



**Welfare Organisation Registered with the Ministry of Health and Social Services
Registration Number WO 372**

For immediate release

After-school Resource Centre celebrates start of 5th anniversary on Valentine's Day



It was a festive moment as learners who participate in the Resource Centre, an after-school program held at Jacob Marengo Secondary School in Katutura, let red balloons fly into the air on the 14th of February, Valentine's Day. Each balloon was tied with the name tag of the learner. As the cloud of red balloons rose into the air, the Resource Centre kicked off its 5th anniversary celebration. If you find a name tag please send a reply back to the e-mail address on the card.

Learners, parents, and volunteers with the Resource Centre also celebrated the official start of the program's construction of a new facility. Representatives of the Namibian Women's Association (NAWA), Mrs. Otilie Abrahams, and the International Women's Association Namibia (IWAN), Mrs. Anne Daugherty, were on hand for the handover of the first stone of the new building, and two learners cut the first sod at the plot on Mungunda Street. Construction of a dedicated classroom on land adjacent to Jacob Marengo Secondary School is being funded through the generosity of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.



The Resource Centre provides early childhood development, support of primary education, and guidance in life skills for children between the ages of 4 and 14. The Centre was started in 2008 by NAWA and now is a cooperative project of NAWA, IWAN, Jacob Marengo Secondary School, SCORE (an international nonprofit organization specializing in community development through recreation and sport), the Children's Movement Groups of Jan Möhr Secondary School and the Windhoek International School, the Katutura Community Arts Centre, and the parents' committee of the Resource Centre. Each organisation comes at least once a week and assists the children with homework, maths, reading, drama, sports, art, and gardening.

Looking toward the future, NAWA and IWAN hope to expand the number of children who can attend the Resource Centre by constructing additional classrooms. The partners are searching for additional funding to make this dream a reality and to continue supporting the after-school care and education of vulnerable children in Katutura. The Resource Centre will be a model for setting up similar facilities nationwide. Organizations or companies interested in more information about the program can contact Ms. Anita Bijman at ResourceCentre@iwan.com.na.

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. More information about IWAN and RC is available at www.iwan.com.na or contact Rachel Schmidt, IWAN's press representative at PressRep@iwan.com.na