



**Hamburg, 31st July 2016**

**Dear supporters and donors, dear friends!**

Thanks to the Hamburg-Haake Rotary Club, we were able to celebrate our 10th anniversary in wonderful festive surroundings in the Lindtner Park Hotel. It was a joyful evening shared by almost 200 people who had come together to help children and young people in Namibia. This evening was also further proof of the good relations between Germany and Namibia. The Namibian ambassador greeted everyone present in fluent German, many guests had travelled from Namibia and even Namibian television was present



All this cannot be taken for granted and I would like to pass on a short quote from the speech of Sonja Schneider-Waterberg (project leader in Okakarara and with us from the start):

„Two worlds, two cultures, two mentalities had to be integrated in the last 10 years and must be again in the future, without being judgmental. It is much more about recognizing the different ways of the other, in order to respect him and to find out how his or her future could look. For that we need openness, trust, confidence, honesty, patience, composure, attention, fantasy and even more composure and patience.”

**On our website you will find a selection of photos of the anniversary celebrations that Mrs. Hong Truc Vy Pham has kindly made available:  
[www.stepsforchildren.de](http://www.stepsforchildren.de)**

Yours Michael Hoppe

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## New sanitation for 300 children in Gobabis



The Hamburg-Haake Rotary Club collected donations at the 10th anniversary charity dinner for the building of a new sanitary installation at the Gobabis project location. A part of the entrance fee as well as donations during the evening will be used for the building of a new toilet block with 10 new wash basins and toilets. Additionally, the Rotary Club has also made a donation.



In the Gobabis project complex, there are at the moment only 6 toilets for over 300 children. This leads to unacceptable hygiene standards and long waiting times. In order to raise the hygiene standard and to meet the requirements of the authorities, we are planning to implement the building work this year.

The total project and the community will gain a long-term benefit. Steps will also be able to develop the project location further, since the sanitary improvements are an important prerequisite for the approval of further building projects.

**A special THANK YOU goes to all donors and to the Hamburg-Haake Rotary Club.**

## Guest-house: a great success



It has become clear how much benefit there is from investment in the guest-houses and how they help us with our vision of becoming free from donations. From the guest-house at Okakarara there is good news: with an occupancy of almost 50% we had more bookings than ever before.

This improvement especially helps the children in our pre-school.



We have had bookings from Namibian Vocational Training Assessors who have been examining the graduates at the OVTC in Okakarara as well as the usual business travellers from the local firms (Nampost, Cenored electricity, etc.) and authorities. At weekends there were also several private individuals for weddings, funerals etc. in the area.

We hope again in the future to be able to welcome as many guests, perhaps also tourists passing through in order to be able to contribute as much as possible to the project.



**Also in Gobabis, we receive significant income for the pre-school and soup-kitchen through our guest-house. At the moment we are being required to build a dining room and reception area.**

These measures improve the standard of the guest-house and make the stay even more pleasant for our guests, so that we can optimize the income for our social steps at this location.

**Donate Now**

We look forward to your donation to steps for children with the heading "Gobabis guest-house": at the Hamburger Sparkasse Bank, IBAN: DE44 2005 0550 1238 1497 26, BIC: HASPDEHHXXX or online at [www.stepsforchildren.de](http://www.stepsforchildren.de)

**The total costs for the necessary building work come to 11,500 Euro.**

**Your help = A step towards independence**

## **Reafforestation and development of the vegetable garden**



**We are planning to extend and also to "professionalize" the vegetable garden in Okakarara.** It will then become a typical "income-generating step" that will help us become independent of donations.

Additionally to the current production (income for the staff and vegetables for the soup kitchen) there should also be enough fruit and vegetables made available for sale in the neighbouring shops and farms to help finance the kindergarten and pre-school even more than previously.

A significant part of the growing should take place under our shade-nets in order to reduce environmental influences (sun, frost, insects, wild boar) and to get a greater harvest. A new addition should also be a nursery for forest-, fruit- and citrus-trees.

**Donate Now**

We look forward to your donation to steps for children with the heading "Vegetable garden": at the Hamburger Sparkasse Bank, IBAN: DE44 2005 0550 1238 1497 26, BIC: HASPDEHHXXX or online at [www.stepsforchildren.de](http://www.stepsforchildren.de)

The trees will be sold to the government ministry (Namibia should be reafforested), communities, farms and private households. We expect that this will be a lucrative market. The government is calling throughout the land for tree nurseries to be set up to make reafforestation possible

**Donate now = make steps projects independent in the long term.**



## Start of building at Otto Gamseb in Rehoboth

After we at last got the final approval documents from the authorities for the building of a new school building at our partner project „Otto Gamseb“ in Rehoboth and the land was reassigned to steps for children, at the end of June we were able to cut the first sod. Unfortunately shortly afterwards came a disappointment: While digging out the foundations we discovered that part of the area had been refilled with waste material. Nobody knew anything about it and as a consequence the town surveyor visited the site. The foundation must now be improved, that means excavating deeper, filling with larger stones and taking other precautions. We then had to get a further approval from the town surveyor. For the extra costs for the improvements to the foundations we were very lucky to find a further supporter - Hilfe für Afrika e.v. (Help for Africa). We cannot thank our trusty supporters often enough that they repeatedly help us to overcome problems. – THANK YOU!



## steps in Germany / Switzerland

### Presentation of the federal service-medal postponed

At the beginning of June we announced that Dr. Michael Hoppe would receive the federal service-medal on 19<sup>th</sup> July but this date has now been put back to 13<sup>th</sup> September. News about this can be found at "steps aktuell" at [www.stepsforchildren.de](http://www.stepsforchildren.de) and on our Facebook page.

## Support has many faces

### Golf tournament



© TOSIN PHOTO

### Opening celebration



In May two charity golf tournaments took place Over 1000 visitors streamed to Rüdenu to the

for steps for children in Switzerland. They were two excellent afternoons in Münchenbuchsee and Augwil: with lots of golf, excellent food, a beautiful exhibition and a good show. Thanks to the perfect organization from Ute Pichorner, Martina Pracht and Guy Lorétan everything took place in a wonderful atmosphere and Namibia could be felt everywhere.

Our guests committed themselves generously for the steps for children projects and we thank all the participants whole-heartedly for their enthusiasm and donations!

opening of the St. Kilian Whiskey Distillery. The good spirits, that were supported by the Rudenau Whisky Club and the Rudenau Music Club, enabled an amazing 2000 tombola tickets for the benefit of steps for children to be sold. The draw for almost 50 prizes brought in an impressive sum. We heartily thank our ambassador Andreas Thümmeler for this superb action and also the local and international whisky friends who energetically sold tickets.

**Be at the next tournament in Augwil and save the Date – 19th May 2017!**

**More pictures and information:** <http://www.stepsforchildren.de/golfturnier-augwil/>



On 10th July, Portugal surprisingly beat France for the European championship. Equally surprisingly shortly afterwards a donation from a tipping-competition for the championship organized by Adrian und Jochen Richter arrived. It brought in an impressive sum for steps for children, which the firm Kraemer & Feldmann GmbH rounded up to four figures. steps says a hearty thank you!



On May 2nd 2000 employees took part in the annual meeting of the central technical team of Deutsche Telekom Technik GmbH. Andreas Roß, our long-standing supporter and ambassador had the opportunity at the end of the meeting at the World Conference Centre in Bonn to report on the work and the projects of steps for children. A very generous donation came from the collection that followed. A big THANK YOU!

**» If you are planning an action for steps – we would gladly help «**

## **New ambassador**

**We are delighted to introduce you to a new ambassador who would like to commit herself in future to the aims and objectives of steps for children: Anna Hofbauer.** She is a musical performer, actress and speaker and the young singer achieved her greatest success to date in the title-roll of Evita in the state theatre in Oldenburg from 2014-2016.



Why would she like to support steps for children?:

„As children in Germany we have the great luck to grow up in a protected environment! We are short of nothing! For us everything is normal! When we are hungry we go to the fridge and eat something. When we are thirsty, we drink. When we are ill, we go to the doctor. And we are a bit annoyed that we have to go to school every day.

We take everything for granted and really don't know how good things are for us! I would like to give back some of my luck and a little bit of the carefree life that I have experienced.

For this reason I really look forward to travelling to Africa as an ambassador for steps for children and to help on the ground!“

## Obituary - Marijke Löffler-Goorhuis

**In July, the news reached us of the death of Marijkes. She was an amazingly active contributor with a very direct warm-heartedness and a special humour.** Since 2011 she helped us as a volunteer, wherever she was needed – from helping in the office to manning our information stand to finding accommodation for trainees. Namibia, where she spent many years of her life was in her heart, especially the children in poverty and need.

In the last few years she intensively looked after sick and needy people in her direct neighbourhood. We missed her then already.

Marijke is a piece of the history of the steps community. She played an important part in ensuring that a robust and reliable centre has grown up, which continues to expand. We are very thankful for everything. Good bye Marijke – we will miss you...

The steps for children foundation was founded in Hamburg in 2005 by Dr. Michael Hoppe. It is now active at 6 project locations, where it strives to give sustainable chances of a better education to children from the poorest areas of Namibia. With every donation you are investing in the future of needy children:

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

In many countries, donations to *steps for children* can be set against income tax. You will automatically be sent a receipt after your donation has been received.

Yours sincerely

**Michael Hoppe**  
(Chairman)

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