



August 2014

Newsletter

Contents

- 1 Greeting
- 2 News: Playground
- 3 House visits
- 4 Parents' event
- 5 Center Work
- 6 Changes
- 7 Riverparty
- 8 Volunteers
- 9 Donations
- 10 Future Wishes

1 Greeting

The winter season in Namibia is nearly over and not even the cold winter days could stop the motivated team to work hard. First I want to thank the wonderful volunteers for an excellent job well done. Secondly to DNG and all donors and sponsors who so wholeheartedly donate and keep us thriving. Thank you our German partners Ingrid and August Pfannkuchen for your commitment and support to ensure the success of UNCSO. Our visitors thank you for your time and interest as well as support. Thanks to all who trust and support us.

“Believe and you will Succeed”

Marianne Izaaks



2 News: Playground

The volunteers of the first term of 2014 started with a project of building a playground for the children of UNCSO. We continued this project and were able to finish the second part of this playground. For days we worked hard: shovelled and carried sand onto the new playground space and painted the climbing frame and the tyres around it. So now we have a colourful climbing frame the children can use whenever they like. At this point a huge thanks goes to Marianne's husband Sakkie, who donated the entire climbing frame to the center.





3 House Visits



After we had been working with the children in the center for several weeks, we wanted to get to know their families and the circumstances they are living in. Thus, Marianne visited with us volunteers most of the houses. These house visits gave us an insight into the life and culture of the Namibian families. During these visits Marianne had the chance to talk to the parents in private about the development of the living conditions. The opportunity to see the homes of our center kids were helpful to understand their behavior and to deal better with their problems. Some of the children lived in such bad conditions that they did not even have mattresses or blankets to sleep on. So we decided to hand out presents at the parents' event.



4 Parents' event



“Once upon a time there was a pirate crew looking for a treasure...”

In the evening of the 25th of July the parents' event took place. Our motto was “the pirates of Usakos”. The pirate crew had to sail from island to island to find the missing pieces of a treasure map. On their journey they met animals, acrobats, drummers and dancers. For weeks we and the children had practiced for this great event. Everyone was really excited and the evening went really well. Many parents, grandparents and other relatives came to see the performance of their children. After the pirates had found the treasure, we served a hot snack to everyone. It was a really great evening and everyone enjoyed it very much. Especially the kids were pretty excited about their treasure....



The Treasure

It took us a long time to get and pack the treasure. A few days before the parents' event we drove to the nearby town Karibib to buy 2,5kg of maize flour, bread flour and sugar, a small package of washing powder, a soup and a bottle of cooking oil for each of the 30 households. After five hours of packing, our care packages were ready for transport.



In addition to the household care packages all 43 kids got their own special treasure: a warm blanket for the cold winter nights and some sweets.



5 Center Work



The day for the kids in the center is quite structured: Around 12 o'clock the kids of the first and second grade come to the center and we read, play or cuddle with them until the children of grade three to seven are finished with school. Then they get a hot meal, they have to brush their teeth, do some exercises, one hour study time, where we help them with their homework, and afterwards there is an activity.



Each day we volunteers tried to offer a different activity: games, sports, art and music and on Friday we usually had our cleaning day.



Because health issues are always a big problem at the center, we volunteers visited quite a few times the clinic, hospital or private doctor. One girl, Martha, had to stay for 3-4 days in the hospital because of some sickness. Marianne and the volunteers visited her regularly and tried to make her stay as comfortable as possible. Because of her sickness, we realized how bad her living conditions really were. After days of planning, we all found a temporary solution for this little girl thanks to some donations and the energy of all participants. Although this solution is only temporary right now, we hope that it will work out in the long run as well.



The volunteers of the last term asked for donations for a kid of the center that needed eye treatment. Thanks to some donations, we have collected this term; we were able to take the little Desy to the eye doctor. Surprisingly his eyes were fine although he sometimes seemed not to see very well. Thus the progress of Desy still needs to be monitored.

We've also got referral letters to an occupational therapist for Desy and another girl of the center, Aletha. Last year she had an accident and did get some brain damage. The occupational therapist would help her and also Desy to train their brains and concentration. We hope that the following volunteers will pick up where we have left off.



7 Riverparty



At the end of our term we volunteers celebrated our farewell at the riverbed party as usual. We brought cool drinks, baked cookies and prepared little presents for our individual groups. The kids opened the party with a ritual – a traditional song and dance.

The rest of the afternoon we played games, danced and just had fun. It was a wonderful day not just for the kids but also for Marianne and us volunteers.



8 Changes

The biggest change of our term was the extension of the playground – a project the first term of 2014 started already. Now the kids have a colourful climbing frame, which they can use right after school or while they are in the center.

Furthermore, during the second term of 2014 three new kids joined the center. Thus we have 44 children at the moment.

The new kids in the center:

Natasha



Elisabeth



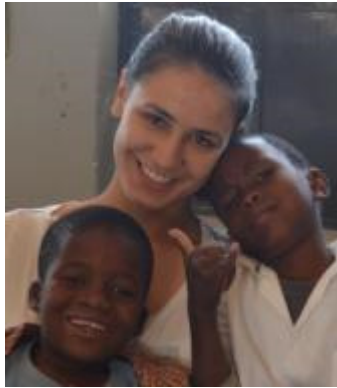
Andreas



9 Volunteers



Mara von Heydebrand (18)
Finished A-level
Bonn, Germany
20.05.-01.07.2014



Sophia Fassbender (19)
Finished A-level
Bonn, Germany
20.05.-01.07.2014



Alessa Korner (19)
Finished A-level
Stuttgart, Germany
20.05.-05.08.2014



Anne-Marie Treczka (21)
Student of German/History
(future teacher)
Greifswald, Germany
20.05.-15.08.2014



Martina Unterburger (24)
Speech Therapist
Nürnberg, Germany
20.05.-15.08.2014



Christian Wilken (25)
Student of German/History
(future teacher)
Greifswald, Germany
08.06.-15.08.2014



Melanie Fuchs (24)
Student of English/History
Philosophy/German as a foreign
Language (future teacher)
Greifswald, Germany
08.06.-15.08.2014



Laura Sittart (23)
Student of German/Biology
(future teacher)
Karlsruhe, Germany
30.06.-15.08.2014



Pauline Krolinski (20)
European Public Health
Maastricht, Netherlands
02.07.-15.08.2014



Lea Gonsior (23)
Student of English, German
and Math (future teacher)
Köln, Germany
02.07.-15.08.2014

10 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! Special thanks to all donators, who contributed to the extension of the playground and the presents we handed out at the parents' event.

A big THANK YOU to all donators via Deutsch-Namibische-Gesellschaft (DNG), our volunteers, their parents, families and friends for their donations.



Thank you for this wonderful carpet. The kids were really happy about it.

11 Future Wishes

- 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, deodorant, leucoplast tape, protective gloves and other medical supplies** 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.
- We also need supplies for our daily center work like **ballpoint pens, notebooks, glue, tape** etc.
- On Fridays after our cleaning work was done we sometimes watched a movie or played some music for the kids. Unfortunately our **loudspeakers** are not working well, thus we need new ones. They will also be used for the parents' event that all the parents in the great hall can hear the music, which was not possible with our loudspeakers
- In time we need also **a new computer** because the one at the center does not really work, p.e. the computer does not shut down anymore.

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 on 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).