



## REVIEW THE YEAR 2018

Newsletter 80

December 2018



Dear Reader,

The year 2018 has come to an end. In this newsletter we want to review what took place during the year 2018 and learn from it.

The years was marked by donor support and closing of contracts. CAS is completely depended on donor support. It has no fixed income and often the plans we have are larger than the funding available.

The main activity of CAS is running at the House of Refuge and Hopeland centre as well as the sponsorship program for the children. Even if the sponsorship could not be done because of lack of financial support, the House of Refuge and Hopeland centre should be able to run and function.

At the House of Refuge children come in the morning and return to the street in the evening. At Hopeland, children and staff are accommodated and live there 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

In order to keep the house of refuge open, we have to be able to pay for the running costs such as; Electricity, water, hygiene and maintenance. We are very grateful to Kinder mission werk (Germany) who supports us to run the Refuge for many years. However, KMW are of the opinion that there are several rich Ghanaians who could take over that responsibility in the future.

Although several Ghanaians are very rich they do not have the sympathy of supporting children from other families. Many think that the fathers of these children should be kept responsible. After all, they gave birth to these children. Lack of job opportunities and schooling are no obstacles of taking care of their children, they reason. On the other hand, we meet many persons and societies who do not want to be known but they support us to assist the children.

A taxi drives into the yard, delivers a bag of rice and some gallons of cooking oil and disappears again. Often I have to ask, who donated these items?

Hopeland center receives its support not only from donors who support the sponsorship scheme, but also from organizations such as The Beer stichting and Wings of support. Taking care of children 24 hours a day takes more than food and drink. Many more costs are involved such as accommodation, sleeping, bathing and recreation. Schooling could be added as well, because that is our main aim to educate children to become functional literates who can take care of themselves.

To make somebody functional literate involves a lot. During the annual meeting of the staff of CAS recently, this was one of the main topics. First of all, the person should be able to take care of him/herself. Many of the children are born on the street.



They have not learnt the basic skills for a healthy living: to take regular baths, to keep your clothing clean, to go to toilet in the right place, to know what to do when sick, etc. Many of us have been educated by our parents or kindergarten teachers.

Other skills such as how to speak to a parent, to have consideration for fellow human beings as well as to learn how to behave are difficult to absorb when learnt wrongly or not in the street.

CAS worker know that a lot of patience is needed with some children who are never brought up in organized homes. Some grow-up very fast in the street using techniques such as bullying and fighting.

Another important technique is listening to instructions and advice given by others. Street children are restless. They have adopted well the hectic live in the street.

Of course we can add learning English and math's etc. but these could be taught at a later stage in life. But writing of one's name and reading simple instruction is essential.

Children who have become functional literates have either not followed an apprenticeship training to learn a skill or a trade. But they have other job opportunities.

#### JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

We invited an organization called "Daily Food". It is company which makes food items and tries to sell the items in the streets. The directors introduced these job opportunities at the Refuge and at Hopeland Centre and an excursion was organized to the factory as well. Unfortunately, it did not work out well. Most street youngster showed less interest in such jobs.



In the past we worked with similar establishments such as Fanmilk, ice cream vendors and Nestle coffee vendors and experienced similar results.

Although these youngsters would be fully supported with accommodation, transport and food and drink, they were not interested to sell these items.

Our question is, why not? Is the freedom in the street the main factor?

**GROWING POPULATION OF CHILDREN.**

We reported before that, the population of street children doubles every five years. These numbers do not include youngsters who are older than 18 years and also remained in the streets.

These groups have become so large that gang forming is the result. They have to defend the job opportunities and all activities and their territory.

Unfortunately, we experienced some gang fights in our compounds and had to ask the police for assistance to stop them. Presently, it is quite better because we know the criminals among them and prevent them to enter the compound. But of course, the fieldworkers who carry out street corner education still meet them daily in the street.

100% for CHILDREN AND CISU SUPPORT.

The fieldwork activities were supported by Right to Play and 100% for children with financial support from CISU Denmark. Both work agreements have been completed. First, we completed the one from Right to Play and later the 100%/CISU agreement.

The accounts of Right to Play were checked by some senior officers from different countries and the 100%/CISU by an auditor. 100% is now concluding the reports to CISU and we hope that soon we will be able to sign new agreements with both donors.



The sponsorship scheme is supported by some private donors and a German donor Paul E.v. which organizes yearly, a fundraising day at home, and Miseror who in June 2018 renewed the contract.

We are very grateful for this support. Plans are underway to enrol more children in the scheme, but unfortunately it proves that more time is needed especially for children who want to learn a trade which requires three years training. Not many children show interest in the long sponsorship program with the result that there are not many who can be easily settled afterwards as compared to the short term skills.

This topic was also discussed during the annual meeting and we will try to implement the plans suggested.

#### YOUNG CHILDREN:

Several young children visit the Refuge as well. They take part in the activities but are too young to start a skill or trade training. We are not able to send the children to a primary school because they do not fit into a school because of their poor educational back ground and behavior. I am sure that when we place them in the school the teacher will leave. What to do?

During the annual meeting we received various suggestions on their challenges but they still remain at the Refuge for observation.

#### CELEBRATIONS:

This year we celebrated many special days: International Street children day, send-off of Mr. Azaah and Mrs. Eunice Baah both on retirement, International day for children and the 50 years profession and 70 years birthday of bro. Jos/Christmas 2018.

These days underwent special preparations. All staff were involved. Some organized the games, others the food and drink while others took care of the general organization.

Children like competition games not because they can earn prizes but because of prestige. They want to show that they are capable of doing something.



In general, the children are very happy when these special days are organized.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2019.



Bro. Jos van Dinther  
(Director CAS)