

Thank You

We are always deeply grateful for all the support we receive and thank our donors and friends from the bottom of our heart!

Today we would like to extend a special word of gratitude to those, who contributed in kind during the past few months. There were numerous people, locally as well as from overseas, who donated second-hand clothes in excellent condition. Transworld Cargo generously assisted with the transport of boxes from Germany and a stall at the City of Windhoek's street market in March brought good profits from the sales. Well meaning acousticians from the UK and Germany recently donated again refurbished hearing aids, batteries and light pens. These allow us to support children in need of hearing aids - either directly with the kind assistance of Windhoek Hearing Aids or through requests from the Ministry of Health and Social Services. The International Women's Association continues to provide a regular supply of fruit and vegetables to the CLaSH unit helping the children to enjoy healthy meals.

In preparation for Operation Omakutsi IV which will take place in May in Rundu, we have met with wonderful support from Desert Air and Air Namibia. Their generosity allows us to fly Namibian doctor Ailly Imbangu in from Cape Town where she is currently specialising in ENT. It allows the German doctors to bring in excess luggage in the form of microscopes and medicines, and finally it allows us to use the most time efficient way to cover the distance from Windhoek to Rundu, namely by charter plane. Thank you!

Annual General Meeting 2008

This year's **Annual General Meeting** takes place

on Thursday, 17 April 2008

at Hotel Thüringer Hof

at 18h00

We are expecting Dr Norbert Forster, the Deputy Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Health and Social Services as guest speaker and hope to see many of our members, donors and friends on the occasion.

Thank you to all our members, who have paid their annual membership fees. May this serve as a reminder to the others whose payments are still outstanding.

We would also like to use this opportunity to encourage everybody to please inform us about possible changes in your contact details.

CLaSH invites contributions, donations from members and friends.
Account details are: Standard Bank Namibia, Ausspannplatz Branch,
Account # 04 153 5588

CLaSH Newsletter

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INSIDE: The new year • Staff changes • Annual General Meeting • Individuals' success stories • From the North • and more!!!

From the Editor's Desk

Apologies that the first newsletter of 2008 is hardly in time to remind you of our upcoming Annual General Meeting. The beginning of 2008 was marked by a number of events, which required various ways of coping and a huge amount of work from all CLaSH staff. Not only was it the first year without Orna, we also found ourselves totally unexpectedly without Ilona, our office coordinator. She informed us during the holidays via e-mail that she had decided to leave and we have not heard from her since. The SOS kindergarten where our day-care unit is hosted informed us at the beginning of the year - also quite out of the blue - that in line with certain cost-saving measures they would no longer provide warm lunches for the children. While trying to find solutions for these unexpected situations, there were of course also work and budget plans for 2008 waiting to be finalised, job descriptions that needed revision, year-end financials that had to be prepared in preparation for the annual audit, etc...

The first three months of this year have really seen us pulling up our socks and just before the AGM the situations have been resolved as follows: A new VSO volunteer is arriving towards the end of April to replace Orna; Susan has worked extremely hard (numbers were literally coming out of her ears) to get the financial administration up-to-date; the audit is finished; a new office administrator has been appointed (Ernst Karimbue, the first man to join the Windhoek office certainly has to prove a point somehow); dear Ruth agreed to take responsibility for cooking lunch for the CLaSH unit every day; individual job descriptions were discussed and agreed and objectives for this year have taken shape.

Approaching its 20th anniversary (yes! It will be end of 2009!), CLaSH has once again proved its resilience and capability to survive - even under difficult circumstances.



Farewell for Orna & family

The Association for Children with Language, Speech and Hearing Impairments of Namibia

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Individuals' Success Stories

Although slightly beyond the scope of CLaSH, we do use every opportunity to facilitate employment opportunities for Deaf adults. Over the years, a few really wonderful success stories emerged, some of which we would like to share with you.

There is **Padelia Namundjebo**, who recently celebrated her 10th anniversary working for Windhoek Hearing Aids as an ear mould technician. Padelia received her initial training on-the-job and during two courses in Botswana. She has become an integral part of the team at Windhoek Hearing Aids and although she is doing her work quietly and independently in the laboratory in the back, one cannot imagine getting ear moulds without her input. Last year she was interviewed by an editor from Gamsberg Macmillan, who wanted to feature her in one of their school books as a shining example of what can be achieved despite difficult circumstances.



Rakkell Ndilenga arrived in Windhoek to be one of our pre-school unit teachers in 2002 and her positive influence on the unit in general and the children in particular has been widely recognised.

At the beginning of this year, Rakkell and Ruth were joined by another Deaf lady, **Adelheid Malakia**, who works at the unit part-time. We got to know her last year when she assisted teacher Ruth during Rakkell's participation in the 3-month training for Deaf sign language instructors. Adelheid quickly developed an excellent rapport with the children and demonstrates patience, skill and genuine authority when dealing with them. Colleagues from unit and office alike appreciate her friendly spirit and good-natured motivation.



Many of you will remember that CLaSH initiated the glass bead project at Penduka three years ago, training several Deaf adults in the traditional Ghanaian art of glass bead making. We are immensely glad to see that **Olivia Kanime, Rebekka Sheya, Maria Kooper** and **Jafet Erastus** have grabbed their chance, when Penduka offered them permanent employment. All four of them have persevered and can still be found behind the traditional oven melting glass or in the workshop polishing beads. Plans to train them in running their project more independently have recently been discussed with Penduka's new management.



Last year an urgent enquiry from the NICE restaurant led to **Wilbard Simon** finding a job behind the bar where he became responsible for washing, drying and sorting glasses, while he enjoys observing the customers.



Early this year, two young men from the North, **Gorden Munenguni** and **Nduumono Nghisheetlewa** arrived in Windhoek where they met with their future employer, a lady organising horse trails in the desert. She took the two along to a farm near the Gamsberg where they are now trained in special leatherwork to fix saddles and bridles after a trail. They are also introduced to the skill of handling horses and – living on a farm so far off the beaten track – they even find opportunities to exercise their previously acquired skills in welding and woodwork.

Sabeno Hermeintero, who was born in Angola and attended the Windhoek School for the Deaf until last year, recently came to the office asking for something meaningful to do. He explained that he was so bored at home and just wanted to be occupied, even for “small money”. We managed to facilitate his participation in EduVentures' science expedition to Bushmanland, where he learned the art of “pinning”. That means sticking beetles, ants, dragonflies and butterflies in such a way on Styrofoam that not only their shape is perfectly preserved, but they indeed look their best. When the expedition had finished and hundreds of specimen had been collected, Sabeno took up a place in EduVentures' science lab and started to pin and mark every little creature that had been collected - for “small money”.



From the North

The Usko Nghaamwa Pre-School started the year with 8 boys after all the girls could be admitted to Eluwa Special School. The unexpected floods caused a delay in the arrival of new children and even parents meetings were made impossible due to roads that have become un-negotiable. Luckily the unit class room and the hostel were spared, so instead of having to wade through water, the children could enjoy their newly installed playground.

Brighten continues to establish a wide network of stakeholders in the Northern regions and has made valuable contact with Medical Rehabilitation Workers, Rehabilitation Officers, Special Needs Advisers, etc. As a result, CLaSH was recently invited to facilitate a series of 6 workshops for mainstream teachers in various circuits of Ohangwena. Heide returned last week exhausted but satisfied with the outcome.

It seems that the HARK mobile audiology clinic might be moving again soon. That would make *many* people very happy. CLaSH has confirmed its willingness to continue supporting the project on several occasions and is looking forward to communication from the Ministry of Health in that respect.