



Newsletter 76

December 2017

LONG SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN.



Dear Reader,

At the end of the year 2017, we want to give you an update of the activities of CAS.

STREETCORNER EDUCATION.

In newsletter75, we explained in details how this activity is carried out. It is a daily activity but not always done by the same members of staff. CAS does not have fieldwork officers employed but the work is done by staff that partly works in the House of Refuge as teachers and partly does streetcorner education in the street. A street worker learns the skills in the classroom. Using the teaching aids is practiced in the classroom as well. Some staff have received training as sports and games coaches by Right to Play. All these skills are helpful while in the field. We have asked two additional staff to get involved in the street corner education program.

HOUSE OF REFUGE

The House of Refuge is a day care center for visiting street children. The administration is also done at the Refuge as well as demonstration of skills. The Refuge is open from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m. The children are not accommodated at the center but they can take part in education. All activities are educational in nature because the children learn mainly life skills while at the center. All staff are involved. You do not have to be trained as a teacher. All staff take the role as a parent to reform the children. This is a difficult task because, some children have cultivated some bad habits in the street. For instance; some never take a bath or wash their clothing. They have never learnt how to take good care of themselves.

As mentioned earlier, some staff are either teaching in the street or at the Refuge. A large timetable is in the secretary's office which indicates where a member of staff is working. This timetable is changed every week.

When volunteers are assisting, their schedule will appear on the timetable as well. At all times we keep track of staff and volunteers.

The months of October and November shows a good attendance of children. Often, there are more girls than boys. This can be different during other months. The reasons cannot be explained but has to do with the dynamics of street life and survival. (Mobility pattern).

The literacy classes are also well attended. Children who cannot read or write are always present. They are assisted individually. Therefore, more than one teacher should be available in the class. The level of children varies a lot and all need attention.

Sport is equally well attended. CAS has no football field but can use the field of a nearby school. This field can only be used after school hours. This is often too late for the street children. They want to return to the street to sell some items or carry goods of passengers for a fee.

At an average, 20 sick children visit the clinic in a month. Only a few have to be referred to the hospital. More of them can be treated by the nurse. The nurse Eunice Baah, who has worked for years at CAS is going on retirement. We thank her sincerely for all the work done especially for the care of pregnant girls and their babies. We are recruiting a "new" nurse who can start her work in January 2018.

The entertainment on Fridays is also well attended. Children are invited to show what they have learnt during the week or competitions are organized.

DEMONSTRATION OF SKILLS.

Various skills are demonstrated at the House of Refuge. Skills such as: Catering, cooking, sewing, decoration, carving, hairdressing and general handicraft.

The instructors carry out two tasks. They demonstrate the skill to the children and try to let them take part. Secondly, they produce items together with the children. Not all children are interested, but we encourage them to visit all workshops and take part in the various skill training. Finally, they can choose which skills or trades they want to learn. Skill training is very expensive because a lot of materials are needed. The instructor has to try to save the item so that it can be sold as a finished product. But, this is not always possible.



The production of items is not easy either. The instructors should be very creative and always introduce new ideas so that the products can be sold. CAS is trying to sell the products at Bazaars during the weekends. At these bazaars, different kinds of artisans gather and often make items more beautiful than items made by the street children. Only “special” items can be sold. CAS gets some assistance from two French ladies who know what people want to buy. We have not made any profit so far. Therefore, we are trying to reduce the costs in the production of items.

HOPELAND.

At Hopeland training center, various changes took place. The settlement of ten ex-trained children is in progress. Hairdressing, decoration, and catering are well established and the workers are learning how to do the marketing of their products. One of them has a Facebook page and attracts customers in that way.

The carvers need more time to establish. They want an income immediately but they need to have time to establish well. Maybe, training other carvers take more time.

The street corner education around Hopeland at Adjey Kojo gets good results. Several children have shown interest in learning skills at Hopeland. They are ready to pay for their own living costs as long as they get the opportunity to learn. We still have to decide on how to proceed.

Another development is the retirement of Mr. Alphonsus Azaah. After 22 years of work, the time has come to retire. Mr. Azaah is 79 years of age.

We thank him for all the work and said goodbye to him during a special party organized at Hopeland. Many members of staff attended and the younger ones among the staff danced for hours.



Mr. Marcelline Dakpo is now in charge of the center while Mr. Samuel Tenkorang takes care of the welfare of the children. He is assisted by Joseph Amaano. Bro. Patrick Gyereh is in charge of the settlement of the children. Soon we hope to have well established workshops which in turn can be places where other children can be trained.

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM.

The main sponsorship program financed by MISEREOR-Germany will come to an end on the 28th of February 2018. This means, we have to end the training of many and slow down the intake of new children. Still the preparation can continue.

However, it takes more time before we can offer sponsorship to those prepared. We hope we can renew the agreement with Misereor. Some children are supported by other donors and they can continue their training.

In future, we want to include the costs of NVTI trade test exams as part of the training costs as well as the settlement costs because more children could be settled after training.

The welfare committees at the Refuge and Hopeland have to continue with their tasks. All children should be guided during their preparation period and records kept.

Another long serving member of staff, Nicholas Saakwa wants to retire after working for 20 years. He wants to take up a new challenge while seeing to his health needs. We say thank you and wish him well.

We will say official farewell to Eunice and Nicholas during a sendoff party at the end of the month.

While some members of staff retire some new members are employed. One young lady has been employed already; Sylvia Dokosi (a social worker) will assist in the teaching. Florence Laryea (a trained street girl) will assist in the street corner education and an application for a nurse has been received.

PLANS FOR 2018

We have several plans to improve the services to the children.

- To expand the street corner education program
- Improve the Functional Literacy program.
- To complete the workshops for settlement at Hopeland.
- To have a new sponsorship agreement with MISEREOR this includes NVTI exams as well as more settlement opportunities.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for your support.


Bro. Jos van Dinther
(Director CAS)



Mr. Azaah farewell speech.

Settlement-Catering and Hairdressing at Hopeland

