

NEWSLETTER

CENTRO MADRE

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**Thank you
very much
Maarten!**

| **PAG 3** |

Geo-political drama in Venezuela

| **EDITORIAL** |



Welcome to Frans

| **PAGE 4** |

The soup kitchen which continues to grow

| **PAGE 5** |

Boots and machetes for small farmers

| **PAGE 5** |

Francheska in
Barlovento

| **PAGE 5** |

EDITORIAL ➡



It has been ten years now that the US government imposed sanctions on Venezuela. And as with other geo-political dramas that are raging around the planet, the ones who are su-

ffering are the people. The sanctions are suffocating the economy and is making life for the general people very difficult.

On a good note, before the sanctions Venezuela practically imported everything, also food, but now Venezuela is self sufficient in food. The problem is that everything is expensive and prices continue to rise. The pensions are down to nothing. Inflation in local currency is non stop, but also the prices in dollars are rising. It is a dolarised economy, but there is a scarcity of dollars.

This creates a very warped economy. When you go to a store to buy a celular phone they may say it is \$165. When you say you will pay in local currency, the sales person will then say it costs you \$225.

The threat of an invasión by the US with war ships directed towards Venezuela, creates an additional stress. Chris is a university teacher and volunteers with Centro Madre. She has two sons, one is 18 finishing high school, the other is 23 and is studying mathematics in the university. She worries about them having to enlist in the army.

Thank you very much Maarten!

With gratitude and a touch of sadness, we inform you that Maarten Broekens after many years is stepping down from his board position at the Centro Madre Foundation. Maarten was not only a board member but also a dedicated volunteer and loyal donor. His commitment to the people of Venezuela was always tangible and visible—in deeds, words, and acts of solidarity.

His contribution went beyond administrative duties: he was a connector, a listening ear, and a driving force behind many projects. We are deeply grateful for his warm heart and dedication.



Maarten and his wife Aggy, receiving a small gift in gratitude for their work for the Foundation

During Maarten's time on the board, Centro Madre continued to develop into a strong and resilient organization. Some important steps during that time:

- Food programs were expanded, supporting more and more people in need in the area.

Education and vocational training were made more accessible to young people, so that they can build their future with new skills.

- Health and well-being received

more attention through collaborations with local volunteers and organizations.

- The bond with donors in the Netherlands was strengthened, allowing support for the community in Venezuela to grow, despite the difficult circumstances there.

Thanks to this development, Centro Madre has become a place of hope and perspective for many – something Maarten can rightly be proud of.

Welcome to Frans!



Frans and his wife Jaya

With Maarten's departure, we are pleased to announce that Frans van Dalsum will take his place on the board. Frans brings a wealth of experience: he has worked with various foundations for many years and also has a strong background in finance and organizational management.

His knowledge and commitment will be invaluable to the further development of Centro Madre. We are confident that Frans, together with the board and volunteers, will continue and strengthen the current course.

A word of thanks



On behalf of the entire board, all volunteers, and the people in Venezuela who receive support through Centro Madre:

*Thank you,
Maarten and
welcome, Frans!*

Keep supporting us

The need in Venezuela remains immense. Your support is invaluable, especially now. With your contribution, we can continue to provide food, education, and healthcare to those hardest hit.

Donations go to:



The soup kitchen which continues to grow. We are now serving weekly about 120 warm meals to people in need. Our small kitchen is not equipped for cooking so many meals. Our electrical stove is not working well anymore. We don't have direct cooking gas, which means we buy small gas tanks for cooking. We are looking into having direct gas installed. Also we need to equip the kitchen with a new industrial stove, blenders, refrigerator, pots etc.

Support for individuals such as Francheska in Barlovento. She is facing a difficult family situation and as a result ended up living with her grandmother. She was losing interest in going to school. When she enrolled in a course for Firefighters a new talent emerged. She loved it and showed leadership qualities. But her grandmother couldn't afford the enrolment, uniforms and on top of it the transportation expenses. Centro Madre stepped in and started to pay her transportation expenses which is \$40 a month.



Boots and machetes for small farmers.



It is thanks to many small farmers that there is food available in the markets. Yet many live below poverty level. In recognition for their valuable work, Centro Madre supports them with a pair of boots and a machete so they will not go out to work with slippers and risk being bitten by snakes or step in plants with thorns. Each combo costs about \$40.



This service is possible because of your contribution. Thank you on behalf of the team of volunteers at Centro Madre: Hendrika, Chris, Maira, Mario, Mercedes, Nelson, Martha, Laureano, Mateo, Mariela, Yuleny, Andrea, Gerardo y Julia.

*Together,
we make a difference!*

*Sincerely,
Board of the
Centro Madre
Foundation*