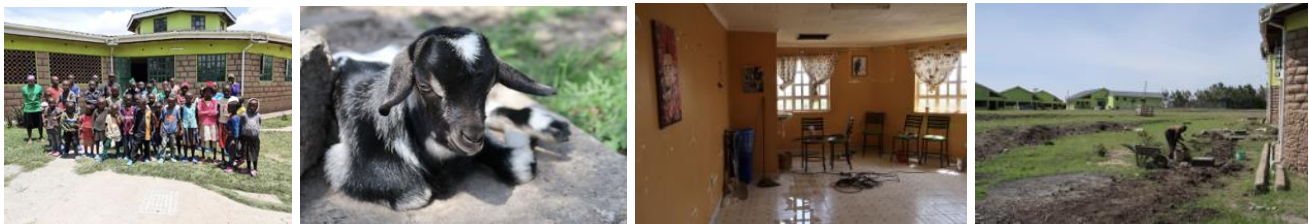


Lea & Viva - February + March 2021

Due to the Corona pandemic, it has been a year since volunteers from Germany were able to travel to Kenya. The children were full of joy when in mid-February two volunteers arrived. They welcomed Viva to the MCC-family and were happy to see Lea again: Lea had been a volunteer when the pandemic started in 2020 and was forced to fly back to Germany earlier than expected. Luckily, she was able to return this year.

After a long lockdown (almost an entire year), the everyday life at MCC has become rather normal again. The children were happy to go back to kindergarten and schools, after they had reopened again in the beginning of this year. However, attending church services was not yet allowed. The MCC family therefore decided to create a celebration of their own that everyone could participate in.

There have been a lot of changes since the last time volunteers were at MCC. Among other things, now 45 children live at the Maisha Mazuri Children Centre and, also, a baby goat was welcomed to the family.



There has been some construction work going on: in order to be able to provide a higher standard of hygiene and cleanliness, the Skills Centre renewed their toilets both in- and outside the main building and, more importantly, the entire water system got checked and improved. At MCC, the farm has grown into a huge garden



full of vegetables and fruits. Kimeu, the farmer, hopes to one day be able to feed the entire MCC family only with vegetables and fruits grown on his farm. That would not only save money but also allow the children to grow up with a healthier nutrition. Can you imagine eating fresh paprika, kale, onions, spinach, eggplant or tomatoes from your own garden? Unfortunately, climate change makes farming a real challenge these days.

At the end of our first week at MCC, a big event awaited us. On Sunday, the MCC, the primary school, the high school and the skills centre had a huge soccer tournament. Boy and girl teams were playing each other and made it fun for the MCC family and visitors to watch. The day was a big success, and everyone had a lot of fun!



After the event, daily life went on as usual and we went on with our daily tasks. Helping at the MCC kindergarten for example, will always be one of our fondest memories: watching the children learn and helping them achieve their next goals always brought us a lot of joy. It felt good assisting teachers Fridah and Abigael and learn from their explicit methods of teaching. It is fun to watch children use clay to form numbers or recognize colours they have seen somewhere else before. Also, where there is a lot of singing, there is a lot of happy faces! Fortunately, we were also able to participate in some classes at Kithuani Primary School. We could visit all grades which gave us the opportunity to understand the Kenyan school system a bit better and assist the teachers during their lessons.



We remembered that last year, many children were interested in learning how to play the flute. We decided to continue the lessons and were overwhelmed by the huge success and the number of children wanting to participate. Also, Lea continued with acrobatic lessons: many children were eager to participate as well and showed-off their amazing skills in building human pyramids! Together with the kids we designed hand-crafted necklaces and bracelets which the kids proudly wear to this day. When entertaining 45 children, books and board games are important, too. Luckily by now we have a lot of them.



Saturday is chapati day. This delicious meal can only be topped by something special and therefore we decided to bring back fresh honey from the market – to everybody’s surprise! A highlight was and will always remain cooking a traditional German dish called “Spätzle”. As we had already made it last year, the kids were eager to make it once again: We mixed all ingredients together and cut a lot of onions. After frying the onions and properly kneading the dough, the exciting part of the cooking started: using graters specially designed to make these “Spätzle”, the kids put the dough into boiling water. It was a wonderful event for the whole family and not only did we have a lot of fun, but also a really yummy meal!



The days were passing by fast and way too soon it was time for Lea to say good-bye. On her last day we drove to Nairobi where Lea took a Covid test that she needed to re-enter Germany after her time in Kenya. In the evening, the whole MCC-family came together for a farewell party for Lea. After dinner we enjoyed an evening with music, juice and German candy. We sang and danced and documented all these lovely memories with our cameras.

Unfortunately, Lea’s time at MCC has come to an end. Fortunately, Viva still has another two months. During our stay at MCC we experienced and learnt so many new things. We would like to say thank you to everyone for the precious and incredibly great time at MCC! Asante Sana!

Lea and Viva