



SPECIAL NEEDS NETWORK

National Association Networking for the Special Needs of the Individual

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A proposal put forward by **Special Needs Network & the Daniela Medical Trust**

Purchase of a Dwelling House – to be re-designated as a ‘Multipurpose Disability Resource Centre’

Project name – SNN Multipurpose Disability Resource Centre

Purpose - The project is for the purchase of a house that will be converted into a day Centre for the training, care and empowerment of children and young people (3 – 30 years) who have mental and physical disabilities.

The need for the project – Namibian policy and State legislation does exist to provide equality and opportunity for people with disabilities, but in the majority of cases it does not reach out to the poorer or even the most relevant communities of need. The result is that many of these disabled people become marginalized, are taken advantage of and deprived of the chance of achieving their true potential. At a personal level, a significant number of them lose hope, become depressed and gradually lose any skills they ever managed to learn or acquire. A facility such as the one planned and outlined in this proposal will address these issues in a positive way.

Organization of the project – The project will be managed by an existing organization formed several years ago to promote work with people with a disability and their families, **Special Needs Network, Namibia**. SNN (Chairperson – Petra Dillmann) has the necessary experience and skills to know what is needed to establish, equip and run and maintain a Disability Resource Centre and has been planning the venture with the help of other interested individuals and organizations in a spirit of partnership for some considerable time.

SNN is in the process of regularizing its legal status by applying for recognition as a Welfare Organization and An Association Not for Gain.

The Difference the building will make – with some small modifications the Day care Centre will initially provide daytime accommodation and care for 10 people with disabilities, working up to a maximum of 30 within a planned timescale. It will have a staff of full time (paid) and volunteer helpers, carers and managers. The Centre will also be used for monthly support group meetings, training of staff and volunteers and for the assessments for approximately 100 people. The Centre will eventually accommodate – a woodworking workshop, a sewing centre, an olive leaf tea packing venture (adjuvant to HIV/Aids treatment), making of gluten-free products, jams and preserve making kitchen and an administrative office. Office and administrative functions will be shared in a partnership with the ‘Daniela Medical Trust’.

Financial Aspects – Purchase price = NAD2.7m; equipment and alterations = NAD100,000. There are no alternative or external funders identified at the moment, so a bank bond will have to be arranged, although SNN and Daniela Medical Trust are able to source private funds sufficient to service up to 25% of the value of the bond as a down payment. Income is estimated at approximately NAD15,000pm initially, growing to circa NAD25,000pm; expenses (monthly running costs) are estimated as a maximum of NAD 65,000. The funding gap will be financed through grants, sponsorships and donations, the source of which have been identified and approached, making the proposition economically feasible within a 12 month time frame. The financial and partnership agreements between SNN and Daniela Medical Trust can be fully effective by the end of 2012.

ONLY TOGETHER WILL WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Focus Areas:	Purchase and Development of Property as Support, Resource and Training Centre; Early Intervention , School- and Transition Adolescent Services; Adult Services , including Sheltered Workshop & Job Coaching; Autism Spectrum Disorders ; Alternative & Augmentative Communication ; Library & Resources , Newsletter & Networking ; Training for Families, School Assistants, Teachers & Professionals; Support for Specific Disabilities and Organisations
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