



**NEWSLETTER: ISSUE MAY 2022**



# MCRC Newsletter, May 2022



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## Successes can be celebrated

*Inner Wheel Clubs in Germany stand up for women Ethiopia.*

At the end of 2021, the MCRC received the news from the Inner Wheel Club: "We hit the one million Euros!"

No, we are not talking about the lottery jackpot, but about a very special kind of funding partnership. The ladies of the Inner Wheel Clubs in Germany have been supporting the MCRC since its official registration as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in 2010. The foundation of this partnership was laid by the club in Münster-Aasee, which was the first Inner Wheel Club to support the project of founder Jutta De Muyneck and actively helped during the construction of the

center before 2010. More than ten years later, a very special occasion offers reason to celebrate the long-standing partnership and friendship, because over time a total of one million Euros was donated to the various projects of the MCRC.

„The donation sum fills us with pride, as it also shows the amount of trust placed in our association. With the greatest commitment and pleasure we channeled the donations to this admirable project and were very touched by the numerous personal contacts this allowed us to experience“ says Rose-Marie Niemeier, chairwoman of The Inner Wheel Association in district 87.



## Successes can be celebrated

*Inner Wheel Clubs in Germany stand up for women Ethiopia.*

The funds have not only been and will be used to support children and young people, but also to rehabilitate women and mothers who have experienced physical or psychological violence, live in poverty and are in many ways too disadvantaged to build a self-determined future in independence for themselves. In small groups, thanks to the help of sponsors such as Inner Wheel, they receive the support they need to get well and build a livelihood again. Currently, seven women are supported through their journeys in the MCRC. We are both proud and grateful that together with the support of Inner Wheel we have already been able to help 184 women into employment and 99 more women now earn their income in self-employment. The women, who previously hardly knew how to manage the next day with traumas and experiences from their past, now work in restaurants, hotels, hair salons or are their own boss.

The MCRC is rather a small organization compared to other NGOs, but nevertheless the developments of women and children show that the concept works and, above all, is sustainable. However, developments take time. A traumatized person is not rehabilitated overnight and an organization like the MCRC was not built overnight.

**The Inner Wheel Clubs in Germany have played a large part in this success, which we can celebrate together today, because they have continuously stood by the MCRC despite ups and downs and have made a significant contribution to the fact that today almost 300 women can lead a self-determined everyday life in health and independence, who were previously almost destitute.**

♥ Thank you ♥

## One vision, two business angels and three questions

*Hildegard De Backere and Antje Steinrötter on the beginning of the Addis-project*

*Over the last years, the MCRC was supported by twelve Inner Wheel Clubs in Germany, where it is more commonly known as the „Addis project“. The long-standing partnership and the milestone which was recently reached regarding the sponsorship sum give reason to take a look into the past. How did the Inner Wheel Clubs in Germany come to hear about the small organization in Ethiopia’s capital?*

***We enquired for you at the pioneering Inner Wheel Club, Münster-Aasee.***

**At that point in time, the MCRC did not have a social media account or their own website. So how did the Mother-Child-Centre attract your attention?**

*Hildegard De Backere:*

It was more a coincidence. After returning from a trip to Ethiopia, Renate, a mutual friend of ours, told us about a friend of hers who used to live in Münster and about her plans to support children and youths in Ethiopia and improve their prospects. This immediately caught our interest .

*Antje Steinrötter:*

Then and now it is important to us as friends of the IWC Münster-Aasee, to help people in need on a long-term basis. We invited the founder of the MCRC, Jutta De Munyck, to visit us so we could learn more about her work.



Supporting the MCRC on an Inner Wheel Stand

## One vision, two business angels and three questions

*Hildegard De Backere and Antje Steinrötter on the beginning of the Addis-project*

**You also flew to Addis Abeba to see the situation for yourselves?**

*Antje Steinrötter:*

Yes, that was important! Not until we were on site did we fully realise what Jutta was providing there.

Up to twelve mostly sick children, who could not stay at the centre, were living in her house, which meant she was “on duty” day and night ! We felt we would not have been able to do the same and greatly admired her ! The trip to this beautiful country with its amiable people and magnificent nature was an unforgettable

*Hildegard De Backere:*

Yes, we definitely wanted to see our project with our own eyes. In the meantime we had set quite a few things in motion. We were in close contact on a friendly basis with Jutta, who came to Münster once a yearly.

She encouraged us to come to Addis Abeba and so we set off on our journey. The trip was a further motivation boost for our activities.



Back then in Addis Ababa

## One vision, two business angels and three questions

*Hildegard De Backere and Antje Steinrötter on the beginning of the Addis-project*

**If we were talking economy, the MCRC would be a start-up and you would be the business angels. You already helped in the development stages. What was your motivation and how do you see the MCRC today?**

*Hildegard De Backere:*

We really were like angels. Golf tournaments were organized for charity, a fashion show for example, as well as two charity concerts for the MCRC. Jutta was often present and could give us first-hand updates on her work. The actress Nora Tschirner also informed us about her experiences with the MCRC. We also packed and sold berbere, a typical Ethiopian spice mixture. Our Addis project became the most important one for the IWC Münster Aasee, which was and is still given strong support. After Juttas withdrawal we were admittedly concerned about how we should continue, but we are now fully convinced that Jutta put the continuation of her work into good hands. Rahel Ambaye does reliable and competent work. We keep in regular contact and are

pleased to be working together. There is still a lot of good to be done.

*Antje Steinrötter:*

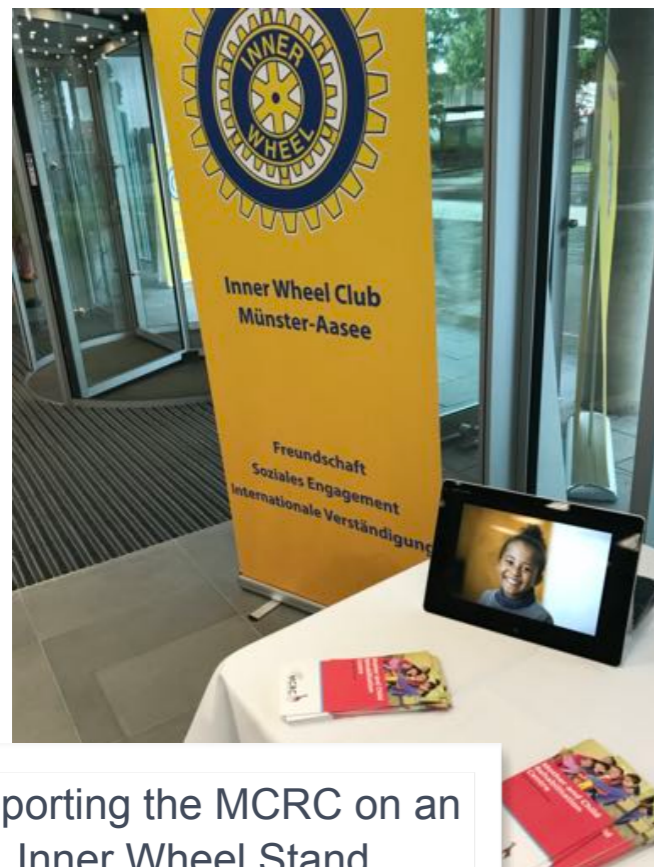
At that time, we wanted to help a friend whose commitment strongly convinced us. For the children, the “blue gate” to the centre with my big bird is a gate to a better future, to a self-determined life. We give them our support for these efforts.

*Hildegard De Backere:*

Later on we were very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the IW sponsorship association Coesfeld through which donations of one million Euros were transacted over the years. We are very proud to have spread our enthusiasm for the MCRC to others.

The small organization from then now supports **174 children and youths** and over the years has helped around **300 women** back to a self-determined life. This is only made possible through partners like the Inner Wheel Clubs in Germany.

Many thanks. ❤️



Supporting the MCRC on an Inner Wheel Stand

## Personnel costs

*New tutor, thanks to Inner Wheel Club Tecklenburger Land*

Aida K has been working as a tutor in the MCRC since October. The 22-year-old supports the children of the MCRC five days a week for four hours a day, especially in English and mathematics. The young woman, who has a degree from the University of Gondar, was able to be hired thanks to the long-term donation commitment of the Inner Wheel Club Tecklenburger Land. In addition, the Club donated for the purchase of a new printer and a binding machine for MCRC. This will reduce the students' costs for assignments and other handouts to be printed and bound outside the centre.

With the Aida's help, the children have worked on units that haven't been properly covered due to school hours lost during the pandemic. She is also helping them to understand unclear or difficult areas in subjects they learn at school, especially maths.

The young woman has a lot of experience in working with children as she gave private lessons for many years. As a youth she was already involved as a tutor for younger girls at her school. Aida graduated in Psychiatric Nursing. Her personal interest lies above all in mathematics, the subject she has been teaching the MCRC children for months now.



Tutor Aida at work



## Personnel costs

*New tutor, thanks to Inner Wheel Club Tecklenburger Land*



Aida supports the children

We are very grateful to the Inner Wheel Club Tecklenburger Land for making this kind of help possible for the children. Committed employees like Aida are one of the most important factors in the advancement of children. Rehabilitation cannot take place without staff and consequently not without personnel costs. The employees of the MCRC are indispensable for the various support measures provided for women and children. Tutoring and homework supervision is an important part of the education program that helps many students during their school years to further improve their academic performance and lead them to success.

And the concept is working: From a total of **174 children** MCRC is supporting, two of them have now completed higher education and are in employment, two more are doing an internship, 29 are going to college or university and 15 students are to join college/university this year.

**Thank you** Inner Wheel Club Tecklenburger, for contributing to the success of our students.

## Health as the basis for a self-determined life

*Donations from the Inner Wheel Clubs enable medical care at the MCRC*



"Health is the first duty in life." (Oscar Wilde)

The MCRC's support measures are based on three pillars:

- Physical health
- Mental health
- Education/literacy

The health of women and children is an important prerequisite to ensure the success of rehabilitation as well as further education and literacy measures. It is the foundation on which individual future plans can be built. Medical care is therefore one of the most important components of

the MCRC's rehabilitation program. Restoring the health of the beneficiary women and children who often arrive traumatized and sick is the primary work of MCRC which requires utmost care and causes higher costs. Health problems are unpredictable and can include long-term conditions. Medical support cannot be reduced or cut without consequences. The service is provided in a country where the ratio of medical professionals to the population is very low. To engage good medical professionals, higher salaries must be offered. Over the years, healthcare has been one of the highest costs for MCRC.



## Health as the basis for a self-determined life

*Donations from the Inner Wheel Clubs enable medical care at the MCRC*

We are extremely grateful to pursue joint projects with our sponsors that help our children and young people in their everyday education, but just as important are the donations for medical care, which are crucial in our ability to help flexibly and comprehensively concerning physical suffering. Over the many years that we have been sharing this funding partnership, we could provide relatively good medical services and even arrange special life saving treatments.



Jeylan today

Jeylan and Yonas are now able to study and lead normal lives. The lengthy treatment of a heart condition and a complicated leg injury involved other sponsors besides Inner Wheel Clubs, but their aftercare

also took a long time and needed to be paid for.

We would like to thank you on behalf of Jeylan, Yonas and all the children and women of the MCRC for the donations which enabled us to provide adequate medical care.



Yonas today

# Projects and Special Topics

## Art Brushes, Paints and lots of Ethiopian Spice

*Personal words from the founder, Jutta De Muynck*

Dear Inner Wheel friends,

as the founder of the MCRC, I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your continuous and long-standing support.

I enjoy looking back to the first time I was invited to an Inner Wheel Club meeting in Münster- Aasee with Antje Steinrötter and Hildegard De Backere.

Our mutual friend, Renate, who had recently returned from a visit to Addis Abeba, spoke about her trip and my activities there at a time when the MCRC was still in its infancy.

Without further ado, I travelled to Münster, presented my work and shortly afterwards Antje and Hildegard set off on their journey to Addis Abeba.

I was impressed from day one by the determination and helpfulness shown by the Inner Wheel. Unperturbed by the light rain and equipped with paintbrushes and paint, Antje decorated the MCRC gate in her artistic style. To this day, Hildegard still acts as an ambassador and returned to Germany bringing not only presentations and stories. She also filled her suitcase with several kilograms of berber, an Ethiopian spice, which she planned to sell back home as a piece of Ethiopian cooking tradition.



Jutta De Muynck &  
Antje Steinrötter

# Projects and Special Topics

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## Art Brushes, Paints and lots of Ethiopian Spice

*Personal words from the founder, Jutta De Muynck*

The proceeds were forwarded to the MCRC and used to buy nappies (daipers), food and other important items. I still like to think back to those early years and the beginning of the friendship between the MCRC and the Inner Wheel.

Many fund-raising campaigns followed and various Inner Wheel Clubs in Germany are still closely connected to the MCRC, for which I am deeply grateful.

After passing my leading position over to Rahel Ambaye, I still keep in touch with the MCRC and am very pleased with the developments.

Young, ambitious people who I took care of in our garage so many years ago, who I took to see doctors, clothed and taught the Abc, now attend universities in Ethiopia.

To be able to celebrate these success stories, along with you as supporters, makes me extremely happy.

As in the past, the donations and commitment from the Inner Wheel Clubs in Germany still make a significant contribution towards supporting severely disadvantaged women and children in Ethiopia to build a self-determined life of independence.

Thanks to promoters like you, Antje's colorful gate can stay open to people seeking help, and an interdisciplinary program can be offered.

As a passive member, I would like to send my warmest greetings and express my deepest gratitude to all Inner Wheel friends for your loyalty and commitment.

Jutta De Muynck

# Projects and Special Topics

## Closeness is not a matter of distance

*Inner Wheel Germany visits the MCRC*



Hildegard de Backere visited the MCRC

5.417 kilometres as the crow flies and around seven flight hours separate Germany from Ethiopia. A long journey, which might not be necessary in today's world of digital communication to be able to keep in touch and organize common projects. From time to time the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that collaboration can function very well, despite distance. The Inner Wheel Clubs in Germany and the MCRC didn't need a pandemic to prove this point, as they have been working together successfully under such circumstances for a long time. Nevertheless, personal contact is something special and the MCRC team is always very pleased to receive visitors. Some of our Inner Wheel friends are happy to share their memories and impressions from Addis Abeba:

**Hildegard De Backere  
& Antje Steinrötter IWC Münster-  
Aasee**

“After having worked hard at home on our commitment to “our” Addis-project (MCRC), we wanted to see it

with our own eyes. The trip was not only a big adventure for us both, immersing ourselves in this unfamiliar world, but we were also really enriched by experiencing what Jutta De Muynck had managed to achieve through her great efforts. Under the most basic circumstances she had created a Centre which is characterised by tight organisation, loving attention and professionalism. She was rewarded by happy children and diligent mothers in a safe environment. A success story.” (November 2011)

Antje Steinrötter in Addis Abeba



# Projects and Special Topics

## Closeness is not a matter of distance

*Inner Wheel Germany visits the MCRC*

### Sabine Münch-Garthoff

IWC Ludwigshafen

“If I should ever travel to Ethiopia again, I will definitely visit the MCRC. I was really impressed by the work being done there and the good organization , even with up to 170 children coming for meals and tutoring.“ ( March 2019 )



Hannelore Schrandt-Baalmann visited the MCRC together with her daughter

### Hannelore Schrandt-Baalmann

IWC Münster Prinzipal

"I was so happy to visit the MCRC personally. My impression is that the children

receive a lot of love and attention there. I had not imagined the MCRC to be in such a pleasant and well-tended house."

(November 2021)



# Greetings from the MCRC

The creative page is an integral part of the MCRC Newsletter. The design of this page can be done by anyone from the MCRC community.

At the beginning of the newsletter we talked about successes and that we should celebrate them. The long-standing partnership with the friends from the various Inner Wheel Clubs in Germany as well as the developments of the women and children who receive the necessary support thanks to the donations, is a great success that makes us very happy and optimistic, but above all **grateful**. The whole MCRC team says thank you and sends you a short video message from Addis Ababa.

Click [here](#) to watch the video in YouTube.





# Information and contact details

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

*Gandhi*

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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

Cooperative Bank of Oromia, Ayer Tena Branch  
A/c Holder: Mother and Child Rehabilitation Center  
A/c No -1009700006426  
Swift Code – CBORETAA  
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.