



CLaSH Newsletter

2021 Issue 100



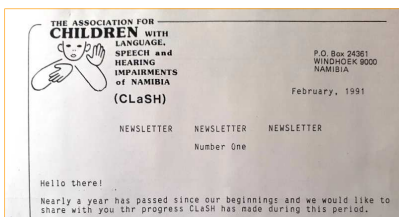
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- Sorting, recording and discarding • Parents' meetings in the North

From the Director's Desk

This newsletter is **no 100** that CLaSH has sent out over the years - isn't that amazing?

It speaks for our diligence to keep members, donors, friends and partners informed and up-to-date with developments, events and many happy but sometimes also sad moments. Of course we hope that content has always been enriching and worthwhile. When we later added pictures, known to speak more than a thousand words, they certainly helped to illustrate, not least for our readers in Germany, the UK, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada, the United States and Australia...



And the future ...? This holds a lot more work in store for us. But we need help to reach out to those people who need us. We have been asked to give talks at schools, arrange the screening of children's hearing in creches and schools, advise parents what to do in the absence of the correct schools and therapists. And we are just a few Voluntary Workers. We ask any of you who could assist us in any way to come forward and join us. We need your guidance too in directing us to what you feel the need is, out there.

We look forward to hearing from you ...

Sincerely
Linda Franklin
 LINDA FRANKLIN THORN
 CHAIRLADY



For very many of the past weeks I have been going through our archives, clearing file after file, shelf after shelf, reading, recording, shredding, discarding, remembering... At times it is quite overwhelming to realise what has been done and achieved throughout the 32 years since CLaSH was started. Until 2015 we have recorded 658 children that we saw at the office for sessions of speech/language therapy, assessments, hearing aid fittings, auditory training and guidance and referrals where we could not assist. From 1994 to date the Pre-School Unit has prepared 148 deaf children for admission to the Government Schools for the Deaf.

The office had 21 employees over the years, the Unit 17. We have been assisted by 22 volunteers, most of them professional experts assigned through VSO (Voluntary Services Overseas) but also 4 "weltwärts" volunteers, young Germans wanting to spend a useful gap year after finishing school. In addition, CLaSH facilitated countless short-term internships benefiting in return from the students' enthusiasm and energy.



I am not done counting the participants of our training activities and hearing screenings in the regions. Those numbers will easily reach the thousands. As I continue my walk down memory lane, I fondly remember all the people, who have been (and still are) connected to CLaSH - as Board Members, colleagues, donors, beneficiaries. Right now we are preparing to enrol another little girl at the Early Intervention Centre. She is the daughter of Loretha, who was among the very first children we had the privilege to meet in 1993 and later teach at the CLaSH Unit in Katutura.

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A bigger kitchen



During the Corona-induced lock-downs and school closures we needed to make plans to ensure not only social distance but also extra hygiene and cleanliness. We realised that the washing machine that is standing in the office does not fit anywhere in the new building. An unexpected contribution from the ELMA Foundation to assist the implementation of preventative and mitigating measures last year allowed us to discuss a possible extension to the classrooms with the architect. With consent from the Regional Office a small addition to the blue class room has been built in July and August that is now nearing completion. It will host a bigger kitchen with much more storing space while the previous kitchen will become our laundry room. The “old” shelves and cupboards can help storing papers and materials for arts and craft but also the instruments for rhythm and music. We are very excited to explore all the options that will soon be available.



From the Early Intervention Centre



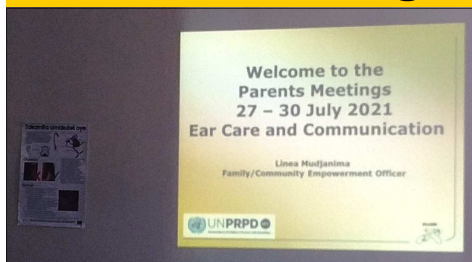
Teachers returned on 2 August and the children came on 4 August, everybody very happy that the lonely days at home were over. With construction work going on right next door it seemed appropriate to choose the topic “my home” to start with after the break. As contrast the teachers then selected “reptiles”, i.e. “the Nile crocodile” as the next topic. Since we have the most intriguing books, pictures and toys it was not difficult to get the children’s full attention. The information book, the matching and classified cards we had made ourselves two years ago when tackling the topic for the first time.



Ms Anna Shilongo, Communication Expert for UNICEF and Mr Sem Shino, PRO for MoEAC learned the sign for crocodile when they visited the Early Intervention Centre this week preparing for articles and video recordings for the upcoming Deaf Awareness Week later in September.



Parents Meetings in the North



Strictly speaking, Linea was on leave during the last week of July, just like her colleagues, who enjoyed a month of winter holidays that was introduced by the Ministry of Education to get over the worst surge of COVID 19 with schools and ECD centres closed. Acutely aware of the need to con-

tinuously raise understanding about the relevance of early childhood development and Deaf Education in Namibia, Linea decided to nevertheless organise a second round of parents' meetings in the North. Supported by a travel permit from the Khomas Regional Directorate, she facilitated two parents' meetings in Ohangwena and one in Omusati and Oshikoto respectively. A total of 50 people attended and 5 potential candidates for the Early Intervention Centre were identified. The interest and active support that we received once again from the Ohangwena Regional Directorate is highly appreciated. We are especially grateful to the UNPRPD project and the Pupkewitz Foundation, whose financial contributions made two rounds of parents' meetings in 2021 possible.

Bits and pieces from Memory Lane

Just to share a few of the sentiments with you that we have received over the years. Of course there is a lot more in a lot more detail but even though it is the 100th newsletter from CLaSH, it shouldn't exceed the usual format... Should readers wish to send their own comments, maybe for the next newsletter, they are more than welcome to do so.

1996 from Ehafo's Jürgen Wahn Centre:

"We would like to thank you for having organised the workshop for our staff and mothers of the disabled children. They really benefited from the training and have expressed an interest for a follow-up."

1996 from a participant in Gobabis:

"This seminar was a revelation! Each new aspect was a highlight. I had forgotten that many of our teachers have not had adequate training, This makes them shy, uncertain about airing their views, Yet you, Heide and Lnda, brought out this potential, in a short space of time. Good work!!"

1997 from Regional School Counsellor, Mr Ndopu in Katima Mulilo:

"There is no doubt that CLaSH has been an active partner regarding establishment of Hearing-Impaired Unit in Katima. From 1994, CLaSH has been active in the region... It is strongly requested that CLaSH should continue to play a very important role in building up the Unit to acceptable standards."

1999 from Lizette Beukes, when she left the Pre-School Unit:

"I have been with CLaSH now for more than 3 years and they have given me a lot during the years. I have been to Johannesburg, Cape Town and the north of Namibia. They have also given me a bursary to qualify myself further in the field of Hearing Impairment..."

I would like to ask of CLaSH two things:

1. Don't ever think what you do is in vain, always remember that a big rain always starts with a small cloud.
2. Do to the next person what you did to me (invest in him/her)."

2000 from Stanley Similo, Manager: Television Domestic Programmes NBC:

"After having seen the success of last night's Talk of the Nation, it is my position to ask whether your organisation will be willing to provide us with a permanent Sign Language professional for the programme."

Donors, supporters and friends - thank you!



Thank you for all the individual donations!

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