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A PICTURE SAYS MORE THAN A THOUSAND WORDS!

NEWSLETTER MAY 2022



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Newsletter May 2022



Today, a very special picture inspires me to write some words to you. A photo taken by Andrea Altemüller, to whom I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the two months she spent with us. Andrea accompanied me throughout my daily life and beautifully captured many very touching moments with her artistic, photographic talent.

This photo was taken under our Africa Amini tree. People from many different worlds meet there and many stories have started to be written here over the last few years.

Today I would like to tell you the story of Kanakira, who has been wheelchair bound since an accident a few years ago, and of a girl who, like many others attending our schools, still has her whole life ahead of her. He, who is vibrant again since he has been allowed to sell water bottles to patients at our clinic and has been able to continue working with me at the Healing Center during the time of transition from the hospital to the new poly clinic. His eyes are at this girl, who is spinning her skirt in circles with exhilaration and ease. I wonder if this brings back memories of his own carefree

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childhood years back then? His expression is very affectionate, but also marked by his difficult fate. For her, life still holds an open door and she and her parents know that with an education at one of our schools, her life will take a different direction than the life of those children who do not get this chance - at Africa Amini, under whose tree many people have found shelter, advice, support and hope, where patients have been helped to ease their pain and children have been given a light-hearted time of education at one of our schools.

Many of you can definitely tell your own stories, that started under the Africa Amini tree.

I could end the newsletter here and let this picture tell all the many stories...

But I do not want to withhold the manifold events of the last three months from you. Deliberately, I will allow mainly pictures of Andrea to tell the story this time. If you want to see more of her artwork, you are cordially invited to our Africa Amini sponsor meeting on June 30, 2022 in Vienna, where Andrea has prepared a presentation of her pictorial impressions especially for us.

AFRICA AMINI - TOURISM SECONDARY SCHOOL

What is a „Slow Opening“ and why is there no big opening ceremony? This is a question we have been asked several times. I would like to explain it to you now:

In January, our 40 students started their classes and have already organized more than 15 opening events. On several different evenings they invited all the staff from our projects and schools, staff and guests of Africa Amini Life as well as representatives of the national park and the local community. Our students were allowed to show the school facilities, cook for their guests and ultimately served the feast all by themselves. This way, these numerous smaller invitations for the opening were the first opportunity for them to experience one of the many „arts of tourism“. They were especially proud to show their elementary school teachers the new facilities, the „principle of sustainable tourism,“ the new plastic recycling machine that Florian Ott had installed, the permaculture garden and the new football ground from Kick for life. Of course, they also had great fun demonstrating the culinary skills they had already acquired. The building of their new school was fully financed with the help of the Ganesha Foundation. Partners from the tourism industry such as ‚DER Touristik‘ as well as sponsor parents are helping us to finance the running costs. It became a pilot project combining secondary school and a vocational school for the first time in Tanzania.

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CONSTRUCTION WORK OF THE POLYCLINIC COMPLETED

Shortly after the completion of our secondary school, the construction of the new polyclinic started. Patients will soon be able to receive preventive medical care, naturopathic treatments and physiotherapy here. „We can hardly wait“ – say the voices throughout the community, eagerly waiting to get good diagnostics and therapy again. By mid-May, we will be ready. I would like to share with you our anticipation of the upcoming opening and our great gratitude to the Saint-Lucy Foundation, who financed the construction. For those of you who would like to know more about it, our summer newsletter will bring much more detail.

For all those distant villages where patients cannot take the long route, there will be an outreach program where part of our team will provide education, screening, and therapy locally in the villages.





FAMILIES IN NEED

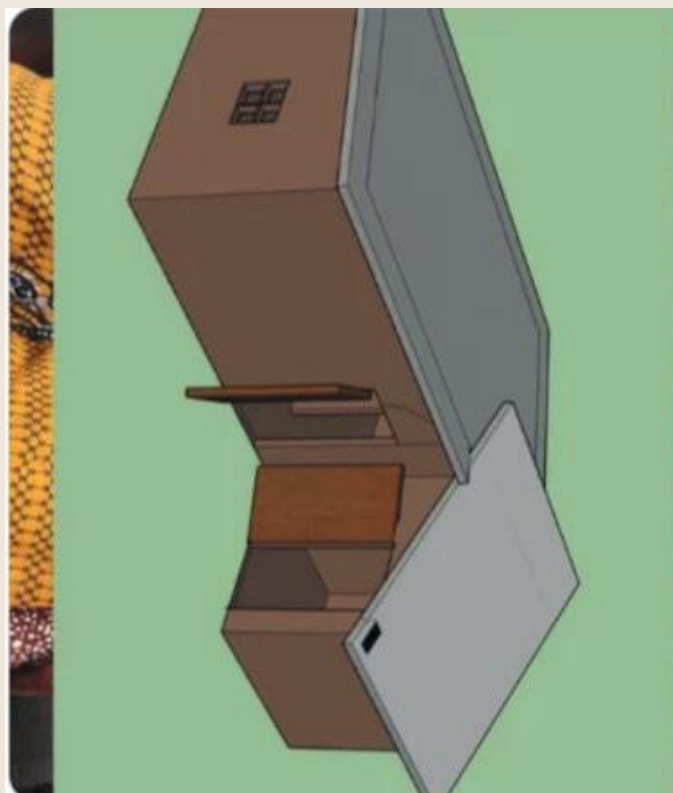
Throughout the months since the handover of the hospital to the state authorities, I continued to work in my naturopathic clinic, for the joy of my vocation, but also in order not to lose the contact with the people from the community. Especially during these times, where many families have nothing because of the difficult economic situation of the country, our contribution to help here is indispensable. We enable women a new start so they can realize their small projects and thus ensure their survival. For example: two goats, seed money to sell food or clothes at the market, starting a small chicken farm, supplying seeds to grow corn or in very acute cases simply providing food for them in order to survive the next few months until the harvest. Many thanks to the „Eine Welt-Laden“, which together with the Morlock family took over numerous social sponsorships, thus giving hope to countless women. As a mother, I am of course particularly proud that my son Fabio, as part of a school project, developed his own low-cost Maasai house, organized the donations for the completion of this house for Mama Happiness on his own initiative and realized the construction.

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FOOD FOR CHILDREN

This was also Christine's motivation to sponsor school lunches for children from one of the poorest Maasai regions. Visits to the Mukuru school convinced everyone who could see for themselves that without lunch any attempt to learn must fail. Thus, school meals can be seen as a way to provide children with at least one hot meal a day.



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SOLAR SYSTEMS BRING LIGHT AND SAFETY

An initiative of the Morlock family, helping children to be able to do their homework for school in the evening with 50 solar systems for poorest families. It turned out that the women particularly appreciated the health aspect (no dangerous kerosene lamps) and the increased safety due to the outdoor lights at night. This project has now been taken over by the newly founded Swedish association „Stories“, which continues to collect 120 dollars per solar system for additional families.



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SIMBA VISION IN JOY AND ANTICIPATION

There was great joy about the visit of Liesl and Norbert Berggold with their sponsorship group. Liesl taught daily together with her team of teachers, focusing on group work and the creation of artistic paintings. Everyone could also feel the gratitude for the new chairs and desks as well as the great anticipation and patience to soon be able to move into the new Montessori building. The construction will be fully financed by the Artur Waser Foundation and will be finalized before mid-year.



OLTEPEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPENED

An elementary school built by the Maasai, with the support of Africa Amini, was able to start classes with 75 students for the first time in January. „Kick for Life“ raised the money for the necessary water pipe and now this school can be run without any problems. It is not run by Africa Amini, rather with the help of the state, by the Maasai themselves. Our Africa Amini schools are a role model for them and the lodge is helping to build one of the teachers' houses.



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LENDROYA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THANKS FOR FOOD AND TEACHERS

Africa Amini also helps this school with some of the food and English teachers. The parents committee has applied to the state authorities themselves that this state school can be run as an English-speaking school. They also want to follow Africa Amini's example and improve the quality of education on their own initiative. It's all at their pace, and we will help if it's necessary.



ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION WORK AT THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Already during the first lessons, our first-year apprentices, with the help of their second-year colleagues, were able to refurbish the vocational school to its best. The carpenters now have their own self-contained areas, and the bricklayers and mechanics can also learn and work in their respective classrooms and practice areas. The welders made their first doors for a family in need and the masonry and carpentry apprentices, in addition to renovating their own center, helped with the construction of a home for another family in need.



APPRENTICES IN DRESSMAKING - MORE THAN EVER BEFORE

The vocational school under the direction of Reinhild Wendl has reached an all-time high with 21 students, attending a first and a second-year course. The good reputation that this school has built up prompts many girls to apply or to find shelter at the center - thanks to the education - because of their family situation or fear of being married off. In order to make structural decisions, Reinhild visited her school in April too. She was actively supported by the sponsorship group that accompanied her.



PAMOJA SECONDARY SCHOOL - THE BEST GOVERNMENT SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT

Congratulations to the team of teachers and hardworking students who achieved this outstanding result. We provide the best learning conditions, but without the diligence and eagerness of the students, such a result would not be possible. A small fly in the ointment is, that because of these excellent results, far too many students are rushing to enroll in the school and we are struggling with too many students.

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INTER-SCHOOL SOCCER PROJECT LAUNCHED WITH „KICK FOR LIFE

Who would have thought back then, when „Kick for Life“ started building a soccer field at Pamoja School, only one year ago, that after such a short time we would already be offering training sessions at all our primary and secondary schools. Lazaro, our dedicated soccer coach, with a team of three students as assistants, goes from school to school to professionally train the young primary school students to play soccer and to develop talents at an early stage. Another highlight this year was the Africa Amini - Soccer Cup, in which Matias and Carsten, the founders of „Kick for Life“ also participated.



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ZOOM MEETING WITH OUR SPONSORS FROM ALL THE SCHOOLS

I was delighted by the great help Noemi provided in the library or at the schools, working hand in hand with me, every day. Jessica, Mike and our KinderVilla team not only respected her as coordinator of the sponsorships and volunteers in her professional competence, but also embraced her wholeheartedly. We were able to hold all the Zoom-meetings of our Africa Amini schools within the first three months of the year enabling some children and godparents to have their first „face to face“ experience or a joyful reunion.



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HELPING HANDS

Once again, this year *Helga Dancke* was here, teaching the older students at Pamoja the art of Zoom-meetings. In the near future, it will be especially important for them to learn how to use this medium independently so that they can stay in touch with their sponsors even after their sponsorship ends.

Andrea Altemüller was not only acting as photographer. She lived 2 month in our KinderVilla, was called “Mama Dog” and showed our kids a respectful way of communication between them and our house animals.

It was not for the first time that *Lena Mittermaier* and *Stefanie Machart* were here, they visited our GP-car-workshop and brought new workwear, helped out at the KinderVilla, were active at the maternity ward and helped with purchasing goods from the Maasai-women, because Lena, besides her help with the new Africa Amini-Folder, is going to start a new project. She will open an Online-Store where products of the Meru and Maasai women can be purchased.

Jens, with his profound therapeutic experience and *Ines*, who worked with *Viola* like sisters, helped me to refresh the physiotherapeutic knowledge at the Healing Center. *Philipp*, with his background as a trained electrician, was able to professionally supervise the solar project and enthusiastically helped to install the sponsored solar panels at the homes of all 50 families.

When *Florian Ott* started a new school project at the Africa Amini - Tourism Secondary School with the plastic recycling machine he sponsored, the students were ecstatic to learn and understand more about it. Sustainability should not just be a buzzword, but actually experienced and lived. This machine is a first step towards this direction.

Quite often, as if guided by a loving hand, guests arrive at precisely the right moment. As we could not have asked for a better person than the talented musician and pianist *Paul Gulda*, son of the famous Austrian pianist and composer Friedrich Gulda, to rehearse their new school song accompanied by background music with our tourism students.

A new project is often launched with the arrival of new guests. This was the case, for instance, with the yoga teachers *Friederike* and *Shelita*, who inspired some of our teachers to start weekly yoga training sessions. Every Thursday morning, we now meet as the Africa Amini yoga group to practice together.

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It is touching to see how guests and friends become part of the Africa Amini family by personally reaching out to people and thus deeply entering the Africa Amini field. It was touching to see how *Estelle* cared for her sponsored children and also for Violeth, a girl who has been confined to a wheelchair since birth and has now learned to knit thanks to Estelle's help.



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HILLSIDE IN ITS NEW COAT

After an extended Covid-19 interruption, the Hillside Retreat has again been busy and flourishing. With the addition of a front desk and a bar, it will have more of a lodge feeling in the future. After further renovation, Christine's and my former house are now, like all the other houses, entirely at the disposal for our guests and sponsors. A new coat also needed a new name: the four existing houses are now called Meru-, Kili-, Mukuru- and Garden Hillside.

If you would like to experience them yourself, you are welcome to do so during one of our next sponsorship trips. If you are interested, please contact Michael at the Vienna Office: office@africaaminialama.com

And in March 2023, a special highlight is coming up: the Maasai Elders want to perform a ritual blessing for the March full moon of all Africa Amini sponsors. As a thank you for the help Africa Amini brought to their families. We will organize a sponsorship trip around this celebration, for all those who want join this special celebration.



MORE THAN JUST A BIRTHDAY PARTY

I was deeply touched to celebrate the beginning of a new chapter in my life that day with friends and my entire Africa Amini team. I rarely celebrate my birthday. But this year it was even more wonderful to invite those I work with and with whom I share a common vision every day to celebrate my 50th birthday. To celebrate this festivity together with so many people, including a ritual that is so important to me, and to feel so much cordiality, was a great gift for me! It was a gathering of different cultures and yet we were connected by heart. It was a remarkable feat of Lesse to host 340 guests with such calmness and perfection. Hongera Sana Lesse! For those who were not able to attend this celebration in person, I would like to share a few pictures for you to swing along with the celebration.



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Now one thing is obvious: The Africa Amini tree offers space for countless stories. Stories not only about 250 employees, about 1500 children who are supported annually, about countless patients and women in need, but also for the personal experiences of our guests who are here with us under its protection.

A picture that says more than all these words.

A field that is effective and stronger than any visible image.

A field of peace and love.

May we all experience a peaceful spring!

Yours, Cornelia

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DONATION ACCOUNT

Donations to Africa Amini Alama are tax deductible in Austria, Germany, Switzerland & USA.



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