



Philadelphia

Foundation for Orphans in Distress

*“...See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut...”
(Rev. 3:7-8)*

ANNUAL REPORT

2011 / 2012



From the Management

It was a tumultuous year on which we have to report this time.

For the third, consecutive year, we were hit by a flood, experienced many difficulties and major changes in our work and personal lives, and can only say to God be the glory for carrying us through.

In this report we will again highlight a number of the successes and activities that took place, as well as the problems we experienced and changes that were made. One of the major changes that were made, was that the Philadelphia Foundation moved away from the Kavango to the town of Grootfontein and started with the implementation of the project there. More about that in this report.

Once again we wish to humbly pay our gratitude to our donors, sponsors and volunteers, who again played a very important role in the continuation of our work in the Kavango Region of Namibia. A special thanks goes again to our main sponsor, "Philadelphia Namibië, stichting voor weeskinderen in nood" from the Netherlands, where they worked tirelessly for us. On behalf of all our orphaned children, their families and communities, thank you!!

Ellen van den Berg
Program Manager

CHALLENGES AND CHANGES

For seven years the Philadelphia Foundation has been working in the Kavango Region of Namibia, with the Hambukushu tribe. Very little development and mission work was done in this area. This is what attracted the Management of the Philadelphia Foundation to that specific area.

In the previous annual reports account is given of all the activities that took place in these seven years.

Circumstances were from the beginning not easy, due to the traditional authority of the Hambukushu, who were never satisfied with any attempt towards development and upliftment that was done by the Foundation. However, because of the need that was visible among the orphaned children in the area, the Foundation took the punch and continued their work despite utter negativity and continuous humiliations.

Many wonderful results were achieved despite all hindrances.

However in this year, the negativity and humiliation of the Traditional Authority towards the Foundation culminated. By the end of the year 2011, the chief of the Hambukushu told us that they need nothing from white and European people and that we could give or teach them nothing and that he did not want criminals from other countries who came to hide in Namibia (pointing at our Dutch volunteers at that stage). We were asked to hand in the passports of the volunteers and that he would have them deported from the country.

From other organisations, local lodges and our local volunteers, we knew already that this man was violent and operating like a mafia, sending groups of people to rob, destroy and injure people. When all these absolute ridiculous accusations and threats were made towards us, we knew that our lives and the lives of our volunteers were in danger and we had to leave. After months of prayer and discussion it was decided that the Philadelphia Foundation for Orphans had to end their work in Kavango and move to the Otjozondjupa area, to the town of Grootfontein.

By the end of the year 2011 we packed up and left for Grootfontein and started the Philadelphia projects there in January 2012.

It was decided to leave the management of the campsite of the Foundation, Camp Ndurukoro, to our local volunteers, in an attempt to help them with an income. During the year to come, we will evaluate if this is a viable option for the future.

With pain in our heart we had to leave suffering children behind as a result of their corrupt and greedy leaders.

NEW HORIZONS

In January 2012, the Philadelphia Foundation moved to Grootfontein. We were very fortunate to know some local people who could help us make a new start here. Another blessing was the fact that we had Dutch volunteers at the time, who played a positive role in the restart of the project.

In Grootfontein we were welcomed with open arms, as not many organisations are at work here, and the number of orphans and vulnerable children is hair raising high.

Grootfontein is having a large squattercamp where children live in very harsh circumstances. Dwellings are made out of old corrugated iron sheets, plastic and cardboard. Only 4 toiletblocks are available for thousands and thousands of people and only about 6 taps with water are available for all these people. People do not have land available to grow enough produce to be self-sustainable. Natural materials to build dwellings from are not available and also fire wood is very scarce; people walk for hours to find wood to cook on. All benefits that the Kavango people did have and many times seem to take for granted.

The process of connecting to the people in this part of town has started now. We have to build relationships and win the trust of the people. In the 2 months that are covered by this report, we could assess some of the needs. We will continue doing this throughout this first year and slowly start up the project here.

In the next report we trust that we can report on successes that were made in our new work environment.

In all of this we have to testify of Gods goodness to us. He protected us and kept us safe, he comforted us in all the emotional turmoil and he blessed us with a new place to continue our work.

To Him be all the glory.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The overall aim of the Philadelphia Foundation for Orphans in Distress is to **promote quality care and support** for children orphaned by AIDS or other causes, as well as for children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and to **strengthen the capacities** of those individuals and communities who are responsible for their care.

Several projects are running to implement the objectives that were set to reach this aim. This report will highlight the main activities.

EDUCATION SUPPORT

We are as a Foundation very fortunate to have a sister Foundation in the Netherlands, involved with fundraising for our project. Funds are mainly coming from schools, where children are motivated to assist fellow children in Namibia who are less fortunate than they are. It is always a joy to be able to tell and show these Dutch children how their effort to collect funds makes a difference in the lives of vulnerable children in Namibia.

As happened every year until now, the Ministry of Education was very late with sending pens, pencils and writing books for learners. This results in learners sitting in the classroom without anything to write and read as well. Therefore the Philadelphia Foundation for Orphans assisted with the necessary stationary for learners at the 3 local primary schools, as to enable them to improve their learning environment. Photocopy services to the schools continued.



The support to the Makutotero Children's Centre continued. With the financial assistance of the Philadelphia Foundation for Orphans, one teacher continued with her training and was able to implement her newly learned skills at Makutotero, to the benefit of all the children.

Both teachers involved in the daily care and teaching of the children at Makutotero continued to receive a quarterly allowance from the Foundation during this school year.

WE CARE

By now, the yearly blanket action for orphans has become a "Philadelphia-tradition" and also this year many orphans in our area received a blanket to cover them from winters' cold.





Another action that made many children's hearts happy was the "Mother Bear" action. Mother Bear is an organisation in the USA knitting beautiful bears for little children. We received enough bears to give all the toddlers at the Makutotero Children's Centre a bear and make them very happy.

This year Philadelphia managed 3 soup kitchens, in Mbapuka, Tjova and Shamambungu, where in total more than 250 children received a daily meal. The effect of these soup kitchens was evident in the children's improving overall appearance and reactions. It is still amazing to see that just one plate of food a day can make such a difference to a child's health.



RECREATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



Our fabric painting project, Kukuyuva, continued this year and the children's skills improved slowly. They still loved coming to the Philadelphia premises, to paint, hear a bible story, eat nice food, play and on top of all take a nice shower in our bush shower. None of these children has a shower at home, and are used to wash in the river or in a small plastic tub. Therefore the shower with a nice piece of soap and vaseline or body lotion afterwards was for most of them the highlight of the day.

As mentioned in the annual report of last year, a new project component we started was the permaculture food garden project. After many unsuccessful attempts in Tjova and Mbapuka area to start vegetable gardens with the villagers, the Permaculture food project started in the Otjozondjupa region, at school near Grootfontein, Tsumeb and Otavi. Many of the children attending these schools live in squatter camps or small plots, and do not have means to buy any fresh produce.



Paula Granelli, a permaculture designer offered to come at her own expense to train us and local school teachers on how to start a permaculture food garden. It was a great experience to have her here, and to practically start these food gardens.

This project will next year be implemented with orphans and vulnerable children at their homes.

This project will develop skills and knowledge in children to produce their own healthy vegetables and will so assist in increasing food security to all the beneficiaries.



LEGAL AND SOCIAL HELPDESK

As was indicated in the annual report of last year, the Legal and Social Helpdesk faded out this year. Anton Mberema, a local volunteer who has been trained by Philadelphia for the past few years, took over the Helpdesk and will continue to assist and refer people in the Kavango with their legal questions.

PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY



The campsite of the Philadelphia Foundation, Camp Ndurukoro, was despite several floods, developed and successfully registered with the Ministry of Tourism. We could become fully operational which resulted in getting more income and become a little more self-sustainable.

TJOVA CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Although facing indescribable hostility from the traditional authority, the Tjova Children's Centre was finalized and could be handed over to the community for use.

Up until the date that Philadelphia left the Kavango, the centre was however not opened or in use, and we truly hope and pray that the local people and especially the vulnerable children will benefit from this centre in future.



Contact details

If you would like to have more information after reading this report, please contact us:

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