

März 18, 2024

Dear friends and supporters of Hand in Hand for Kenya,

We are delighted to share that the new year has started off very well for our project. The abundant rain since November has resulted in a good harvest at the Shamba. Our new children at Maisha Mazuri home are settling in well, and our secondary school has started the new academic year well prepared, with a large intake class. Currently, a total of 135 students are learning at the academy. In addition to our many dedicated volunteers (thank you all!), active members also regularly spend time at Maisha Mazuri. Most recently, Julia had the opportunity to interview the home economics teacher Anita. We would like to share a part of their conversation with you here. You can read the full interview on our website (<https://www.4kenya.info/en/category/news-from-kenya/>).

How did you come to our school Madam Anita?

I came across a job posting online on a platform for teachers, and I immediately liked the concept. It reminded me of so many things from my childhood. So, I packed my bags and set off with my little daughter. It was, of course, a big step to move so far away from my family. But it was the right decision. The Academy offers not only theoretical subjects but also a variety of practical subjects, which makes it unique. I find teaching here very enjoyable.

What does a typical workday look like for you?

The school is located slightly outside Nguluni, where I live with my three-year-old daughter. I am a single parent. In the mornings, I take a shuttle bus to school. I am there from eight in the morning until 5 p.m., but many days, I don't get home until 8 p.m. Luckily, I have a housemaid who supports me and often takes care of my daughter.

Tell us about your daily routine at school:

In my subjects, all students from first to fourth grade are often together. This is also the case in cleanliness lessons. The children enjoy cleaning because I give them specific tasks and try to turn each challenge into a little competition. In the first grade, students initially learn hand sewing, and then they move on to using sewing machines. We have five machines at the school.

We as teachers also integrate a "talent search" into our lessons. This can be in sports, dancing, singing, or poetry. The children have fun with it. And then there's the bakery.

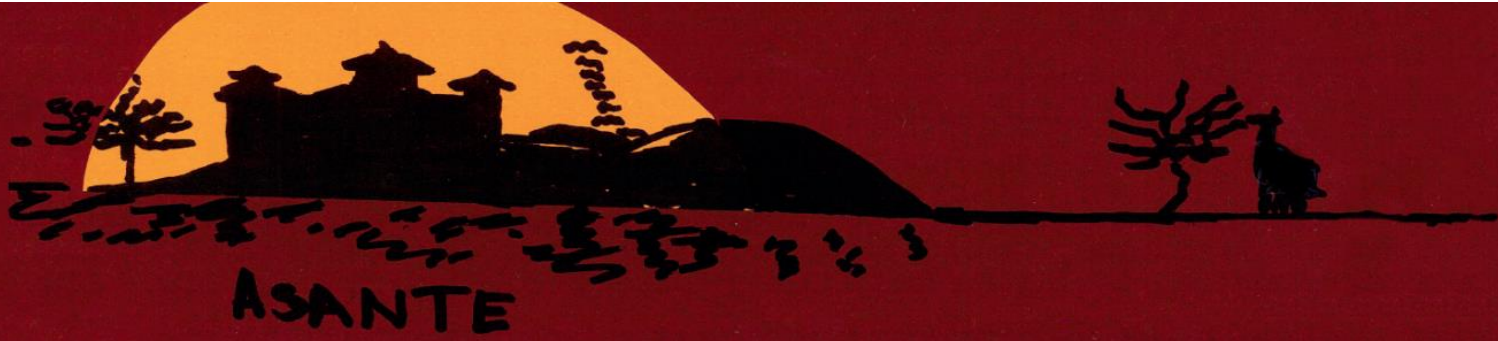
We'll come back to the bakery later. First, we would like to learn more about you and your background.

I am the first of four children. My mother is only 14 years older than me. Because my mother was so young, my great-grandmother took care of me. However, only until 2010, until the fifth grade. After that, my great-grandmother made sure I went to a home because my father was abusive, and it became dangerous for me at home.

What is your relationship with your mother like today?

We have a very special relationship, a great bond. My mother isn't much older than me. She lives more than 200 kilometres away from here, towards Lake Victoria. So, unfortunately, we don't see each other often, but when we do, it's nice. My relationship with my siblings and the whole family is also very good. Currently, my sister Nicole is here at the Academy of Maisha Mazuri, doing a three-month internship as a social worker. I'm glad that the MCC has given her this opportunity.

Vorstand: Barbara Krohne Anita Wimmer Helen Milkau



What do you particularly like about our Secondary School?

The students at this school are more interested and open-minded compared to other schools. I know the feeling when you consider school and education as a gift. In 2019, I myself completed college. My experiences are similar to those of many MCC students. It's very valuable that there's more here than just theoretical curriculum. You learn a lot of practical skills for life. This gives you the chance to become an independent young adult. Independence is especially important for us women.

How did you personally experience this?

Through my time in school and boarding school, I gained enough energy and confidence to really want to study. After finishing school, I sold bread and donuts on the street to afford my studies. Otherwise, it wouldn't have been financially possible, and I probably wouldn't have made it. By the way, no one taught me how to bake bread back then.

Is that why the bakery is a passion project for you? Tell us a bit about it.

In our bakery, students can learn a lot and have a great time doing so. Each student spends about five school hours per week in the bakery. We have Phillip Wambua, a full-time baker, on our team. We produce 300 rolls daily as well as pastries, cookies, bread, ciabatta, and donuts. ...

In the meantime, Anita's dream of a larger oven has indeed come true, thanks to you and your support!

Now we look confidently towards the year 2024, hand in hand with our partners and friends in Kenya and with you, dear members, supporters, and sponsors of Maisha Mazuri.

Thank you very much for continuing to support the project in Kenya so faithfully, Asante Sana!

Interested in a volunteer position at MCC or on the farm?

There are still available spots for late summer and autumn this year. We look forward to receiving applications. praktikum@4kenya.info