

Hamburg, February 2015

Dear friends and supporters,

In this way we would like to thank you once again for the very varied support that we received in 2014. Your donations and your commitment lead to a successful development of our projects and are a valuable investment in the future of the children in Namibia.

Our children and teachers have started their daily school routine of 2015 with enthusiasm and joy. The income-generating *steps* have resumed work as well after the Christmas holidays. In this newsletter we will give you some brief glimpses into the current activities – you can get ongoing news on our website under [steps aktuell](#) or on [Facebook](#).

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steps in Gobabis

A strong team – our volunteers



Our current volunteers in Gobabis: Luise, Paula, Doreen, Lars and Marlies (left to right)

Our volunteer, Doreen Dieck, has received more support in the new year as the number of volunteers has increased to a total of 6 for a short period. Marlies Brandt introduced a holiday programme and was supported by her grand-daughter Annika Zachmann for three weeks. The new year started with lots of games, fun and peanut-butter sandwiches!

Helga Zaddach, an artist and former teacher, has strengthened our team. She encourages the children and also the teachers to be creative. For her it was of personal interest and importance to explain the potential and impact of art on early childhood development. Since the end of January we have also had two volunteers from the “weltwärts” programme in Gobabis for the first time: Paula Scharfe and Luise



Helga in an art-workshop with the older children

Berkholz teach the children in the mornings. They offer singing, lots of sporting activities and teach basic writing and arithmetic skills to both big and small. Since the start of February, Lars Dietrich also supports the work in Gobabis by exchanging ideas with the teachers and bringing his expertise in. Doreen will soon be finishing her 6 months in Gobabis. She has been involved with many projects and has introduced lots of new ideas and she will be handing over her projects and tasks to new volunteers during her last few weeks. We thank her most heartily for her excellent support!

steps in Okakarara

The second guesthouse is almost ready



Eating and drinking in the Namibian sunshine on the terrace outside the new guesthouse

The second guesthouse in Okakarara is making great progress towards completion. The walls are standing, the roof is on and the doors and windows are in place. At the moment, the interior is being completed and the kitchen, the cupboards and the sanitary fittings are being installed. Completion will probably be in April. Here is a link to photos of the latest developments: <http://bit.ly/BilderGästehaus>

The greenhouse needs donations



Big fields – rich harvest



Our new *steps* members: 7 Savanna-goats

Thanks to the donations in the last year, we have been able to keep Paul Marunga on, our irreplaceable foreman, for another year and to extend the vegetable garden to an area of 2000 m². Thereby, our vegetable growing will be even more professional and profitable. At the moment we are growing spinach, beetroot, tomatoes, cabbage, carrots, sweet potatoes, onions, garlic, chillies and green peppers as well as sweet and white maize. Seven Savanna-goats and a pair of chickens have also been obtained for the project.

We are very pleased that we have our own bore-hole and so are not dependent on the rain. At the moment there is very little rain in Namibia and there is a severe drought, so that many small farmers have not been able to grow maize. Therefore the price of maize has risen, which gives us a good income. **In order to grow other vegetables more quickly we are now planning a new 10 x 12 meter greenhouse for growing-on seedlings. For this we urgently need donations to a total of 6500 Euro. Every Euro helps.**

We would be delighted to receive your donations under the reference „vegetable garden“ at *steps for children*, Hamburger Sparkasse, Account: 1238149726, Sort code: 200 505 50, IBAN: DE44 2005 0550 1238 1497 26, BIC: HASPDEHH XX or online at www.stepsforchildren.de

Donate now

steps in Otavi

Teacher training for the *steps* pre-school



Certificates from the AMOS-NAMIBIA training

During the December holidays, the three pre-school teachers at the *steps for children* – St. John’s pre-primary school took part in a five-day training course from AMOS-NAMIBIA in Grootfontein. 19 participants learnt how to decorate a classroom, how to teach with limited materials and how to inspire the children in a creative and effective way. Every participant received a big box of school materials and had to give a presentation on a particular subject. During the May holidays the three teachers will take part in a follow-up course.

Agnes Naibas, Desiree Shunyuuni and Selma Mukuve would like to thank *steps for children* and our sponsors for making their training possible. The training not only raises the standards of their teaching but also gives them and their families a perspective for the future.

steps in Rehoboth

New: 5 guardian angel children at Otto Gamseb



Devandre, Aron, Arweso, Chamine und Christialda look forward to the first form

Since January we have also been supporting five school-children in Rehoboth with school-uniforms and the necessary books, notebooks and pencils. In the afternoon, the children go back to their former pre-school, to our partner project Otto Gamseb, and get a warm meal and support with their homework from the teacher Eveline Boois.

With the help of numerous guardian-angels in Germany, we support a total of 69 school-children at our four project-centres. 192 Euro a year or 16

Euro a month allows a child to get valuable support for their education. The above-average school results of the boys and girls in our programme show how successful it is.

Help too and become a guardian angel for a child:
<http://www.stepsforchildren.de/schutzengel-oka/>



Eveline Boois helps with homework

steps in Germany

The 16th AKTIVOLI Volunteer Fair



Claudia Mohr, Connie Richter and Simone Damak (from left to right) at the steps-Infostand

Steps for Children took part successfully in the 16th Hamburg AKTIVOLI volunteers-fair in the stock exchange at the Hamburg chamber of trade. On 1st February our team of volunteers could speak to numerous visitors. Many thanks go to Connie Richter, Claudia Mohr, Laura Lippold, Brigitta Joost and Anton Rathgeb for the expert advice they gave to potential new volunteers and for their practical help.

Every donation helps and with it you will be investing in the future of needy children. Please donate to the *steps for children* foundation:

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

Donations to the steps for children foundation can be offset against income tax in many countries – you will automatically get a receipt after we receive your donation.

Yours sincerely

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