



September 2014

Newsletter

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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 volunteer for an excellent job well done. Secondly to DNG and all donors and sponsors who so wholeheartedly donate and keep us thriving. THANKYOU our German partners Ingrid and August Pfannkuchen for your commitment and support to ensure the success of **UNCESO**. Our visitors thank you for your time and interest as well as support. Thanks to all who promote and support us.

We are on a good way!

Thanks a lot all supporters for the confidence. **UNCESO** can be very satisfied. And not at least because of the work of all volunteers which cannot be mentioned and honored enough. On behalf of the children I like to say heartily thank you.

Believe and you will succeed

I wish you a wonderful Christmas wherever you are.

Yours

Marianne Izaaks



2 Center Work

The day in the center usually began at 11 o'clock. Before the kids from grade one and two arrived, we prepared our plans for study- and activity time. Together with the younger ones we played, painted pictures and did puzzles. Afterwards we started to prepare the lunch room.

As soon the children of the higher grades had finished school, we started lunch with a prayer. We went on with toilet break and tooth brushing. Because we wanted the kids to concentrate on their homework, they had the opportunity to do some sporty exercises before study time. Each volunteer supported one grade of learners during their school work including individual created worksheets.

In activity time we did team games, sports, group discussions and art projects.

On Fridays we tried to organize cleaning days as often as possible. We let the kids shower, creamed them and cut their nails. Sometimes we included a haircut of the boys. To make the children aware of the importance of hygiene, we talked to them about body care, infectious disease like HIV and how to deal with it.

One of our daily tasks was also to take care of wounds to avoid infections and create awareness of correct wound treatment.



3 House Visits



After spending a few weeks in the Center and got to know children, we also got the chance to visit some families at home. For one week, our day started with some home visits prior to our Center-day. The day before we expected to visit their house, the children got a letter for their parents. So we have encountered fortunately in most homes someone. Therefore Marianne enabled us to see a wide range of different circumstances. At first, she checked - mostly in Afrikaans - the current situation, told us this and then we had the opportunity to ask open questions. Mostly we came with the family in a small conversation and they led us go through their own four walls. The fact that quite a lot children don't grow up with both parents, was astonishingly for us. Often they are even raised by other family members.

Frequently there was a lack in many aspects such as water, food, mattresses and hygiene articles. Particularly, we were touched by the fate of a family living in a foreign hut and assuming every day to be kicked out.

Afterwards we had an overview of the existing problems and tried to find the best possible solution for them.

All in all, the home visits gave us a good insight into the situation of living of our children.



4 Special Events



Beautycontest

During our time in Usakos we had the opportunity to join several school events. The Elifas #Goseb Primary School organized a beauty contest, where 12 girls from the school had the chance to present themselves in a fashion show. In the end a jury consisting of four persons chose a winner. We were very proud of Chantell, who represented the UNCSO Center as one of the candidates. To give all our center kids the possibility to take part in this event we bought tickets for everyone.



Prizegiving

Thanks to Marianne we could visit the annual Prize giving Ceremony of the school. Some of the learners got awarded for their excellent educational and sporty achievements. We were glad to see Pomwene, Selma, Natasha, Andreas, Chriszelda and Frieda on the stage. We enjoyed the varied program consisting of traditional dancing and singing a lot.



5 House Building



Let's build a new home...

One evening a tragic event for the cook of our Center and her family took place. Due to a gas explosion not only their whole hut burned down but they also lost their youngest family member. Her whole property had fallen by the fire and therefore it wasn't a question for us to give them a new home.

Owing to donations, it was possible for us to start planning immediately a new shack and getting the materials. It took only three working days to build a living room for the woman and her three children. After obtaining some household items the family could move in and look in the future with one worry less.

In the last weeks of the term two more houses for the family of Melody and the family of Bibi and Aletha were built. Melody's family was kicked out of their old shack, which was owned by the mother of Desi and Elisabeth, and they had no place to stay. The family of Bibi and Aletha lived with 5 people in an extremely small shack, where the children had to sleep on the ground. Now there is a bright red house and a blue house next to the old shack of Bibi and Aletha's old shack. Melody, Bibi and Aletha got beds and mattresses from us, too. It was so nice to see how happy the three children are about their new homes!





6 Christmas Party



On the 31st of October we celebrated a big Christmas party with the kids and their families at the school hall. Already some weeks ago we started with the preparations. We split the kids into an actor-group, which should present the Christmas Story and into a singer-group. The preparations and the practice took us a lot of time and power. There was a lot to do for example sewing costumes, making masks and the decoration for the hall and handing out the invitation cards.

We had the idea to give out food-packages for the families and clothes as well as hygiene articles to the children as a Christmas present. The food-packages contained 10kg papp, 6kg sugar, 10kg bread flower, 3x750ml cooking oil, 6kg rice, 5kg pasta, 6x yeast, 6x soup, 2kg washing powder and one big can of jam. The kids received a garniture of clothes consisting of underwear, socks, trousers and a shirt as well as a hygiene-package which included a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and a washlappy. Getting those presents took us a lot of time, but in the end it was worth it and especially the kids were so happy about it.



The evening began for us and the kids a little bit earlier because we had to dress them up and do some last preparations. When all the family members and the invited guests (e.g. members of UNCSO) were assembled Marianne welcomed everyone with an opening speech. After the prayer the program of the kids started with a song. Afterwards the children performed their Christmas Play, which was supported by the choir of angels. The play was a great success and we and the parents were very proud of the kids who were very happy that they made it!



After that we had a delicious dinner with potato salad and rice with vegetables, but the highlight was the fried chicken ☺.

When we ate cakes as a dessert special awards were handed out to the kids. There were many kids who received an award for good behavior or good development, but there were a lot of laughs for our "5 Monsters" who proudly presented their certificates.



After a little act of the volunteers it was the moment of Father Christmas. For every kid he read out one sentence from the golden book and every kid got his or her present. A nice ending was the handing out of the care packages especially with a surprising first heavy rain. All in all it was a great evening and we were looking into many happy faces.



7 Riverparty



The day before the first of us volunteers (Marion) went back home to Germany, we celebrated a little farewell-party together with the kids and Marianne at the riverbed. On this day we already closed the center after eating time and walked with the kids down to the riverbed. Under a big tree we sat down with blankets and our picnic. We listened to music, some of our kids were climbing in the tree and we had time to relax and talk. As a surprise we had ice cream with fruit salad, cool drinks and crisps – the kids enjoyed it very much! As the afternoon was nearly over, the kids sang very nice songs for Marion to say goodbye to her and also Marianne had some nice words for her. In the end every volunteer surprised his group with individual presents, which was a very nice end of the riverparty.



8 Projects

Due to the numerous donations and support from friends and families of the volunteers, was following realized:

Usakos Heritage Day

The children already expected joyfully the long announced Heritage Day, which took place in Usakos this year. Auntie Lena and Marianne had there their own stand where Auntie Lena sold her handmade bags and Marianne offered some nice food. In addition to the many stands, the Heritage Day had also a surprise for the kids: a bouncy castle. Volunteers handed out a little pocket money to the children, so that they could enjoy the festival.



Farewell trip of the Grade 7

At the end of the term, we could provide the farewell trip to Swakopmund for our learners from Grade 7 and even give them a little bit of pocket money .

Farewell trip of the Wrestling Association

Two of our students are engaged in the wrestling club, which also offered a farewell trip for this year, the volunteers could support them with some pocket money.



Shoes for all, bras for our ladies!

As a complement to the Christmas gift each child received a pair of casual shoes. In addition our older girls of the Center did receive a bra.

Water bills

Some of the families cannot pay the monthly water bills. So some of them were paid by donations.

New mattresses

The housevisits showed that some kids have not enough place to sleep or even have to sleep on the floor. So some households recieved new mattresses to improve the sleeping conditions.

Others

As already mentioned, the Beauty Contest, the Christmas party, the Outfits for the children, the Hygiene items, the Food packages and the Farewell Party were also financed by the donations.



9 New for the Center

Speakers

Due to the constant use of the previous speakers because of listening to music, these were not sufficient in quality anymore. Through the donations, the volunteers were able to provide a new set of speakers for the Center.



Haircutting machine

Because the previous haircutting machine of the center broke, the volunteers saw this as an opportunity to replace it.



Playground

To finish of the last part of the outer region in the center, a playground structure was build with:

- a house with two different access paths
- a slide
- a plate swing
- a barre
- two swings





10 Volunteers



Carolyn Mödl (19)
Finished A-level
Landshut, Germany
05.09.-25.11.2014



Sophie Schmidt (19)
Finished A-level
Landshut, Germany
05.09.-25.11.2014



Antonia Pohlmann (19)
Finished A-level
Hamburg, Germany
02.09.-25.11.2014



Inger Heise (18)
Finished A-level
Münster, Germany
04.09.-25.11.2014



Anne Kuch (22)
Studying Social Work
Nuremberg, Germany
02.09.-25.11.2014



Sara Stekla (23)
Studying Social Work
Nuremberg, Germany
02.09.-25.11.2014



Marion Wallek (22)
Studying Pedagogy
Unkel, Germany
02.09.-06.11.2014



Katharina Dirksen (18)
Finished A-level
Münster, Germany
04.09.-25.11.2014

11 Donations

Our sincere thanks goes to:

- All the friends and families of the volunteers, who supported us so energetically with their generous donations
- to DNG (Deutsch-Namibische Gesellschaft e.V.)
- Ute and Steffen Götze for clothing donations
- Nicola and friends from Karibib for clothing donations
- Sophia Fassbender and Leyla Kirikniki for the beds and bed covers for Bibi, Aletha and Melody (three from our Center kids)
- Jana Merkelbach and her family, for the interior for the house of Petra
- Karl-Heinz Krug, who supported the construction of the houses
- Mr. Metzger, from the „Pharmacy Ries“ in Nördlingen, for donations in kind
- The PAS Dr. Hammerl GmbH & CO . KG in Nördlingen, for their generous donation
- Danuta Stekla for donations in kind



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

12 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. 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.
- Many **tables** of the center are broken, so new ones are also needed
- 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.

Sudetenlandstraße 18

D-37085 Göttingen

Telefon/Fax/E-Mail:

Tel.: 05 51 / 7 07 67 81

Fax: 05 51 / 7 07 67 82

Kontonummer: 2 113 508 00

Bankleitzahl: 300 800 00

IBAN DE48 3008 0000 0211 3508 00

BIC DRESDEFF300

Bank: Commerzbank AG

Verwendungszweck: 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).