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A Complete Home in an Incomplete Town

NamibiaGobabis, Namibia
Henk Olwage

Organization type:
nonprofit/ngo/citizen sector
Project Stage:
Established
Budget:
$10,000 - $50,000
Website:
http://light4tchildren.webs.com

[SHARE]

- At risk youth
- Child care
- Child protection
- Early childhood development
- Education
- Play
- Youth development

Project Summary

Elevator Pitch

Concise Summary: Help us pitch this solution! Provide an explanation within 3-4 short sentences.

A complete home in an incomplete town: being a centre for holistic care in a disrupted environment.

About Project

Problem: What problem is this project trying to address?

There is a need for complete, holistic child care in societies which are disrupted, seemingly aimless in their destitution, unco-ordinated in their being. Why should there be such specialzation and fragmentation between different organizations, when all can be under one roof? After independence of Namibia, people started to move all over the country. Sges old populations were torn from their roots. The laid back nature of people belies the fact that they are deeply uprooted. We have to look after the deepest needs of children in their family context.

Solution: What is the proposed solution? Please be specific!

To create a home, where adults with gifts and abilities and compassion can be at the service of children and their families; to invite every beneficial contribution, locally and internationally and bind it into a comprehensive whole.

Impact: How does it Work

Example: Walk us through a specific example(s) of how this solution makes a difference; include its primary activities.

A child may cvome to our centre, from his shack where we had been doing repairs and helped his grandmother to cope with the HIV/Aids of her daughter, to our centre where he will receive a slice of bread and tea, have preschool, receive lunch, and be tended to his physical needs, like clothing, health and psycho social support. When in Primary School, he will come for lunch and afternoon study, and there wll always we members to council and help where needed. He will see his uncle working in our project garden, his cousin doing needlework and will have access to our computer center and carpentry. Step by step he will grow up, not in a children's home, but in a home, a genuine home from home. This model fits in best wit the African way of living and the extended famly.

Sustainability

Marketplace: Who else is addressing the problem outlined here? How does the proposed project differ from these approaches?

We compete with orphanages and formal schools, but only in a limited sense, because a real home has no competition!

About You

Organization:
Light for the Children Foundation

About You

First Name

Henk

Last Name

Olwage

Twitter URL

https://twitter.com/#!/light4tchildren

Facebook URL

www.facebook.com/light4tchildren

About Your Organization

Organization Name

Light for the Children Foundation

Organization Country

, OK, Gobabis

Country where this project is creating social impact

, OK

Your role in Education

Resource Officer.

The type of school(s) your solution is affiliated with

Other

How long has your organization been operating?

More than 5 years

The information you provide here will be used to fill in any parts of your profile that have been left blank, such as interests, organization information, and website. No contact information will be made public. Please uncheck here if you do not want this to happen..

Innovation

How long has your solution been in operation?

Operating for more than 5 years

Now that you have thought out your entry, help us pitch it.

Define your company, program, service, or product in 1-2 short sentences [136 characters]

A complete home in an incomplete town: where children may be made whole. Poverty and all its consequences can't beat our heartbeat.

Identify what is innovative about your solution in 1-2 short sentences [136 characters]

The comprehensive nature of our program and its organic nature, best described as an ecology of human biodiversity.

Social Impact

What has been the impact of your solution to date?

Many children progressing toward adulthood and showing their loyalty toward the foundation, while adults are also involved.

What is your projected impact over the next 1-3 years?

More and more children entering young life and adulthood as project participants and leaders.

What barriers might hinder the success of your project? How do you plan to overcome them?

Government lethargy, social stratification and lack of understanding from the international community; we have to keep on informing, advocating and caring as best as we can. The Namibian society is one of the most stratified in the world, due to its historical legacy. This constructs a glass ceiling through which certain sections of society can hardly break. Our program provides a bridge, a door and an instrument of reconcilation, sometimes an eye opener, so that the best in children and their families may come to the fore. We therefore have to find ways to stay growing, because the success of our work depends on long term growth and personal change.

Winning entries present a strong plan for how they will achieve and track growth. Identify your six-month milestone for growing your impact

Identify three major tasks you will have to complete to reach your six-month milestone

Task 1

Establish a computer centre, which we have started to build

Task 2

Strengthening our afternoon program to include teacher's training

Task 3

Establish our own soccer team

Now think bigger! Identify your 12-month impact milestone

Identify three major tasks you will have to complete to reach your 12-month milestone

Task 1

Building a carpentry workshop and include young adults in the training

Task 2

Involve the local chamber of business and agricultural sector

Task 3

Expand to another town

Founding Story: We want to hear about your "Aha!" moment. Share the story of where and when the founder(s) saw this solution's potential to change the world [125 words]

Our organization started in one of the seemingly most hopeless places in the world, a setlement of people uprooted from their cultures, workplaces and birthplaces, a diverse community where tribes couldn't speak each other's languages, an unemployment rate of 90% and HIV/Aids rate of 30%. INside this community, some friends did small things, which taught us the value of small, bit strong, in initiatives. Caring came naturally for our original members, but they fought a lonely battle - till we realized, we can do it together, with all resources put together, all in one program - it was "Light for the Chilren!". From that moment, all we did was to retain our original idea and expand on it.

Sustainability

Tell us about your partnerships

Through the Church Alliance for Orphans, we link with Unicef, USAID and various national bodies. The Church forms partnerships on that level and we partner with organizations in the Netherlands, through a twinning agreement. Furthremore we partner with an enterprise in Germany.

What type of team (staff, volunteers, etc.) will ensure that you achieve the growth milestones identified in the *Social Impact* **section? [75 words]**

We lean heavily on community involvement, as we were founded by community members. Therefore we work with a team, rather than a staff, of 18 people locally; sometimes more, depending on what we do.

Please elaborate on any needs or offers you have mentioned above and/or suggest categories of support that aren't specified within the list

We are a living experiment and would like to share with others in the same kind of venture. For example, how to make a self-sustaining home from home, where agriculture, spiritual life, care, teaching formal and informal, manufacturing, all this in an energy efficient way and contributing to the natural environment, are intertwined to form a whole, benefiting children.