staff members.

### Includes

Occupational therapists, special need teacher, art trainers, Montessori teachers, therapy assistant, matrons

## Strategic planning

For a young, still growing center like Gabriella, proper plans are fundamental to ensure structured growth with great results and large impacts in the lives of children and youth we work with. For this reason, Gabriella center has embarked on doing strategic planning for the next 5 years. Members involved in the

strategic planning were carefully selected, so as to ensure that all stake holders are represented.. A draft of the strategic plan was compiled. Guidelines and advice on how to go about doing a strategic plan was given by Tigo/ reach for change, which served us well. Our target is to become a center of excellence that

provides the best quality service to children and youth with disability in Tanzania. And gives big impact in their lives, further more bringing change in the societies of Tanzania.

*"our goal is to become a centre of excellence that provides the best quality rehabilitative services to children and youth with disability in Tanzania ."*



## Too many in waiting list

Gabriella center is one of few centers that deal with children with learning difficulties in Tanzania. Our unique programs make the center stand out of the rest since we cater for children and youth in a variety of ways and we see a child to their independence. Not only do we concentrate on the child alone but also the parents, family and community surrounding the child. For this reason a

lot of referrals are sent to us from all over the country. The center is limited in terms of space and human resource. We can only have a maximum of 70 people at a time. So many are assessed, passed through the intensive therapy weeks program and remain in the waiting list to be enrolled in our daily programs. It usually is very heart breaking to a parent when they are told to try another

time for their child to be enrolled permanently. The Gabriella team have plans to expand their horizon and increase our footprints to other regions of the country. And establish proper outreach visits to other areas where children and youth can get access to our services as they wait for an opportunity to join the center. It also in our plans to build our own center which will have more space and bigger capacity to handle many children at a time.



The planned future Gabriella centre



## Our partners



PARENTS AND WELL WISHERS

We would like to thank our partners and individuals who through their finances, time and experience sharing have helped Gabriella in reaching children in need.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Autism screening clinic from 7<sup>th</sup> July to 21 July 2014 at GABRIELLA

Workshop conducted in collaboration with Autism Connect Tanzania 11 and 12 July 2014 at Patandi teachers training college

## Our current needs

- Sponsorship of individual child to attend services at Gabriella center for intensive therapy weeks costing 50usd
- One month attending of intervention for child with caregiver 150 usd
- Yearly 600 usd .
- Day to day running costs
- Transport for our outreach and taking children to the centre from town
- therapeutic materials
- Kitchen facilities for bakery

## Gabriella Children Rehabilitation Centre

We are located at sambarai – kibosho road. Moshi

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