

## Newsletter 02 -2017 / The Gondwana's Memes / Mar - April 2017



*“Education is a large concept but it is the first step towards freedom...and a brighter future for the next generation.  
It is the right of every child to go to school but sadly it is not a given”*

Dear Everyone,

Short newsletter this time. We are working on a new project and we are looking for sponsors to help as many female learners across Namibia as possible.

The project we are looking into is the situation in which hundreds of learners are finding themselves in every month. Due to menstruation, many learners are unable to go to school. Girls as young as 9 years old are menstruating in some rural area. These young girls are most vulnerable during this time as they are left alone at home and sometimes are sexually abused as they can't get pregnant. Many do not return to school and the circle of abuse and poverty continue.

5 days a month represents about 15 to 25% of school time when learners miss important curriculum / information and exams! We would like to make a contribution to some learners in helping them to empower themselves so they can get the best chance possible and follow 100% of the curriculum at school.

To buy disposable sanitary pads is expensive in Namibia and the actual “disposal of the pad” is also a problem in some areas. Many end up in blocking drains at school and it is eventually a bigger problem for all. The girls will use also other means, such as old T-shirts / kitchen towels, leaves / newspapers etc....

This is not a subject that is most talked about for obvious reasons but it is part of our lives and in the end of the day affect the whole community. Blocked drains / waste in nature / and most important of all, the fact that too many girls will miss on educating themselves due to a natural human factor of being female.



The use of re-usable pad has an advantage that it is NOT thrown into nature and the girl can use it for almost 2 years with proper care. Giving her the confidence to stay at school and be able to get a better education. Sister Namibia is manufacturing the pad in Namibia for 200.00Nad per kit.





***Please if you want to contribute, we always need soaps / deodorants roll-on for boys and girls / toothbrushes / toothpaste / Vaseline and body cream / towels and face cloth...***

***Thank you***

***The JJs Care Centre*** - Kim Koch - 081 479 0725 – [jjscarecentre@gmail.com](mailto:jjscarecentre@gmail.com) - #192 Hage Geingob Street in Walvis Bay.

JJ's Care Centre is an Edu-Therapy Day Care facility for children with physical and mental disabilities as well as for children with learning difficulties. The Centre believes that all children should be given the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential. The Centre is based on a Christian foundation and offers guidance, support and a loving environment for special needs children.

All children attending the Centre receive meals (breakfast and lunch) and snacks during the day while taking part in necessary physical/speech & occupational therapy, stimulation and activity programs. The JJ Centre also offers sign language to 4 kids grade 9. There is no other centre in Walvis Bay where children can learn sign language.

Following our last newsletter, Thank you very much to IWAN who contributed to assist the Centre... Thank you very much





**MARSH is in contact with JJ Centre for a 2 000Nad donation towards chairs. Thank you very much to the Marsh Team for your constant support.**

One of the Assistant- teacher at the JJ Centre found herself in a very difficult situation. I only contacted privately a few sponsors (IWAN and some of the Gondwana Memes). Arlene has suffered a few loss in her family and she has been struggling financially for a few years now. She has 3 children and one of the child is a student at JJ and needs her full attention. This is the reason why she is now part of the staff at JJ.

Thanks to a company – who wants to remain anonymous – the outstanding school fees of 23 400.00Nad has been fully paid and the company will also pay for the rest of the year. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity as Arlene was not able to meet the deadline. She was going to be evicted but thanks to individuals, the rent was also paid and now her two other children can continue studying without worrying about their school fees.

Arlene was also recently hospitalized for a tumor in her breast and she followed also a procedure for cervical cancer. She needs to be closely monitored for the rest of the year. Luckily she is not positive for cervical cancer at this stage.

She is the only one left in her family as her parents have passed away as her husband and her parents in law. It is sometimes impossible to comprehend how a family can endure so much in such short period of time. Thank you to everyone who contributed in helping Arlene and her children. She is still in need of financial help, mostly for groceries and daily expenditure.

Thank YOU very much to IWAN, Mrs Lilian Brell, Mrs Daniella Krause, Mrs Dayle Straton for all your support, Mrs Anita Becker and Mrs Clare Galloway for your cash donation.

Donation included: Boxes of curtains / clothing / food (IWAN contribution) / adult nappies for Arlene's son / chairs and fan for the JJ Centre





**If anyone would like to assist Arlene, please contact me or Arlene directly at the JJ Centre.**

**CAN – Outreach program in Namibia – Cancer Association of Namibia - Health @ CAN**  
[health@can.org.na](mailto:health@can.org.na)

I have been in and out the past month. I was very privileged to accompany Mr Rolf Hansen and Sister Christy from the Cancer Association of Namibia (CAN) during their outreach program in the Zambezi region.

Thanks to Gondwana Collection, transfers in and out of Katima Mulilo and all accommodations and meals have been sponsored during the week long outreach. Over 100 ladies in the community were tested for breast cancer and cervical cancer free of charge, thanks to Gondwana Collection. This is the second year, that Gondwana sponsors the CAN Team all over Namibia to give an opportunity to men and women to take control over their health and understand that knowledge & education can change lives. To make change in their eating habit and sexual habits as well to prevent the HPV virus to spread which can cause cervical cancer in women.

It is again during this week, that one notices how much more help one can give! Too many young individuals are not given the opportunity to break the circle and empower themselves. This is one of the reason why “Sister Namibia” is planning to open a branch in Rundu so more women can gain access to an income by manufacturing the sister pad and also provide the kit to women in rural area.

There are a lot of young learner who need assistance in this matter so they can remain at school! This is also a step further towards empowering themselves and be able to finish school and hope for a higher education.





Of course any further information on how to assist the Cancer Association of Namibia and most especially the Chica House which is where children suffering from Cancer reside during treatment in Windhoek. Many parents cannot afford to stay with the children during treatment and the children are left alone. CAN provides a home away from home so the children can live as normally as they can during their fight against cancer.

Please contact me or CAN directly for any further information on how to help and assist them.

#### **RU-RUMWE primary school – Rundu –**

In November 2016, through the Hakusembe Community Development Fund, the Gondwana Collection sponsored prizes at the Ru Rumwe Primary School's annual awards giving ceremony. 126 medals were given to the top performing learners from each grade, in each subject, and to achievers at sport and extramural activities.

Gondwana also instigated an annual Hakusembe award for the top performing grade 7 learner. The recipient of this award received a trophy, which will be a floating trophy – next year, the next top performing grade 7 learner will receive the trophy, and an N\$300.00 gift voucher at Waltons.

This year the Hakusembe award was awarded to Hega Gondolph.

Isaack – one of Hakusembe River Lodge guide/barman, who is an former learner from the School presented the award to Hega.

To add on to Ru-Rumwe school, in February Gondwana paid for and sponsored the completion of the school fence. When the school first started putting up the mesh razor fence around the school, they ran out of funds. So the Hakusembe Community Development Fund assisted in the completion of the project.

Thank you very much for giving the opportunity to so many learners to work towards a prize and encourage more to follow in their footsteps.



**SIKONDO Kindergarden** – the floodplains of the Okavango river in the Kavango region (-17.880074° S, 19.662704° E)



The Sikondo Kindergarden was decimated by rain storms over the December holidays. The old building (as per pictures attached) was constructed with wooden poles and corrugated iron sheets is now completely flattened.

This little primary school has been operating for a few years and again with almost

nothing, children attend school before moving to the higher grades.



Hakusembe and Gondwna Collection have been assisting the community and they have immediately requested a quote to replace the school. A new structure will be put in place and it should be stronger to resist the weather damage! Thank you very much.

Once the structure has been delivered and installed on site, we can assist further the school with tables and chairs and educational goods for the children.

**Please once again anyone willing to help the children at Rumwe primary school, please contact me so we can buy exam pads, pens and pencils, books etc...**

I will post the pictures of the new structure in my next newsletter hopefully.

**Coming up...**



**Donations at Seringkop school, mid April and update on the school . Visit to Etosha by the students of Dagbreek School.**

That is all for now, thank you again for sharing the newsletter and if you can help, please contact me and I can forward your donations to the right association / schools.

Thank you again for everyone help in the past years, we cannot do alone and every little bit helps.

.... Please do not hesitate in contacting me if you need further information on any of the associations and projects that we support.

Until then, please take care and thank you for reading our newsletter, share with your friends who can assist,

***Thank you for reading our newsletter, .... with a little from our friends, we managed to reach the stars.. even if it is for one night only!!***

Again *thank you for sharing our newsletter* and helping us make a small difference where we can, **we cannot do it alone!!**

From the Gondwana's memes...

***NB: Please do send me a mail if you do not wish to be on our mailing list to receive our newsletter.  
Thank you.***

**Dgini Visser** - Cell +264 81 2425900