



Providing care and support to needy children
and their families since 2003

BEAUTIFUL 20 KIDZ NAMIBIA 23 REPORT





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On a Wednesday evening, October 20th, the board convened, the air tingling with a mix of anticipation and concern. The 20th-anniversary celebration loomed just a few days away, casting a shadow of both excitement and apprehension.

Our focus was fixed on the financial synopsis detailing this year's income—a sombre yet necessary discussion. The numbers lay before us, stark and concerning. With furrowed brows and solemn deliberation, we poured over the figures, dissecting each detail with a shared sense of responsibility. The truth was undeniable: this year had posed its challenges, presenting a recurrent shortfall in our income. In response, we were compelled to take decisive actions. Like prudent stewards, we tightened our belts, slicing away expenses where possible. Programmes, once vibrant and expansive, were reluctantly scaled down or, in some cases, minimised altogether.

Desperate times called for innovative measures. We turned our gaze toward Anusa's profitability, discussing and planning how to optimise its potential. Additionally, our fundseeking endeavours extended to Namibia, where we sought support through a local Namibian fundraiser.

Reflecting on past times of abundance, we remembered investing surplus funds to accrue interest—a prudent strategy that once bolstered our income. However, the current climate necessitated a different approach. The reserves we had diligently accumulated were now being called upon to bridge the widening gap in our financial framework.

Yet, amid these trials and tribulations, our unwavering faith remained our cornerstone. Trusting God for His providence, we sought solace and guidance through prayer. With heads bowed and hearts humbled, we committed to seeking divine wisdom, knowing that provision would come, albeit in unexpected ways. As we adjourned, the weight of the situation lingered in the air. Still, there was an undercurrent of hope—a collective belief that through resilience, resourcefulness, and unwavering faith, Anusa and Beautiful Kidz Namibia would navigate these stormy waters and emerge stronger on the other side.

Brian & Pam Kinghorn
Founders and Directors

20TH ANNIVERSARY

On a bright September day, the air in Katutura was filled with excitement and gratitude as Beautiful Kidz, a haven for many vulnerable children, marked its 20th anniversary. The celebration drew a diverse crowd—donors, friends, devoted staff members, government representatives, community members, and, most importantly, the children whose lives had been touched by the Centre's compassion.

Amidst the jubilation, Brian, one of the founders, took a moment to reflect on the history that brought them to this significant milestone. It all began two decades ago when the HIV/AIDS pandemic cast a dark shadow over Namibia, leaving many children orphaned and vulnerable. Brian and Pam recognised the strain on extended families and grannies who were caring for these kids. They saw a need to ease this burden and embarked on a mission to establish a day care centre. In September 2003, their vision materialised with the opening of the Beautiful Kidz Centre in Katutura. It wasn't merely a shelter; it became a sanctuary where the most needy children found safety, received nourishment with two meals a day, and were educated through preschool training. Beyond academics, the Centre instilled a strong biblical foundation, nurturing the young hearts and minds. As time progressed, Beautiful Kidz introduced various programmes that significantly shaped the lives of these children over the organisation's two-decade existence.

PRESCHOOL KATUTURA

In 2023, the preschool in Katutura had a bustling year filled with 92 energetic children. The teachers were kept quite busy looking after these lively youngsters. As the year drew to a close, it was time for some of the children to move on to new adventures.

**TWENTY LITTLE ONES GRADUATED TO
BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY INTO GRADE 1,**

The 20th anniversary celebration welcomed a special guest speaker, Aukje Brouwer, wife of Toby Brouwer, the founders of Beautiful Gate in South Africa. The Brouwer's wisdom and guidance were a great help during the early years of Beautiful Kidz. Aukje passionately emphasised the immeasurable value and significance of investing in children. The event was not just speeches; it was an opportunity for the children themselves to shine. The Grade 0 preschoolers showcased their talent, singing a beautiful melody and reciting a heartfelt Bible verse.

However, the day's significance transcended mere festivities. One community member shared a poignant story about the building's past life as the "Old Bar" a place that had once cast a negative shadow on the neighbourhood, leading to the destruction of lives. It was a testament to the transformative power of hope and prayer. The community had come together, praying for someone to change the property into an educational haven that would positively impact their children's lives. Their prayers found an answer in Beautiful Kidz, which purchased the property and transformed it into the beacon of hope it is today—a Centre dedicated to serving the community, nurturing children, and fostering a brighter future for all.



while another twenty took a step towards Grade 0. The Grade 0 kids are now set to join government pre-primary schools, but the worry lingered about finding spots in these already crowded institutions for all of them.

Despite the concerns, the Grade 0 class had some memorable moments throughout the year. They enthusiastically participated in Beautiful Kidz's 20-year anniversary celebration, charming everyone with their joyful singing and recitation of Scripture. Their graduation and Christmas party were also highlights that brought smiles and excitement to their young faces.

As the year ended, everyone looked back on the busy, yet rewarding times, hopeful for the bright futures awaiting these young graduates.

YOUTH AND KIDS CLUB

Throughout the year, we encountered a few challenges that tested us. One major hurdle was managing over 180 kids with only three youth staff members. While we had some volunteers from 3 Measures, their availability was limited due to prior commitments. This shortage of hands made things tough.

Surprisingly, the shortage of staff did not weigh heavily on the youth initially. To adapt, we altered the age range from 14 and up to 13-18 years old. However, this decision led to a decline in youth attendance. Numbers dropped from around 50 to as low as 6 or 10 at times. It was disheartening to witness such a drastic decrease. Yet, it taught us an important lesson: it is not about quantity, but about the impact we make on these young minds.

Amidst these challenges, there were successes too. We managed to organise two camps, always a thrilling experience for both kids and youth. The inclusion of 13-year-olds in the youth club boosted our youth count to about 40 again. Moreover, the Kids Club continued growing as the children regularly brought their friends along every Friday. The 3 Measures young adult Bible study group pitched in to assist with the Kidz Club every week, providing invaluable support. Our activities were diverse. In the Kids Club, we delved into Bible stories like David, Joseph, Noah, and Daniel. Alternating between watching movies based on these tales and engaging in teachings or dramas, helped us glean valuable lessons.



For the youth, we followed teachings from the Mini Discipleship book in the first semester. In the latter half of the year, we explored "The Chosen", a series spotlighting Jesus's life and teachings. Additionally, we had sessions on mental health awareness, where Celeste shared valuable insights. Wimpy's visit and his testimony, about overcoming drug abuse through faith, were particularly impactful.





MOBILE PLANATARIUM

During the September mid-term break, a thrilling event unfolded at our Centre, orchestrated by the AMT project in collaboration with the University of Namibia. Their mission? To ignite curiosity and wonder among the schoolchildren and staff by unveiling the mysteries of the universe through a captivating presentation within their mobile planetarium. As the cosmic spectacle unfolded, the young minds were captivated, soaking in the vast knowledge about the stars and their celestial dance. It was a transformative experience, leaving an unforgettable mark on the attendees. Now, with eyes sparkling with newfound fascination, the children gaze skyward, contemplating the stars from a completely different viewpoint, their curiosity provoked, and imaginations ignited by the vastness and secrets of the cosmos.



Education and character building are two of the most important tools for breaking the cycle of poverty.

HOMEWORK CLASSES

In the afternoons, Beautiful Kidz opens its doors to a crowded mix of youngsters: from the sprightly first graders to the more seasoned seventh graders. These are no ordinary after-school hours; they are the haven for those seeking an extra boost in English and Mathematics.

The afternoon's activities are enhanced by a well-stocked library and a dedicated space for homework sessions. Volunteer tutors, like Joshua and Henry, pour their hearts into guiding these eager minds through the mathematical mazes and linguistic landscapes.

At the outset, a throng of one hundred and fifty children flooded in, hungry for knowledge. Alas, the limits of tutors and classrooms compelled a trim down to a hundred children, an adjustment for better focus and attention.

Navigating this sea of youthful energy each day is no small feat. Aligning each child to their rightful class, especially for those grappling with reading, spelling, and numbers, demanded patience and strategy. Nevertheless, the perseverance bore fruits.

Frieda, the head of the homework classes, extended her hours tirelessly, especially for the larger groups. The testimonials from the kids painted a vivid picture of progress and newfound confidence:

TEACHER, HERE IS MY REPORT CARD. I GOT PROMOTED TO MY NEXT GRADE AND I AM COMING BACK NEXT YEAR

TEACHER I CAN SPELL, AND I KNOW MY ALPHABET NOW.

I KNOW HOW TO BE PATIENT AND MOST OF ALL, I KNOW MY MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH.

TEACHER, I DID NOT KNOW HOW TO READ TIME, BUT NOW I CAN HELP EVERYONE THAT STRUGGLES TO READ TIME.

TEACHER, MY BIGGEST FEAR WAS TO BECOME PART OF THE GROUP; I FELT LIKE A LOSER AT A CERTAIN POINT, BUT I SOON FELT THAT I AM PART OF THE GROUP, AND I LEARNED A LOT.

Amidst the challenges lay moments of triumph. Daisy, a diligent second grader, set her academic bar high and persisted. Her teacher's words echoed pride in her dedication.

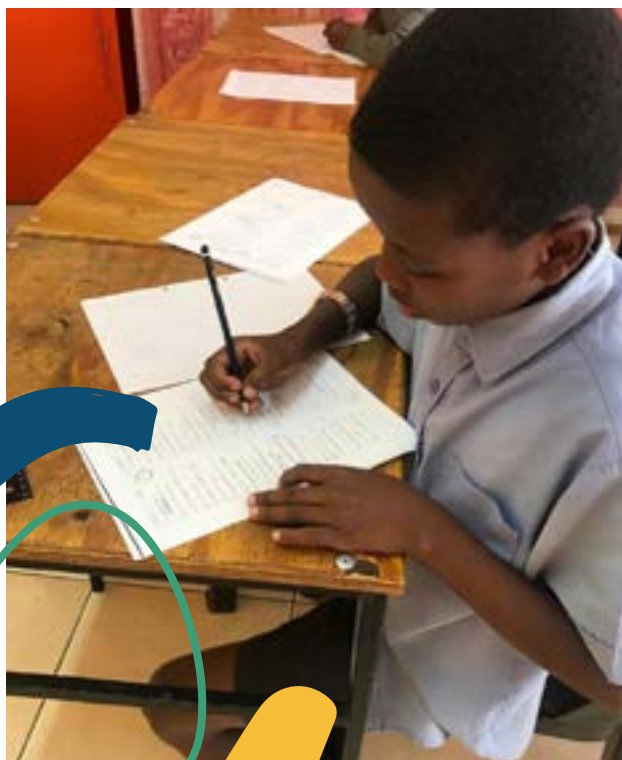
Yet, the juggling act persisted. With one teacher per class, meeting the individual needs of each child, especially the slower learners, remained an uphill task. Nevertheless, the support from parents and the visible improvement in the children's academic strides spoke volumes. In the academic report of a Grade 2 learner, the teacher wrote the following: "Daisy (not her real name) is a very neat and diligent learner. She set a very high standard for herself, and she is determined to keep to it. Well done!"



There were hiccups too; a few mischievous boys needed occasional guidance to stay on track. However, overall the ship sailed smoothly, propelled by the dedication of teachers and the glimmering progress of the kids.

Amidst it all, the most heart-warming notes came from parents, grateful for the care, support, and investment in their children's futures. Excitement rippled through the community as word of the homework classes spread, drawing more eager minds seeking growth and opportunity.

Though the numbers diminished over time, what remained constant was the unwavering commitment of Beautiful Kidz to nurture and uplift these young minds. As report cards shone with achievements and smiles adorned both children and parents, the promise of a brighter future glimmered on the horizon.



YOUNG AND PREGNANT

The second run of the Young and Pregnant programme this year unfolded seamlessly, guided by detailed crafted session plans which were prepared in advance by dedicated facilitators. These plans formed the backbone of the programme, detailed outlining the content, activities and discussions for each session.

The agenda was thoughtfully designed to encompass a wide array of crucial topics, ranging from prenatal care to emotional well-being, spiritual aspects, and practical parenting skills. Anneke, a skilled midwife, brought her expertise to cover the complexities of midwifery, while Celeste focused on the emotional, psychological and spiritual aspects, creating a well-rounded learning environment. Each session had its distinct focus, but was strategically intertwined with previous ones, forming a comprehensive journey into the realms of pregnancy and motherhood. This thoughtful approach aimed to equip young expectant mothers with a holistic understanding of various facets related to their journey.

The session plans were not rigid blueprints, but adaptable frameworks, allowing for spontaneous discussion and addressing the unique circumstances and questions that arose during sessions. The clear outlines and objectives provided a sense of direction and security to participants, helping them know what to expect and fostering an environment where they felt comfortable sharing their experiences and seeking guidance.

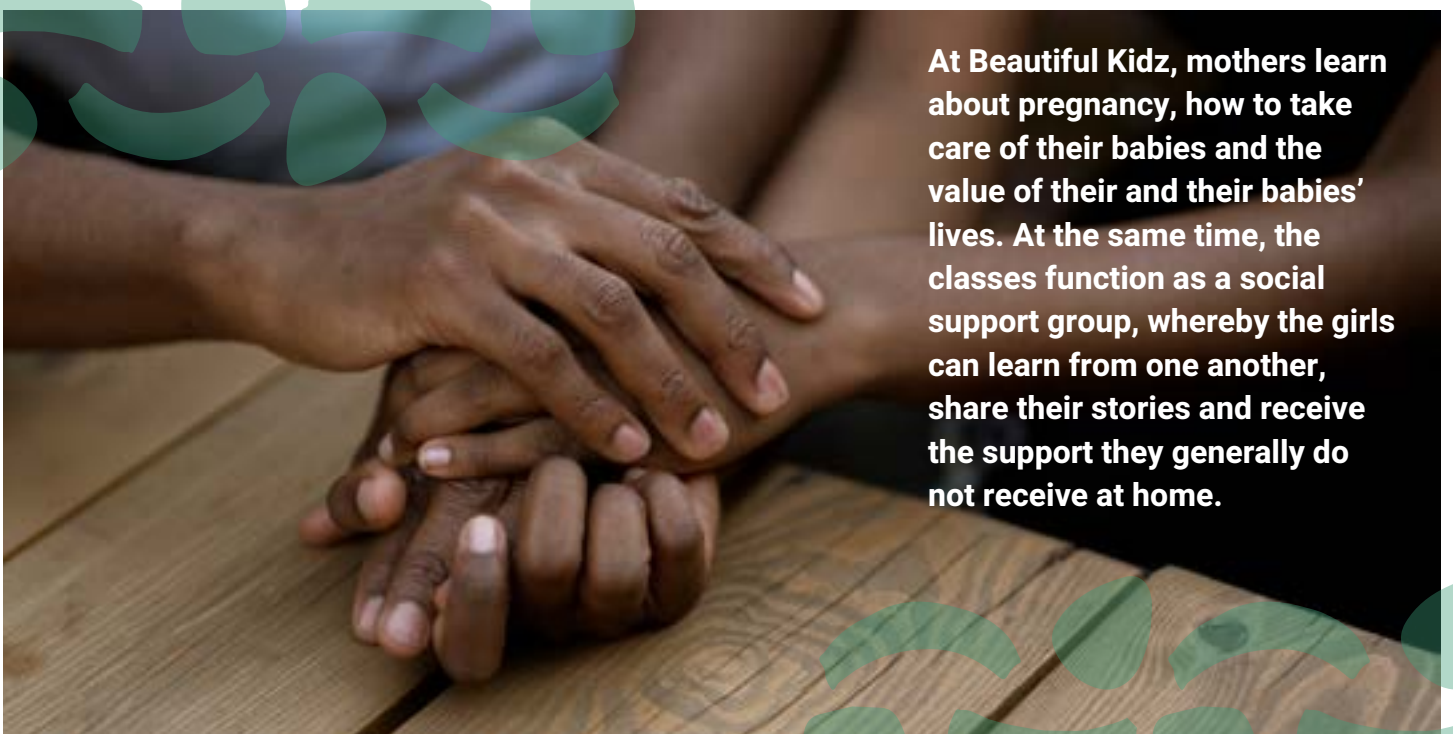
The impact of the programme was overwhelmingly positive, as echoed in the feedback from both facilitators and participants. The systematic delivery of content and the facilitators' ability to adapt to the individual needs of participants were highly appreciated. The flexibility and responsiveness embedded within the pre-made plans contributed significantly to the success of the three-week Young and Pregnant Programme.

An indicator of the programme's success was seen in the gratitude letters penned by the participants at the programme's conclusion. These letters served as heartfelt testimonials, showcasing the knowledge gained and the appreciation for the programme's comprehensive and adaptable approach.





Despite the challenges, it was a successful year. The difficulties we faced compelled us, the youth staff, to grow. They pushed us to place greater trust and reliance on our faith. In hindsight, those challenges were essential for our growth and development.



At Beautiful Kidz, mothers learn about pregnancy, how to take care of their babies and the value of their and their babies' lives. At the same time, the classes function as a social support group, whereby the girls can learn from one another, share their stories and receive the support they generally do not receive at home.



BEAUTIFUL HOMES

The Beautiful Homes group went deep into exploring positive parenting. Frieda, their guide, pushed them to cultivate strong bonds with their children. Below are tales of families involved in the programme.

One dad, Petrus (not his real name), was the only father among 8 mothers attending the course. At 38, he is a father of 4 boys. Petrus and his long-time girlfriend (mother to 3 of his kids), attended together. His life had spiraled after his father's passing, burdened by self-blame and pain, leading him to quit attending church. The parenting programme worked wonders, especially when he learned about trauma healing from the Trauma Healing Network Team. Grateful for his family's many blessings, despite lacking basic amenities (electricity and water), Petrus has felt a renewed devotion to God.

Then there is Susie (not her actual name), 19, daughter of a programme participant. Struggling with low self-esteem, she sought approval from a misguided circle, leading to an early pregnancy. Over time, she realised her mother's guidance only aimed to help her. Beautiful Homes arrived when life seemed off track.

Through teachings, prayers, and support, she found solace. Now valuing prayerful circles over judgmental streets, she embraces forgiveness as her key to healing.

Henriette (not her real name), 55, the programme's eldest, radiates kindness despite numerous home challenges. Married with 5 children, her open-door policy and generosity define her. Beautiful Homes addressed her long-standing questions and she did not want the classes to end. Witnessing the transformative power of God within the group excites her. The programme leader, Frieda, feels immensely proud of this entrusted group. Teaching moments seamlessly connect, resonating deeply with everyone and conveying the intended messages.



THE PRESCHOOL CHILDREN VISIT DAAN VILJOEN GAME RESERVE

We received a special invitation from the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) which got us all excited at Beautiful Kidz. It was about the Khomas Environmental Education Programme, a fantastic initiative under GCF's wing. Their mission? To foster a deep respect for nature, instill a sense of responsibility towards our planet, and empower our future leaders with the knowledge to lead sustainable lives for a better world.

The folks at GCF took care of everything for us. They arranged transportation and even thoughtfully prepared snacks for all the kids. Oh, how the children relished every bite!

Our destination? The Daan Viljoen game reserve, just a skip outside Windhoek. This outing was more than just a day trip; it was an eye-opener for our children. You see, during the long June

holidays, many of our kids head off to different farms across the country, but for some, that is not an option. This excursion provided those who could not travel with an incredible chance to explore Daan Viljoen, learn about giraffes and witness them in their natural habitat.

At Beautiful Kidz, we could not be more thankful for organisations like the Giraffe Conservation Foundation. Their collaboration with us illuminates the lives of our children with such enlightening outings. To GCF, we extend our deepest gratitude for joining hands with us to educate and enrich the lives of our children. Thank you, Giraffe Conservation Foundation, for making this adventure possible!



SOCCER


In Namibia, in the heart of Windhoek, there is a story unfolding on soccer fields that goes beyond the thrill of scoring goals or winning matches. It is about shaping young lives, instilling discipline, and fostering a sense of camaraderie through the beautiful game of soccer.

Meet Peter, a dedicated coach whose passion extends far beyond teaching soccer skills. He is a mentor, a motivator, and a guide for the boys and girls, aged from under 11 to under 17, who come together twice a week, their eyes bright with enthusiasm and their hearts set on the soccer field. For these kids, soccer is not just a game; it is a lifeline—a way to channel their energy positively, especially when options for recreation are scarce.

Peter does not just talk about passing, shooting, or tactics during training sessions. He talks about discipline—both on the field and in their personal lives. He draws inspiration from professional soccer players, emphasising the dedication and

discipline required for success, planting seeds of responsibility that extend beyond the pitch.

Their journey in the Khomas Youth League has been nothing short of inspiring. The under 11 team remains undefeated, a testament to their hard work and determination. Before the pivotal soccer tournament, Peter hustled, reaching out to different shops, seeking donations for soccer gear—balls and shorts—to support the teams. His dedication to their cause went beyond coaching; he became a qualified soccer coach through the NFA Coaching Course, elevating his skills to benefit the teams. Amidst the challenges and fierce competition within the league, our teams have stood tall. They have faced formidable opponents, yet they have emerged showcasing not just their talent, but also their teamwork and sportsmanship. Their exceptional dedication and skill have earned them a spot among the League's final four, a testament to their unwavering commitment.



As the League's final matches approach, the teams remain resolute. Their focus is unwavering, their determination noticeable. There is a belief in their capabilities, a collective anticipation for their continued success on the field. Beyond their stellar performance, the team's organisation and management have been commendable. It is a joint effort, everyone working tirelessly to ensure the team's success.

In the end, it is more than the wins or losses. It is about character-building, about learning to make the right choices both on and off the field. Through soccer, these Namibian youths are discovering the power of discipline, teamwork, and the joy of striving for something greater together.



ANUSA

In January 2023, Anusa burst into action with zeal. As the shop doors swung open, a throng of eager individuals awaited their school uniforms. It was a heartening sight, contributing locally made uniforms to the community. The atmosphere buzzed with social interactions; a tapestry woven with countless conversations. All the hard work poured in the previous year bore fruit, painting smiles on the faces of many parents and children alike.

Capricorn Asset Management stepped up by generously donating school uniforms to several schools. Collaborating with Anusa staff, they embarked on a mission to distribute these uniforms among underprivileged children. Witnessing the joy these donations brought, instilling confidence in these young minds, was truly rewarding. A heartfelt thank you was owed to the Capricorn Group for their invaluable contribution.



Not to be outdone, Old Mutual also made a substantial donation of school uniforms through Anusa, impacting the lives of underprivileged children positively. Gratitude was extended to Old Mutual for their significant difference in these children's lives.

The generosity extended beyond borders as Beautiful Kidz and Anusa received donations from The Netherlands for school uniforms. These contributions were a testament to the kindness of those who contributed, uplifting the well-being of Namibian children and earning heartfelt appreciation.

Meagan Lumley's donation of one hundred Beanie Scarves to the Ovitoto community children was a heart-warming gesture, ensuring warmth for the children during the cold winter days. Anusa's production extended further, crafting small knee blankets for Damara Lodge, adored for their personalised touch.

The blankets crafted by Anusa continued to be a hit. Sponsored by the Round Table's Winter Knights campaign, these blankets were distributed to those deeply affected by the cold winter, warming not just bodies, but also hearts. Groot Aub also received assistance with blankets, reflecting Anusa's commitment to making a difference.



A corporate partnership with Alexander Forbes resulted in the creation of 110 fleece blankets, each meticulously crafted and embroidered with the company logo. Anusa, born as a community project of Beautiful Kidz, aims to empower local women with skills, and is now able to produce thoughtful corporate gifts.

A.I. Steenkamp School sought tracksuits for their teachers and learners for a sporting event, even commissioning cheerleader outfits. The excitement among the squad upon receiving their outfits was palpable, contributing to the vibrancy of these events. Further afield, Schlip, a rural school in the south, also ordered tracksuits, showcasing Anusa's impact beyond urban boundaries.

Participation in the inaugural Windhoek Spring Picnic festival for the cause #endperiodpoverty was a highlight. Hosted by Jens Events, the day not only raised awareness, but also garnered donations for reusable pads, promising continued involvement in the future.

In a heartfelt message, the Anusa team extended gratitude to every supporter, pledging to continue their collaborative efforts, aiming to be a beacon of positivity in the community for years to come.

OVITOTO PRESCHOOL

At Beautiful Kidz preschool, our pride is the solid intellectual foundation that we lay for children who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

This year, during our "Safety" theme, we focused on teaching children various safety measures. For the sub-theme of "Road Safety", we invited the traffic officers to come and do road safety demonstrations. This included how to correctly cross the road, reading traffic lights and zebra crossing. Since our village doesn't really have a zebra crossing, the officers improvised. What stood out for the traffic officers was how informed the children were on the various rules of the road and the meaning of the traffic signs. Our children knew that oncoming vehicles had to stop at the zebra crossing so that pedestrians (schoolchildren) should pass, and only then could the vehicle proceed. The police asked us to invite them again next year. It was also an interesting excursion for the children, even though it was just across the road.

This year we really struggled with child neglect in the surrounding communities. Either parents would just go and drink alcohol, travel to Windhoek, or just leave the children unattended for days on end. We would notice this by the way children would come unkempt to school. Children would complain about not wanting to go home after school because there is no food at home, and even if there was food, then there would be no adult to cook the food, because its only children at home – the oldest being nine years old.

One incident was when one of our Ovazemba children and their family were evicted their employer, with no notice, in the middle of winter. We observed at school how the child's work started going backwards. When the teacher spoke to the mother, we were told that the employer just let the family go with no notice or pay. Thank God for a Good Samaritan neighbour, who at took the family in, even though he himself doesn't have a lot to offer. Foodwise, the Beautiful Kidz Community department gave them weekly food packages which helped to sustain them in a time of distress and uncertainty. Besides teaching, feeding, and washing children, we have realised that the work that we do encompasses holistic support to needy children, their families and the broader community.



In early childhood work, we time and again see the importance of laying not just a strong foundation, but a correct and solid foundation. We receive so many children with various developmental challenges. Some kids come with delayed development in large motor skills, i.e., cannot run or hop or skip as they ought to at a certain age.

"Susie" has been a child that we were very certain had some sort of developmental challenge. Her milestones were just not adding up to that of a three-year-old. During the first three months she was a fulltime prayer point. She couldn't hold a spoon or crayon correctly, no clear words came out and even her mother tongue was nonexistent. Then after the mid-term break, she came back as a whole new child. The first thing we noticed was in the morning devotion she would sing the songs out loud, especially the national anthem. Then it was how her crayon control came together in her colouring work. She recited rhymes and memory verses, as if a light was switched on in her brain. She stood out in her basic class work and her relationships with her peers, where she before, would just cry and sit alone, now she is playing with the others, helping to calm crying children down and hence she became an overall performer in her class.

“Leonie” is a 5-year-old student who proved that three consecutive preschool years laid a concrete intellectual foundation any child needs for formal school. We were particularly surprised when her mother called one weekend to say that Leonie was helping a Grade 1 child with homework, where she showed this Grade 1 child an addition method she had learned at “kinda” (kindergarten). This was surprising, as we only do addition such as $9 + 1 = 10$, and the homework was $12 + 12 = ?$ It was quite a big deal at that house for a while. Leonie is also one of our top achievers who can reason independently. Furthermore, 80% of children in Grades 1-3, who graduated from Beautiful Kidz Ovitoto preschool, received diplomas in subjects like Mathematics, Otjiherero, Reading and Environmental Studies. All the lower primary overall performers at K.J.

Kapeua combined school were from our preschool. One of the parents said: “Beautiful Kidz staff can just come and run this school for our children.”



COMMUNNITY REPORT

In Namibia, the state of the nation is characterised by a complex web of challenges and government initiatives aimed at supporting its people. With over half a million Namibians relying on social grants, the government’s programmes aim to provide a safety net for the most vulnerable. Among those supported are 202 294 pensioners, 356 756 orphans and vulnerable children and 50 927 Namibians receiving disability grants. Additionally, a substantial 461 829 school children benefit from feeding programmes, ensuring access to meals crucial for their growth and education. However, the nation grapples with severe food insecurity, a pressing concern affecting hundreds of thousands. Between July and September 2023, approximately 579 000 people faced this crisis and projections indicate a further rise to 695 000 from October 2023 to March 2024. This alarming trend highlights the urgency for sustained intervention.

Malnutrition remains a critical issue, especially among children under the age of 5. In 2022, over 6700 children were admitted to hospitals due to severe acute malnutrition. From January to June 2023, the Omaheke Region alone recorded 132 such cases, emphasising the persistent nature of this challenge.

The staggering statistics reflect a broader issue of poverty and insecurity, with 43 % of the population experiencing multidimensional poverty. Furthermore, Namibia stands as the second most unequal country

globally, a sobering reality demanding focused attention and systemic changes. These insights, drawn from data provided by UN agencies and the Namibian government, underscore the complexity of the nation’s socio-economic landscape. While social grants and government programmes offer vital support, there remains an urgent need for comprehensive strategies to address food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty, and inequality across Namibia.

Scan the QR code to see the newspaper article on this topic:



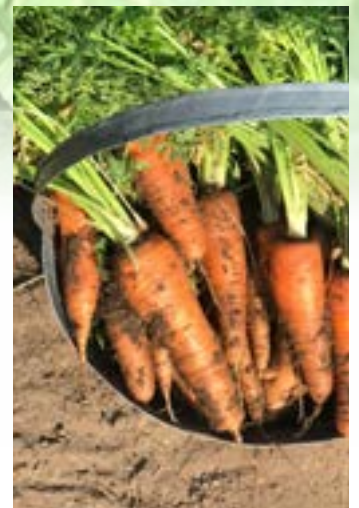
Sarah and her team faced the harsh reality of their Ovitoto community's hunger every day. With a heavy heart, she shared the struggle they endured trying to meet the growing needs. Each month, they could only afford five 50-kilogram bags of maize meal—a drop in the ocean compared to the hunger gripping the area. People travelled immense distances, walking up to 30 kilometres, just to receive an inadequate 2.5 kilograms of maize meal and a bit of sugar. In the past, Sarah used to stretch their aid to include tins of fish, but now, with funds shrinking and the demand towering over their resources, they had to narrow their focus to maize meal and sugar alone. Despite their relentless efforts, there came a point when they ran out of food parcels before the month ended. The anguish of turning away hungry souls, who had trekked for kilometres, weighed heavily on Sarah and her team. It is a pain many can empathise with—sending people off with empty hands while your heart aches and tears well up in your eyes.

The community's needs remained staggering, but Sarah found solace and gratitude in the generosity of those who donated money to support their cause. In the initial five months of the year, they managed to provide sustenance to many needy families, albeit not nearly enough. Their aid efforts were outlined in the numbers: in January, 191 households received maize meal, followed by 214 households in February, 112 in March, and 121 in April. May saw 210 households receiving support, but even with their dedication, some community programmes had to be temporarily halted due to financial constraints.

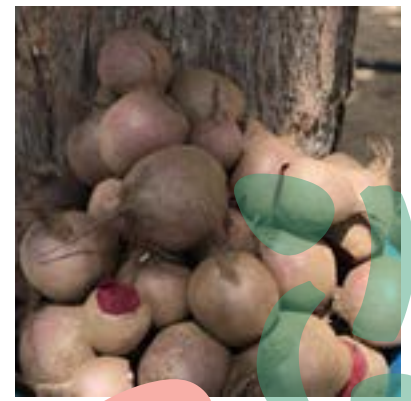
The struggle was real, and while their efforts helped many, the yawning gap between what they could provide and the actual need loomed large, leaving Sarah and her team in a constant battle against the poverty and hunger gripping their community.

VEGETABLE GARDENS

At the start of the year, we were blessed with plenty of rain. It poured down and helped our vegetable gardens grow beautifully. We grew cucumbers, pumpkins, tomatoes, carrots, beetroot, and more. It was amazing! We used these fresh veggies to feed the children at the preschool. Many of these children are not fed vegetables at home, so it was extra special.



We also shared some of our harvest with families who really needed help. The garden did not need much extra watering because of all the rain. Even during winter, we were able to grow onions, peas, broad beans, and cabbage. Jakob, our gardener, planted seeds for the summer crops with high hopes. However, things took a tough turn in October. The rain that usually comes in early summer did not arrive. Our water sources started drying up, and eventually, we did not have enough water for the garden. Imagine how heart-breaking it was for Jakob, who had seen such success the season before. Now, we must wait for the summer rains, which are usually from January to March, to start all over again. We are also working on a long-term solution: if we can obtain 10 000-litre water tanks, we can collect rainwater from our buildings' roofs. This would solve our water problem and ensure our garden can thrive throughout the whole year, no matter what the weather brings.



SOUP KITCHEN

As the festive season started, we noticed something important: many of our children needed more food than usual because there was not enough at their homes. For us, the staff, it was not just about providing food; it was about spreading warmth and kindness that touched everyone involved.

Every week, without fail, the caring team at Beautiful Kidz Ovitoto made sure something special was ready for the children. It was not simply about filling hungry stomachs; it was about crafting moments that really mattered. The team would gather early in the morning, way before the sun made everything scorching hot. They would set up a big pot on crackling fires, and soon, a wonderful smell would mix with the fresh morning air.

This inviting scent spread hope throughout the community, promising a satisfying meal for many. With love as their secret ingredient, the pots simmered and bubbled, cooking up nourishment that was more than just food. By lunchtime, the magic was done. The kids, excited and eager, would rush over with their bowls. You could see the anticipation lighting up their faces. Laughter filled the air as they lined up, ready to enjoy the wholesome meal made especially for them.

Despite the challenges and joys that each festive season brought, Beautiful Kidz Ovitoto stayed committed, their dedication unwavering. It showed their belief that even the smallest acts of kindness could create something incredibly beautiful for an entire community.



WATER CRISIS

In late September, our community faced an unexpected challenge—a water shortage. It all began with the borehole pipes, weathered and worn with time, developing rusty patches that hindered the water flow. Gradually, as the days passed, the water level started plummeting, causing the pipes to fail in reaching the remaining water. As October unfolded, the situation escalated, and eventually, the pumps ceased working altogether.

This water crisis hit our community hard, affecting even the most basic aspects of our daily lives. The reliance on manually pumping water from the borehole with a hand pump became our new norm, until even that broke down, compounding the predicament.

The repercussions extended to our Ovitoto Centre and preschool, altering its operations in an unfortunate way. With the limited water access, we could only accommodate the children at school until 10:00 a.m.

OKAMUINA PRESCHOOL

The Okamuina Story

The principal of the Okamuina preschool, after attending a basic teacher training course with Beautiful Kidz, returned to her community filled with newfound inspiration. Eager to make a difference, Stella decided to establish a preschool in a modest tin shack. Word of her initiative spread, and soon, she approached our principal at Okandjira, Sarah. Stella expressed interest in partnering with Beautiful Kidz Ovitoto. Excited about the prospect of collaboration, we began building a relationship with the principal of Okamuina.

Over several months, Sarah made regular visits to the Okamuina preschool, extending support by providing much-needed materials. Understanding the scarcity of resources, she was keen to lend a helping hand wherever possible. To formalise their partnership, a contract was necessary. This contract required the approval and signatures of several key individuals: the principal, the councilor, and the headman of the community. It was a significant step toward solidifying the collaboration between Beautiful Kidz Ovitoto and the preschool in Okamuina.

In the original building, a corrugated iron shack, teacher Stella had 27 preschool children in extreme heat and cold. There was one tree on the left side of the shack with very little shade. Food was cooked by a volunteer granny from the community on an open fire, without proper shade.

This restriction meant we could provide them with only one meal a day. It weighed heavily on us, feeling powerless in being able to provide fully for these young ones. Moreover, the scarcity of water posed a significant challenge for our garden. Restricted solely to using kitchen water, the resources for nurturing our crops became severely limited. Hope and prayers were pinned on divine intervention, as we yearned for the blessing of spring rains that could potentially grant us a bountiful harvest of veggies by early January—a lifeline for resuming our school year.

In the face of this adversity, the community remained resilient, leaning on faith and optimism, eagerly anticipating the much-needed rainfall that could alleviate the water crisis and bring relief to our intertwined struggles.



The container school

Our pursuit to uplift education also materialised during 2017 in the construction of container classrooms. These structures aimed to enhance the learning environment, offering students a conducive space for education. The newly erected container classrooms were much appreciated by the students, enhancing their sense of pride and self-worth.



Addressing Challenges and Improving Education in Okamuina Village

In the heart of Namibia's education system lies a poignant issue—teacher absenteeism. This prevalent problem adversely affects the quality of education in Namibia, leading to the academic struggle of students. In our endeavours to rectify this issue and improve the learning environment, we encountered several challenges and initiated various strategies to uplift education in Okamuina Village.

In conclusion, while grappling with challenges like teacher absenteeism and familial complexities impacting children, our efforts to improve education in Okamuina Village remain steadfast. Through innovative solutions like the container classrooms and a commitment to addressing educational gaps, we aim to nurture a conducive learning environment that fosters the growth and development of every child in the community.



**We aim to show
our kids that there
is a different life
out there through
education**

MISSION

Beautiful Kidz provides emotional, spiritual, physical and educational care to children in need and their families.

VISION

Providing care and support to needy children and their families.

THANK YOU

At Beautiful Kidz Ovitoto, we stand humbled and overflowing with gratitude as we reflect on the incredible blessings showered upon us by the Lord. His unwavering love, boundless compassion and abundant provision have been our guiding lights throughout our journey.

The staff and community join hands in heartfelt appreciation for the privilege bestowed upon us to serve under His grace. It is through His grace that we have been empowered to extend our love to a community often forgotten, nurturing hope where it is needed most. The Lord's provision has surpassed our expectations, showing us that His ways are beyond measure and always timely. Brian and Pam's unwavering dedication deserves special mention. In times of uncertainty, their relentless efforts to sustain Beautiful Kidz have been a beacon of inspiration. Their visits, filled with encouragement, serve as reminders of the importance of our mission.

Our gratitude also extends to the Board of Directors, both local and international, whose unwavering support and advocacy have illuminated our cause. After the challenges posed by Covid-19, their commitment to keeping our flame burning bright has been invaluable. May the Lord's blessings continue to abound as we embrace the call He has entrusted us with, bringing hope and love to those we serve.

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