

**PROGRESS
REPORT
SEPTEMBER
2013**



**MEN ON
THE SIDE
OF THE
ROAD
(W O 3 4 8)**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The power of shoes

The power of shoes	1
MSR & W@W at SME Expo	2
Statistics	3
SSC DF signing	3
Our Corporate Members, Donors & Partners	4

About 20 MSR members have been working for some months on a de-bushing project. They work with pangas to cut the grass, and often disturb snakes in the process. We saw a number of men working in open-toed shoes or sandals and asked them why? They replied that the shoes they had on were the only ones they owned! This posed a huge safety risk to our men and so MSR went about the task of trying to find enough closed shoes for the workers at the project.

We were absolutely delighted when the Dutch Reformed Church in Eros, (via Imago Dei,) approached us offering to donate men's shoes. We literally jumped at the opportunity to give these out to our members, especially as we had already identified an urgent need for closed shoes. The shoes donated are all good quality, and some look as though they have hardly ever been worn.

It also happens that MSR members have for some time been trying to get a soccer team together, to develop their team working and leadership skills and have some fun. This initiative has come directly from the members, but has not been helped by a lack of basic equipment. When Tomas, our MSR fieldworker, was 'pairing' the shoes he separated out all the trainers, and these then went to the members whose names are already on the soccer team list. Janton Consulting and Eros Church have each donated a soccer ball, so the team is now set to go, and we look forward to hearing about their progress, and their wins!

Sometimes - we do not realize the difference a small act of kindness can make in some-ones life: a pair of shoes can mean the difference between working and not working; and that of course is the difference between eating, and not eating. Thank you, the congregation at Eros, you have made it possible for our members to work safely, and enjoy a game of football into the bargain!



MSR Statistics for 2013

Up to the end of August 2013, MSR has accepted 69 new members, has placed 137 people into work who will collectively earn almost N\$850 000.00 over the course of a year.

Life Skills and Money Management course are run at least once a month.

SOCIAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENT FUND



At the signing from left to right:
Gida Sekandi (Chairperson of MSR);
Amanda Horn(SSC DF);
Bronwyn Moody (witness);
Hilya Kambanda (MSR project officer)

On August 9, 2013 the Social Security Commission's Development Fund (SSC-DF) signed off on ten Service Level Agreements, including an agreement with MSR, which makes the organisation an approved SSC Development Agency.

Though the official handing over ceremony is planned for October 2013, this signing has enabled projects that have met all submission criteria for the SSC-DF to receive their first instalments.

The MSR project involves training and placing members into internships, and eventually full-time work. If you want to find out how you can support the project, please contact Hilya, the programme office on 061 305892 or email: mensideofroad@gmail.com.

It is expected that one hundred and eighteen jobs will be created during the implementation of these projects.





Some of the men choosing their shoes after a money management course held recently at the MSR office.

Women @ Work and MSR exhibit jointly at SME Expo



As part of our ongoing efforts to alleviate poverty through training and employment, MSR and W@W decided to pool their resources at a joint stand at the recently held SME Expo in Windhoek.

As their names indicate, Women @ Work concentrates their efforts on up-skilling ladies in household management, and MSR works with unemployed men to create job and training opportunities. Both projects are part funded through the Bank Windhoek Social Investment Fund, who encourage their projects to more actively explore ways of working collaboratively, and finding synergies.

If you want to find out more about Women at Work their website address is: www.womenatwork-namibia.org.

Workshop #1,
HRDC
Claudius Kandovazu Street,
Katutura

Phone: 061 305892
Fax: 061 307205
E-mail: office@msr.org.na



Website: www.msr.org.na

Association not for Gain (Reg 21/2007/025) Welfare Organisation (WO348)

Bank account details: MSR (Namibia)

BANK WINDHOEK MAIN BRANCH ACC NO. 8001384357

BRANCH CODE: 481 972

If you want your donation to be used for training, please use this account:

MSR training account

BANK WINDHOEK, MAIN BRANCH ACC NO:8002323840

Thank you for your support.

OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS, DONORS AND PARTNERS

MSR can only undertake their work with support from corporate Namibia, other organisations and philanthropic individuals. We are grateful for the support we receive:

Capricorn Investment Holdings Ltd

Bank Windhoek

Price Waterhouse Coopers

Santam Namibia

ABSA Barclays

Namibia Breweries Ltd

NG Kerk Eros

Schoemans Office Systems

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