



Dear friends, partners & supporters,

Warm greetings from all of us at PANKO Youth Center in Northern Ghana! We hope you are doing well and enjoying good health.

As many of you know, PANKO has spent the last five years helping children and young people. Giving them a safe place to learn, grow, and dream. We are happy to share that our impact continues to grow, and our hearts are full of gratitude for your love and support.

Today, we want to tell you a special story. A story about a dream that is still growing. It is about starting a bakery project that will change lives.

So, please take a few minutes, relax with your cup of tea or coffee, and join me as I share our story from our dream at PANKO to my recent journey in Germany, to the hope that connects us all.

Why We Dream of a Bakery

At PANKO Youth Center, we always dream big for our children and young people. We see many youth, especially girls, who leave school too early and find no work. We also know that the center depends too much on donors for support.

So, we thought: what if we could build something that gives jobs, supports PANKO, and also serves the community? That dream became the **PANKO Bread Bakery and Training Center** — a place to bake good bread and good futures.

Our bakery will create jobs and skills for young people, earn income to support PANKO's programs, and provide affordable, healthy bread to families in our community.



Time on Fraueninsel



In October 2025, I travelled again to Germany for the third time for a beautiful reason. I joined other development agents from eight countries, from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the U.S. We spent ten days together on Fraueninsel, a small island full of peace and learning. The program, organized by Arche Noah Stiftung, led by our dear friend Gitta Zimmermann, was all about living and practicing *Nonviolent Communication (NVC)*. We shared stories, worked in groups, learn from one another and had fun. It helped me think about peace, teamwork, and how we can build life serving projects. For me, every NVC gathering is like a big family reunion where I always come back home a little bit different.

Staying in Prien

After our time on the island, I moved to Prien, to stay with Christiane, a woman with a very kind heart. She gave me warm jackets for the cold, cooked for me and her son Moritz, and sometimes took me out to eat. Her home truly felt like my second home in Germany.

My stay there had many purposes. Together, we prepared for an event with PANKO's friends and supporters, met our upcoming 2026 volunteers, and planned PANKO's next steps, including our budget, bakery operations, and long-term goals.

We balanced work with a little fun too, enjoying beautiful sightseeing moments around Prien and nearby towns, always with Christiane by my side and sometimes with Peter as well. These small trips brought joy and gave me time to reflect and gather new ideas for PANKO's future.



Time with Anja



Before the event, we were joined by Anja, a friend of Christiane's, who traveled seven hours by train from Lübbecke to be with us. We spent meaningful time together, talking about PANKO, our families, and our dreams for the future of our young people.

There was something very touching about her presence. She listened with her heart, asked thoughtful questions, and truly wanted to understand our work. After the event, she reached out with warm encouragement and she shared that she would like to support our bakery project in her own small way, which she truly did from her heart. Dear Anja, we are grateful.

The Event on 31 October 2025

The event took place on October 31, 2025, and it was a beautiful evening. About 30 friends and supporters joined us, including Benedikt, a representative from WMF Barmherzigkeit, and some of our German volunteers who had spent time with PANKO in Ghana.

Christiane opened the evening with a warm presentation about PANKO's work. I then shared our five-year impact serving rural children and youth. Jörg Hofmann from KiNiKi also spoke about our partnership, and our volunteers shared their memories from Ghana.

After the presentations, we had many personal conversations. Several supporters shared how encouraged they felt to continue supporting PANKO. Some even invited us to their homes for lunch or dinner. We enjoyed good food, warm stories, and a deep sense of trust and friendship. It felt clear that PANKO's community now reaches far beyond Ghana.



Meeting Our 2026 Volunteers



Christiane and I drove for about one hour and thirty minutes to Pfarrkirchen to meet six young women who hope to volunteer with PANKO in February 2026. Before our meeting, we enjoyed a lunch with the Wimmer family, who had prepared many delicious dishes for us. Their daughter, Franziska, is one of the volunteers, and she is also Christiane's niece.

Afterwards, we sat together, some joining on Zoom and others physically present, to plan their trip, learn from one another, and talk about their schedule while in PANKO and Ghana. It was a warm and hopeful meeting, full of excitement for the journey ahead.

A Day In Brotquelle

One of my favorite experiences in Germany was spending a day in a local bakery called Brotquelle in Prien. It is a well-known bakery, and I went there to learn and observe and to bring new ideas home for our own bakery.

I watched how they mixed, baked, and sold their bread. The workers were very friendly and professional. It was amazing to see how passion and precision can create something as simple and powerful as bread.

While I was there, I even got a surprise visit from Gitta and her husband, Rainer. It was a sweet moment, literally surrounded by the smell of fresh bread and friendship.



Our Plan for PANKO Bread Bakery

When I returned home, I came back with many new ideas and a strong motivation to begin our bakery journey. Even though we have not started building anything yet, our vision is clear. We want to create a small community bakery that gives jobs to young people, trains many more in baking, and delivers fresh morning bread to families and tea shops in our area.

The bakery is the beginning of a new chapter for us, a first step that will help strengthen our work and guide PANKO toward a more sustainable future.

To begin this project, we need **24,260 EUR** for construction, equipment, and our first months of operation. Once running, the bakery is expected to earn a small monthly profit that will help keep it stable and allow us to grow gradually.

How You Can Help us Bake This Dream

Dear friends, our dream is simple: to build a small bakery that creates jobs, teaches skills, and supports PANKO's future in a modest but meaningful way. We cannot start without your support. Any contribution, big or small, brings us closer to opening the doors of PANKO Bread Bakery.

Together, we can bake more than bread. We can bake opportunity, dignity, and hope for the children and youth of Northern Ghana.

Warm greetings from Tamale,

Mubarak Alhassan

Thank you for being part of our journey at PANKO Youth Center. Together, we're creating brighter futures for these incredible children and young people. Your support and engagement mean the world to us. As we move forward, we invite you to continue supporting our mission and celebrating these milestones with us.

Let's keep making a difference, one step at a time. From all of us at PANKO, thank you, and see you in the next chapter!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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