

October 2014

Dear friends and supporters of steps for children,

Fresh back from my travels, I bring with me many impressions from the projects and the country of Namibia. I will report on them in detail at the meeting of the friends of steps for children to which we warmly invite you through this newsletter. I am looking forward to telling you about the beginning of the building of the new guest house and about the situation with a difficult subject that is current not only in Namibia.

I wish you a good read!

Strong girls

Today, the 11th October is international girls' day as decreed by the United Nations. I will take this as an opportunity to report on a difficult subject that repeatedly comes to my attention on my visits to the projects in Namibia. It is about the role of women in African and particularly Namibian society, the population explosion, contraception and education. Especially in the classes of society with the least education, children are the pride of every young woman. The more children a woman has, the more status she has. Children are also a kind of insurance for old-age. Since the men are often absent and give no financial assistance with the cost of living, children can give the poor women a foundation for support in old age.

Contraception and advice is another difficult topic. Education is particularly important for the men who try to avoid attending such courses and insist on having sexual relations without using a condom. If a woman comes home after having been on a course and explains to her husband why he should wear a condom, she will often be mistreated and condemned as a whore. She will be accused of having been infected by another man. This is a really difficult vicious circle.



In our projects we work on the comprehensive personal development of girls from a young age. The better the education that a woman gets, the greater is the chance that she will find employment . She will thus be able to support her family without the help of a man and without feeling the need to have lots of children to provide for her future.

Therefore I am always delighted to see so many new, self-confident girls in our guardian-angel programme who are supported by us through their whole school careers. With the help of our afternoon supervision, they often manage to be amongst the best in their class. That gives me hope that they will have a better future in front of them.

Donate now!

Help to make girls strong and make a donation for education in our kindergartens, pre-schools and afternoon groups: Hamburger Sparkasse bank, account number: 1238149726, sort code 200 505 50, IBAN: DE44 2005 0550 1238 1497 26, BIC: HASPADEHHXXX or online at www.stepsforchildren.de

Turning the first sod in Okakarara



In the middle of September during my visit to Okakarara, I was able together with Sonja Schneider-Waterberg (local management) to turn the first sod for the second guest-house. Since then it has been progressing rapidly and we hope it will be ready by early 2015. It is the aim of the steps for children foundation to set up income-generating projects that will cover the costs of the social projects that provide nourishment and education. The setting up of the previous guest-house in Okakarara was an important step in the right direction. We want to build on this with our second guest-house and provide further funding for our projects with needy children. The countless small and large donations from our valued supporters and donors have laid the foundation stone. We thank you very sincerely for the trust you have placed in our work. Together we can take a big step forward in our vision of making the projects independent of ongoing donations.

Photo: Sonja Schneider-Waterberg and Michael Hoppe turning the first sod for the new guest-house



Invitation to a personal talk with Michael Hoppe and steps volunteers on 5th November



Photo: Michael Hoppe and Mechtild Wigger with two teachers from the Otto Gamseb project in Rehoboth

© Mechtild Wigger

Again this year, together with our treasurer Mechtild Wigger, I will be able to report on the new developments with the projects that we visited in September. On Wednesday 5th November at 19.00, the 7th general meeting of the supporters of the steps for children foundation will take place. As always we will be inviting not only members to this meeting but also anyone who has an interest in the work of steps for children to hear about developments in Namibia and elsewhere on the African continent. You will get an interesting insight into our work from volunteers who have given wonderful support to our teams in Namibia. Additionally you will also hear about our activities in Hamburg and elsewhere. For the last time the location will be the HBE, Haus Bürgerschaftlicher Engagement, Alsenstrasse 8, 22769 Hamburg since will be moving in November. We look forward to seeing many guests!

Please contact us by 30.11.2014 if you wish to come by e-mail on info@stepsforchildren.de, telephone ++49 (0)40 38902788, fax ++49 (0)40 38904286 or by post at steps for children, Hamburg office, Alsenstrasse 8, 22769 Hamburg.

We are moving office!

From the 10th November, the foundation office will have the following address:

Stiftung steps for children

Markusstraße 7
20355 Hamburg
(Telephone and fax numbers will not change)

Yours sincerely,

Stiftung steps for children
Alsenstraße 8
22769 Hamburg
T +49 (0) 40 389 027 - 88
F +49 (0)40 389 042 – 86
info@stepsforchildren.de
www.doc-hoppe.de
www.stepsforchildren.de

Editors: Kerstin Jueterbock, Heike Grunewald
Responsible for the content: Dr. Michael Hoppe

++++
To unsubscribe from this newsletter click [here](#)