

# NEWSLETTER

3. Term 2016



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## Greetings

The end of a year is here. It has been a challenging year, but we have managed to meet all those challenges.

A very special thank you to all the donors and supporters who donate and made all possible. I would like to extend my gratitude to all volunteers, their families, Pfannkuchen family, as without you it would not have been possible.

Also a special thanks to DNG and their entire team for your support and assistance. Also a very special thanks to HILFE NAMIBIA for their support.

With all this said, I would like to wish all a well-deserved holiday.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year !

Greetings Marianne and Ingrid



# Volunteers

## Grade 1



**Wyona Vieweg**  
18 Years  
Graduated School

## Grade 2



**Nadine Forche**  
23 Years  
Primary School  
Teacher Student

## Grade 3



**Christina Lamke**  
19 Years  
Graduated School

## Grade 4



**Anna Brockmann**  
18 Years  
Graduated School

## Grade 5



**Irina Siefert**  
21 Years  
German Language Student

## Grade 6



**Valerie Werbonat**  
19 Years  
Graduated School

## Grade 7



**Anna - Reetta**  
26 Years  
Special Education Teacher

The structure of the days at the center might seem to be the same: eating, tooth brushing and toilet break, exercises, studying and activities. But in reality every day is different. Giving out food and taking care of needy children's basic needs are two of UNSCO's main purposes. But center days include much more. Every day some of us, kids, volunteers or Marianne, have a breakthrough at least in some small matter. It is important to notice even the smallest progress the kids have in their behavior or schoolwork.

During the term, volunteers do a lot for the kids learning. Volunteers have their own group of students whose study time they are responsible of. The school doesn't always see all the problems of learning. The reasons for that are mostly the big class sizes. In many cases these kids don't have somebody at home who could help them with learning. That is the reason why it is extremely important that somebody at the center is truly interested in the children's schoolwork.

When kids don't have homework, volunteers prepare work sheets, keeping every kid's individual needs in mind. Volunteers think together what kind of exercises would be the best for some students. During the term you can really see the progress, which is made by most of the kids.

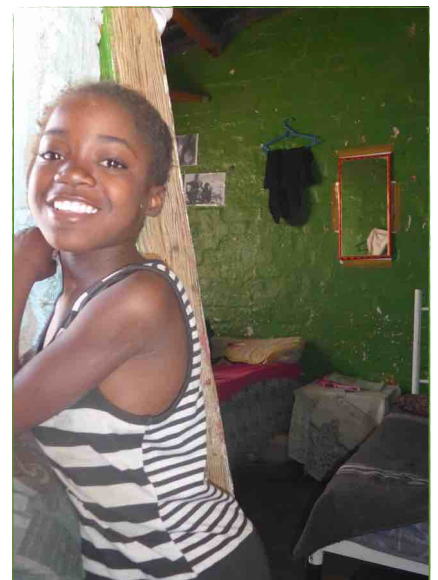


## House visits



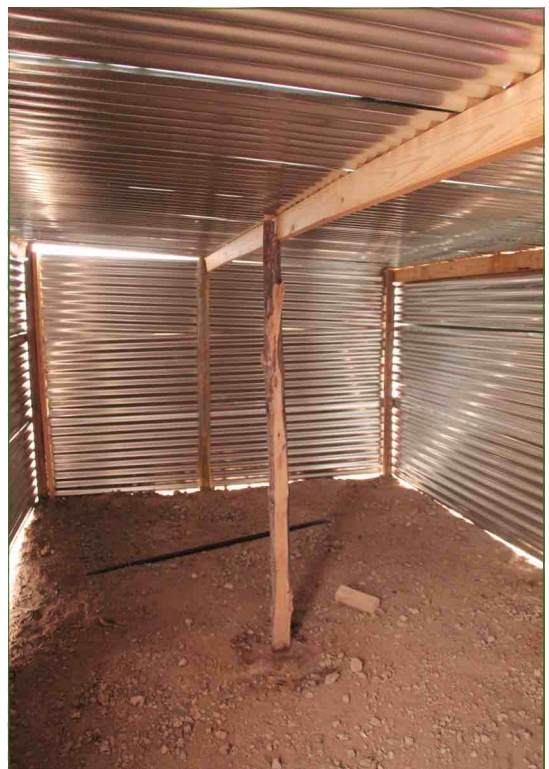
Before starting the house visits it was really hard to make up expectations, although we knew that it would be hard to experience the childrens' living conditions. We started our house visits in our fourth week and it was both – shocking and impressive. We felt relieved because nearly everyone has a proper shack, often we could really see that UNCSO helps the kids to manage their every day live. Nevertheless, the living conditions are sometimes really bad and it was hard to decide, which kind of help is most important.

For the center work the house visits really helped us to get a better understanding of the kids' lives, what they care about and how they are raised. After the house visits we tried even harder to give the kids some education and something to laugh about. It was also very important to get to know the most urgent needs of the children in order to decide which kind of projects are the most helpful. We thank Marianne for taking us with her and for helping us to understand the lives and needs of the kids.



## Donations and Projects

The first and probably the biggest project was the building of a new shack for the siblings David, Paulus, Manako and Maria. For us volunteers it was one of the most important projects because the previous shack was in such a bad condition and they didn't even have a proper place to sleep. Every day when they came to the center they were very dirty so that we hoped that we can improve their general situation by building a cozy home for them. We decided that the big sister of the kids can also live in the new shack with their small baby so that somebody can look after the kids. Luckily our hopes came true: after we built them a nice shack, provided them with beds and blankets they seem to be more cheerful and less tired. To see them smiling happily every day makes us feel thankful and proud of this project.



The second project consisted in building a shack for Andreas. He lives at his teacher's place because his parents are at Marianne's farm to make an alcohol withdrawal. Since they did not have a home before they had to sleep under trees. We provided them with the material so that they can build a small shack on their own where they can start a new life in the end of this term.







Johanna lives with her mum and her baby sister in a small shack. As her mum has a boy-friend we would like Johanna to have her own room. The family is very reliable therefore we bought the building material so that they can build the addition on their own. Thereby we hope to enable a child-oriented development for Johanna.



Since this is the last term in 2016 organizing the Christmas party was on our schedule. We decided that we will bear the costs for decorating the hall festively on our own so we didn't take money from the donations for this purpose. We bought ingredients for cooking a nice dinner for all guests that consisted of chilli chicken with rice salad and carrot salad, a cool drink and a small piece of cake as a dessert. For most of the guests this is the most nutritious meal they ever got. Every child got a Christmas present that comprised a shirt and trousers or a dress, shoes, socks, underwear and a small personal present like a ball or a book. Additionally every family received a big food package containing basic foodstuffs like flour, pup, and rice.

During the house visits we noticed that some kids did not have a proper place to sleep. Therefore we bought new beds, mattresses, blankets and pillows so that the children can be resting nicely during the night. Another part of our projects consisted in buying more medicine, patches and bandages in order to enable a better medical care at the center. Additionally we bought cleaning material that should facilitate the center work and make the rooms more hygienic.



# Highlights

## Visitors

The many people who visited us this term showed us how strong the contact to Namibia and the needy children is. Because not only previous volunteers, who were here many years ago came to Usakos, but also the “Deutsch-Namibische Gesellschaft”, who supports the Needy Children Centre, came.

In this term many people went all the way from Germany to visit the UNCSO. One of the most important visitors were the people of the “Deutsch-Namibische Gesellschaft”, where even 12 visitors came to Usakos.



It was a lot of practice in the weeks before the DNG visit. Of course all the children wanted to show the best of their culture. Therefore all the different tribes designed posters, with their typical food, clothes and dances. The dancing wasn't too hard to practice because the rhythm is in their blood and they know the dances by heart.

In their nice traditional dresses everybody waited excited on the day when the DNG came. Even though the children were a little bit nervous, all of us had a very nice day with our guests from Germany. The children loved to show them all the dances and little posters and were very happy when they saw their guests enjoying the day too.





This term there were some special guests who visited us: Inger and Katharina came to see the kids again and they even stayed for one month. This shows how good and important the experiences they made here have been. They wanted to come and visit the beautiful country Namibia, the family Izaaks and the cute children, again.

All in all it wouldn't be right to describe them as visitors. They were our friends and helpers. At the beginning it was really important to have somebody who could give you an easy answer if something was new or unknown. But it was not only us who appreciated that they were here, of course the children did as well. They were really excited to see volunteers they already know. At the end it was hard for everybody to say good bye, but as we can see now, the old volunteers are more than welcome in Usakos and there will always be a way to return to Namibia.



If some think four years are a long time and also a time where you will forget Namibia, they are wrong. At the end of our term, a girl from Finland visited the project for a few days. Linnea was a volunteer in 2012 and wanted to come and visit Marianne and some of the old children. It was really nice and interesting to be with her in the centre. In these four years a lot has changed, even though she still recognized all of her children. The children were really excited to see her on some old pictures and always wanted her to show them some of themselves.

The visitors are very important for everybody: for Marianne, the children and the volunteers. Because of them, the center will never become boring and will stay special. The visitors show us that there are people outside who care, people you can rely on, people who make the UNCSO family as big as it is.

## Christmasparty

Preparation for weeks: Ansku stitches the costumes, common food-buying in Karibib for the guests, rehearsals for the christmasplay with the kids, preparing the dekoration, foodpackages for 40 familys, building up a program for the party.. The list goes on..

The result: Everything worked out perfectly ! The christmasplay with some sweet fails, a touching speech from Marianne, musically surprise from the volunteers and the kids, Father Christmas is giving the christmaspresents, memorial to Auntie Lena, eating all together and in the end the foodpackages were given to the familys.





## Pricegiving

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of October the Elifas Goseb Primary School, where most of the centerkids are going to school, had their Price Giving. Kids with especially good achievements in school received a certificate to compliment them for their good learning. This year there were XXX kids from the center getting a price, more than twice the number than last year. We are very proud of our kids for their hard work in school and their perfectly good results.



It is good to see, that UNCISO can be successful in supporting these and all the other kids to improve their knowledge and their way to learn. Thanks to everyone who takes part in this work.



## Beautyevent

This year, the annual beauty contest „Mrs Elifas Goseb“ took place on the 4th of October. As it was one of the biggest highlights for the kids, we bought a ticket for every child and went with them to this special event. This time it was especially exciting because Elise, one of our seventh graders, participated in the contest. We all had a very nice and exciting evening and with a little snack for the children, sponsored by us volunteers, it became a real enjoyable night.

## Farewell from Grade 7

This year we had six wonderful seventh graders. Some of them have been part of the project for many years and this term was their last one in the center. The support of the UNCSO doesn't have to stop when they leave primary school. All the children know that Marianne will listen to their problems any time. They are more than welcome to visit the center and many old children from the center come often to say hello.

Some of the project's kids are sponsored and one of the seventh graders, Elise, is one of them. Because of her sponsorship she applied to a private school. Her future goal is to become a doctor and with her intelligence there is no reason why she shouldn't success. But also other kids than Elise can have a really bright future. All of them applied for the eighth grade and they will start their eighth grade at Usakos XXX. For thirteen to sixteen years old children future seems to be far away. Corey would like to become a policeman or an engineer, other kids are rather unsure. Everybody will continue going to school and they know the importance of being educated.

This term we had a lot of donations and we could offer all the seventh graders a farewell dinner at the local restaurant. Some of them have never been at a restaurant in their lives or only once when they were small. We could really see how happy they were. We also sponsored their farewell trip to Swakopmund, because we can understand how important it is to get there with the other students.

UNCSO, Marianne and all the volunteers wish the seventh graders a safe journey towards adulthood. We are sure that we will hear about all of the kids in the future.



## Futurewishes

UNCSO could not do the work without Deutsch-Namibianische Gesellschaft, regular donators, volunteers and as well the work and help of the volunteers' friends and family. In the future, support is even more important because of the uncertainty of the Elifas #Goseb Primary School's three classrooms. At the moment the project can run with low expenses because school provides electricity, water and class rooms without renting it. It is uncertain if it is still possible to use these classrooms in the future. The school might need them for its own purposes because the school is growing. If the school needs the rooms for its own purposes, UNCSO will need to find a new place for the project. Then we will need to start paying rents, electricity and water. Monthly expenses would increase significantly and that is why UNCSO needs all of the regular donators and all the help it can get.



The amount of the needy children of Usakos is huge. At the beginning of this year another in Usakos has closed. That is the reason why UNCSO has now around 60 kids instead of previous 40. To handle the concerns of so many kids and families is not always efficient. Three classrooms are also too small to work with so many kids. The project will possibly slowly decrease back to around 40 kids by not taking new kids to the center next year. That helps Marianne and volunteers to have more time and understanding for all the needs of the kids. It also gives them again the possibility to help certain kids better. If the project has to move away from the primary schools classrooms, in the future it might be possible to get more kids again.

As we all know, technology is a big part of our lives today. Unfortunately, the technology knowledge of the kids in the township is really bad compared to the computer skills of the kids in other living conditions. UNCSO would like to make it possible for the center kids to have the same chances in their future lives like the other children have. In the center there are a few computers, but there is need for more. It would be ideal, if there were enough computers for the amount of one grade group. Then, the whole group would have the chance of learning how to work with a computer and to get to know this technology a bit closer.





## Acknowledgment

**We want to thank all the familys and friends of the voluteers und especially the permanent doners. You all keep this project alive and going therefore the kids get the chance for a bit more quality of life.**

**Please notice for your future support that  
this year the bankaccountnumber changed.  
The new datas are the following:**

Deutsch-Namibische Gesellschaft e.V.:

IBAN: DE 42 3008 0000 0211 3508 11  
BIC: DRESDEFF300

Bank: Commerzbank AG

Verwendungszweck: UNCSO / Usakos

Deutsch-Namibische  
Gesellschaft e.V. (German-  
Namibian Society)

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First National Bank;  
Branch Karibib;  
Branch code: 281073;  
Account no. 62124732258  
SWIFT-BIC: FIRNNANX

