



NEWSLETTER: ISSUE DECEMBER 2017



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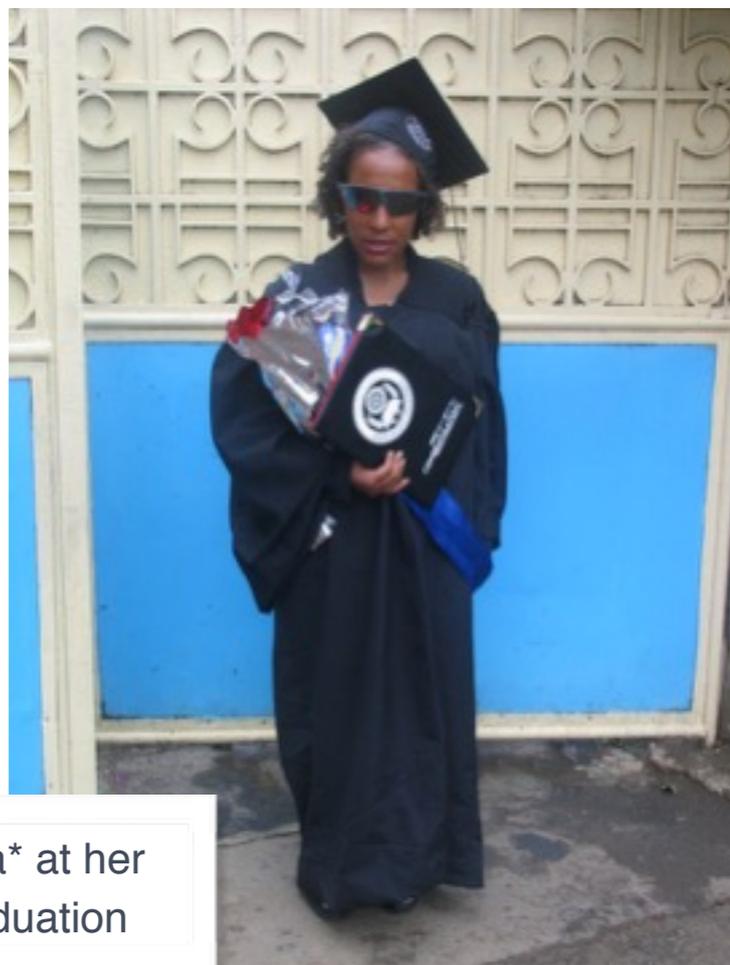
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### *C*

### *Centre*

## The Story of an Ethiopian Woman

*Despite being blinded at the age of four, Anna now holds a university degree*



Anna\* at her graduation

Anna was born in 1983 and was dealt heavy blows at a young age. She grew up with her aunt because her parents died before she had the chance to meet them. When she was four, she was left blind after falling badly ill with measles. The brave girl was taken in at a school for the blind in Shashamene where she was also cared for after her aunt died some years later. For a while it looked as though things were changing for the better. She completed the 12<sup>th</sup> grade and was accepted into a university in Addis Ababa. There are no words to describe what happened next. Anna was raped and became pregnant as a result. She was forced to drop out of university as no one could support her with the baby. When Anna came to the MCRC, her son was very ill and she was physically and mentally fatigued. They were both taken in and given accommodation. In addition to medicinal support, Anna also received therapy. After restoring her strength, she resumed her studies.

The entire MCRC team was overjoyed when she graduated this year with a degree in English literature. A small graduation party was organized in her honor. In an emotional response to this recognition of her efforts, she said, “thank you so much for everything that you have done for me. I am a new person that can look to the future with hope”. The MCRC can only offer a home, care and structure to the women seeking help. The determination to go on despite such terrible fates and not give up can only come from the individual. The MCRC team sees itself more as a companion to the women who in their hearts all have incredibly strong personalities. Now Anna is sending her CV to find work. Her son belongs to the incoming first graders and continues to receive support from the MCRC.

## Behind the Scenes at the Sewing Shop

*The teacher Hanna Getachew on her work at the MCRC*



teacher Hanna

Hanna is 36 years old and has worked at the Center since 2015. She trains the women to sew and knit. Hanna is engaged and is very precise in her work. Her job not only entails providing tailor apprenticeships but also supporting the women creating new designs and innovative approaches. Upon being asked what separates this job from previous work, Hanna recalls working at a training center where students had to pay for their education. The MCRC offers professional training free of cost which she thinks is great although not all the women in the program are equally motivated. She was not used to this at first but she learned to look at everyone individually and take their pasts into consideration.

Hanna thinks it is great that the women can work with high quality fabrics donated by friends of the MCRC and unavailable locally. In her opinion, the yarn plays a considerable role in the quality of the products that the women make.

After some of the women have completed their professional development and have left the MCRC, new women and mothers are expected to pursue training at the sewing shop.

This would make Hanna happy, as she already has ideas for new course units and is thinking of dividing the training into levels so that she can support the women better individually.

Although the MCRC does not have the same opportunities as a business oriented vocational training institute,

Hanna thinks that the sewing shop punches above its weight. If she could wish something for the sewing shop it would be a big pin wall and more tailor equipment. Her wishes have been taken into account by the management team with the hope that they might be granted later.



## Numbers and Facts: School and Education

### *MCRC children began the new school year*

On the 25th of September, most schools reopened their gates. Like children everywhere in the world, the kids sponsored by the MCRC had mixed feelings.

Many were excited to see their friends from school again after two months but for others the vacation could not have been long enough.

“I’m not interested in school anymore. I only go there because I have to.”

This attitude will be familiar to many parents or even remind them of their own childhood. And that’s ok. It’s a part of growing up. Or is it the challenge that every guardian has to overcome?

No matter what, children should question everything and look at things critically. However, the question of going to school is non-negotiable. One day, when they perhaps have their own children, they will understand.



### **Some facts about our MCRC children:**

**12 children formerly in preschool are now attending the 1st grade.**

## Volunteer Work

*An interview with Saron and Venesia about their time at the MCRC*

Saron and Venesia are 14 years old and go to the Nazreth School. They are in different classes but both came to the MCRC over their summer vacation to help other kids.

### ***How would you describe your time at the MCRC?***

**Saron:** 'The MCRC was great. The children and parents are really well taken care of. The Center is green and well maintained. The kids can play and they get a lot of support in their studies. I helped with math and English. It was a great experience for me.'

**Venesia:** 'I think so too. The atmosphere was really nice. The staff, especially the teachers, supported us a lot. I mainly taught English in the vacation program. I was very surprised by how fast the kids learned and how disciplined they were. I had not expected that.'



the volunteers help with homework

## Freiwillige soziale Arbeit

*Saron und Venesia im Interview über ihre Zeit im MCRC*



The volunteers and the children

### ***What do you think makes the MCRC special?***

**Venesia:** 'One has to consider that it is not always easy to teach children who suffer from past experiences and trauma. That's why it was special to see how the staff, but especially the teachers, deal with the children. They are so patient, understanding and appreciative with the kids. The environment is just great.'

**Saron:** 'Yeah, exactly. I think the MCRC is special because of the wonderful children and because of the environment they grow up and learn in. The Center is really pretty and clean. This makes it a great place for the kids as well as the teachers. I wish there more organizations like it.'

# Projects and Special Topics

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## New MCRC Website

*The website is refashioned in cooperation with the Ghavamedia Agency*

The Website had been on the MCRC Support Team to-do-list for a long time. The times are rapidly changing and especially the demands on communication have transformed. The first MCRC website was colorful and informative and we wish to continue this. However, it was created at a time when only the fewest households owned tablets and the internet had barely adapted to the small smartphone screens.

Thanks to Soheil Ghavami, owner of the advertising agency Ghavamedia, the MCRC could modify and renew its website. The new homepage will be made available at the beginning of next year.

The address will still be [www.mcrc-addisababa.org](http://www.mcrc-addisababa.org)

We are exceptionally thankful for this fantastic support. We are very proud to soon offer a modern website capable of meeting today's technical demands as well as being adaptable to the demands of tomorrow.

♥ **Thank you** ♥

# Greetings from the MCRC

## A Life after MCRC – Part 2

Over the course of four newsletters, the story of Biruk and his start in life outside of the protective walls of the MCRC will be told.

This year, I had a special summer. Instead of spending my summer time learning and playing, I spent it teaching my brothers and sisters at MCRC. In the classroom, we saw each other like teacher and student but outside the class room we played and had lunch together.

I taught MCRC students aged 10 to 13 from grades 5 to 7 Mathematics, together with volunteers from other schools. We had Mathematics three days a week. This helped the students to succeed in their regular education. I hope they will achieve better in mathematics as we did all we could to help them. English was taught by other volunteers but only in the morning to give the students more free time to enjoy their summer break.

After class, I spent my time with grade 10 students playing and watching films in the center. I really enjoyed my time with them.

There is also another thing that makes this summer different: I received a laptop from Sabine and her friends. I would really like to thank Sabine for it. As a university student, this laptop will help me a lot. It will minimize the cost and time I spend to get hard copy of different courses materials and will allow me to write my graduation thesis comfortably. Altogether, I had a good time at MCRC this summer.



Biruk and his pupils

# Greetings from the MCRC

## Welcome Yostina!

Little Yostina recently joined the MCRC. In cooperation with the Women and Children Affairs Bureau, she was brought to the MCRC with her mother and older brother.

Yostina's mother became pregnant very early. After the birth of the girl, the father disappeared leaving the mother to take care of the children and their livelihood alone. Instead of doing other people's laundry to make ends meet, the MCRC now allows her to give her children her full attention.



# Greetings from the MCRC

This page will be shown in every newsletter issue. The children of MCRC shall participate creatively. This time the children painted for you.



# Information and Contact details



## Direction MCRC

Mrs. Jutta De Muynck  
C/o MOENCO  
P.O. BOX 5727  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia

## responsible of newsletter

Maira Nolte	Sarah Wolf
Feldstr.17	Am Eichenhain 6
65183 Wiesbaden	13465 Berlin
Germany	Germany

***„Be the change you wish to  
see in the world.“***

***Gandhi***

**Contact e-mail:** [team.mcrc@icloud.com](mailto:team.mcrc@icloud.com)

Visit us on **Facebook!**

photos videos and further information are on our fanpage: [Freunde des MCRC](#)

**NEW** - we're on Instagram: [www.instagram.com/mcrc.addis.abeba](https://www.instagram.com/mcrc.addis.abeba)

or on our website: [www.mcrc-addisababa.org](http://www.mcrc-addisababa.org)

## donation account Ethiopia

MCRC Zemen Bank transfer details  
Mother and Child Rehabilitation Center  
Zemen Bank Main Branch  
A/c No: 1034110003367024  
Swift code: ZEMEETAA  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## donation account Germany

Förderverein Inner Wheel D 87  
IBAN: DE05401545300059012146  
BIC: WELADE3WXXX  
Sparkasse Westmünsterland  
reference: "MCRC" + your address

Donations from 50 Euro: we of course send you a donation receipt. Please fill in your whole address that we are able to send you one.