

DRC School Project & Community Centre



Class of 2009
With 2009 behind us we look forward to 2010. Out of 31 students, 7 have still to find a place in the government schools. We are currently in talks with the Ministry of Education's School Inspector in order to attempt to find them a place in the Swakopmund schools.

It has been an exciting year for us all. We have had many visitors and have received much support.

We would like to once again

thank the Jolie-Pitt Foundation for their continued support of the project. Their donation has allowed us to continue our work in 2009.

The playground building has continued this year with the assistance of two groups of students from the UK. They spent two weeks helping to build additional playground equipment for the kids of the DRC and repainting the inside of the school. This group was organized by Lifesigns Group UK.

The centre also received donations from BR Mining. They sponsored renovations to the centre in the form of

a new roof and repairs to the existing fence. These repairs were much needed and long overdue. Thank you BR Mining for your support.

We would like to thank your teachers Mr. Claudius Khoeseb and Mrs. Helvi Jones for their work in 2009. We would also like to thank the volunteers that have assisted us in the past year, Maxi, Philipp, Nadine and Melchior.

This is the final year for Mrs. Helvi Jones as she is moving on to work at our New Start HIV testing clinic. She has been at the school project since 2005 and has been a valuable addition to our staff.

Special points of interest:

- Our children go on to be top of their class in the government schools.
- We track the progress of previous students and keep record of their school reports.
- Our relationship with the community guarantees sustainability and trust.



Volunteers

In 2009 we continued our partnership with the DED, German Development Foundation. Our 2008 volunteers Maxi and Philipp remained at the project for the first half of 2009. In July we said goodbye to them and welcomed Nadine. She was joined by Melchior in November 2009.

Nadine, along with assisting with the education programme in the morning and the after school programme in the afternoon, has initiated a swimming programme once

a week. There are currently 20 students enrolled in swimming.

Melchior is sharing his love of music by giving singing classes and recorder classes to our students. This is also in addition to his work assisting with the education programmes run by the project.



Melchior's recorder class



Nadine joining the kids on a camel ride

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End of the year trip



And away they go!!!

This year ,once again, our children were treated to an end of the year trip to the Camel farm. This trip was sponsored by Terra Nova Tours. The children spent the morning riding camels

and being treated to snacks and refreshments. Terra Nova also organized a gift for each child. The students each received an article of clothing.

This is the second year this trip has been sponsored by Terra Nova. We hope to continue this tradition yearly as the children look forward to it.



Five year celebration

In 2009, the DRC Project celebrated it's five year anniversary. It is difficult to think we have already been here five years! The project opened its doors in 2004 and enrolled 31 children in its first year. Since then we have had 160 students enrolled at the centre. Since 2004 the school project has enrolled 77 children with no previous education, 53 with

only kindergarten and 20 with some primary education. The project has enrolled 89 girls and 70 boys since its inception.

Sponsorship for the project has come from a variety of sources. In 2004 we received support from Bay Air and Premier Construction. In 2005 our main sponsor was MTC. In 2006, 2007 and 2008 the project

was sponsored by the Jolie-Pitt Foundation. In 2009 we received sponsorship from FNB and Basil Read Mining. We have also received donations from Swakopmund Round Table, Swakop Rotary Club and various tourist groups.

New Start VCT Centre

The New Start voluntary counseling and testing centre has been operating for four years now with the financial assistance of USAID.

The centre employs one site manager, nurse, social worker, four counselors, one community mobilizer and an administrative assistant.

In 2009 the centre underwent

renovations for the second time. This greatly increased our ability to assist clients and has increased client numbers as we can accommodate more staff and therefore more visitors.

The centre has tested a total of 15,691 clients since opening it's doors in 2005.



New Start Centre World AIDS day celebration

An investment in education is an investment in our future.

Christmas celebration

In conjunction with John Wheeling from Leisure Times, Namibian tourist information publication, the children of the DRC Project were treated to a Christmas surprise. Santa Clause descended from the sky (via tandem parachute) and landed at the DRC. The children each received a gift from Santa Clause

(donated by the local Swakopmund community. They also received a small parcel from Abenteuer Afrika, a local tour operator.

Needles to say this was much appreciated by all the children.

Thank you to all that have helped to make this event possible.



News

We have received donations from the Jolie-Pitt Foundation and AREVA Namibia which will enable us to continue to operate in 2010. We would like to thank these donors for their kind support.

The DRC Project has also received an additional donation from the AREVA mining group.

They are sponsoring two new fully furnished classrooms for the project. These new classrooms will enable us to better accommodate the children and provide further assistance to the community.

We would like to welcome Dina to our staff. She will be our new teacher for level one. Dina has

over three years experience teaching in Swakopmund and we are sure she will be a valuable addition to our staff.

Fostering hope in the most

vulnerable of

communities.

Challenges

At the end of every school year we face our greatest challenge, trying to find places for our students in the government schools. The Swakopmund public school system is overfull and under staffed, a situation common all over Namibia. We work with the Ministry of Education in trying to find places for all the children but this is becoming more and more difficult every year.

This is a challenge that is greater than our ability. We can only do

our part and work with the local Ministry of Education and hope that they do theirs.

The overall state of education in Namibia is deplorable. It is our aim to equip our students with the necessary skills and motivation to overcome the many obstacles they will face.

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The DRC Project is a welfare organization, W.O. 238, established in 2004 in order to assist the disadvantaged sector of Swakopmund society by providing much needed services and resources.

The organization focuses primarily on women and children. We have found they are the most vulnerable in society and the ones in most need of assistance.



We're on the web!

www.drcproject.org.na



Vehicle

Finally, the centre is looking for funding for a vehicle to transport children to and from school. Currently children as young as six travel long distances by foot to and from school.

This vehicle will also be used to take the children on field trips during the school year.

