



April 2014

## Newsletter

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### 1 Greeting

Namibia celebrate this year his 24<sup>th</sup> year of independence and a lot of blessing with rain. With a joyful hart I greet you from a very green and rainy Namibia. We were also blessed to start the new year off with nine volunteers. It is a pleasure that we also can announce we took in 9 new children in since some left for high school and some to other schools. Thanks to the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. *We appreciate your interest in supporting the work of the Usakos Needy children* and also want to thank all donors and sponsors who made it possible year after year. The beginning of the new year all the kids we very happy to received new school uniform and to start fresh. To the company **dicebo** we want to say thank you for the nice play park, a dream comes true. ***"If you can imagine it, you can do it."*** Our priority would be with the children of Namibia, because they are the foundation of every nation

Wishing everyone Easter that brings you hope filled with lots of love, blessings, unlimited luck

Marianne Izaaks



„Build something that will last for ever!“

## 2 News: Playground

Three months as a volunteer are enough time to get a little insight and to see some small steps of progress. But it is not enough time to achieve a real change. The effort we put in the kid's education is essential but it is always just a little brick in the wall that has to be continued by the following volunteers. Therefore we came up with the idea to create something substantial, something permanent. We decided to build a playground in the yard in front of the center with a swing and a seesaw. Luckily we found the company *Dicebo* that gave us the necessary donation to realise our project. The first step was to develop an evaluated plan to ensure the stability and make the play equipment last. Every day we started working at the center at 8am, because we hoped to avoid the heat. We didn't!

For two weeks we worked hand in hand at our building site. It was important for us to show the kids that a good idea can be realised if you work hard and with enthusiasm. We put a lot of effort in velding, digging, painting, concreting, drilling, sawing, and sanding. It was satisfying to watch the development every night and even more to see the kid's excitement about the progress. Since the opening on 10.03.2014 we proudly watch the kids enjoying the playground and we hope it will be also an inspiration for others.



### 3 River Party

On March 14 we organized a river party for the UNSCO children. Our theme was Native Americans. To get the children into contact with this topic we had a week of preparation: handicrafts and traditional instruments were made. We also taught them a rain making song that they had to perform at the river event and we talked a lot about Native American culture, tradition and lifestyle. As the last step we separated them into four groups, in four Native American tribes, with one volunteer as a group leader. The river party started with a nice meal and continued with decorating ourselves with war paint and feathers. After reading a story about today's adventures the four tribes went on their journey: the treasure hunt started. Every tribe had to pass four stations with difficult tasks, like buffalo hunting, rain dancing, testing taste and searching for clues, to get pieces of the treasure map. On some stations they got ice cream and watermelon for their good achievements. At the end they had to put the whole map together to find the treasure as a team. It was a wonderful day, everyone had fun and the kids were excited to find the treasure. On this day the kids were real Native Americans!





The Big Day!

## 4 Soccer Event

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Yes we can...we don't just look professional, we are also really good soccer players. After regular training in the Namibian heat the big event was coming up. And so we jumped into our brand new soccer gear and ran motivated to the sandy sport field.

There were not only our opponents waiting for us but also our fan team (all the volunteers, the other center kids and Marianne).

Furthermore there were also some mothers, grandmothers and other relatives of the kids who joined the soccer event. It was nice that Christina, Leonie, Anna, Wencke and Laura had practiced a cheerleading performance: "Go, Go, UNC! You are the ones we want to see!"

The kids really fought a good match. It was nice to see them all having fun. Even though our "red devils" (grade 1-4) were quite a bit smaller than their opponents they still gave everything.

Our big kids (grade 5-7) in the blue gear attacked the other team so successfully that they won the match with 1:0!

Also the girls build their own team and had a go on the field.

The soccer event was a lot of fun for all the participants and we hope there will be many to follow.

## 5 Center Work

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Every day at the center is structured the same way. At 12 pm the younger children of grade 1 and 2 are finished with school and come over to the center. We play, read, sing and dance together until the older children of grade 3 to 7 are coming. At 1 pm it is lunch time and all children line up to wash their hands, pray, get their warm meal (rice, noodles or bread and soup or brown pap with milk and sugar). After lunch the children have a short toilet break and time to brush their teeth. Before study time at 2 pm we do sport exercises together. The study time lasts one hour, in which the children are divided into groups according to their grades. One volunteer supports one group with homework. Afterwards we offer activities, which vary from day to day and week to week. Monday is sports day (soccer, netball, boxing), Tuesday is arts and crafts day, Wednesday is dance and music day, Thursday is stories day (reading, drawing, listening) and Friday is hygiene day. Additionally, every day is adapted to a special weekly motto. Before sending the children home at 4 pm we sing the song "Alle Leut" together to say good-bye.

## 6 House Visits

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In every term Marianne and the volunteers are going to visit the children's families. It is the chance for Marianne to update information and for the volunteers the possibility to get an impression of the living conditions. We were more than grateful for such an opportunity. The house visits helped us to understand the children better, although it was sometimes very hard to see the environment the children are growing up in. Most of them do not have running water or electricity. Some of them are sharing a bed with up to three others or even have to sleep on the floor. Others lost their parents or were abandoned by them and live with their grandparents or in foster families.

Although all families are struggling with great poverty, most of them were very open and welcomed us heartily to their homes.



## 7 Changes

The biggest visual change was brought by the installation of the playground which was already described in detail in chapter 2. The play equipment changes the whole appearance of the center. The small kids have already the chance to play and rage themselves out even before the food is given out. Another change was brought in combination with the just lately integrated 'rewarding system'. In the old system the kids had the chance to achieve two butterflies - one for behavior the other one for work. The idea of dividing it into these two categories turned out to be very effective. But one problem that always occurred was the allocation of the butterflies. Because of the different working groups no volunteer had a complete impression of how the kids behaved. That's why a new rewarding system with marks from 1 till 5 was established. Every volunteer is therefore individually in charge to judge his group members' behavior and reward them after a period of 4 weeks. The 'daily grade' is given out right after the study time which makes the system very successful until now. The children are able to value their own mistakes and learn from them. Furthermore the system causes positive competition between its group members about the best behavior and work grades. The labelling of the tooth brushes and cups brought a slight but very effective change. This improvement prevents the kids from searching for the right tooth brush and saves time for the study time. Moreover nine additional children got accepted in the project (especially first and third grade) which increases the number of center kids to a total of 43.

**This kids left the center:**



**The new kids in the center:**





## 8 Volunteers



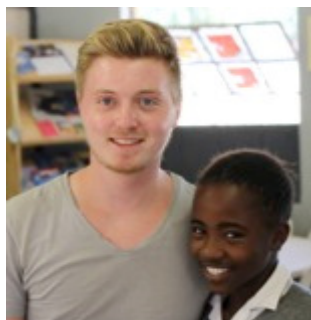
Leonie Deisel (24)  
B.A. European Studies  
Erlangen, Germany  
14.01.-11.04.2014



Wencke Wendlandt (23)  
B.Sc. Landscape Ecology  
and Nature Conservation  
Schwerin, Germany  
15.1. - 10.4.2014



Heike Temmel (27)  
Teacher for German  
and Sports  
Erlangen, Germany  
26.2.- 11.04.2014



Bennet Schwoon (20)  
Finished A-levels  
Kassel, Germany  
14.01. -11.04.2014



Philipp Christel (23)  
B.A. Business Administration  
Stuttgart, Germany  
15.01.-04.04.2014



Christina Piegger (22)  
B.A. Theatre, Film  
and Media Studies,  
Innsbruck, Austria  
04.02.-11.04.2014



Laura Holzapfel (19)  
Finished A-levels  
Kassel, Germany  
14.01. -11.04.2014



Anna Lazareva (23)  
Student European Studies  
Bremen, Germany  
16.01.- 31.03.2014



Margot Mezger (52)  
Accountant  
Rosenheim, Germany  
16.01. – 22.02.2014

## 9 Donations

We'd like to thank all the donators of UNCSO.

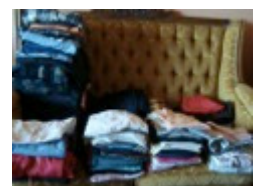
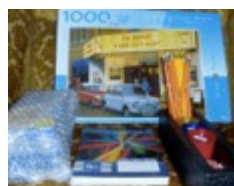
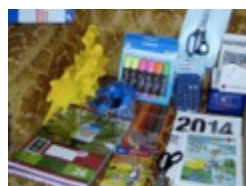
Thank you for your financial support and for all kinds of contributions that reach the center over the year. We are very grateful for this. Without your support the center could not exist the way it does today!

**A big THANK YOU to our volunteers, their parents and friends for their donations:**



**THANK YOU for your donations:**

- Deutsch-Namibische-Gesellschaft (DNG) and all sponsors and donors over DNG
- Namibia-Hilfe for the transport of a lot of donations
- TSV Eriskirch, FV Langenargen, FC Friedrichshafen
- auto-mobil GmbH from Langenargen
- Dicebo GmbH from Konstanz



**We would also like to thank all donors not mentioned. Your support makes our work possible**



## 10 Future Wishes

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- For two of our center kids it is necessary to get a treatment of an **eye doctor**. Both of them have eye problems. Because of missing financial resources a treatment has not yet been possible to arrange.
- The work of the **volunteers** is very important. We are looking for teachers and social students to understand and handle more the behavior of the children.
- To copy the exercise sheets for the study time in the center we need **ink** for our printer **HP 5525**.
- For our weekly hygiene day we're always looking for supplies. Since our **haircutter** broke we need a new one to cut the boys' hair. Toiletries like **shampoo, soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes** and **deodorant** are also always welcome.
- We are very thankful for the clothes, which were donated in the past. **Clothes** for the kids especially trousers for the boys are always needed.
- Since it is getting very hot during summer we need a **fridge** for the center's kitchen in order to store our vegetables cool.
- For the outside area of our center we need a **sunshade** to protect the children from the hot midday sun.

### Donation Account

Deutsch-Namibische Gesellschaft e.V.  
Account number: 2 113 508 00  
Bank code: 300 800 00  
Bank: Commerzbank AG  
Usage: Projektname [UNCSO/Usakos]

UNCSO / Usakos  
Savings account:  
First National Bank; Branch Karibib  
Branch code: 281073  
Account no. 62124732258  
SWIFT;BIC: FIRNNANX

Donation receipts for donations over 200€ are only given out by the DNG e.V.. Because of this please write an e-mail with your contact details to DNG. This will make it possible for us to give a charitable donation certificate to you. Thank you!  
E-Mail: buero@dngev.de

For further information please contact Marianne Izaaks (Namibia) or Ingrid (Germany).

Some more impressions:

