



I was working at the UNCSCO in Usakos for about two months. I will never forget all the incredible moments and experiences I made. The kids of the UNCSCO are all so full of joy and love, although they grow up in incredible circumstances. But they are really thankful that they can go to the center of the UNCSCO every day after school. It seems as if it's the only place where they can behave like normal children. When the kids go back to the checks at the end of the day-they are surrounded by many problems and mostly not with parents and people they love. So the UNCSCO seems to be the only place where they can be free, where they get warm food, where they can play, sing and dance – where they can behave like children, although they have to fight for their rights as children, since they are alive.

That's the reason why the work of Marianne and the UNCSCO is so important, because it seems to be the only place in Usakos where the kids are safe and free and can just be children. Staying with Marianne and her family during my time in Namibia was a really good time. It was a familiar situation, we cooked together in the kitchen, we talked about the weeks in the center, about problems with some kids and we planned the parent's event. All in all Marianne was always there for all of us volunteers. She had always a minute to talk to each of us, about our feelings, if someone got homesick or felt uncomfortable or about things going on in the center. The job Marianne and the UNCSCO are doing in Usakos is so important and I'm very thankful being part of this organization. I felt so welcome when I arrived in the foreign country and culture of Namibia, but Marianne and kids helped me to feel comfortable and to find my place in the center. From the first day on, the kids climbed all over me, laughing and joking all the time. I remember, when I came to the center the first day, all the kids sang songs because of my arriving. So there was never a moment for me getting homesick, because I felt home- in Usakos with Marianne and her family and with all the kids of the center of UNCSCO. It was a great time, full of joy and fun with the kids, although they grew up in really bad conditions. But getting to know these bad conditions helps to understand the behavior and some reactions of the kids.

So all in all I'm so proud being part of the UNCSCO and I'm thankful for the trust Marianne gave to me. It was a time and experience I will never forget, because I learned so much from Marianne and the kids. Thank you Marianne, for doing such an important job.

Yours
Anne Hoffmann