

# OMARURU CHILDREN'S HAVEN

Dear godparents!

Dear friends and supporters of the Omaruru Children's Haven!

This newsletter is being written in Swakopmund while the children, housemothers and volunteers are on their way to the beach. It is vacation time in the Omaruru Children's Haven and currently we are on a little two-day trip with the children that are not spending the holidays with their extended families. Eating pizza, playing games, running around at the beach, going to the cinema and a visit to the Swakopmund snake house (to include an educational aspect in the trip) are the core activities during this trip. The children have been very excited for this trip for a couple of weeks now and the resulting exemplary behavior of all of them is almost incredible. And when yesterday the motto finally was: "Into the bus and off to Swakopmund!" the children's excitement was so big, I am lacking the words to adequately describe it to you, dear reader.

I want to use this newsletter to explicitly thank our new corporate donors. In Europe we want to express our gratitude to the sera GmbH, Immenhausen, Germany, that had the motto „Help for Omaruru!“ at their annual open door day and raised enough funds during one weekend to finance almost a tenth of our annual budget. We also would like to acknowledge the contribution of Hennlich GmbH & Co KG, Austria, that spontaneously and without a prior relationship to our institution contributed a substantial amount to sera's fundraiser, thus ensuring this incredible success.

In Namibia we have to express our sincerest gratitude to Standard Bank and Indongo Toyota, Windhoek. The Omaruru Children's Haven is this year's winner of the Standard Bank Charity Campaign and now proud owner of a factory new Toyota Yaris. This vehicle does not only increase our mobility, but also aids us significantly in reducing fuel costs. Furthermore we want to acknowledge our godparents and continuous supporters from Europe and Namibia for their ongoing efforts to aid us. Without all your contributions we would not be able to offer our children the opportunities that make us the best-run independent orphanage home in Namibia.

We have continued to work tirelessly on improving our care for the children in our focus areas **health** and **education**. Since February the Omaruru Children's Haven's youngest is going to Windhoek on a weekly / bi-weekly basis where the little one attends speech and occupational therapy to counter developmental delays that are caused by a medical treatment. The joy and rapid progress that the little one has during those playful sessions are heartwarming and encouraging at the same time! We want to express our sincerest gratitude to the therapists Ms. Klemens and Dr. Jürgens for their loving and skillful work.

Furthermore we want to thank dentist Dr. Coetzee and his team that have come to visit the Omaruru Children's Haven. Not only did they examine all the children and if necessary started a treatment, but they also did a training session on oral hygiene with children and housemothers. And all this Dr. Coetzee and his team did free of charge!

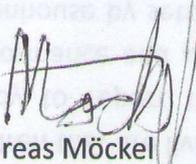
In our focus area education we are very happy to report that since the beginning of this academic year special education classes have been re-introduced in one Omaruru primary school. Some children that are living in the Omaruru Children's Haven are attending these classes and we are very happy to report that their participation has led to significant improvements in their school performance and positive effects in their general behavior alike. We have also re-structured the greenhouse by setting up high beds that are to be more easily maintained. In addition to that the clearer division of these beds has increased our young gardeners' "pride of ownership" and the greenhouse is blossoming and flourishing like never before.

Unfortunately we suffered the loss of two housemothers at the beginning of this year. Mrs. Angelika Beukes and Ms. Sieglinde Awises both resigned due to urgent family matters that require their continuous attention. Their departure left a big hole in the Omaruru Children's Haven family and led to tearful goodbyes. We wish both housemothers only the very best for their personal and professional future and hope to welcome them back soon as guests in our facility.

Finally I would like to kindly invite you to visit our new homepage [www.omaruruchildrenshaven.org](http://www.omaruruchildrenshaven.org). Here you will be able to gain a deeper insight into the lives' of our children and the work of the Omaruru Children's Haven's team and also learn more about the many different possibilities you have to increase our children's opportunities for a better future. I would be very happy if this offer interests you and I humbly ask that you also make friends, colleagues and acquaintances aware of our homepage.

With this request I will close this newsletter, because now it is time for me to walk over to the cinema to meet the children, housemothers and volunteers. For more than twenty children and most of the housemothers it will be the first time in front of the big screen and for me it will be the first time ever in the cinema with my back to the screen, because I don't want to miss the faces of the "cinema newbies".

Best regards from Swakopmund! Yours truly



Andreas Möckel  
(Manager, Omaruru Children's Haven)

