



Hamburg, 2nd Sunday in Advent 2016

Dear supporters and friends!

My project tour in November rounded off an anniversary year full of wonderful experiences. At the opening of the new classrooms of our project partner *Otto Gamseb* in Rehoboth the mayoress said to me. "steps makes the difference".

After 10 years, I can see the changes that we have brought about and above all I can sense them over again during my visits through the children and each time more and more through the staff. They are achieving a great deal on the ground for every child in the projects and also for the people in the communities in which we are active.



Eight projects at six locations, each with its own issues and challenges. Each project brought to light in a different way but with one aim that unites us. This year at the project leaders' meeting, it was clear that between us we bring lots of knowledge and experience. The steps for children patchwork-family is step by step growing together and also shows me that steps can bring change.

This change does not stay in Namibia – it comes back with every visitor, volunteer and member of staff and all our reports to Germany and into the world. To be able to make these changes possible, I thank you all as supporters and part of the steps-family.

Thank you for your contribution to the change!
Your Michael Hoppe

Contents

Namibia

- **Sold out after only 3 hours**
- **New classrooms opened**
- **First turf cut for rental flats**
- **Shade-net for Boomerang children**
- **New huts for smaller classes**
- **Sanitation almost finished**
- **17 Years of Light for the Children**
- **Room to play**
- **Art, computer and a lot of heart**

Germany

- **10th members meeting**
- **Reunion in Hamburg**
- **Donations and presents**
- **steps-calendar 2017**

steps in Namibia

Sold out after only 3 hours

During my visit to Okakarara we also drove to the 8 hectare site outside the town where the vegetable growing project continues to grow. Gal Sirton, our advisor has already started to make the operation more professional, thanks to the support of our donors and supporters such as Transa Backpacking AG, RAVEN Logistic GmbH as well as a trust from the Haspa Hamburg Foundation.

It will be a little time before the majority of the produce is covered by shading-nets, but already tender plants of various vegetables and fruit are shooting up: carrots, tomatoes, maize, papaya, beetroot as well as the first bananas, lemons and herbs.

It will be a colourful garden that will bring an increase in the income for our social steps. The first sales successes have happened already: Gal and his staff travelled to Otjiwarongo in the poor quarter with a truck full of vegetables and sold directly from the car. Already after 3 hours everything was sold out and 9.500 N\$ had been taken!



Donate now = make steps projects independent in the long-term

Donate now

New classrooms opened at Otto Gamseb



At last it was ready! On November 7th, right at the start of my journey, I together with countless guests, was able to open the new classrooms at our partner project *Otto Gamseb*. Alongside Herr Grüne from the German embassy, were also the mayoress Mrs Blaauw, the community councillors Mr. Matthew and Mr. Uirab, the chairman of the town council, also called Uirab and a priest in the community. Also there of course were Josephine Gamseb, the project founder with all the staff and supporters and representatives from steps in Germany and Namibia as well as parents, neighbours and many children.



All stressed the committed work of steps for children and gave me their personal thanks. During the tour of the new rooms a band played music and the celebration meal was declared open. It was a lovely celebration and here I would like to pass on thanks to all our supporters and donors!



Cutting the first turf for the new rental flats



On my project travels, I was accompanied amongst others by Dirk Jakob and his wife Birgit. Dirk Jakob is the founder and chairman of Networkers for Humanity e.V. (NfH), which has been by our side for 9 years and has supported the building of the two new flats for rent in Rehoboth. At the annual general meeting of NfH in September, Dirk Jakob spontaneously agreed to make the trip and therefore we were able to cut the first turf together to officially start the building work.



Since the building has not yet been fully financed, we would be delighted to receive further donations. Unfortunately the need has been increased because a drunken driver drove into the wall of the apartment building and drove off. We look forward to your support – every Euro helps!

Donate now

Shading-net for Boomerang children



Thanks to support from the Town & Country Foundation prize, the children in our partner project, *Boomerang* in Windhoek have got a new sandpit under a cooling shading-net. We are delighted that this project has developed so well in the last year and the number of children being supported has already doubled. A hearty Thank You to all our donors!

New huts for smaller classes

During my visit to our project partner *Love Your Neighbour* it again became clear to me under what difficult conditions the children are supervised here and prepared for the primary school. In one class there were over 100 children and in another over 60 children. Through the immediate approval of a donation by Dirk Jakob and the Networkers for Humanity e.V. a tent was acquired last Friday. It was opened at the same time as the Christmas celebration and from January should be in use as a teaching room.



For the coming year we plan in addition to the current rooms to put up a further 3 to 4 zinc huts to use as additional classrooms. steps for children will also appoint new teachers for the new classes and pay their salaries.

Help to give the children rooms to learn in and give a donation now for the new huts.

Or support the salary of a teacher with 660 Euro per term (4 months).

Donate now

Sanitary facilities in Gobabis almost ready



Sometimes things can go quickly: the building work started in November and before the end of the year the sanitary facilities at our Gobabis project location were ready. Thanks to the Hamburg-Haake Rotary Club, donations received during our 10 year anniversary meant that at the start of the new year the children had a new toilet block with 10 new washbasins and toilets. Many thanks once again to all our supporters!

17 years of Light for the Children



We would like to heartily congratulate our partner project *Light for the Children* in Gobabis on their 17th anniversary. On 12th October 2016 the birthday party took place, at which numerous guests attended. The children from the project danced and sang. Henk Olwage, founder and leader of *Light for the Children*, gave a moving speech. As thanks for his untiring commitment, the children sang a special song for him. We look forward to many more years working together and thank Henk and all his colleagues for their multi-faceted commitment in Gobabis.

Room to play



Learning through play: we would like to make that possible for the steps-children in all age groups at the various project locations. Whether it is through art projects or board games, books, paint-boxes, with balls or in the sandpit – through play children learn not only colours, numbers and letters but they develop coordination skills and powers of comprehension as well as team spirit.

In Otavi together with our project partner, the *Khoaeb St. John's Home* we would like to provide an additional room for our children.

Give a class games and pens to learn with for 100 Euro.

Build with us a room for play in Otavi.

Donate now

Art, computer and a lot of heart



Marlene Lautze und Rainer Preuß together used 10 weeks of their sabbatical year to work for steps for children in Okakarara. Rainer Preuß worked in this time as the caretaker, gave help in maths and stepped in as computer specialist. In the pre-school and in the afternoons, his wife gave art lessons with wonderfully creative ideas. The art room became a much loved place and Marlene Lautze developed amazingly creative artistic talents in the children.



She also offered the staff morning exercises so that they could start the day in top form.

Both conquered the hearts of everyone in Okakarara and I myself saw how movingly they were bid farewell in November. We also thank them whole-heartedly for their great input.

steps in Germany

10th general meeting of steps for children e.V.

Our 10th general meeting of steps for children e.V. was again well supported. Numerous members of the friends of steps and supporters, volunteers and guests accepted an invitation for 27th October 2016.

Alongside my presentation over the most recent developments at our 6 projects in Namibia, were also Rixa Rieß and Kevin Bakirtzis with their very lively presentation. They reported to the almost 60 participants on their great input into our projects at Gobabis and Okakarara. The evening was made possible by the friendly support of *Plan International Deutschland e.V.*, who put their lovely rooms at our disposal – a big thank you!



Reunion in Hamburg

On 29th and 30th October former volunteers in Namibia and assistants from Hamburg were guests by the Elbe, After a hearty welcome from Michael Hoppe and Simone Damak in the steps offices, with coffee and vetkoekies one thing above all was important: exchanging their experiences of their time in Namibia and with steps, which was very important for everyone.

Barbara Atorf reported: „The workshop was just the starting-point for the weekend in the cold north. Out from the steps offices and off to the Elbe, walk around Altona, enjoy a nice meal and a marathon brunch on Sunday morning. The exciting thing about this weekend was to find out that one had so much in common with people, some of which one had never met before. This special connection remains for everyone joined far away and cemented at home. Reunion certainly enhances friendships.”

Were you a volunteer in a steps project or did you do a work-placement at steps and would like to join in our next meeting and take part in further activities for steps?

Please contact us at info@stepsforchildren.de

Donations and presents

Would you like to give a Christmas present and at the same time give new chances to children in Namibia?

Give for example a Guardian Angel subscription. With 192 Euro a year or 16 Euro a month you can provide a child with a school uniform and books, pay for a daily warm meal and enable educational support in the afternoon.

On our website you can find other useful possibilities as to how you can support needy children in Namibia.

We can give your donation the right frame – with a present certificate. Talk to us!



Donate now

We look forward to your donation to the steps for children foundation with the title e.g. „guardian Angell“: Hamburger Sparkasse, Account: 1238149726, Sort Code: 200 505 50, IBAN: DE44 2005 0550 1238 1497 26, BIC: HASPDEHHXXX or online at www.stepsforchildren.de

Accompanied by steps through 2017

This year again the steps foundation says thank you with a desk calendar.

You can get remaining copies for 10 Euro each. 85% of the purchase price flows as a donation into our social projects.

We would gladly receive your order at:
info@stepsforchildren.de.



The steps for children foundation was founded in 2005 by Dr. Michael Hoppe. In the meantime it is present at six project locations where it is active in sustainably working for better educational chances for the children of the poor quarters of Namibia. With every donation you are investing in the future of needy children:

**Hamburger Sparkasse bank , Account: 1238149726, Sort code: 200 505 50
IBAN: DE44 2005 0550 1238 1497 26, BIC: HASPDEHHXXX
or online at www.stepsforchildren.de**

In many countries donations to steps for children can be set against income tax. You will automatically get a receipt for your donation

We wish you a happy Advent,

With heart-felt greetings

Michael Hoppe

(Chairman)

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