

Kula Malaika Foundation
for Childcare and Youth Development



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Newsletter

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Dear Friends



Many of the children who attend our childcare centers live in so-called informal settlements – some on former rubbish dumps. For them, waste is an everyday sight, and they are often unaware of the dangers it poses to the environment and their health. That's why we try to raise their awareness in a playful way: together with the after-school children, we regularly collect and sort rubbish in the surrounding area.

Another major environmental issue is deforestation. In the neighborhood, farmers are clearing forests to create grazing land. As a result, many wild animals are losing their natural habitat – monkeys now search for food in the settlements. It is no laughing matter: they enter houses, raid kitchens, rummage through rubbish bins, and sometimes even attack people. Added to this are increasingly frequent dry spells with a high risk of fires, followed by heavy rains and flooding.

We therefore teach the children how important trees are for ecological balance. In October, we were able to participate in the Ecolution Festival in Wilderness. All our after-school children from Kleinkrantz and from the farm enthusiastically helped plant 1,000 indigenous trees. A very special highlight was performing together with well-known musician Wendy Oldfield. The children sang Wendy's original song "*A Reminder to the World*" – a touching reminder that we are all part of this world and can choose to protect it. The rehearsals with Wendy were also an inspiring experience for the children.

Our winter was particularly dry this year, and once again there were numerous fires in the area. Many of these fires are caused by burning candles or defective gas bottles in the settlements.

To be better prepared, our children received safety training from the fire department. The most exciting moment, of course, was when they were allowed to extinguish a fire themselves using an extinguisher! Our staff and students also took part.



Our skills-training program was used by three more young women this winter:

Geniva successfully completed her training as an early-childhood educator and is now looking for a permanent position.

Ongeswa and **Inako** worked with Charles in the woodworking workshop. While Ongeswa is still continuing to learn there, we were able to arrange a government-funded apprenticeship as a diesel mechanic for Inako.

Sinesipo learned the basics of sewing with Auntie Lien – an important step toward self-reliance.

Cameron has completed her time with us and now works permanently in a restaurant in Wilderness.

And I myself have also begun learning something new. This year, we entered a partnership with **Agiamondo**. For more than sixty years, Agiamondo has been placing qualified specialists with church and civil-society organizations worldwide under the German Development Service Act. They prepare the specialists thoroughly for their assignment, support them throughout their service, and cover part of the staffing costs.

Agiamondo has not only recognized Kula Malaika as a partner organization but has also agreed to employ and support me as a specialist for the next two years. That is why, in October and November, I am not in springtime South Africa but in autumnal Cologne, taking part in various seminars together with others who are being sent to different countries. Our shared task is to use our skills to help shape social life more peacefully and support social and ecological transformation processes.

In my case, this naturally takes place at Kula Malaika – and values such as compassion, the common good, solidarity, and the preservation of creation have long shaped our work.

After nearly 24 years in South Africa, it has been valuable to reflect on my work and to understand how my own background influences it. I have learned a great deal about intercultural work and the importance of cultural sensitivity, which will benefit our project. I also now have a better understanding of the German development cooperation system, which will hopefully help me find new partners in the future. My time in Cologne is coming to an end in mid-November, and soon I will return to South Africa with renewed courage and many new impulses.



Despite our partnership with Agiamondo and our search for new partners, your ongoing support remains essential for maintaining our projects at this time. Each of your donations helps ensure that a child at Kula Malaika receives love, care, healthy meals, and assistance in both preschool and school development.

With this in mind, we wish you a blessed Christmas season, peace in your hearts, and confidence for the new year.

With deep gratitude for your continued support,
Monika, Watson, and the entire Kula Malaika Team

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