



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

2012 / 2013



From the Management

The year we may report on was a very special year. After having worked in the Kavango Region of Namibia for seven years, the Philadelphia Foundation for Orphans in Distress moved to the Otjozondjupa Region, to continue her work with orphans and vulnerable children in the town of Grootfontein.

It was not an easy year, but it was a very blessed year. The whole program had to start over in a totally new area, with different cultural groups and in a town setting, where in the Kavango it was a rural and very remote setting.

To start “all over” in another area, means making contact with the local people, building relationships and earning the trust and respect of people. However, because of existing programs in Grootfontein, the people are more open to receive new projects and development, and this major change was experienced way different than the start of the program in the Kavango Region. We were blessed by existing organizations who assisted us in getting to know people and places and building the necessary network, for which we are very grateful. The area we mostly work in is the informal settlement in Grootfontein, also called “Blikkiesdorp”, freely translated to English as “Tin town”. It is an area where most people live in a squattercamp / slums, made of old corrugated iron sheets, plastic bags, cardboard boxes and other waste material. The majority of them is unemployed and has no formal income.

There were many challenges, but by the grace of God also many blessings and successes, which we will now report on.

As always 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. A special thanks once again goes 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

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Philadelphia Foundation for Orphans was established in 2004 and is working with orphans and vulnerable children. Our main aim is to improve the quality of life of orphans and vulnerable children within their communities. The aim and objectives are practically implemented by providing material support as well as training and income-generating projects through which capacity is increased and poverty reduced. Through child evangelism clubs the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ is shared with the children, as to offer them an eternal future.

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

EDUCATION SUPPORT

Grootfontein has 9 primary and 3 secondary schools. After assessing these schools it became clear that most of the orphaned and vulnerable children are schooling at Omulunga Primary School. This school is situated on the edge of so called “Blikkiesdorp” a squatter camp (slums) with thousands of inhabitants. For that reason we choose to concentrate on this school as focus for assistance and support. The total number of learners in this school in the beginning of 2012 was almost 700 of whom approximately 500 could be categorised as vulnerable.

When approaching them, we were welcomed with open arms and were allowed to assist needy learners as well as the school itself. A major project that the Philadelphia Foundation for Orphans took on this year, was to renovate the playground at the school.

With the help of volunteers from the Netherlands the playground is now an absolute joy for the learners at Omulunga Primary School.

As one of our volunteers was a teacher, she assisted the local teachers with new skills and ideas in especially arts, moral education and physical education.

A request came from a small local school hostel for home work assistance and here the caretaker was trained to help children in her care with their home work after school.



WE CARE

The “Philadelphia-tradition” of organising a yearly blanket action continued also in Grootfontein. This year we had a good sponsor and were able to give 500 vulnerable children of the Omulunga primary school a warm blanket to combat winter cold.

In Oktober 2012 we were also able to start a new soup kitchen for more than 100 vulnerable children, at a local pre-school “Merciful Kindergarten”. These children receive a cooked meal every school day. Many of these children come from very needy households where food is not readily available.



Another action that was repeated in Grootfontein 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 more than 100 toddlers at the newly started soup kitchen of “Merciful Kindergarten” a teddy bear and make them very happy.



In Grootfontein is an abattoir, where animal carcasses are deboned and processed into different meat products. The left over bones and some of the unsellable meat and fat has to be disposed of on a daily bases. Where most of us will not even think of using these bones in any way, the people in Blikkiesdorp can't wait to have them. Twice a week we may come and pick up these bones and we can distribute them where we think is necessary. Once a week the bones go to the soup kitchen where they are cooked into a hearty soup for the children. The other day we bring these bones to different needy households that came under our attention. Most of these bones still have marrowfat and give a good hearty soup when cooked.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

In Grootfontein we identified some small local projects that were in need of support. One of these projects was “His Grace”, a project for vulnerable children run by volunteers from the community. For some years the project was not active because of a lack of skills, knowledge and funds.



Philadelphia assisted them to get the project running again and we introduced some new skills. One of the new projects was a needlework project for girls. We donated 3 hand sewing machines, material and sewing necessities towards the project. Assistance was also given in the form of food for a soup kitchen for children that take part in the project. By the end of 2012 the project was handed back to the local volunteers.

Our fabric painting project, Kukuyuva, was also established in Grootfontein, and by July this project started with children from the Omulunga School. The project is running in the afternoon in one of the class rooms of the Omulunga School. This is not a very good location and we keep looking out for another option.



EVANGELISM

The evangelism project is a new project that was started in Grootfontein. In the squatter camp we were made aware of a group of San (Bushman) people who were very interested in development for their children.



We started with a “kidsclub”, where the kids of this group could come together. We tell them Bible stories, sing, pray and play with them. The group started with 40 children but is growing every week, as more and more children come from all over Blikkiesdorp.



It is an absolute joy to see these children enjoy the attention they get, the activities done with them and the stories told. When they attended 10 times, they receive their own Bible.

Another project that was started was the hospital outreach project. Every week we visit the sick children in the children’s ward of the local State Hospital. In Namibia, when children contract tuberculosis, they are often admitted for a very long time in the hospital. The reason therefor is that parents often stop treatment at home. With tuberculosis this is dangerous. If the 6-months treatment is not completed the disease can come back and is then often resistant, and very difficult to treat. For these children it is very boring to be in hospital for so long, especially when they start feeling better after a while. We visit them, play games with them, tell them a Bible story and pray for them.

PERMACULTURE

The permaculture project started off at local schools around Grootfontein as well as two neighbouring towns, Tsumeb and Otavi. These school were trained by a permaculture trainer from Australia and we did regular follow ups at these schools.

The project was extended later in this year when we assisted children to make small food gardens at home, using permaculture principles. Several children of the Shamalindi primary school have their own food garden now and were very eager to learn.



The project was also expanded to Omulunga to include the children of His Grace project. The children were given an old car tyre at their homes. The tyre was filled with soil, compost and manure and we assisted them to sow different vegetables.

By doing this we ensure that these families have at least some vegetables in their diet and it increases food security.

This project teaches the children self-sufficiency through the skill of food gardening on a small and manageable scale at home.

Contact details

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

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