



**Welfare Organisation Registered with the Ministry of Health and Social Services
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Today the International Women's Association Namibia (IWAN) will officially recognize the amazing dedication of Regina Kondombolo by awarding the Hephata Centre a plaque commemorating its 2012 Annual Achievement Award. Ms. Kondombolo has spent the past 25 years caring for mentally impaired patients. She asked that IWAN's Achievement Award, valued at N\$2,000, be used to repaint the house in the Wanaheda section of Katutura that serves as the centre's home for herself and 10 patients. Thanks in part to a kind donation by Discount Paints of Windhoek, IWAN was able to purchase enough supplies to repaint the interior and exterior of the Hephata Centre. A group of volunteers from the U.S. embassy in Windhoek and from IWAN took part in a work day on March 31, 2012 to give the Hephata Centre a fresh coat of paint.

An IWAN member, Mrs. Karin Stonehouse, first brought the Hephata Centre to the group's attention after reading about Ms. Kondombolo in an article in *The Namibian* earlier this year. A registered nurse, Ms. Kondombolo worked previously in the psychiatric ward of the State Hospital. After a back injury, she began providing day-care services for mentally disabled patients but soon found that some families had difficulty coping with their loved ones, and more and more of the patients were staying over with Ms. Kondombolo. Mrs. Stonehouse, also a registered nurse, recognized how much effort it takes for Ms. Kondombolo and her helpers to supervise and care for the daily needs of 10 mentally impaired patients. This moved Mrs. Stonehouse to nominate the Centre for the Achievement Award.

IWAN is pleased to recognize the Hephata Centre and the work of Ms. Kondombolo. Dedicated individuals such as Regina Kondombolo provide an example of how to reach true success in life: serving some of the neediest individuals in our community.

About IWAN

The International Women's Association Namibia (IWAN) is a social organization for women living in Namibia, predominantly in the capital, Windhoek. IWAN is a non-profit, non-religious, apolitical association and women of all nationalities are eligible to join. Its aim is to offer support to newcomers to Namibia, to provide assistance to members, and to help various charitable groups in whatever way they are able. They meet at 10am on most Tuesday mornings, at either a member's home or at one of the many interesting venues in and around Windhoek. More information about IWAN is available at www.iwan.com.na or contact Rachel Schmidt, IWAN's press representative at PressRep@iwan.com.na.