

## CHANCELLOR'S GOLF DAY RAISES N\$540 000

*Private and public sector donates to Student Hardship Fund*



The recently held Chancellor's Golf Day organised by the UNAM Foundation, reached a new milestone when it raised N\$540 000, in one day. The annual event, that brings together golfers from the private and public sectors, provides a networking and friendship platform with the University of Namibia. It also aims to raise funds for the Students Hardship Fund.

Telecom Namibia donated a whopping N\$500 000 on the eve of the fun-filled day - a record in the history of this event. The ultimate bragging rights on the day, unsurprisingly, went to Telecom Namibia, with GIPF and Nashua Namibia claiming second

and third place, respectively.

Speaking on the importance of the Fund, UNAM Foundation Director, Ms Lorna Mbwale, highlighted that: "Over the past 3 years alone, the Student Hardship Fund has contributed close to N\$1 million towards various student expenses, thus enabling them to graduate and contribute economically to the nation." The fund does not hand out money to students, but rather assist students with genuine and blameless financial distress. The Foundation continues to appeal

to corporate institutions and the University alumni, to assist through donations, sponsorships and gifts that will enable students to complete their studies.

"To all companies that participated on the day, be it through registering a team, sponsoring a hole or sponsoring of prizes, we remain grateful towards your valuable support," said a thankful Ms Mbwale. This year's golfing day saw sponsorship from 21 companies and 16 team entries.

**The Student Hardship Fund, administered by the Foundation, is aimed at providing contingency funds for students who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in exceptional financial distress and need financial assistance to complete their studies.**

## MEDICAL STUDENTS EXTEND HELPING HAND TO DAY CARE CENTRE



"Reaching out to one person is the first step to change the world, and you can never get poor by giving." Those were the words of Jill Conradie and Hilya Andreas, at a handover of goodies they presented to the Havana Day Care Centre, two medical students (third and second year), respectively, from the Hage Geingob Campus.

Jill and Hilya took time out of their busy school schedule, to run a

fundraiser aimed at collecting money and buy winter clothes and blankets for children of pre-schooling age. The two baked and sold cakes of different flavours to their peers on Campus to raise the funds for the cause.

"As medical students we should not believe that health is only improved through the skills we learn academically, but that we live in a developing country where a great

portion of the population doesn't have the means to maintain basic health," said Jill. She believes that "God answers other people's prayers through us," and thus we should never hesitate to be a blessing in other people's lives.

The fundraiser raised enough money to buy winter clothes and blankets for each of the pre-scholars at the Centre. "Many people helped by supporting this initiative and some

by giving donations, such as Dr Linda Nghipondoka-Lukulo and Ms Jeanette Conradie," said Hilya.

The items were organised in goodie bags and included jerseys, tracksuit pants, t-shirts, jeans, jackets, gloves, socks and blankets, accompanied by a few snacks as treats for the little ones. The Day Care Centre has about 40 kids, the youngest being a one-year old.

## BRIDGING THE EXPERIENCE GAP

The University of Namibia, under its Cooperative Education Unit, recently initiated a two-day workshop on Work Integrated Learning (WIL).

The workshop was attended by the most distinguished stakeholders within both the domains of academia and industry, who critically deliberated on the issue of successfully integrating WIL into the University's curricular. Amongst them was Dr Roelien Brink, Deputy Head of the Department of Applied Information Management at the University of Johannesburg, who expertly facilitated the workshop. During her opening remarks, Dr Brink was quick to emphasise the importance of drawing a clear distinction between the terms that are closely associated to or are confused with WIL, saying that this would eventually pave the way for better advancement and application of the overall concept. Brink further encouraged academic institutions such as UNAM to "think out of the box" in their pursuit of turning WIL into a practical and sustainable endeavour.

Meanwhile in his opening address, Associate Professor Frednard Gideon, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, highlighted the university's unwavering commitment towards bridging the gap between academia and the work place. Professor Gideon

further reiterated the institution's strong position to integrate WIL into its overall academic experience. "Students must be able to relate to and be capable of meeting the real-world work place demands and expectations. Failure to ensure this will mean that we as the university will have failed them in that regard," he remarked.

UNAM's Institutional Coordinator for Industry and Cooperative Education, Ms Lovisa Nghipandulwa emphasised that WIL has been in existence across many departments throughout the University. However, WIL activities need to be professionalised, monitored and evaluated through a central office in order to take stock of current practices in relation to latest world trends. She further stressed that local research findings and reviews on the subject area, such as those conducted by UNAM academics, NCHE graduate tracer studies, the 2016 UNESCO TVET, Higher Education and Innovation Policy review in Namibia should be utilised to inform and improve current practices, expand on a variety of WIL models and opportunities and strengthens relations with industry.

The Cooperative Education Unit was formally established in February 2016 to spearhead the coordination and mainstreaming of WIL across all UNAM faculties.

