



Hamburg, 4th Sunday in Advent 2016

Dear supporters and donors. Dear friends!

Shortly before the end of the year I would like to pass on to you a touching Christmas story from our partner project *Boomerang* and to report on an impressive art project with the children in Gobabis.

Also I would like to thank you very much for the many responses to our last newsletter. I always look forward to your impressions and reactions to our work. We learn from that every day and reassess our work constantly to try to improve it. I would like to share with you today the feedback from a visitor to our project in Okakarara.



„The visit to steps for children was one of my highlights on a journey through Namibia and it touched me greatly. To see the whole thing live strengthened me extremely and I am now even more convinced by the project than ever. I find it honest, direct, realistic and pragmatic. For me those are very important factors that make an aid-project believable. In the jungle of charity work today, the citizen doesn't know whom he can trust. With great conviction, I can now say that steps for children is an exemplary foundation with very direct help and is a very positive influence.”  
(Nicole Schenker, Switzerland, 1. Dezember 2016)

We have also had similar recognition from support organisations in Switzerland and Germany. The Futura Foundation in Hamburg writes: “steps for children is one of the few organisations that gives thought to the long-term viability and sustainability of its projects.” That says a lot to us.

We are growing from it and it gives me the confidence that we are going in the right direction. Many thanks for your confidence in us and for your support!

I wish you all a reflective Christmas period and a good start to the new year.

Yours Michael Hoppe

## An art project

### Many children – one world

**A special highlight during my project travels in Namibia was to meet with my friend the artist Frank Rosenzweig and his Namibian-born wife Valerie Mouton-Rosenzweig from Buxtehude.** They carried out the second part of their art project „*Many Children – One World*“ at our project in Gobabis:

Understanding between peoples and inspiring peace are two important components in the global art project „*Many Children – One World*.“ The two of them transformed the steps project and its team in Gobabis into a cultural workshop. Rosenzweig's world peace flag, his multi-cultural child-portraits,

the motto „Many children – One world“ spoken by children in the languages of the world and the live chat between the cultures form the basis for the most unusual art-project.



© Frank Rosenzweig

For the current initiative the artist-couple visited Eva Keretic, singer-songwriter from New York City, and an assistant at a Hamburg school and finally steps for children in Gobabis. The very differing cultural and material life-situations of the children brought exciting challenges with them. They showed very clearly however that children have an unbelievable amount of creative potential, irrespective of their origins and socio-cultural environment.

Videos and photos taken in the two locations will be shared between the schools and prepare the children for a joint live Videochat between Hamburg and Gobabis. Frank Rosenzweig will be exhibiting in 2017 in the main building of the UNO in New York. The material from Gobabis will feed into this exhibition.

To experience the enthusiasm of children who had never had canvas, brushes or paints in their hands and then to see the wonderful results, along with the wonderful singing has really warmed my heart. Let yourself be bewitched by the resulting film::

**See the film to the art project in Gobabis here::** <https://vimeo.com/195855462>

**Link to the future project website.:** <http://many-children-one-world.com>

## Warm meals every day

Many children from the communities in which our steps projects lie receive no breakfast at home and also get no regular warm meals.

In our soup kitchen children get warm meals every day so that they are healthy, are strengthened in their growth and get enough energy for learning, sport and play.

**With 15 Euro a month, ensure a daily warm meal for a child.**



© Lina Zangers

**Donate now**

## A Christmas Story

**A crown for everyone at the end**

Since October Denise Schlichting has supported our partner project *Boomerang* in Windhoek/Katutura as a volunteer and was also at the celebrations at the end of the school year. Her reports make it clear how important the care and attention to every child is to their future. I have also been moved by my own similar experience on many occasions.



On the Saturday before the first Sunday in Advent the time had at last come for the great farewell and Christmas celebration for the *Boomerang* children. While the parents took their places, the whole kindergarten led by their leader Memory Kharuxas, paraded through the neighbourhood around the kindergarten in order to sing Christmas carols in front of some of the huts – in sunshine and summery temperatures.



The programme in the rooms of *Boomerang* began with the introduction of the new teachers and volunteers. Then Memory introduced a boy, who is now making his farewell and who belongs to the first children that Memory looked after in her kindergarten. There were stories and a short Christmas piece as the main part of the evening: the 17 children who will be going to the primary school after the Christmas holidays received their certificates and welcoming presents for the school. The presents in a paper-cone like children in Germany receive, were put together by the volunteers and included donated presents such as pens, notebooks and rulers. During the presentation of the certificates and presents tears flowed not only from Memory who had looked after many of the children for several years and each of whom she introduced but also from many of the children and the volunteers.



© Denise Schlichting

At the end of the programme all the children of the kindergarten each received a crown to wear to put the children once more at the centre of attention for the evening and to show that every child is seen for his own uniqueness.

We wish the children a good start to the primary school in the new year!

Read here about Denise's days at Boomerang  
: <http://bit.ly/MeinAlltagBeiBoomerang>

**Donate now for the training of the teachers.**

**Donate now**

## Become a Guardian Angel

Steps for children now supports former steps – pre-school children in four locations with their school careers. We are very pleased that many of the children are supported year after year by permanent sponsors. In 2017 for the first time we hope to have 100 children receiving guardian angel support. Alongside school uniforms and books, we also finance a warm meal every day and educational support in the afternoon.

**Become a Guardian Angel and with 192 Euro support a school child for 1 year.**



© Marlene Lautze

**Donate now**

## What an anniversary year!

**Thanks to all the supporters who made this possible.**

Just to mention a few highlights:

- The wonderful celebration in Okakarara where everything began in the presence of the German ambassador.
- The Charity Dinner in Hamburg with the Namibian ambassador
- The presentation of the federal service cross.

And thanks to your donations, we were able in our own and in our partner projects to provide over 1000 children and young people with education and nourishment. For numerous teachers, cooks and other workers we were able to pay their wages and we were able to look after 100 children in our guardian angel programme. Also important building work was completed and new ones started: A new school building in Rehoboth was opened in November 2016. In Gobabis we have almost completed 10 urgently needed toilets and at the same location we have started with the new guesthouse. In Rehoboth we are building two new rental houses as a new income-generating step for the financing of projects in Windhoek.

All that was only possible through the wonderful support of many donors and sponsors, numerous helpers, our staff and committed volunteers.

Thank you with all my heart!  
Your Michael Hoppe





© Marlene Lautze

## New sanitary building shortly before opening in Gobabis



## Start of building for the dining room for the guesthouse in Gobabis



## The new Apartments in Rehoboth grow



## 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!



**Jetzt spenden**

## steps-Office open again from 2nd January

The steps-office is closed from 23rd December.

From 2nd January 2017, we are there again.

## 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](mailto: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](http://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*

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