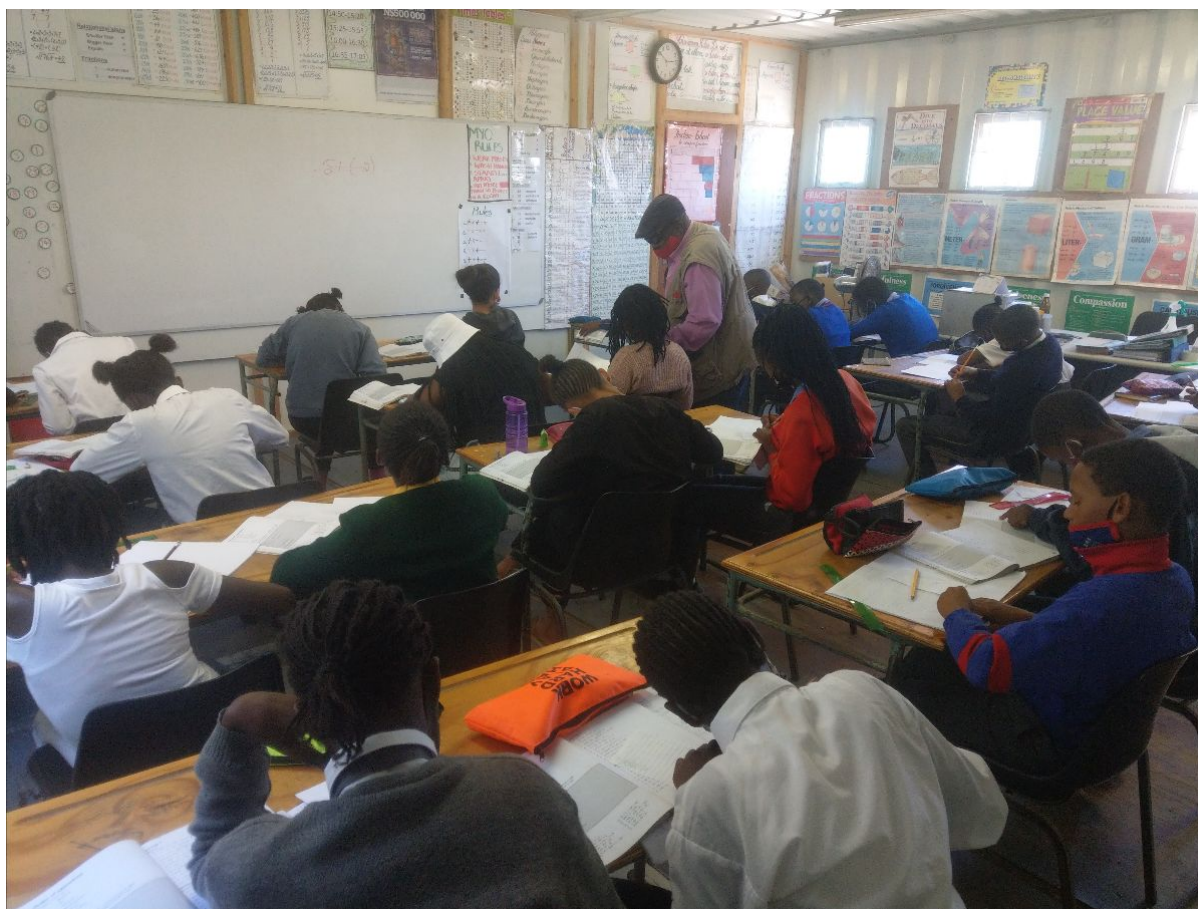


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Dear MYO friends,

the work of MYO could never be defined – we have flexible boundaries which curve and bend, stretch and encompass; and no clear, fixed line is ever set.

Why? Because we work with young underprivileged people, and anyone who works with our youth knows that there are no set parameters. We have to read every situation, every need, and respond to that. The joy of MYO is that we do not only educate, though that is always our main purpose. We become part of our learners' lives, part of their passage through their difficult school years, and often, their problematic family situations. No food at home – we can help with that. No money for new school clothes, or shoes? No bathing facilities, no eye or health care? If we cannot find the funds, we appeal to our friends and donors and they always step up – and help is given. We have a wonderful network system of good and kind people. Of course we have to be careful, and of course we have to turn away some appeals, but our learners know that they can come to us and that we will do our best for them. We are always glad to do so.

Vera Leech
MYO Trustee





In this newsletter, we have tried to give you a summary, in a nutshell, of our experiences in the first term of 2021. We enjoyed a number of heartfelt moments, and exciting events.



Little House of Hope.

The Little House of Hope provides the perfect environment for the development of young children. LHoH is an early learning center, where children from underprivileged backgrounds attend kindergarden classes. The four to five year old

children arrive in the mornings for lessons in reading, numeracy and other developmental areas, receive nutritious meals and a healthy learning environment. Sports and Music is also part of the kindergarden program. The music class is taught by MYO's teacher Joel. In the afternoon selected Grade 1, 2 and 3 learners attend classes in Maths and Reading.

The Little House of Hope is managed by MYO, but the funds for MYO's sister project come from a generous group of donors in Germany. Throughout the first term the demand for places for children in the kindergarden and afternoon classes has been amazing. Parents constantly apply as the program is very well respected.

Little House of Hope donors have also strongly supported MYO with funding throughout the years, and for that we are truly thankful!





MYO in 2021.

MYO successfully completed the first term by providing our normal lessons and schedule with full classroom capacity.

Because of the loss of a year of basic education MYO decided not to have a Grade 4 this year. MYO needed to reassess its position as it has to be taken into account that Namibian students, especially from the Erongo region, were only given two months of school in 2020 due to the long lockdown.

MYO started a backfilling process early this term and the test results clearly showed the lack of schooling in 2020. As this was hardly the fault of the students, MYO granted possible students a trial term in which they had to show steady progress to remain at MYO. Teachers and staff responded with creativity, purpose and excellence, offering extra classes for the backfill students to reach that goal - with great success.





MYO's Rotary sponsored combi.

MYO and Rotary.

We are so pleased to have worked for a full term at MYO, filling in education gaps, reinforcing basic principles in Maths, English, Reading, Computer and Life Skills; and of course – music. While we work the sound of singing or marimbas floats across the air and surely – all is right with the world.

Our overcrowded government schools are still teaching half-time. Learners attend school on certain days only, missing others, while the teachers work with the other half of their classes. This is not a good time for our state schools which are struggling, and for the teachers, who must be overworked and stressed with their time burdens.

This year's Presidential theme for Rotary is 'Rotary Opens Doors' and surely, that is a true statement. At MYO several doors have been opened this term, and our learners have benefitted from this greatly.

Bus donation.

First of all, via Rotarian Thomas Ehbrecht of Rotary Club Duderstadt-Eichsfeld, those generous and supportive Rotarians funded MYO with a new Toyota Quantum Bus – a real trial of support and commitment, as this process began in 2019 before Covid took over our lives, and it struggled on against all odds until February 2021 when our amazing, most-welcome new bus swept into the grounds to the delight of our unsuspecting learners. What a difference it has made to our daily operations, the transport of our learners from schools, to their homes, and on any outings. Thank you Thomas, for your personal donation, and thank you, most sincerely, the Rotarians of Duderstadt-Eichsfeld.



Food Programme.

Secondly, via the generosity of the Swakopmund Rotary Club, the Swakopmund Retirement Village and several private donors, the Rotary Club of Swakopmund has supplied weekly food parcels to many struggling families since Covid led to so many

job losses and devastated families.

The Swakopmund Rotary Club reached out to many clubs in Germany and they too sent funding, and so this initiative is ongoing, and still of great support. This initiative is funneled through MYO with some of our needy learners' families also benefitting.



Grade 5 Afternoon Trip.



Rotary 
Club Bad Homburg v.d.H.

The Grade 5 class enjoyed an afternoon trip to the Swakopmund Museum and jetty.

The learners worked in pairs to complete a scavenger hunt at the museum by finding the answers to a number of questions among the different exhibits. The students had a lot of fun as they explored the museum, fascinated by snakes in jars and old dentistry equipment.

Fransina, a Grade 5 student, observed: “We learned so much there. We even saw dolls, a dentist office and some cultural clothes, beads, pots and other things. We saw different rocks, trains, animals and small cars. We learned about the history of the water pump and when it was built. It was so amazing to see all these things.”

After an ice cream break, the class learned more about the history of the Swakopmund jetty and then proceeded along the beach. For many students, it was their first visit to the jetty. After nervously making their way to the end, they triumphantly took in the views of the ocean, desert and our beautiful town. They arrived back at MYO with happy hearts after a fun and educational afternoon.

How fortunate we are that all our tours are sponsored by the Rotary Club Bad Homburg v.d.H. and how thankful we are. The delighted faces of our learners and the joy in their eyes, showed how much that sponsoring was appreciated.





Get to know my culture.

As part of the Life Skills Class, teacher Fulvia Maketo organized a day for our Grade 6 students to share their culture with fellow classmates. Each group held a presentation about their tribe, their history and cultural specifics, showed off their traditional clothing; and they brought along home-made delicious food. It was a wonderful and colorful experience, where students shared not only their cultural heritage, but also curiosity, dance and laughter.







Glorische.

MYO was visited by Glorsche Davids, one of our alumni. Glorsche has been accepted at the Unam Medical Faculty and we are delighted for her. Glorsche has always been an outstanding student and is a credit to all the teachers who showed her the way forward through her school years, MYO teachers included.

Glorische addressed our learners at assembly and told them what her keys to success were. They are summed up perfectly in the following quote: "Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." (Pele)

When Glorsche ended her motivational talk, the learners burst out into spontaneous applause. It was a good moment for all at MYO. We wish her great success.

Thank you, Matt and Wendy!



Our two Australian friends have helped and supported us in many ways. Greatly appreciated.



How can you help?



Dear MYO Supporter:

Please would you sponsor a learner through MYO?

It is such a worthy act, to contribute towards the good education of another person who cannot fend for himself. We are so privileged in our lifestyles, so comfortable and so well set up, that really, it does not cost us much to reach out and do a good thing.

We have never needed to ask before this, as we had a good sponsor, but our sponsor has fallen on hard times and closed down. Difficult as that is for us, we appreciate and thank them sincerely for the good years.

This newsletter of ours goes out to supporters in Germany, America, Australia and Africa. It is not a difficult decision, really. You know our integrity, you know our work, and you understand the cause. Please, simply go to your computer and donate for the education of one child.

If/When you do so, please contact MYO and let us know so that we can keep good records. (myotrust@iway.na)

At MYO, we are very proud of our financial efficiency.

We spend approximately 97% of every dollar donated on goods and services that directly serve our core mission of educating students. We educate 120 learners at one time, and MYO's running costs, are approximately N\$1,6 million per annum despite our best cost cutting efforts.

We have been fortunate in recent years to have strong local support for our funding needs. But due to the current economic conditions in Namibia, we now find we need to seek funding from our international supporters.

You can sponsor an MYO learner for the cost of:

N\$ 14500/year (N\$1208/month)

USD \$1006/year (\$84/month)

Euro €840/year (€70/month)

Learner sponsorships can be paid annually or in monthly instalments, and of course you are free to choose a donation amount that suits your budget.

On-line donations via credit card can be made at:
<http://mondesayouth.org/how-you-canhelp/donations/>

Donations can also be made via PayPal or direct bank transfer at:

Mondesa Youth Opportunities Trust

Standard Bank Namibia

Branch Code Number: 082-172

Account Number: 240206363

Swift Code: SBNMNX



MYO receives many visitors and they are always welcome. They see first-hand what it is we do, and they understand, far better than any brochure can explain, our work and energy. They see MYO 'alive and vibrant' and they are able to speak to, and share with, our learners. Many of them make donations: sometimes money, sometimes school items, sporting goods, and so on.

To all – thank you for your interest, thank you for your support and thank you for your input. It is all valued and appreciated.

Thank you to all our visitors and donors!



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