



Report of the activities of the foundation

“Vrienden van de Sisters of Nazareth - Haifa”
("Friends of the Sisters of Nazareth - Haifa")

**Covering the period from the initiation phase in 2011 to
June 2012**

Amersfoort, November 8, 2012

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Introduction

In 1858 the "Sisters of The Congregation of the Religious of Nazareth" in Haifa started a school. The mission then was, and still is: access to education for all children in Haifa and surroundings. In 2011, there are 1,500 students enrolled for both pre-school, primary and secondary education.

The school provides education for the following groups:

- Kindergarten: 3-5 years old;
- Elementary school: 6-12 years old;
- High school: 13 to 18 years old.

The school also focuses on the personal development of the students to prepare them to build the society of tomorrow, whether they are Christians or not. The school maintains a program to encourage the Arab-Jewish dialogue, organizing excursions and exchange programs with Jewish schools.

One condition for good education is to have access to good facilities. The current kindergarten building no longer meets the regulations of the Ministry of Education. In addition to practical, general problems (eg in the field of plumbing), there are also problems in the area of safety. Primarily, there is a need for:

- construction of a new the kindergarten;
- construction of an auditorium / multipurpose room.

A project plan has been drafted to realize the construction of the kindergarten and an auditorium. To a significant extent, the funding comes from donations, gifts, bequests, etc. The construction and conversion costs about € 11.7 million, of which approximately 6.7 million should be collected through fundraising. "De Vrienden van de Sisters of Nazareth - Haifa" committed to raise funds in the Netherlands for this school. The Board of the Foundation relies on the Bible as the basis for its acts.

1. Foundation

Spring 2011, Johanneke Siman-Sekeris and Gibran Siman took initiative to establish a foundation for fundraising for the school of the Sisters of Nazareth in Haifa. They approached relatives and friends to join the (provisional) board of this foundation.

On October 5th, 2011 the deed of incorporation passed the solicitor, the official establishment of the foundation "Vrienden van de Sisters of Nazareth - Haifa".

Likewise, the 5th of October 2011 the official Dutch Tax Services regarded the foundation being of public interest (ANBI). ANBI status is important for the deductibility of donations to the annual tax return.

October 7th, 2011 the foundation was registered with the Chamber of Commerce.

2. Board composition

The board of the foundation consist of the following persons:

Mr. G. Sekeris - chairman
Mr. A.A.F. Kraak - secretary
Mr. M.J. van de Geest - treasurer

Some candidate members were approached to join. This has not yet led to expansion of the board. We continue to seek to expand by 2 people.

3. Administrative Affairs

3.1. Meetings of the board

In 2011 the provisionally board met on the following dates: May 11, June 15, September 21. During this period, the board spent considerable time preparing the statutes.

After the formal establishment on October 5, 2011, the board met on:

November 9, December 14; In 2012: January 19, April 4 and 24, June 13 and 27.

All board members were present at the meetings. During their stay in The Netherlands Johanneke Siman-Sekeris (consultant of the foundation) attended both meetings in June 2012, and Gibran Siman (consultant of the foundation) attended on June 27.

The board starts all meetings reading a passage from the bible, and prayer. The meetings are also ended by prayer.

The Board is statutorily required to provide an annual report of their acts. The first annual report for 2011 is discussed and approved in the board meeting of June 27th.

An annual report in English will also be sent to the School of the Sisters of Nazareth in Haifa.

3.2. Consultants / fundraisers

Initiators and fundraisers Johanneke Siman-Sekeris and Gibran Siman are appointed as (internal) consultants of the Foundation.

They composed a policy plan, including the following matters:

- Objective and Policy;
- Realization of these objectives, including:
 - Communication.

The consultants / fundraisers also prepared concepts for:

- recruitment letters to relatives, acquaintances and companies,
- plan for content of a website,
- a leaflet.

The Board, in consultation with the consultants / fundraisers, drafted a protocol with rules for the consultants / fundraisers, which addresses the relationship between board and consultants. These regulations are approved in the board meeting of April 24, 2012.

The consultants / fundraisers report to the board every three months.

3.3. Privacy regulations

The board has written down regulations which defines the handling of personal information and personal data of third parties (including donors).

4. Finance

2011 concerns the year of establishment of the foundation. The framework within which the fundraising must take place, is currently being established. For that reason in 2011 there was no income. Particularly due to incidental costs, the result for 2011 was minus € 753. The School of the Sisters of Nazareth Convent in Haifa donated our foundation an amount of € 750, which means that the balance on December 31, 2011 showed a negative amount of € 3.

Balance, 31-12-2011

		31-12-2011	31-12-2011
			Starting capital
			€ -
			Donation school Sisters N-H
			€ 750
			result 2011
			€ (753)
			Assets for foundation purposes
			€ (3)
Rabobank 1636.48.980	€	23	
Rabobank 1267.756.241	€	-	Still to pay
			€ 26
	€	23	€ 23

State of income and expenses 2011

	2011	
<u>INCOME</u>		
Donations	€	-
Projects / collections	€	-
Incidental incomes	€	-
Income sponsorship, etc.	€	-
TOTAL INCOME		€ -
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Solicitor, establishment	€	595
Contributions / subscriptions	€	27
Printing costs	€	-
Bank costs	€	25
Expenses members of the board	€	68
Webhosting	€	38
Website	€	-
TOTAL EXPENSES		€ 753
SURPLUS / DEFICIT (-)		€ (753)

The 2012 budget was established by the board at its meeting of January 19, 2012. This budget assumes an ambitious goal, the result is a surplus of € 32.860.

5. Communication

The school of the Sisters of Nazareth Haifa has several information channels, including a website and a brochure. “Vrienden van de Sisters of Nazareth - Haifa” is committed to build their own website, including a leaflet for communication purposes.

5.1. Website

Specifications for the design of the website have been drafted by Johanneke Siman-Sekeris and Gibran Siman on October 10, 2011. The board decided (on November 9, 2011) that a website will be built by Addy Vader, Dainamics. In January 2012, Addy started the construction of the site: <http://www.vriendenvanhaifa.nl>.

In February 2012, a logo for the foundation was designed. The site should now be filled with information. This will be done by Johanneke and Gibran, supported by the board. The intention is to have the website on air September 15, 2012. After that the fundraising can start.

5.2. Folder

The board has tried to get an agreement with the Ede Christian University (CHE) about setting up an information brochure. Students of the Department of Communication and / or Journalism sometimes design leaflets, brochures etc. at low costs. Unfortunately this is not yet feasible. The board is looking for other opportunities to create a brochure.

6. Other activities

6.1. Visit to the school

In July 2011, G. (Bert) Sekeris and M.J. (Martijn) van de Geest visited the school in Haifa. During that visit they had the opportunity to talk with the management of the school and some people of the project. The conversation was about the condition of the building and the plans for renovation and new construction. They also discussed the financial aspects of this project and how the raised money was administrated. The management of the school and the project leaders on their turn asked the board members about the fundraising and the accountability of the raised money.

6.2. Noah's Ark

Contacts were established with Johan Huibers, founder and builder of the Ark of Noah (www.arkvannoach.com) to determine whether there are possibilities to transport Noah's Ark to Israel. Gibran Siman already tried several times to contact the port authority of Haifa to discuss the (im)possibilities.

Neither the contacts with Mr. Huibers nor with the port authority have led to concrete agreements. The board and consultants of the foundation remain committed to the plan to get the Ark to Israel in the (near) future.

6.3. Co-operation with teacher-training college “Driestar Educatief”

The chairman of our foundation has approached Driestar Educatief in Gouda. Driestar Educatief is a Christian (protestant) teachers academy for teachers in primary and secondary education. This initiative has resulted in a visit to the school in Haifa in May 2012 by Mrs. Lydia Bor (Driestar Educatief) along with Johanneke Siman-Sekeris,. With sister. Johanna they discussed a possible collaboration between the two schools. They spoke about the possibilities of fulfilling an internship in Israel by Driestar Educatief students, and attending

the International Class / conference in Gouda by teachers from the school in Haifa. Regarding the internships, depending on the year of study, various periods in the year are possible. Initially the school and Driestar Educatief have chosen for periods of 3-5 weeks. This was most practical for the School of the Sisters of Nazareth and Driestar Educatief. These internships will be evaluated in some time (appointments about the evaluation period have not been made yet). Johanneke will represent our foundation and keep in contact with the school in Haifa and Driestar Educatief. Driestar Educatief students can already apply for an internship commencing academic year 2012-2013. So this project has in fact already started.

In addition, two employees of the school in Haifa signed up for a conference in the Netherlands. This conference is part of the international programs of Driestar Educatief and takes place in September 2012. Mrs. Bor also spoke with the Gordon College of Education, a teachers academy in Haifa. Regularly there are students from the School of Sisters of Nazareth who continue studying at Gordon College. For our foundation these projects are important for broadening, and it might open new opportunities for fundraising in The Netherlands.