

März 10, 2025

**Dear friends and supporters of Hand in Hand for Kenya,**

By now, we already feel like we've been in the new year for quite a while, and daily routines have returned to the MCC Children's Center, the AMM Academy, and boarding school. However, the turn of the year brought some excitement and changes. We had to say goodbye to two long-time staff members at the children's center: Jackson, our patron/housefather, and Michael, our manager and financial officer. But as the saying goes, when one door closes, another one opens. Since the end of January, Patron Patrick has joined us to enhance our team.

In addition, the management tasks have been restructured, and Director Jimmy Kilonzi is pleased to speak of an "empowerment of my team." During these changes, a board member from Germany visited the site. It quickly became clear to us that this increased responsibility has brought a lot of joy, energy, and dedication to the Kenyan team.

At the end of April, our long-time social worker Joseph Njenga and our school deputy principal Arriet Nyatichi are going to visit Germany. This will be a great opportunity to exchange ideas in a larger group and reflect on the changes after the initial weeks. We are very much looking forward to their visit!

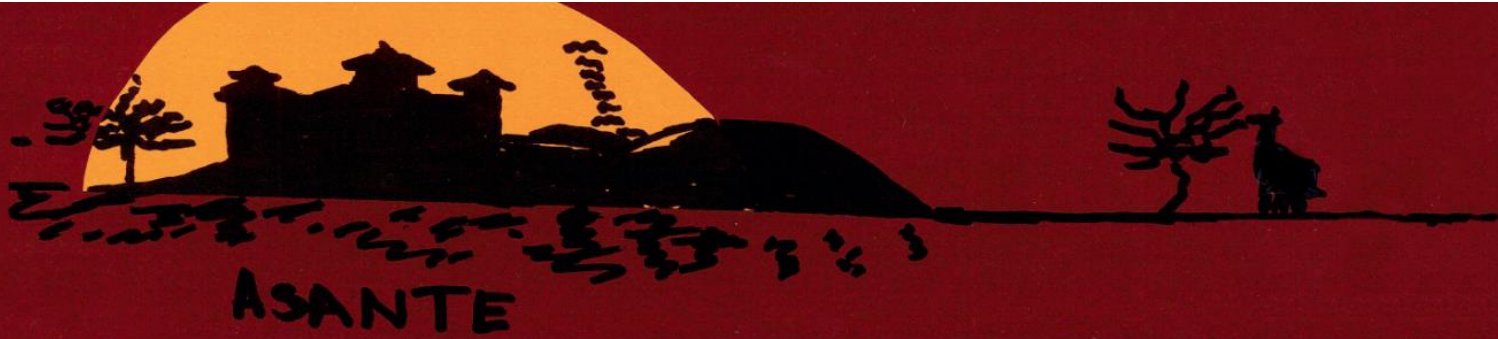
But for now, let's turn back to Kenya and the first weeks of the new year. How did our children at the MCC Children's Center and in the partner program start the year? And what about the young people at the Academy? At the MCC, the number of children remains at 39, as a new nationwide school structure has prevented secondary school boarding admissions this year. Our focus continues to be on supporting them in their education, nurturing their individual talents, and providing loving guidance through all the ups and downs - just like a family. All children in the MMP partner program have returned to school, and we are especially happy that some have successfully completed their training and started paid jobs. We will share more details about this in our next newsletter!

At this point, we want to emphasize once again that caring for so many children at the MCC would not be possible without the support of our volunteers. In 2024, a total of ten volunteers have helped at the Children's Center. For us as an organization, volunteering is an essential part of our work on-site. Not only do volunteers provide us with valuable, up-to-date insights during their stay, but they also offer significant support in caring for the children and young people. Would you like to become a volunteer or know someone who might be interested? Then apply now - we would love to have you on board!

There is also plenty of work waiting on the *Shamba*, our in-house farm, for our farmer Boniface and his local seasonal workers. A good harvest and consistent yields are essential to minimizing the need

Vorstand: Barbara Krohne   Anita Wimmer   Helen Milkau

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for additional food purchases. The ultimate *Shamba* dream for this year? No extra purchases and even selling surplus produce to the Academy!

Now, let's talk about the Academy! Our graduating class made it - they all passed, and we were happy to see an improvement in their performance. Now, it's time to tackle the new system with full energy and make the most of it. One particularly positive development is that our focus areas align perfectly with Kenya's new, more practice-oriented education system. However, the challenges remain high: retaining good teachers and ensuring our students reach the required academic level. This may be easy for schools that only accept the best students—and there are plenty of those in Kenya. But the *Academy of Maisha Mazuri* is committed to giving opportunities to those who might not otherwise have them.

Unfortunately, necessary repairs are always part of our reality, especially since our buildings are in constant use by so many young people. One of our most valuable assets is our bio-treatment plant, which recycles all the water on-site - a major and highly sustainable project. However, one pressing issue has been the need for functioning batteries for our solar system, as the external power supply is completely unreliable. This is a crucial investment that will only be possible with external project funding.

A lot was accomplished, built, and expanded in the past year. At this point, we would like to express a heartfelt thank you to EVERYONE, both in Kenya and beyond, who contributed to making this success possible.

In addition to the many individual actions of our members, the numerous donations, and the volunteer efforts of our supporters, active participation in our events is what makes "Hand in Hand for Kenya" so vibrant! Whether it's the fantastic charity runs at schools, the "Schifferlrennen" in Wasserburg am Inn, the Ü30 party with African cuisine by and with (Qui)Noah (influencer and chef at Alpenrose, Samerberg), or the annual Advent bazaar in Herrsching—shared actions and celebrations bring people together and spread joy. Get ready for 2025, as this year will also bring new events and initiatives. You can find all the information in the "Announcements" box below, on our website [www.4kenya.info](http://www.4kenya.info), or on Instagram.

Want to know more? Then check out our website, where you can find the latest updates under the "Current News" or "Volunteer Reports" sections, or follow us on Instagram.

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Thank you for your wonderful support!

Barbara Krohne – translated by Verena Wagner

Vorstand: Barbara Krohne Anita Wimmer Helen Milkau