

# Feedback from Havana Soup Kitchen

## May 2011–September 2011

7 OCTOBER 2011



BET-DSYAN (Basic Education and Training for Out of School Youth and Adults in Namibia)

Recent developments.

### Introduction

We would like to brief you about recent developments who took place in Havana. As you may know we started with this specific project a year and a half ago. It is needless to say that this project originated from the fact that pre-school education is very indispensable in the informal settlement of Havana.

We discovered that the kindergarten industry cannot perform in these area simply because of poverty. Many pre-schools closed because the people in those areas cannot afford to pay the high rates required from the pre-schools,

Another problem discovered, is the fact that it is impossible to teach children on hungry stomachs,

Thanks to our valued sponsors, especially Pallium being our main spon-

sor, we are still operational.

The networking which was made by our Annegret Traubenbach, has made a huge difference in the development and progress of Havana Soup Kitchen.

Many visitors, volunteers and visitors are come from abroad and locally, who immediately fall in love with these children.

Many of them brought second hand clothes which are fairly distributed among the children. The clothes of adults are also sold to cover some extra needs for the centre.



Frieda making use of the comfort of the desk donated by Petra's friends during July 2011.

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### PROGRESS OF THE HAVANA SOUP KITCHEN IN NAMIBIA

The cognitive development of the children improved dramatically. Majority of them, at least can write their names, recognize different shapes, colors, etc.

The recent appointment of a young lady to maintain the kitchen work was

a great asset to the Havana Soup Kitchen, since it contributes to the smooth running of the centre.

Regular meeting with parents great opportunity for cooperation and self development.

## German volunteers and Petra's contribution

Lea and Eva were the people we really appreciated. They brought such joy to the kids. We had a privilege of working with them for three weeks. We wish they had not left us so soon!



Lea and Eva making a welcoming drawing for the children. Handprints of the children are seen at the back ground.

When they came we divided the children into two groups. At the beginning it was a big challenge to communicate

with them. We discovered that the kids mostly concentrated meaningfully when they were exposed to practical activities. This could be seen by their immediate quietness as they were working. The children were taught new songs, poems, which maximally contribute to their physical and social development.

Petra's contribution on the other hand, helped us a lot to get our children more organized, because she is a manager of the Montessori Kindergarten in Windhoek. Their approach in dealing with the kids, really, is really so impressive that we

started to employ her method of teaching. This teaching is so instructive that the child starts to learn social skills, such as how to handle cutlery, washing hands and how to maintain good hygiene. The hand washing technique one which suits the situation on Havana especially where access to water is a challenge. Their method is individualistic and easy to use.

This practice of course, can be transferred to their parents, as the kids themselves will teach their own parents.

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**"We would emphasize that this method of teaching touches all levels of child's developments."**

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### Continue: German volunteers and Petra's Contribution

personal hygiene.

We do not completely despise other methods of teaching, which will also be applied occasionally. Of course, our main idea is to get the child ready for school and we would like to see how these kids perform when we will send our next group of school ready kids to the mainstream next year next year.

To apply these methods we have to get shelves and teaching material. We managed to get the shelves through the help of one company who donated wood, which we used to make shelves. To make the shelves, we had to use bricks to form the shelves with the same wood we obtained from that company. The money is raised by selling of second hand clothes.

About N\$1000-00 was used to buy the bricks. Petra of course make her contribution, simply because of the fact that she used her money to come to the soup kitchen. After we got all these equipment together, the following week Petra gave us instructions on how to use the utensils at the shelves. The activities started with the hand washing week.

## Otji-toilet

The Otji-toilet perfectly meets the needs of the Havana Soup Kitchen. It is a design by a very innovative man originally from Germany which provides a healthy, dry, odorless toilet to the people who are in need for an immediate toilet while waiting for a real modern toilet.

Erecting this toilet took at least one and a half week to complete. The toilet is built with bricks and steel structures. Instructions were given

on how to take care of this unique toilet.

The children were disciplined on how and when to use the toilet, and they learned not to interfere with the normal classes.

The person involved in the construction of the toilet is Gaby Voigts. She is also out treasurer.



A new pit toilet partly sponsored by German embassy and Pallium which the children are more than willing use whenever nature calls.

Parents came up with different ideas on how they could improve their own livelihood. Once again this aspect of parents empowerment will be addressed maximally once the HSK has reached its full stage of development.

Another aspect to touch on was the visitation of Agra during the winter time. The distribution of blankets was a big surprise to the kids. Their hearts were warmed by their generous gesture. The entire community was touched and the counselor of the Moses Garoeb constituency was approved of what is taking

The Mother Bear Activity—21 October 2011

Our hearts were warmed and touched by the generosity showed by women all very the world who knit bears just for the OVCs. It is really amazing how these could reach Havana soup kitchen, after miles and miles of shipping. We could see how much of a delight it is to put a smile on the face of a child. We are grateful for the two American ladies who came to distribute the bears. We do not know how to express our gratitude.

“Mother Bear” as she is about to distribute bears among the Havana kids



The bears are hand-knitted from wool. They are very soft in texture and the children like to cherish and play with those bears.

place in Havana. Agra once again pledged their networking with the Havana Soup Kitchen.

Volunteers from abroad are great asset to the Havana Soup kitchen since we lack capable manpower. This activity is especially good for language development of the pre-school children.



Children busy with building blocks, which is very effective to their cognitive development

As for the

### ***The Financial Feedback of the Havana Soup Kitchen.***

The financial statements and feedback are in the capable hand of the treasurer, which are carefully taken care of.

We included a soft copy of the excel worksheet as from Jan to August 2011 for your perusal.

Currently we are working in

### ***Constraints and future Recommendations***

As we all are aware, the place is becoming too small. We know about people who are willing to donate some furniture, but because of that it becomes a big challenge to accept those offers.

For us to function at a more professional level, electricity and running water are essential. Logistics, such as dependable transport, office

capacity building for the staff few organizations and people offered their services to give training to the staff.

The approaches firstly used was the teacher-centered approach which was not so effectively applied, but the current approach (learner-centered) looks more appealing to them. The children concentrate more effectively with the last mentioned method.

such a way as not to overspend our funds, since finance is a scarce commodity in Namibia.

Our desire is to expand so that we can reach more and more of our vulnerable children.

Already by next year we plan to send 16 children to the primary school.

equipment are our future prospects. Children need regular medical check-up, real physical exercise. Our dream is to have a bigger operating space, since the needs and demands for services are increasing. Now that we are at least stabilized, we think in terms of outings for the kids, workshops for parents and to develop a real centre for the people which would meet all the demands of the needy.

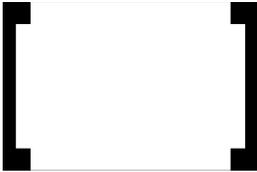
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**“ As we are all aware, the place is becoming too small.”**

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**Vision statement of BET-OSYAN : We are committed to serve the most neglected communities, to alleviate literacy and ignorance pertaining to issues on HIV/AIDS and information communication technology in the Republic of Namibia.**

**Mission: To link literacy and HIV/AIDS with the primary aims of encouraging adults and out of school youths towards communication technology. BET-OSYAN achieves this through voluntary community participation with the trained staff in the field of education and to establish various partnership with different stakeholders.**

**HAVANA SOUP KITCHEN fulfill one of the last objectives, namely " To empower parents to assist their children in their education by providing literacy opportunities." The soup kitchen provides food, and at the same time pre-school education to the vulnerable children in the informal settlements .**

## **Future Prospects and our way forward.**

All the time, we have been wondering about the sustainability of this project and we have discovered that, with the continued support of our valued sponsor, Pallium ev, we can really develop into a national centre of excellence. We are happy about the trust they showed in our program.

The reasons being: We get so much approval from the entire community, as well as from abroad. Numerous organizations and private people are networking with us, and as the result we get encouraged to make improvements in many areas.

Our desire, and the overall aim of the BET-OSYAN (Basic Education and

Training for Out of School Youth and Adults in Namibia) is to provide education to the vulnerable. (Children included). We would also like to network with the government and other organizations.

Our dream is to get a bigger operational space next year. We contacted the municipality in this regard and trust to find response from them very soon.

Next year the activities of the children will be more, such as picnics and holiday activities, workshops with parents, etc.