

Dear friends of MEDEA e.V.,

The second half of the year is beginning shortly. We are looking back on a good first half of the year. We are proud to have celebrated our first Charity-Event in Germany and also, we are seeing further progress in our projects in Swaziland.

In this year's member meeting we had a change in our board - Mrs. Romhányi dropped out as a member of our board. She has been a gift to MEDEA e.V. for the past eight years. We are grateful for her meticulous mode of operation. While Gertrud is working hands on with our Swazi Team to improve sustainable development in our projects, Mrs. Romhányi has built a solid structure on the German side. It was her "baby" to apply for governmental support at the BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development). Due to this support MEDEA e.V. has been able to support sustainability in Swaziland. MEDEA e.V. in cooperation with Tatort – Straßen der Welt e.V. Köln are currently putting the third BMZ-project into practice. We are happy that Mrs. Romhányi is still a member of the MEDEA family and we can only say:

Siyabonga kakhulu kakhulu – Thank you so, so much.



MEDEA board, Astrid Funken as new member on the left

I (Marius Heimlich) am supporting the MEDEA team in Germany as a student worker since June 2018 along our board that consists of a 100 % proportion of women. I met Gertrud during my voluntary service with the Salesians of Don Bosco in 2011 in Swaziland. After I finished my nursing degree in Germany, the idea came up to go to Swaziland once again and work in the field of international development. I got the chance in 2015 to help with the implementation of the Steralynth Wound Care Project in cooperation with MEDEA e.V. and Aquis GmbH – a project which secures a sustainable health service in the field of wound care in a catchment area with a population over 350.000 people until today. I am finding myself currently back at studying a bachelor's in social science with the goal to specialize in Humanitarian Action.

The Charity-Event evening on the 21 of April has touched all participants in a way. Especially throughout the fantastic organization of the MEDEA organizing team, U. Wegener, G. Nasse, S. Jülich

and E. Gerold. The Tatort – board Member, Dietmar Bär visited the event together with his wife. The singer Rutendo from Zimbabwe enthralled the audience with her performance. Dietmar Bär could describe his visit in Swaziland in 2017 with very appropriate words: “The European problems are rather small over there, you feel clearly that it’s the easy things in life which are important.” Proudly we can announce: After the donated amount of the Charity-Event of 12.978 €, we are going to install a third borehole to secure clean drinking water as a human right.

The School garden, installed in 2017, gives already the second grand harvest!!



The school garden

252 pupils at the Sikhandza Bantfu Primary School are getting a balanced diet, with rice and beans but most importantly with fresh vegetables out of their own garden. The women and mothers of the pupils in the community of Maduma are running and watering the garden on a daily bases with their outstanding engagement. It is moving to see how these women are not only investing their time for a better education of their children but also reinforcing a balanced diet as a key pillar for their health prevention. A group of international scientists – Public Health Scientists, Doctors etc. – published a study in 2008 in the Lancet. They summarized their results as follows: *“Malnutritional/undernourished children are becoming most likely small adults, they have not as good results in school as others and they give birth to smaller children. Between malnutrition/undernourishment from an early age and the economical status at adult life consists a direct context.”*

[https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736\(07\)61692-4/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736(07)61692-4/abstract)

Those realizations confirm our effort in Swaziland. We are on the right path all together and we are looking forward to a sustainable positive future for the young generation in Swaziland.



We have water through MEDEA



Big Cabbages



Tomatoes



Green Peppers

In the end of this newsletter, it's time to wish Gertrud all the best for her travel back to Swaziland. We are looking forward to sharing the next newsletter with new occurrences with all of you.

June 2018
Marius Heimlich