



Change from within

In a world that is bombarded with negative news every day, the future seems to look bleak. However there are some people that don't accept the status quo.. They ask why? or why not? They go against the stream, have overcome adversity and because of that developed a sense of ownership, motivation, creativity and passion to make the world a better place and strength to be forces of good rather than victims of circumstance.

A Kanthari is a small but extremely spicy chili with numerous medicinal values. A kanthari is also a symbol for those who have the guts to challenge harmful traditions, who have fire in their belly and a lot of innovative ideas to make a positive difference. For us a kanthari is the name of a new type of leader – a leader who is positioned at the margins of society.

kanthari in Trivandrum, Kerala, South of India offers a **seven month leadership program** for visionaries who are keen to drive ethical social change. All hands-on practical workshops are conducted by a group of international experts we call catalysts. kanthari fosters participants from all over the world. Some have university degrees while others have little to no formal education. Some are blind or physically disabled; others have no disabilities at all.

The main subjects that are addressed by kantharis are disability, protection of environment, human rights, peace building and alternative learning. We promote a “change from within” approach. People in a community know what the problems are, they speak the local language, understand its culture and history and solutions are at hand. However, due to the fact that these change makers come from the margins of society, often the only key that is missing is access to training. And that’s where kanthari offers support:

We distinguish 5 kinds of social change makers:



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| green kanthari | – Initiators/trainers/facilitators |
| yellow kanthari | – Inventors/ technology for social change |
| orange kanthari | – Social Entrepreneurs |
| red kanthari | – advocates/activists |
| purple kanthari | – artists/ using arts to make a difference |

kanthari started its first program in 2009 in Trivandrum, Kerala, South India. Between 2009 and 2017, **183 social visionaries from 41 countries** around the world were trained. Till date over **130 social projects** have been realized, **reaching thousands of beneficiaries** at the margins of society. More at www.kanthari.org

introductions

kanthari founders



sabriye tenberken: (German)

coming from the margins of society, Sabriye Tenberken developed an intrinsic interest to create ethical social change. She studied Tibetology, sociology and philosophy at Bonn University. Traveling on horseback through the Himalayas she discovered that Tibetans who in majority are Buddhists have a stigma against people with disabilities. Especially blindness is seen as a punishment for actions done in a previous life. Accordingly blind children are often neglected, locked away in dark rooms or sent to the streets to beg. Experiencing this situation inspired Sabriye to start the first school for the blind in Tibet. This school formed the foundation of Braille Without Borders, an organization that empowers blind people to take their lives in their own hands. In 2005 she cofounded kanthari, an International Institute for Social Visionaries in Kerala, South of India. kanthari fosters participants from all over the world, who, like Sabriye, have a passion to make the world a better place and strength to be forces of good rather than victims of circumstance. Sabriye is the driving force behind the academic program.

Next to being a public speaker, Sabriye is the author of "My path leads to Tibet" a bestseller that has been translated into 16 languages. She also starred in the award winning documentary 'BLINDSIGHT'. Sabriye Tenberken became fully blind at age 12.

Awards and Recognitions include;

2016 – Sabriye Tenberken received the **2016 Gandhi Darsan International Award**
2011 - INCITE **Excellence in Social Entrepreneurship Award** (board members include Dr Abdul Kalam)
2008 - Gov. of China: **One of 15 most influential overseas experts over the past 30 years in China.**
2005 - World Economic Forum, Davos (WEF). **"Young Global Leader"**
2005 - Sabriye was nominated for the **Nobel Peace Prize.**
2005 - German President, Dr. Horst Koehler, awarded Sabriye with **"Bundesverdienst Kreuz"**
2004 - Sabriye Tenberken received the **Time magazine Asia's HERO 2004 award.**
Sabriye has been recognized multiple times for **developing the Tibetan Braille Script**



paul kronenberg (Dutch)

paul kronenberg is a "Social-Change-Engineer". With a technical background graduating in mechanical engineering, computer science, commercial technology and data-communication system science, he focuses on the running and operational management of kanthari. Paul is a fervent eco-friendly and cost effective "open hardware" technology and architecture fan. He is always on the lookout for answers that will help to build a better tomorrow; be it physical in terms of technical solutions, or be it mental, strengthening the self of others. Paul and Sabriye have developed the unique kanthari "Journey in five acts" Curriculum; an intense experiential and hands on learning experience that provides social change makers with necessary tools to start and run own social ventures. As a public speaker, asking questions like "why?" and "why not?", paul uses wit and humor to mirror the true shape of the world that makes one think and reflect about what can/must be done differently to become part of solutions.

Awards and Recognitions include amongst others;

2012 –Paul was awarded with the **"Bornheimer"** by the Europe School in Bornheim, Germany
2007 - On behalf of BWB, Paul was awarded with the **Mother Theresa award**
2005 -**National Fundraising Award 2005**
2003 -Queen of Holland **knighted** Paul in the **"Knighthood in the order of Oranje Nassau"**
2002 - Wolfgang von Goethe Association awarded Paul with the **Albert Schweizer Award.**