

## Good news should travel fast ... Baby Blessing Natalia Silvanus

Baby Blessing, born with **Down Syndrome** and now 10 months old, was diagnosed with a cardiac defect in early November 2012, 3 months after her birth. She was put on medication to aid her heart function, while awaiting arrangements for an urgent heart operation. The medication that was prescribed caused her to lose weight at an alarming rate. She further had to endure hospitalizations for lung infections before she finally received the much needed operation to fix the hole in her heart. Three months after the diagnosis, end of February 2013, Blessing and her parents finally managed to travel to Cape Town where Blessing was operated on her heart on 1 March 2013. Before the surgery Blessing lost a lot of weight, from 5.6 to 4.2kg, and had no energy. She did not even smile. Now, Blessing is full of life, gained weight, and smiles again! Friends and family assisted Blessing and her parents financially to get access to the expensive yet routine heart surgery. While celebrating the success of the surgery, there are still many bills to be paid.

Half of the babies born with Down Syndrome will have a hole in their heart that often requires cardiac surgery. In Namibia some heart operations are done but not the more complex ones. Babies with DS are not always diagnosed in time and if they face a long waiting list for surgery in South Africa, often longer than the time they can wait. The **Down Syndrome Association of Namibia** (DSAN) is lobbying for the children with a cardiac effect and hopes to facilitate earlier diagnosis of heart defects and timely access to a heart surgery procedure.

DSAN thanks the parents of Blessing for sharing their story of hope and wish Baby Blessing a life full of wonderful experiences.

Should you feel moved to help Blessing's parents please make your contribution as follows:

Down Syndrome Association of Namibia  
FNB Private Clients  
Account no. 62246895231  
Branch code 280-071  
"Baby Blessing"



Read more about DSAN on <http://www.downsyndromenamibia.org>.

