

Hamburg, 3rd December 2017

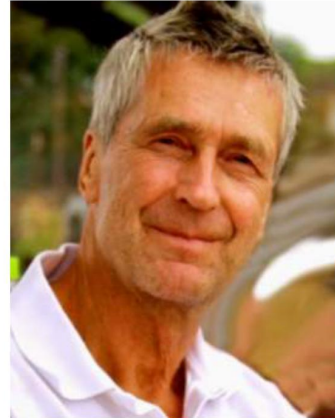
Become a Guardian Angel for further children in Namibia!

Dear supporters and donors, dear friends!

I got back from Zimbabwe and Namibia a week ago with lots of new impressions and experiences.

During my project trip I found out once again that a lot has happened at steps. I was delighted to see that our projects in Zimbabwe and Namibia develop further on a daily basis. I was particularly pleased to see the development of the guardian angel children who have grown so big. Thanks to our guardian angel programme and your help, many children today receive on-going support and 15 have now already reached the secondary school. The first of these children will next year successfully carry on their education in a high school.

It also really goes to my heart to see how lovingly the many children in our projects are looked after by the teachers and staff and how good it is for them to have a home with steps for children.



So that we can continue to support over 1300 children in Namibia with education and nourishment and to be able to give them the chance of a better future, we ask for your support.

Donate now for education and nourishment!

Thanks to your donations we can build up our steps projects further and report on many positive developments. I would like to thank you with all my heart for this support and wish you a lovely start to Advent.

Enjoy the reading,

Your

Michael Hoppe

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Visit to Zimbabwe



At the beginning of November I travelled to our new project-land Zimbabwe. During my stay of several days, I visited the communities around the Mutasa und Mutare regions. Together with our partner foundation *Help with Plan* we started a co-operation there at the start of August to run for the next three years.

The aim of our projects is to make possible the early education of children, to achieve income and feeding security for families and to improve the children's health. Thereby in the two communities there are now four so-called ECCD (Early Childhood Care and Development) centres. Children between 3 and 6 years of age receive the important early childhood education there.



45,000 bricks for one of these centres had already been fired in a self-built oven by the villagers in Chigombwe near to Mutare as Mushanty the leader of the community proudly presented to us.

I am very impressed by the commitment and the willingness of the people to get into action. In exchanges with the project partner and the members of the community, I was able to relate my 12 years of experience with steps projects in Namibia. As a former businessman, I follow the aim of one day making our social projects independent of donations. That means that the people have possibilities to generate income themselves to finance the social projects. How the income-generating projects could look and how they have already been implemented, I was able to discuss with members of the community, amongst other things the concrete example of a fish pond.



Make a sign for a sustainable future together with us for the families and children in Zimbabwe. Support us in establishing the ECCD centres and income-generating measures with for example a donation for the following needs:

Training in early childhood for a voluntary teacher: 120 Euros

Furniture for an ECCD centre: 3,000 Euros

Installation of a grain mill including accessories: 13,000 Euros

Building of a Kindergarten (ECCD centre): 20,975 Euros

Donate now. Every Euro helps!

Description of the project: <https://www.stepsforchildren.de/steps-goes-simbabwe/>

steps in Namibia

The new steps homes houses in Gobabis

On my visit to Gobabis, I was able to look in wonder at the new steps-homes houses. The total of 10 new steps homes offers the families and children a new home. We are delighted that the pupils and teachers of the Eppendorf Grammar School in Hamburg under the guise of their society “**Hege Helping Hands**” have been actively engaged at our Gobabis project-location. In 2017 a school group of 14 pupils and teachers travelled in their autumn holidays to Namibia. They gave valuable support for our steps projects and our partner project *Light for the Children*. Alongside the project staff in Gobabis, they built, screwed and sawed non-stop in temperatures of up to 38 degrees Celsius and helped to build the new steps-homes houses.



Together with their teacher Norbert Grote they made several cupboards for the rooms of the steps families. Although none of the pupils had any experience in carpentry, they mastered it with bravado! We are very impressed with the results!



We thank the pupils, the teachers and the society with all our hearts for their remarkable work and their great commitment to steps.

Further information about the society can be found here:

<http://www.gymnasium-eppendorf.de/vereine/hege-helping-hands>

The intake of more Guardian Angel children

On my project journey, i was also able to visit our guardian angel children. It always gives me great joy to observe the development of our children. In the 2017 school year we are supporting for the first time a total of 130 guardian angel children who through our long-term supervision get a chance to have work training and employment and thereby a better future.



This support shows its effectiveness and shows demonstrable results. The children who through us go to the pre-school and who are supported by us, almost all show significantly better grades and reports than the average in their classes.

In our guardian angel programme the children are provided with school clothing and the necessary books, notebooks and pens. Additionally the boys and girls are given a warm meal in the project at lunch time and they get good support from a teacher for doing their homework.



We can celebrate the first big successes through our long-term support. Some children who from a young age went to our pre-school leave the secondary school this year and change to the high school. We are unbelievably happy and proud of the children and their potential. Without the tremendous long-term support of our guardian angels this would not be possible. **Very many thanks for that!**

Next year we would like to build on this success and introduce further guardian angel children into our programme. With your help we would like to give our children from Okakarara, Rehoboth, Gobabis, Okahandja und Otavi the prospect of a better future in order to change their lives and later also those of their fellow-beings.

With 192 Euro a year or 16 Euro a month, we are able to offer a child this support.

Donate now and become a Guardian Angel!

Donor round trip in Namibia



A donor trip to our project areas offered supporters the chance to see the work on the ground in person. Nine of our supporters from Germany were able to experience various of our project locations in Namibia in the middle of November. For some this was not the first project trip, amongst them Anton Rathgeb, who over nine years has given steps multi-faceted support. For him and the others the personal impression counts. Also as Rathgeb says, it is heart-warming when the children spontaneously run up to them and beam with such joy!

For many the personal experience that can be won from the people and the children in the projects is one of the reasons to travel to Africa. Over four days our supporters and donors were able to visit with us eight of our projects and partner-projects such as for example **Boomerang** (Windhoek) or **Light for the Children** (Gobabis).



The highlight and at the same time the climax of the tour was the outing with the guardian angel children to the Etosha national park. For the children in Okakarara this was the fulfilment of a dream. Just to see the wild animals in their own land which they only know from picture books – that was the wish of the children. Thanks to some of our supporters, we were able to fulfil this wish. The eyes of the children were really excited and inquisitive on the day of the outing. Particularly great was their joy, when they saw the giant elephants with their own eyes.



We would really like to thank our supporters who made this outing possible. They gave the children an unforgettable day.

steps in Germany

12th Networker for Humanity day



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In the middle of September the 12th Networker for Humanity-days took place in the Harmonie congress centre in Heilbronn. Helping other people – that was the focus of the meeting. Many networkers from many business areas and firms came together to follow the communal aim and support humanitarian aid projects.

Michael Hoppe together with Dirk Jakob, initiator and chairman of the society presented our steps projects to over 1500 participants. Dirk Jakob had visited some of our projects in November 2016 and reported very movingly on some personal experiences and meetings. Michael Hoppe stressed the meaningfulness of the steps projects, especially in the context of “help in helping themselves“. In this way it is important to achieve in the long term a possibility to be able to influence their own future. That happens through school and further education and the building up of businesses which generate an income.

We thank the NfH for their continuing commitment to steps and for their tremendous renewed support.

Charity golf tournament - an affair of the heart for children in Namibia

Numerous passionate golfers and beginners met at the Wiedenhof golf club in Pinneberg in the middle of September at the invitation of wph Wohnbau und Projektentwicklung Hamburg GmbH for a charity golf tournament. For Simon Vollmer, the second generation head of wph it is an affair of the heart to help children in need. The company, in conjunction with numerous generous sponsors, arranged various activities to support our steps projects in Namibia.



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Alongside the spirited strikes for a good cause, the guests were able to enjoy a tombola with valuable prizes and a silent auction in which two works by the artist Jeannine Platz were auctioned. **The total proceeds from the event under the framework of the charity golf tournament came to a five figure sum for the benefit of the foundation.** We thank wph, our supporter over many years, and all the sponsors for their tremendous contribution.

Steps at the 4th International Sponsor Meeting of Plan International

On the weekend of 15th to 17th September 2017, 450 personalities, donors and supporters accepted the invitation of the *Help with Plan* foundation to the 4th international sponsor meeting. Michael Hoppe, as a result of the newly started cooperation with the *Help with Plan* foundation had the opportunity to present his activities for children in need in the world. In a discussion with Dr. Detlef Virchow, head of the international co-operations department of Plan International Germany, he related his experience over 11 years of project work in Namibia. This has made possible a know-how transfer for the new joint project in Zimbabwe, particularly in relation to the income-generating measures.



We heartily thank the organisers for the very successful event and look forward to working together further in the future!

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 steps and its partner projects over 1000 children daily receive education and a warm meal.

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. A receipt for your donation will automatically be sent to you in the following month.

Yours sincerely

Michael Hoppe
(Chairman)

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