



Quarterly Newsletter 1



"Dear Friends and Supporters,

Resilience is not about never falling; it's about rising every time with more strength, more wisdom, and an unshakable vision."

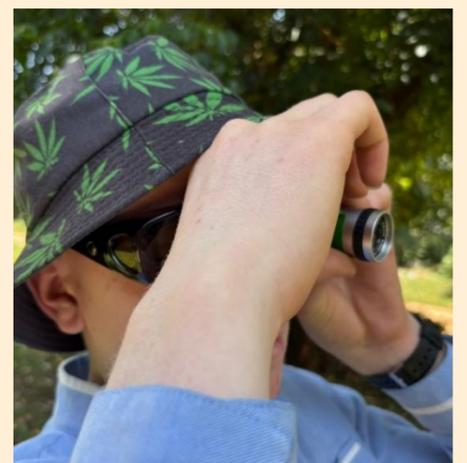
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Dear Readers,

Albinism isn't just fashion—it's a force shaping it. We are not muses for someone else's vision; we are architects, innovators, redefining style on our terms. From intricate beadwork to avant-garde silhouettes, our hands craft, stitch, and weave narratives of resilience, identity, and artistry. Our designs are not just garments; they are bold, unapologetic statements. The world has seen us on the runway, but now it's time they recognize us behind the scenes, leading the revolution. Fashion is not about fitting in; it's about standing out. With our vision, skill, and creativity, we are here to claim our place.

For too long, the industry has dictated who creates and who remains a spectacle, but we are not just muses—we are visionaries, architects of the next era of style. Our relationship with color, texture, and light is an advantage, fueling designs that are bold, original, and unapologetically ours. We are not waiting for permission; we are business owners, textile artists, tailors, and creative directors, shaping an industry that reflects our vision. From high fashion to sustainable design, we are building legacies, proving albinism in fashion is not about standing in the spotlight—it's about owning the stage. The world may not be ready, but that has never stopped us.



Fact Zone

Individuals with albinism often experience **foveal hypoplasia**, a condition where the central part of the retina (the fovea) is underdeveloped due to insufficient melanin during eye development. This underdevelopment leads to reduced visual acuity and other vision problems.

https://www.ajo.com/article/S0002-9394%2822%2900344-0/fulltext?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Can Specialized Eye Care Transform the Lives of Individuals with Albinism?

One of the most important aspects of albinism is vision. Most of us are extremely myopic, which means we struggle to see distant objects clearly. Additionally, our retinas are not fully developed, and the absence of melanin in our eyes makes it just as challenging to see under bright light as it is to focus on far objects. This often leads to significant eye strain.



In February, we—ana antami—partnered with the Masinde Muliro University Department of Optometry and Prof. Jörgen Gustafsson to organize a free eye clinic dedicated to individuals with albinism. The clinic ran for two alternate days, allowing us to accommodate even more beneficiaries and ensure that everyone who needed assistance received proper care. We attended to 37 beneficiaries in



total, providing them with specialized eye care tailored to their needs.

During the clinic, we conducted comprehensive and high-quality eye exams at no cost. Those who required vision correction were prescribed customized eyeglasses with

the right lenses, which we also provided once they were ready. To further enhance visual support, we introduced one more essential tool—filters—which help in reducing glare and improving contrast for better sight.

Filters for glasses are specialized lenses that modify the way light enters the eyes, serving different purposes depending on their type. Polarized filters reduce glare by blocking horizontal light waves, making them ideal for driving and outdoor activities. Blue light filters limit exposure to high-energy blue light from screens and LED lights, reducing eye strain and improving sleep quality. UV protection filters absorb or reflect harmful ultraviolet rays, preventing long-term eye damage. Photochromic (transition) lenses darken in sunlight and clear indoors due to light-sensitive

molecules, making them convenient for those frequently moving between different lighting environments. Tinted and colored filters enhance contrast, reduce brightness, or assist with vision impairments like color blindness and light sensitivity. Anti-reflective (AR) coatings minimize reflections and glare, improving clarity, especially for night driving or bright environments. Some lenses even combine multiple filters for enhanced protection and comfort, catering to specific vision needs.

The outcome was transformative. Many of the beneficiaries experienced immediate improvements in their vision, making daily tasks such as reading, walking in bright environments, and recognizing faces from a distance much easier. By the end of the clinic, we had not only provided tangible solutions but also empowered individuals with the confidence that comes with a clear vision.



This initiative was a major step toward ensuring that individuals with albinism receive the specialized eye care they need to navigate the world with greater ease and confidence.

Project Equip

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, who have made it possible for us to equip our campus with essential items needed to run our core programs effectively. Through their generosity and commitment, Project Equip has transformed our learning environment, ensuring that every space is functional, comfortable, and conducive to growth. The main goal of Project Equip is to ensure that we have all the necessary resources in place for our upcoming program, Hatua Mpya.

We are proud to announce that we now have fully prepared dormitories, a well-outfitted Buni Lab, a well-structured administration block, staff quarters, and even washrooms, all fitted with necessary amenities to provide a seamless and enriching experience. With these facilities now in place, we are more than ready to welcome our 1st generation participants for Hatua Mpya, setting the stage for a transformative journey ahead!



Hatua Mpya Scholarship.

Hatua Mpya is a 9-month scholarship-based program where we use art and fashion to train individuals with albinism in personal development, leadership skills, entrepreneurial mindset, craftsmanship and skill development.

Hatua Mpya has 4 Debuts, and in each debut, the participants gain different yet very important skills.

1st Debut.

Runs for one month. They are introduced to sewing machines, basic stitches and fashion and design. They also learn to connect with their innermost creative selves.

2nd Debut.

Runs for 4 months. Here, they get even deeper in fashion and design as they learn pattern making, drafting, and detailed

designing techniques. It gets hotter here because they will also be in a fictitious environment, which will bring out their leadership skills and ability to make sane decisions.

3rd Debut.

Runs for a month. They get entrepreneurial skills. They not only learn how to make money from their art but also how to maintain and grow it.

4th Debut.

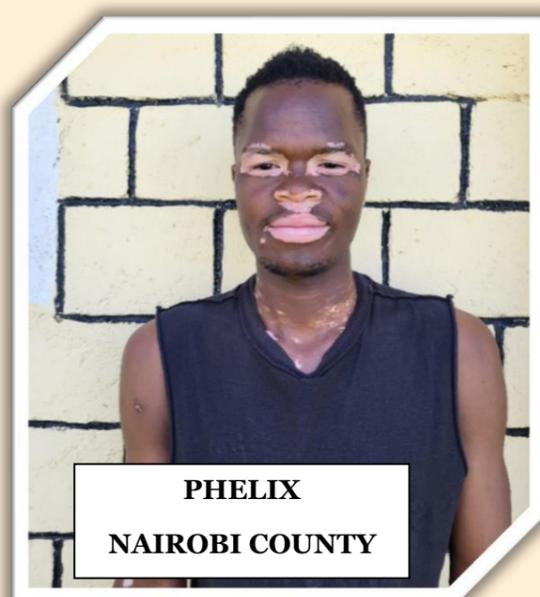
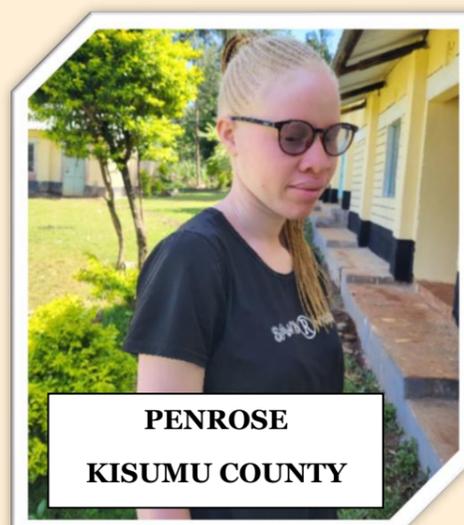
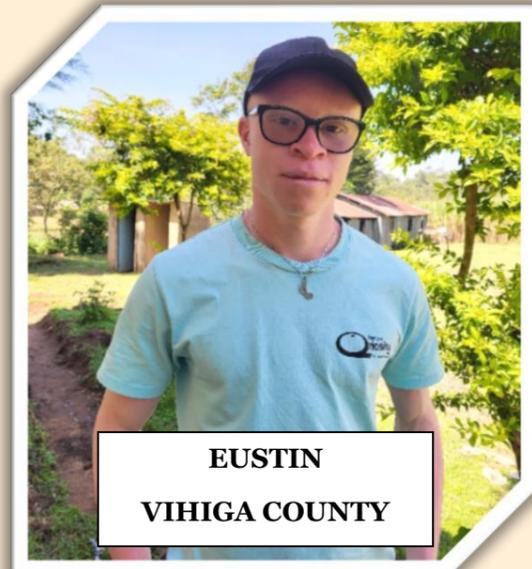
Runs for three months. Here, we put them in the outside world. Job shadowing. They are paired with a mentor, and they will learn, as they work, how the actual industry runs on real life. They also flex their knowledge here and gain even more knowledge.

After all the four Debuts, they graduate.

Meet Our Participants.

Our 1st batch has a total of 8 participants who joined us on the 19th of March 2025.

We have representation from 5 counties: Kisumu, Kakamega, Nairobi, Kitui and Machakos.



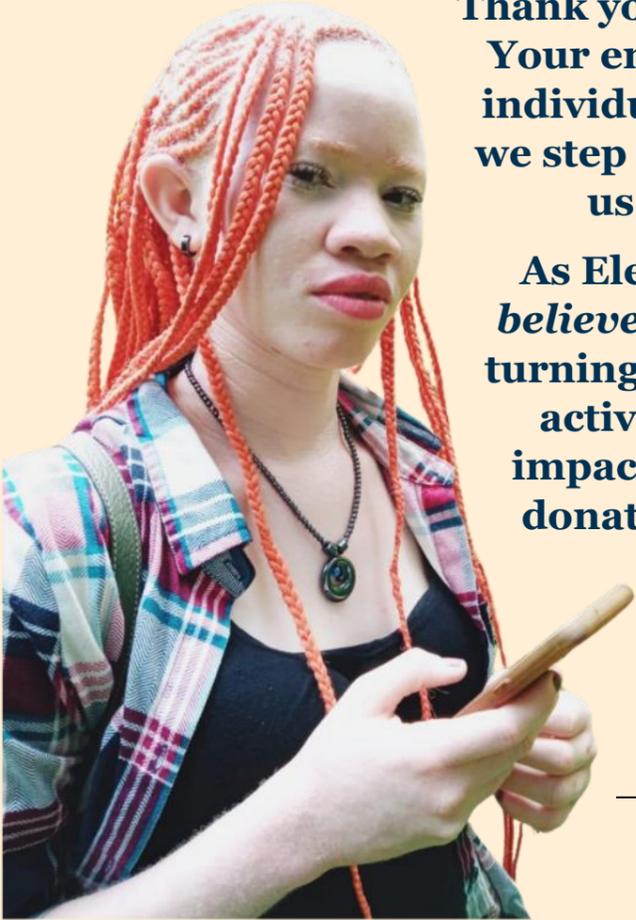
For Your Unwavering Support

Dear Precious Readers,

Thank you for your unwavering belief in and support for ana antami. Your encouragement has been instrumental in helping us empower individuals with albinism, create awareness, and foster inclusion. As we step into 2025, we invite you to continue walking this journey with us as we work to break barriers and build brighter futures.

As Eleanor Roosevelt once said, *"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams,"* and with your support, we're turning those dreams into reality. We are excited about the upcoming activities and initiatives this year and invite you to be part of this impact. If you would like to support us further, we humbly welcome donations in cash or kind to help us expand our reach and continue transforming lives. May this year bring you joy, health, and prosperity. Thank you for being part of our story!

Regards,
Sherleen Tunai
Founder ~ ana antami



Visit us at www.anaantami.org

Donate to The Course

Your support will go a long way in seeing this vision come to light. Donate through our [crowdfunding platform](#).

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