



Newsletter 68

September 2015

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.



Demolishing of part of Old Fadama.

Dear Reader,

Here we are again to give you an update on all our activities. During the months of May and June we spent a lot of time on updating our website and Face-book page. Several people assisted us and we are grateful to them that we can refer donor to this website <http://www.casghana.wix.com/casghana>. On the Face-book page, **Catholic action for street children**, we uploaded many photographs and more will be added in future. In case you want to comment on the website or Facebook page you are welcome.

On the website you can see the Board of Advisors as well as two small videos about CAS. The various departments are explained and we have published all the researches which CAS conducted in the past.

CAS cooperates with many donors and fund raising organizations. They are all mentioned and links are provided to their websites.

We have also published all the documents, newsletters as well as annual reports. Under the heading History the following are explained: Mini Refuges which CAS run in the past, the history of Hopeland, the two mechanical workshops CAS established at Lashibi and Adjei Kojo, (these two are suburbs within Accra/Tema) as well as the establishment of the crèches for the baby care at Old Fadama (will be published soon). Under the topic Fieldwork, we will explain further.

Fieldwork

Many of the children who visit CAS live in slums at Old Fadama. Various other names are given to the area which is in the centre of the city. The children were greatly affected by the demolition exercise by AMA (Accra Metropolitan Assembly) areas affected in the exercise were: Konkomba, Agbogbloshie, Obroni showers area and a fire outbreak at CMB Abuja.

The children lost their sleeping places as well as all their belongings. They are now trying to relocate elsewhere, and have to work harder to buy all that were lost. The demolishing of the sheds was a direct result of the flooding and petrol station explosion which happened in June 2015.



All children who visit CAS House of Refuge regularly receive additional clothing and other items such as toothpaste, brush and soap when available. However, children who take part in the education and sponsorship programs are fully supported. The child has to take the initiative to be educated.

House of Refuge

As mentioned above, many children were trying to relocate and acquire new belongings and so delayed to come to the Refuge. In addition, the Electricity power crisis also affected the programs at the Refuge. Members of staff suggested to create more periods for playing indoor games to entertain the children. In spite of the challenges, the average attendance in a month is quite high: for July, the Refuge recorded 250 girls and 290 boys which gave a

total 540 children. Often "new" children appear and they have to be introduced properly.

This is a special task for some of the members because we know that each child needs to have some attention to feel at home.

The nurse in the clinic reports cases of malaria, accidents, drug abuse, smoking and self medication. Health education is therefore very important as well as counseling lessons. The children should be guided and counseled not only as a group but also individually.

The Catering and Cooking lessons continue using the three stages methodology. The children are being prepared to sit for the NVTI (National Vocational Training Institute) practical exam grade two. This means they have learned how to write and articulate properly. They have to know how to calculate and measure. Although, the group lessons in these subjects are going on well, individual training has to be intensified.

The welfare of the children has to be guided by the staff. Hygiene is key to a healthy live. Children are taught to take their bath regularly and keep their clothing clean. These issues have to be repeated and introduced during the health education lessons or counseling periods.

Members of staff as well as the children are satisfied with the present timetable. However, some subjects are not on the timetable such as decoration. We have decided to use available time in the afternoons and let children take part in turns. Several members of staff have received sufficient training in this subject and are ready to pass it on to the children.

Demonstration

Members of the demonstration departments are working hand in hand with the welfare team and short sponsorship team to prepare children in various trades and skills.

Attendance as well as progress of each child are recorded. The staff know the children well because the level of interaction and conversations with them.

During these conversations the staff acquires information from the children which is needed for the social survey reports.

In addition to the training, items are made for production. These items are sold to the public. All trades are trying to produce "new" artifacts so that the public remain attracted to them. CAS does not have copy rights on items often made "our" items are imitated by others.

Hopeland Centre

The timetable for Hopeland centre is designed in such a manner that the children do not get bored. Therefore, each day is different. The same subjects are taught at the Refuge and Hopeland and the staff are happy with the present timetable. Lessons in drawing and handicraft, and the use of recycled material are liked by the children.

Children referred to Hopeland are younger than before and therefore cannot be asked to take care of the animals, but all are involved in the cleaning of the rooms and the compound.

There is problem with the attendance of the children. Some are not stationary and disappear for days but always return to the centre.

Short sponsorship program

Members of the short sponsorship program are responsible for the skill training which can be completed in 18 months time. The members visit training places at random to be sure that the training is well done. They test the children at each stage and discuss with the instructors how to proceed.

The department arranged a day to meet all the children. The idea is to create a platform for the children to air their grievances so that these could be addressed.



Board of Advisors

Some children had difficulties with their instructors and the role of supervisors was emphasized. The supervisors know the children well and often find solutions for the problems because of this knowledge.

Two members of the department were given the opportunity by CAS management to follow updating courses for two months. Members of the long sponsorship department came to the department's assistance.

The department experienced some settlement problems with some children who had completed, but a solution had been found to the problem.

The Regional Head of the NVTI visited the Refuge to assess the possibility to make the Refuge a recognized trade testing centre.

During the coming months more logistics and tools are needed for those being trained through the support of other donors. A list of these items needed will be presented to some donors.

A new instructor, an ex-street boy who has been trained has been employed to teach decoration at the Refuge and at Hopeland.

Long sponsorship program

Members of the department collaborated with the welfare committee to assess some of the children in preparation. Some of them could start the training while others were being invited to stay at Hopeland for a period of time. All those in training were visited regularly and some children requested for more logistics which were provided. The department allowed some children to restart their training although they had stopped for one reason or another. Soon, some rooms have to be rented to accommodate children in training and some other rooms have to be renovated and maintained.

Of all those in training, one child was reunited with his family. They promised to give the child the opportunity to continue training. The department also need to increase its stock of logistics and tools for the new children being prepared for enrolment.



Right to Play

CAS has submitted a proposal to RTP to improve the environment for quality education for out of school children using play based approach methodology.

In addition a M.O.U. (memorandum of understanding) and a policy for child protection. had been signed.

Together with RTP, an interschool volley ball competition will be organized at the Refuge. The media will be invited to cover it.

Conclusion:

During the last Head of Departments meeting, we agreed to intensify the following:

- The sponsorship training program.
We have to apply for tools and logistics.
The assessment criteria for children taking part to become functional literates can be used at the Refuge and at Hopeland. Progress reports on children would be needed.
Three more rooms will be rented.
An application to settle 10 trained children has been sent to Misereor
- The format to write monthly reports is understood and will be used by all department heads.
- A new plan for Fieldwork activities will be drawn up by bro. Jos
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We thank you all donors, individuals and organizations for the support given to the children. Thank You. Bro. Jos

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