

CAS' annual report 2012

Dear Reader,

We present to you CAS' annual report which describes what transpired during the year 2012. Every month, all departments meet and write reports which are presented to the Director. These reports are used to keep you informed by means of newsletters. Quarterly, the Heads of departments meet as well as the Board of Advisors. All these meetings took place as planned.

CHILDREN:

CAS had many plans to prepare children to follow the sponsorship program. However, the children have to respond positively and cooperate during the preparation period and beyond. During the year 2012, the staff of CAS faced a serious problem because the children did not respond as we were used to.



Inconsistency on the part of children was/is a big problem. Some take part for a period of time and then disappear only to appear again after a few months. What are the reasons? We think the age of the child is a factor. Those below 15 want to be free and play. They decide what they will do that day. We have to study this response more closely.

CAS organizes individual and group counseling sessions. The group sessions are often well attended because all staff encourage children to take part. However, there are always children who do not want to attend and some do not appear at CAS that day. We have now (2013) decided to appoint supervisors to the children at an earlier contact. The supervisors will build up a personal relationship with the child. We hope this will be an improvement.

Fieldwork-follow-up work

Social workers also try to locate the child in the street after s(he) has absconded. This is a very difficult exercise and is not always successful. When a child does not want to be found s(he) cannot be found. Several girls absconded because they were pregnant and did not want to reveal it. The reasons behind it are unknown. Children receive health education and may be think that they have made a mistake by becoming pregnant.



There are many other reasons why children return to the streets. Some cannot stay because they miss their friends. Others cannot live without their boy or girl friend.

We also know that peer pressure is one of the main factors. When one child fails in the sponsorship, he or she will advise their friends to stop the training as well.

In other words; the follow-up work has to continue and even extended. In addition to this work, CAS has proposed to the DSW (Department of Social Welfare) to start fieldwork in the various districts of the City. CAS workers can join workers of the DSW to work hand in hand to find out what approach can be used in each district to work for the “out of School” children. Each district is different because in one, many migrant children are staying. In another, you could meet working children or urban poor children. There are 16 districts and during the period of four months all could be visited.

The plans are as follows:

1. Street-mapping in the 16 districts for a period of four months. (Jan-April 2013)
2. Follow-up workshop during which more officers can be trained. (May-June 2013)
3. Strategic planning to carry-out headcounts of out of school children in all regions of Ghana. (October-November 2013)
4. 2014 training of officers in the region and actual headcounts to be conducted.

The Director of the DSW has agreed with our plans and we hope to start in February this year. (2013)

During the year we worked together with the staff of DSW to organise the first training session for social workers of the department. We are very grateful to Streetinvest who organised and sent their trainers including the director of Streetinvest.

As you can read, the plans are in place. Now we have to materialize them.

CAS is also hosting the StreetInvest research. One member of staff of S.AID is in charge and one member of staff of CAS is assisting. The research is going well. The staff still has to learn how to carry out the administration according to the terms of the donor. It is always difficult when the donor does not understand how our administration operates. We can of course not keep a separate financial administration for each donor. We always have to come to a compromise. What is acceptable and what is practically possible.

DONORS: Streetinvest –salaries staff and training and private donors.

HOUSE OF REFUGE:

At the Refuge, all children are registered. The basic information is registered in a book and this is transferred to the computer. The children start their preparation period and this is recorded as well. As soon as the training starts, money is needed and the child will be listed with one of the donors who support CAS in the sponsorship scheme.

As mentioned before, inconsistency is a serious problem. The child starts learning a trade but after a few months decides to stop or change trades. It is the task of the social workers to convince the child to continue. Somehow it is logical; they have very few role models to learn from. When father or mother is educated, the child will be encouraged to learn as well.

During the year 2012, 35 'new' children were recorded, 13 males and 22 females. The age group is 13-18 years. These children were introduced to all activities. After a period, social surveys were conducted on those who wanted to be trained.

When children are sick the nurse takes care of them. Serious cases were referred to the hospital and handed over to the social worker of the DSW at the hospital.

181 cases were reported for treatment with six (6) referred for medical treatment for various illnesses and three (3) pregnancy cases to SAID for antenatal and post-natal care.

Health Education classes were organised and the nurse touched on bilharzias, birth control methods, personal hygiene, intensive breast feeding and weaning. We also had visitors from

the lion's club who gave them education on hard drugs and its effect on the body. Often these lessons are part of the Friday entertainment program.

Security of the House of refuge remains a problem. CAS asked the assistance of a security firm but we were not satisfied with their performances. A private security officer was employed and the Refuge was broken into. We asked the services of other firm and during the Christmas holidays, another theft case occurred. This time the thieves could not enter the main office because we had secured it special. However, the security firm was convinced that this case happened during the day. At the moment one of the bigger boys is employed to watch the premises during the day.

At the refuge, some basic skills are taught to those interested. Skills such as: baking, cooking, hairdressing, bead-making, carving and sewing, as well as domestic services and baby care.

Our catering activities continued over the year. Children were introduced to various cuisines, both local and foreign. Foods prepared include omotuo and groundnut soup, Bambara beans with ripe plantain, macaroni cheese, sponge cake and potato salad, fruit cake, fruit salad, ring doughnut, pancake, yam balls and salad with chicken and potato chips, jollof rice, palmnut soup with yam, fufu and light soup with goat, yam ampesi and garden eggs stew, beans with fried plantain, yam with tomato sauce, and kokonte with groundnut soup.



EDUCATION:

Children are introduced in literacy classes. The aim is to teach them reading and writing and simple English. An adapted Montessori system is used. Children also have a library and computer centre available. They do sports and drama and entertain themselves on Fridays.

Of late, we noticed that girls are reluctant to take part in sports. We have to encourage them to take part but before that, we have to find out why they stopped.

In order to give them ideas of what they can learn we show trades to them on videos or Masters of particular trades are invited to give talks. A good method of introducing children to trades was the excursions. Unfortunately, we had to stop them because of lack of fund.

Volunteers: CAS allows volunteers to work hand in hand with the workers. Several agreements have been signed with volunteer organisations and with universities. In 2012 many volunteers as well as students from Ghanaian universities benefited from this opportunity.

DONORS: Misereor- those in training, EOF -medical, Stivosina and Right to play- games and sports, parishes, companies and individuals- food and other products, Reik elkaar de hand – teaching materials, sewing machines and clothing. Hans Gleijm computers

LONG TERM SPONSORSHIP:

CAS gives children the opportunity to learn trades for a period of three years. The three years are in addition to the preparation period. Children are placed in workshops of their choice. A room is rented in the neighbourhood and members of staff of the long sponsorship team visit them regularly. These children receive all the items needed for their living conditions and for learning the trade. At the end of 2012, 23 children were in training. Only three children had absconded and that is minimal. This proves that a good preparation period is important.

Approximately 10 different workshops and 2 schools were involved. The following trades were chosen:

Auto mechanics, electrical insulation, auto body work, welding and fabrication, aluminium fabrication, electronics, boxing, carpentry, bookbinding, block laying and generator repairs.

Four Supervisors visit the children 3 times a month and write reports. In addition they monitor together with the welfare team of the children who are placed at Hopeland training centre.

The Team has discovered that their main challenge is they have to know the child very well before s(he) take instruction from them. They now know that they have to accept the child as it is.

The workshop managers should have the same patience but that is not always the case.

SHORT TERM SPONSORSHIP:

This team has also four workers. The training period is one and half year. Some children receive training at The Refuge. Others, at Hopeland or in other workshops. CAS has decided to do most of the training indoors, because it gives us the opportunity to know the children

better, to give them constant advice. The training is also cheaper because no agreements have to be made with workshop managers.



The Skills involved are:

Hair-dressing, Dress-making, beads-making and Carving. Others are Catering /Cake-Techniques and Pedicure and Manicure. As well as boxing.

One tailor, 1 hair-dresser, and 2 Catering/Cake Techniques trainees have so far completed and are working on their own.

Some girls absconded from the training at Hopeland because they were pregnant and one changed to hairdressing. All children are prepared to the N.V.T.I. level grade two.

These children are also accommodated, either in rented rooms or at Hopeland. The main problem is that the child cannot decide in time and often change trades.

We evaluated the problems during the planning meeting for 2013 and have decided the following in order to improve the enrollment and child participation.

1. Three times a week workers will carry out follow up work in the city.
2. Every day the children will learn how to cook or bake snack etc. The products will be shared.
3. When children appear 3 or 4 times in succession, a supervisor will be attached to the child. This supervisor monitors the child and gives advice.

4. A member of the welfare team from the Refuge will attend the welfare meetings at Hopeland. And a member of the team of Hopeland will be invited to the Refuge welfare meetings. We hope this will improve the communication.
5. One of the secretaries will keep track of the movement of the children.

DONORS: Misereor, Sandra Reemer, Fam. van Galen and Heijden, Paul E.V-Germany, Aidworld-Italy. HFC Bank Ghana. Hannah and friends, Fam Kunnen,

DEMONSTRATION:

This department experiences the same problems as the sponsorship group. At times many children attend and other times only a few. Children take part in various skills so that eventually they can make a choice of what to learn. Some skills are more patronized such as handicraft, beads-making, hair dressing and drawing or painting.

Another skill which is well attended are the manicure and pedicure lessons.

The staff has to make a clear distinction of materials which can be used for production and material which can be used for learning. At times children are allowed to keep the item they make.

The workers introduced group work and this was quite successful. Several children work on the same item. The outcome is that, children see immediate results and they are happy.

DONORS: Tilingo Nepra, Reik elkaar de Hand, private donors.



HOPELAND TRAINING CENTRE:

CHILDREN: At Hopeland, different kinds of children are accommodated.

1. Some children are sent to Hopeland to be reformed. These children need time to learn how to behave, or stop certain bad habits like drug addiction or wee smoking. These children will be sent to workshops at a later stage. Some members of staff form a welfare team and they assess the children on their improvement. They recommend the children for sponsorship.
2. Others are accommodated at Hopeland but attend the primary/JHS in the neighbourhood or go to workshops in Adjey Kojo or Ashaiman. During holidays, they stay at Hopeland and join the other children.
3. The third group are those who follow training at the centre.

STAFF: Eight members of staff are working at Hopeland. CAS increased the number because 24 hours supervision is needed. In addition to the morning classes, in the evening children are entertained or can attend computer classes. Four members of staff are accommodated at the centre.

The centre still runs a farm with animals but the numbers have been reduced. At the moment there are goats, pigs and some chicken. We stopped with breeding rabbits. It was going very well but marketing was a problem.

CAS does not want to invest again in keeping of the animals but will improve the welfare of the children. Fortunately, CAS gets support from various **donors**:

1. Misereor caters for those in sponsorship.
2. Street Child Africa (Charles Hayward) contributes to the training of the children.
3. Private donors pay for maintenance and repairs of the buildings and vehicles,
4. IJU financed the hairdressing equipment for Hopeland.
5. Stivosina contributed in the repairs of the volley and football field.
6. English volunteers support the sponsorship financially and the children of Hopeland will benefit in various ways.

We are very grateful to all the donors.

Hopeland centre is more than 20 years old. It became part of CAS in 1995. Therefore, the maintenance of the buildings has to be done regularly. Of late, we have started to rewire the building to have a safe electricity supply. Unfortunately, the electrician in charge got sick and passed away recently. May he rest in Peace. We still have to complete the job.

In 2012 we were able to carry out the following:

1. To clean the dam wall from scrubs and level the football field and path.
2. To change three store rooms into rooms for staff.
3. To re-paint several buildings.
4. To start two trades at the centre.
5. Repair and maintain the computers.
6. To maintain the cars.



The awareness group prepared well in 2012 to visit universities and schools in 2013. Fortunately, we have found a good donor for this activity. We will keep you informed.

CONCLUSION:

The year has been very interesting especially, the children have taught us once again a lesson. Their quote is “we are now living in 2012 and we are different from those children who visited you before!. Indeed, you are working with human beings and not with objects. Their responses keep us on our toes.

We are very grateful for all the support we have received and are also grateful to all those who continue to fundraise for these children. The staff is ready to improve their conditions.

In October 2012, CAS celebrated its 20th anniversary and we have published our findings accordingly. It is now time to work with the Authorities to find solutions for the “out of school children” problems in Ghana.

Thank you

Bro. Jos van Dinther

(Director CAS)