



 Kuchinate African Refugee Women's Collective

 Manos Unidas

CERTIFICATE of ACHIEVEMENT

This Certificate Acknowledges That

Yodit Bahre

Has Successfully Completed

Basic Sewing Skills

Straight and zigzag stitching of single or double layers of fabric (i.e., production of musk, headbands, placements, table runners)

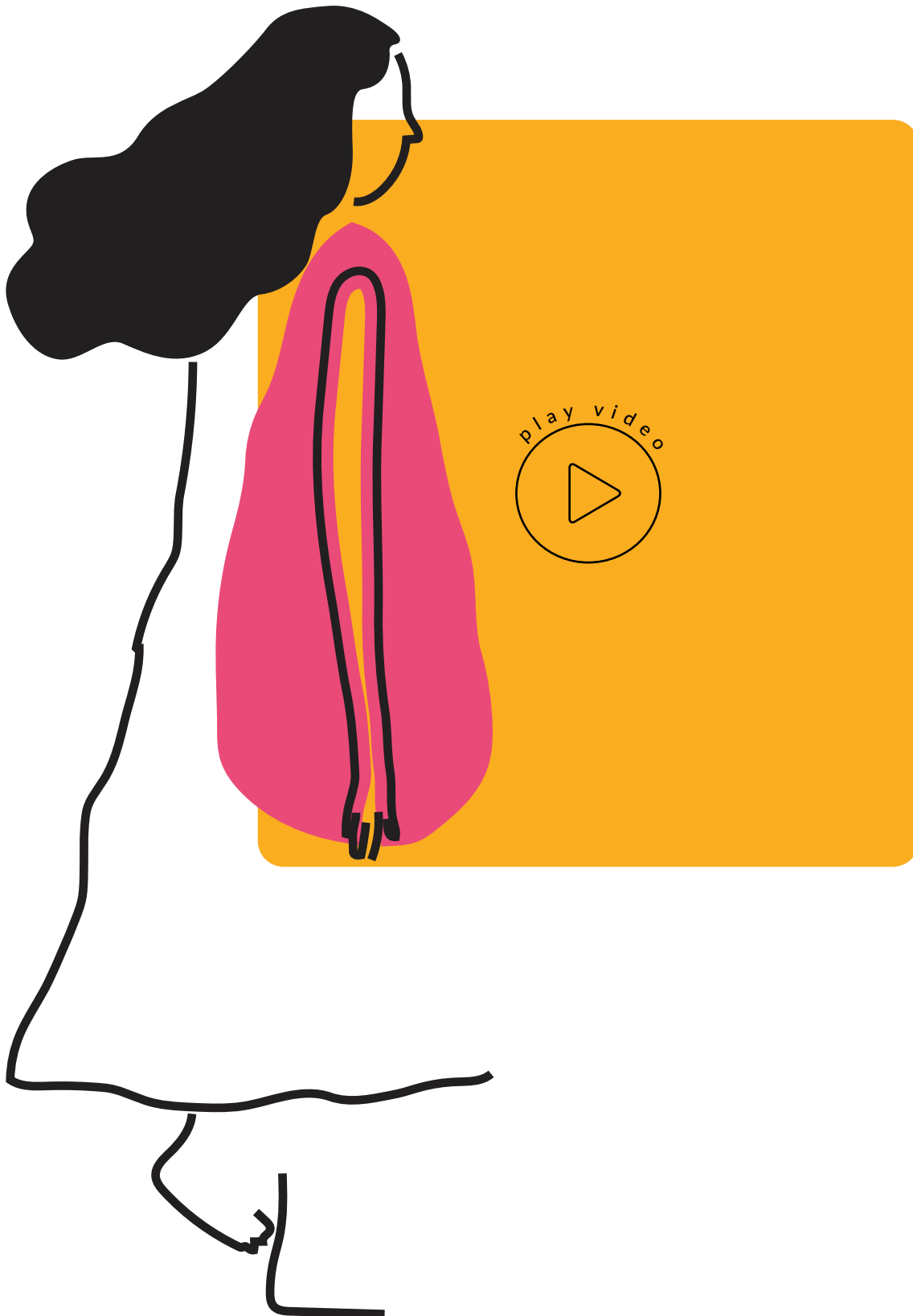
Dr. Diddy Mymin Kahn
Dr. Diddy Mymin Kahn

Sister Azzet Kidane
Sister Azzet Kidane

Jerusalem Araya
Jerusalem Araya, Manager,
Sewing Department

"kuchinate chained"

The winning film in the animation category of the Papaya Young Directors 2021 Festival, by Barbora Halířová. The film is now part of Facebook's Women's Stories that feature foundations involved in the fight for women's rights and gender equality.



letter from the directors

Dear Friends,

Photo by: Roby Yahav

We look back on another extremely challenging year with a sense of deep gratitude and pride that we were able to accomplish so much and forge forward despite the obvious issues that have affected us all globally.



The background state of survival that accompanies asylum seekers in Israel on a daily basis was exacerbated and multiplied as a state of emergency became a state of reality. This was accompanied by a sense of hopelessness and existential fear during yet another lockdown, a civil war, and more isolation and illness. In addition, more than a decade has passed, and very little has changed for the better for asylum seekers in Israel. On the contrary, life is passing by, our women's children are growing without hope for the future, and they are powerless to change the situation for their children, and this is a source of great pain and frustration.

Despite all of this, in 2021, our community of artisans displayed courage and resilience while reaching new levels of personal and professional advancement, all contributing to their sense of overall well-being and mental health - and it is for this that Kuchinate exists. We hope that you, our community of supporters on this journey with us, rejoice in our many accomplishments in 2021. Our report demonstrates how we extended our reach and amplified our impact, allowing our women to thrive and forge forwards. This success belongs to all of us. None of this would be possible without you, our many donors, shoppers, visitors, volunteers, advisors, Board of Directors, and Staff.

We thank God for giving us strength, and we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for everything you do; your impact is huge and has helped us launch 2022 with a sense of optimism and hope. There is still so much work to be done. This year, Kuchinate needs to continue growing, thriving, developing, and meeting the challenges that await us. We have much to look forward to, and we know that we can do this together.

With so much love and heartfelt gratitude to you, all for a healthy year sprinkled with life's rich blessings.

Sister Aziza and Diddy

(Sister Azezet Habtezghi Kidane & Dr. Diddy Mymin Kahn)

CO-FOUNDERS AND CEOS

KUCHINATE'S MISSION IS TO ACHIEVE RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT FOR AFRICAN ASYLUM-SEEKING WOMEN LIVING IN ISRAEL THROUGH A UNIQUE APPROACH THAT COMBINES ECONOMIC, PSYCHOSOCIAL, AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT, AND PUBLIC ADVOCACY. THIS APPROACH HAS, TO DATE, STRENGTHENED AND EMPOWERED HUNDREDS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE WOMEN WITHIN THE AFRICAN ASYLUM-SEEKING COMMUNITIES, WHO HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN.

Photo by: Shani Nahmias

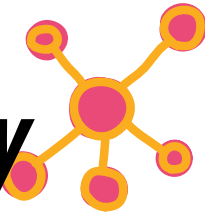


2021 in numbers

 **over 1000**
beneficiaries
helped

Throughout 2021, Kuchinate supported over 300 vulnerable asylum-seeking women and their families, equating to over 1,000 beneficiaries.

10 community
managers



We are proud to report that the growth of Kuchinate allowed us to employ ten asylum-seeking community managers throughout the year. The roles include shop management, quality control and production, childcare, translation, community relations and support.

 **over 60**
volunteers

The work we do at Kuchinate would not be possible without the assistance and dedication of our large group of volunteers, who take time out of their own lives to come and significantly support the women of Kuchinate. A huge thanks to each and every one of you!

109 salaries
were received



We are proud to report that this year, over 109 asylum-seeking women received salaries from Kuchinate that enabled them to support their families in dignity.

our products shipped to 14 countries



- Israel
- United States
- Sweden
- Germany
- Canada
- Italy
- South Africa
- Australia
- France
- Netherlands
- United Kingdom
- Austria
- China
- Eswatini

315 delicious and nutritious shared community lunches



At Kuchinate the artisans enjoy a fresh and delicious lunch together every day while sharing life's ups and downs, relaxing, celebrating and commiserating.

50 women graduated from basic sewing training

In 2021, Kuchinate taught and certified 50 of our women to sew. Our sewing courses are taught by community sewing managers of the collective alongside a few dedicated volunteers. By sewing, the women financially benefit and develop self-sufficiency skills and experience joy and emotional growth through the designing of high quality arts and crafts.



our firsts

two levels of computer courses—digital literacy finished by managers

Kuchinate's ten community managers participated and completed computer and digital literacy courses gaining skills ranging from managing email accounts to working with Microsoft Excel. The managers are now more active, fully qualified, and confident to accept greater responsibilities and contribute where computer literacy is needed. Professionalism and efficiency at Kuchinate have increased exponentially, and the managers are feeling more empowered with the new set of transferable skills they possess.



participated in the World Hope Forum

We are proud to have taken part in this year's World Hope Forum, where our Co-Director and Co-Founder, Dr. Diddy Mymin Kahn, spoke about Kuchinate and our mission to empower African asylum-seeking women living in Israel. The World Hope Forum's main goal is to create a global, holistic platform to counterbalance those neglects in production chains and services. This forum was dedicated to the creative power to transform society from within.



first ever crowdfunding campaign

This year we grew our circle of support by successfully running our first online crowdfunding campaign, and raised over 750,000 NIS in a matter of 72 hours, with over 100 ambassadors, and 2,000 donors from across the world. Each one of you has helped pave the road toward a brighter future for the Kuchinate women. We look forward to showing you over the course of the next year how big of an impact you made with your donation.



2 new stores opened in Tel Aviv

In March 2021, Kuchinate opened a new storefront on Shabazi Street, a luxury shopping area in Tel Aviv. Shabazi Street had never seen African pride fair trade items on display, but we have been well received by the public. With the success of the first storefront, we also opened a second pop-up shop in a mall in the center of Tel Aviv. Opening of stores allows for our women to connect with the public and get their stories out into the world. Stores are also a gateway for our women to develop new managerial and sales skills.



psychosocial empowerment

As an arts based resilience project, Kuchinate's ultimate goal is the wellbeing and mental health of the beneficiaries; this is felt at every level of Kuchinate, through crafting, making art, advocacy, teaching, learning, designing, selling, etc. Kuchinate's unique holistic approach was developed to combine resilience building and the therapeutic benefits of handiwork within an open and culturally supportive environment. To date, hundreds of asylum-seeking women have been assisted in coping with their traumas, building resilience through art, finding community, increasing stability, learning marketable skills, and making a living in dignity.

In 2021

- 4 social work students assisted the psychosocial team in home visits and case management, greatly advancing our reach and ability to assist more women.
- Over 300 women received psychosocial support which is available on an ongoing basis
- We continued to provide emergency support due to the stressors of the pandemic. This included continuing information on health and vaccination guidelines, distribution of medical and basic needs, food vouchers, and material for the women to work from home.



Photo by: Roby Yahav

economic empowerment

Economic self-sufficiency is an essential and basic need that has to be addressed in order to give the women the emotional availability to address their past and present issues.

To further economic empowerment, all women of the collective enjoy free childcare so they can focus on improving new skills and generate additional economic security for themselves and their families.

Workshops, coffee (buna) ceremonies, and events held in the workshop throughout 2021 remained important sources of economic empowerment for the women. While the pandemic closed our doors to many international visitors, we were blessed to have dozens of Israeli and expat groups who came to visit, hear the stories of the women, and buy our products.

These interactions have resulted in the women advocating and achieving positive change and growth within their own community.

4 points of sale

- Herzliya Museum of Art
- Shabazi Street Store
- Kuchinate Studio
- City Garden Mall Store

attended dozens of home sales

Kuchinate was invited to home sales across the country this year where our message was broadcasted to new communities. Hundreds of people had the opportunity to purchase Kuchinate handiworks, hear the women's stories, and interact with a community that they normally might not have the opportunity to.



Photo by: Natali Werba

sewing

The sewing team designed new African fabric products such as shopping bags, hair accessories, pouches, and aprons.

fabric binding and upcycling

In 2021, we began to upcycle into new projects, such as keychains, bracelets, and flag pennants.



Photo by: Shani Nahmias



Photo by: Natali Werba

crochet

This year, Kuchinate grew its crochet collection to include new and innovative designs for our crocheted products that have sold for 9 years. We repurposed baskets into hanging plant holders and launched our crochet telephone bags. We also launched two new crocheted basket collections: Italy and Milan.

These new products generate a new source of income for the women, practice resourcefulness, and work to make Kuchinate a more earth-friendly and sustainable organization. Each collection was skillfully designed and brought to life by the women of

Kuchinate alongside dedicated volunteers.

art collaborations / installations

City Garden Mall Public Art Installation

In collaboration with crochet artist Liza Mamali, the women of Kuchinate crocheted long pieces of string for weeks which came together for an art piece titled “The Connecting String.” The piece stretches down over two floors next to our storefront in City Garden mall in the center of Tel Aviv. “The Connecting String” not only brings pride to Kuchinate, but it is also a conversation starter about Israel’s asylum seekers that drapes in the popular mall. The mall includes the collaborative project with Gil Yefman entitled “Body of Work” and showcases lifesize baskets that tell the stories of a handful of Kuchinate women. These collaborative pieces demonstrate the interconnectedness between the Israeli population and the asylum-seeking community.



3x3 active gallery

Portraits of six Kuchinate women were proudly displayed on Allenby Street in Tel Aviv, a main street in the center of the city. Six leading Israeli photographers, Michal Chelbin, Dafy Hagai, Hanna Sahar, Naama Klaiman Shahr, Ella Barak, and Rotem Lebel, took portraits of Kuchinate women in their homes and with their children, bringing awareness to the plight of asylum seeking women on the weeks leading up to and after International Women’s Day.





Poland film festival

This year, Kuchinate was contacted by Facebook Poland and the Papaya Young Film Festival, asking if we would agree to be the subject of their films that focused on the empowerment of women. Our marketing director traveled to Warsaw for the screening, and the film created about Kuchinate won "Best Animated Video"! Thousands of Poles were in attendance and we were proud to take part in such a large and well-known film festival and have the opportunity to advocate for the Kuchinate women.



Liora Kanterewicz: African Urban Women

For years, Kuchinate has shared a floor with Liora Kanterewicz. She is a sculptor born in Israel, who is intensively involved in the local art world. Kuchinate was proud to host Liora for this exhibition, revealing the universal realities of women wherever they are. One of the work's displayed was the clenched fist - the symbol of "black power".

Photo by: Zev Orenstein

Art has no boundaries, and it is free to convey the message of hope and beauty of Kuchinate around the globe.

advocacy / visibility

Despite the pandemic, we still managed to advocate for the rights of asylum seekers in Israel and women in general through high-profile visits and dozens of visitors who came through our shops and studio.



Photo by: Roby Yahav



Photo by: Roby Yahav

Donated 100 baskets to the Rape Crisis Center annual Bazaar

We donated 100 of our beautiful handmade baskets to the annual Tel Aviv Rape Crisis Center Bazaar to sell and raise money for the Center in support of our larger community.

50+ groups visited despite Covid

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were proud to host over 50 groups for coffee ceremonies, lunch, and crochet workshops when the regulations permitted. We hosted groups from hi-tech companies in Israel, high school and university students, medical students, diplomats, professors of culture and African studies, among others. Our women proudly shared their culture, customs, and stories of both hardship and resilience, especially during the uncertain times of the pandemic.

We took part and spoke at International Day to End Violence

This year, the Kuchinate women proudly marched alongside hundreds of others and stood on stage before the crowd demanding an end to violence against women on the International Day to End Violence Against Women.

Special visits

This year, we were humbled to welcome hundreds of visitors into our studio to meet the Kuchinate women and hear their stories of resilience and strength. Some of these unique visitors included His Beatitude Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Patriarch of Jerusalem, and the Ambassador to Sweden. They all enjoyed a traditional Eritrean coffee ceremony while hearing about the plight of asylum seekers in Israel.

Goodbyes

The opportunity for resettlement is extremely rare, but offers a glimmer of hope for the women. This year, two of the Kuchinate women, Asmeret and Tsaga, relocated with their children to Canada amid the pandemic. It was a hard goodbye for us all, but we are thrilled to hear about their successes in Canada.

In November of this year, we also said goodbye to Sister Agnese Elli, who had been with us at Kuchinate since 2015 with the Comboni Sisters. Sister Agnese put her whole heart and soul into Kuchinate: not only was she an excellent bookkeeper, but she also spent time with children, made long-lasting and meaningful connections with her community members, and put a smile on everybody's faces. Her radiant presence will be missed, never forgotten, and we wish her the best of luck as she continues on her new path in Sri Lanka with the Comboni Sisters.



We would like to give an immense thanks to our donors:

- Manos Unidas
- UNVFVT
- UNHCR
- Tel Aviv Foundation
- Agiamondo
- Pontifical Mission Middle East
- Healing Across the Divides
- The Good People Fund
- Porticus
- Comboni Sisters
- Philip King Charitable Trust
- Frank Family Foundation
- The Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association
- Milwaukee Jewish Federation
- The Clore Foundation
- Thomases Family Endowment (Youngstown Area Jewish Federation)
- American Women for International Understand, on account of the Women of Courage 2021
- Charles Camara
- Centro Missionario Diocesano Trento
- All of the generous **private donors** and supporters who wish to remain anonymous, as well as **all who supported us through IsraelGives, MyIsrael, The New Israel Fund, and the Good People Fund!**



Photo by: Roby Yahav

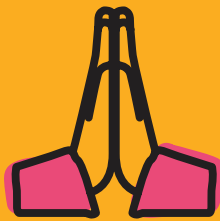
THANK YOU!
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We would also like to thank our refugee partner organizations for the wonderful work they do in the legal, education, health, employment, food insecurity, children and family spheres, and the volunteer groups who give in kind donations to members of our community.

We are very grateful to all supporters, volunteers, members of the board, advisory group, private donors, and foundations who supported us, gave us their time and contributed to our success this year.

We could not have done it without you!

*THANK YOU FOR HELPING
US TO THRIVE IN 2021.
WE HOPE FOR YOUR
CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP
AND SUPPORT
IN 2022 AS WELL!*



To make a gift online, please go to www.kuchinate.com

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