

There is colour in the silence...



The CLaSH calendar for 2010 has received more praise than any of its predecessors and sells rapidly. Helge Denker, photographer, designer and creative brain behind the calendars of the last nine years has once again outdone himself leaving a particularly beautiful edition as his legacy. Sadly he had to announce that this would be his last work for CLaSH as he needed to concentrate on his many other commitments. We are grateful, proud and very glad to have had his artistic input over so many years. His work has

shaped the way that CLaSH is perceived in many aspects and we shall treasure all that he has left behind.

Merry Christmas

Writing this newsletter I once again realized how grateful we need be for all the support, good-will and encouragement that we receive. We can never do justice, never mention all the individuals and corporates, who lend their helping hand.

At the Dinner in Silence we received pledges and donations from Standard Bank, Namib Mills, the MVA... individuals signed up for stop orders to contribute to CLaSH's work on a monthly basis... IJG set up an account for us... Bank Windhoek made us one of the beneficiaries of their Golf Day in aid of charity... we signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Health and Social Services and we enjoy an excellent cooperation with our colleagues and partners in the field of language, speech and hearing.



The sign for Christmas - Father Christmas carrying his bag

We found new partners and indeed friends when starting to outsource some of the functions and procedures that need to take place in our organization... To all of you

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

*CLaSH invites contributions, donations from members and friends.
Account details are: Standard Bank Namibia, Ausspannplatz Branch,
Account # 04 153 5588*

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INSIDE: Anniversary Dinner • Outsourcing services • Annelis' Farewell • Strategic Planning • New members of staff • Merry Christmas • and more!!!

From the Editor's Desk

A quiet afternoon at the office, almost at the end of the year, allows me to reflect on the past twelve months, which - I think - must have been the busiest, fullest and most exciting ones in the 20-year history of CLaSH. At our strategic planning meeting last Saturday, one of the Board Members stated: "I was completely surprised by the magnitude and magnificence of the anniversary event. I never thought CLaSH had it in it to stage something of that calibre."

Indeed, the CLaSH anniversary turned out to be an outstanding event that deeply touched the hearts and souls of people present.

We are grateful for the support of event managers, fundraisers, donors, volunteers and guest speakers, who helped making the Dinner in Silence an unforgettable, great and wonderful experience!

The annual planning meeting took place in the beautiful setting of the Goheganas Game Reserve. All staff and - with one exception - also all the Board members contemplated strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats as well as the way ahead in an intense and focused discussion.

As one year ends, a new one is already waiting - full of challenges, hopes and expectations. May 2010 become a very special year for you that sees your spirits soar and your enthusiasm give you wings!



After three years we had to say good-bye to our Interteam volunteer Annelis. Her mature and experienced input, her hearty laugh and the Swiss cheese and chocolate will be sorely missed, not only at the Unit but also in the office.

The Association for Children with Language, Speech and Hearing Impairments of Namibia

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Music for the Deaf

Mr **Udo Kaiser**, a multi-talented singer, actor and music therapist from Germany paid two memorable visits to the CLaSH unit during his holiday in Namibia. Freshly retired from his many engagements in Germany, he had decided to visit his niece in Windhoek, who then made a variety of plans to keep him entertained and busy. We first arranged a short workshop with our caregivers where he introduced the vibrations of sound as sensations that even Deaf persons can perceive. It was amazing, actually overwhelming to watch the reactions of our Deaf caregivers, when he made them close their eyes and only feel the vibrations of a sound bar with their naked feet. Owing to the personal interest and social responsibility of DB Audio we also had access to their high power speakers, which literally made our stomachs jump and Rakkel and Adelheid dance - in total synchronicity with the rhythm!



For the session with the unit children we went one step further and hired a training room at the National Theatre of Namibia to have the benefit of a wooden spring floor.

The children enjoyed this experience tremendously and reacted so positively that we decided to follow up on sound and music with the assistance of Inga, our new Weltwärts volunteer. Based on the advice of Udo Kaiser and with a financial contribution from the German Development Service (DED) we ordered two additional music instruments - a rotary tympani and a big, free standing cymbal. It will be exciting to observe how this experience enhances the children's differentiated reactions.

And more music...

The Gospel Choir **Voices** from Oldenburg in Germany went on a Jubilee Tour to Namibia. That obviously had to do with the fact that their conductor Niels Erlank was born in Swakopmund and often returns to the coast on occasion of the traditional annual Music Week. Voices decided to select CLaSH as the beneficiary of their concerts in Germany, Swakopmund and Windhoek, and we were totally overwhelmed by their humanity, generosity, genuine interest and wonderful music!

In Swakopmund they sang together with the Mascato Coastal Youth Choir and in Windhoek they teamed up with the Maranatha Singers. Both concerts were very well attended and received standing ovations from an enthusiastic audience.

Heide had met the Voices members on their first evening to give a short presentation on CLaSH's work and aspirations, and she met them again on their very last morning to receive a cheque over N\$ 25.000 plus countless pieces of clothing, suntan lotion, shoes and other wonderful "stuff". Thank you, Voices!

Training and Practice

Some of you might remember **Norma Corkish**, who had come as BESO (British Executive Services Overseas) volunteer several years ago to assist CLaSH with fundraising proposals and organisational development. She always stayed in touch and earlier this year decided to return to Namibia for 4 weeks at her own expense to assist CLaSH once more with her wealth of experience, her rational mind and her genuinely kind heart. We are glad that Norma, who really worked very long hours every day, had a chance to see the JOMI shows and attend the anniversary dinner, such milestones in the history of CLaSH.

Quite out of the blue we received an e-mail one day from a German teacher specialised in supporting hearing impaired children in mainstream classes. She was going for a sabbatical and apart from travelling all over the world she offered to assist CLaSH with some hands-on training while being in Namibia. **Haidi Sandmann** and Annelis together visited several of the schools and kindergartens where CLaSH assists hearing impaired learners. They organised an afternoon workshop for mainstream teachers, they expanded the draft manual for teachers of hard-of-hearing children in regular schools, they discussed what is and isn't possible within the Namibian context and they shared a lot of practical skills with each other and with Juanita, the principal teacher at the Unit. Ear care, hygiene and maintenance of moulds and hearing aids were practised on a daily basis until Juanita felt confident with the procedures.



Hearing Aids

The articles and adverts in the German magazine for acousticians, which are regularly requested from us by one of its very energetic and motivated journalists, have resulted in the most fantastic responses. A specific chain of hearing aid suppliers encouraged all their branches to participate in a campaign "old versus new" that collected a whole box of slightly outdated (in terms of the European market) but fully functioning hearing aids that was then sent to Namibia.

Parents of hearing impaired children, who either received a cochlear implant or more sophisticated hearing aids contacted us directly to send their children's old aids, often with particularly bright colours. Acousticians with a sense of adventure enquire how they could be of assistance and one young couple of acousticians even decided to hold a donation for CLaSH at their wedding! We are deeply touched and very grateful.