



CAS' ANNUAL REPORT -2015

Introduction:

The year 2015 has been a historical year for the charity. In October, we marked the 25th anniversary from the date Fr. John Thebault (SMA) asked the university of Legon to conduct a research on street children until CAS attained 25 years in 2015. A photo exhibition has been mounted for this purpose.

The year was also marked by various researches which were completed. CAS assisted Streetinvest to conduct a research which took place over a period of three years and has now been completed. Several workers were involved in the research we conducted in the social welfare districts of the Greater Accra Region.

Interestingly, we were also questioned by various organizations on our ability to listen to the children and empower them. These questions were a surprise to us. We do not claim that we are experts in street children, but to put in doubt that we do not listen to them suggests that it is not known how CAS operates. Not to say, that it could be an unintentional insulting statement.

We are working with and for human beings. The Street children we met in the early nineties are completely different from those we meet today. Therefore, any research only creates a moment picture of a particular period. Persons who claim they know the children and know how they live do not realize that their knowledge is limited.

We were also questioned on our ability to raise funds for the project.” It is time that you take a look at what you can do yourselves instead of always being dependent on foreign donors”. Again, this question is based on lack of knowledge. How did we survive the past 25 years?

Although we have a new website and write newsletters etc., we have to do more on creating the awareness of the children and the project.

THE CHILDREN:

Street children still visit the House of Refuge in numbers in spite of the existence of several street-children NGOs who are now operational in Accra. The attendance in 2015 was as follows: 8,112 children visited the Refuge, 4183 boys and 3929 girls.

During the first 6 months more girls than boys attended, while during the second half the boys outnumbered the girls. We do not know the reason, but it is an interesting observation. Majority of these children came from the Central and the Volta regions. A few others came from the other regions and neighboring countries.

They sleep at Kaneshie and Konkomba these areas are not far from the Refuge.

Many of them are very young which made us to decide to start a functional literacy program at the Refuge and also at Hopeland Centre.

THE STAFF:

This year the number of staff remained the same although, a few left and new workers were employed. One ex-street child was employed to teach Decoration at the Refuge and one staff came to strengthen the general handicraft section.

Several members of staff were involved in the various researches. This was a good experience for them and certainly improved their knowledge of the children and their working environment.

One member of staff completed his studies at the university which he combined with the work. Two others followed the second phase of a sandwich course in Conflict Management and Behavioral Change at the University of cape Coast for two months.

Introduction of New Trade: Interior & Exterior Decoration:

As part of the plans this year-2016, Short Term Department in collaboration with other department introduced a new apprenticeship Trade training in Interior and Exterior Decoration.

Decoration is the process or art of adorning something, it is the crafting of a house, an object, or act intended to increase beauty of a person, room, outdoors or environment. The decision to introduce the new skill or Trade training was also increased and widen the scope of choices of Trades available for street children to choose from. It also gives opportunity to children to learn Trades or skills which are more marketable and profitable in recent times.

Prior to the introduction, two Staff each were selected from Short Term, Demonstration and House of Refuge to benefit from the 'In—House' training. A Decoration Teacher/trainer was contracted. She came twice a week for four – six hours to teach both theory and practical. They were taken through how to make ribbons, flower girls basket, bridal bouquet, corsage, fruit arrangement, fresh flower arrangement, flower arrangement, balloons, table decoration, chair decoration, swag and aisle decoration.

The training took six months with additional three months of introduction of the training in various department as part of demonstration lessons by the trainees who took part in the training. One of the benefit of the training according to one of the trainee is the assistance provided to the Instructor since the introduction of the training as one of the Trades at CAS. The trainees serve as a support to the Instructor who is a former street child in training and introducing the Trade to other children. Internal Decoration at the Refuge during the 25 years' celebration were also done by the trainees.



BOARD OF ADVISORS:

The Board of Advisors met only twice this year. Several members took part in the Evaluation and discussed the results. Unfortunately, we could not get members together at the end of the year because of other commitments. Therefore, we have already scheduled another meeting at the beginning of 2016.

Some of the issues on the agenda are:

- Should Hopeland center develop into a day care center in addition to the work they are doing?
- Our renewed involvement in the street corner education
- The fieldwork activities.

VOLUNTEERS:

Every year CAS workers want to cooperate with students and volunteers who are interested to be with the street children. Universities and volunteer organizations sign MOUs with CAS which states the responsibilities of the parties involved.

Universities from Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and USA showed interest as well as volunteers from various countries.

In 2015, several volunteers cancelled their trip and others did not want to sign new MOUs because of the Ebola crises in some West African Countries.

Only a few Ghanaian volunteers joined us during the year.

In the coming year, we expect some students from Norway. They are welcome.

FIELDWORK:

One of the experienced fieldworkers resigned because of health reasons. Leaving one worker who does the follow-up work. Children who are already listed in the training but stopped for one reason or the other are traced so that the real cause can be traced and rectified. This is a difficult job because often the children do not want to be traced and sent back to the workshop.

For of the research we conducted in the various social welfare districts of Accra, the follow-up staff and other staff from the sponsorship departments assisted in the research.

Plans are on the way to re-start the street corner education program together with Right to Play. When our proposal is approved more workers will be involved.



HOUSE OF REFUGE:

Members of staff of the Refuge department are responsible to receive, welcome and register the children. They see to it that the “new” child is introduced to the staff of the various workshops. They explain to the child the regulations and encourage the child to take part in the various activities.

A timetable is followed and all children are encouraged to follow the literacy program. This year, the classroom experienced some congestion because sometimes more than 40 children wanted to take part while only 30 desks are available. Of course, this does not happen every day, but periodically.

It is similar to the boys-girls’ ratio as described above. We cannot explain it, but for a period of time many children come to the Refuge while in certain weeks the center is quiet.

Different lessons were introduced such as measuring, decoration, and spelling of words. Approximately, 70 % of the children were complete illiterates when visiting CAS for the first time.

CLINIC:

Approximately 400 patients reported at the clinic of CAS with various sicknesses: Malaria 38, Severe malaria 2, Cold 12, Wounds 28, Toothache 3, Abdominal cysts 1, Boils 4, Bilharzia 4, Diarrhea 10, Family planning and pregnancy 9, Antenatal 4, Referral cases 5.

The nurse taught the children regularly about health matters assisted by other members of staff. Topics treated were Bilharzia, personal Hygiene, H.I.V. and Aids, Use of Hard Drugs, and Ebola.

**ALLIANCE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHT**

ARHR exists to ensure that every Ghanaian – poor and rich, young and elderly, female and male in rural and in urban areas has access to the best sexual and reproductive health care. This is achieved by challenging inequalities in the health system and other basic services through advocacy and responsive service delivery.

ARHR's 32 local partner are organized into 3 zones coordinated by 3 national NGO's. These NGO's are ISODEC - coordinates the Northern zone

CENCOSAD – coordinates the Southern zone

CEDEP – coordinates the middle zone.

CAS partnership with ARHR for 2015 was strengthened with Eunice Baah of CAS, our nurse as representative. For the period, CAS participated in almost all the scheduled meetings and contributed immensely.

The goal of the meeting was to look at millennium development social objectives and how members could work hard and achieve those goals which Ghana was found lacking. Members in all meetings were entreated to play major role in creating this awareness especially on free universal care in Ghana.

SPORTS:

Two donors assisted CAS to improve the sports/games facilities. Stivosina assisted in reconstructing the court yard and the reconstruction of the volley and baseball poles while Right to Play assisted in painting the sport field and provided a safety net. Both organizations provided other sports materials such as balls. Several tournaments were organized and executed successfully.

Right to Play trained and confirmed several members of staff as coaches. These coaches organize the sports and games activities thrice a week. Many children like sports and when well organized they participate a lot. They took part in dancing and rap competitions. They recite poems, do spelling competitions, musical chairs, balloon bursting and dart throwing, do the game twister, name the artists of popular songs and do the building of pyramids.

The teachers make sure that the games are related to what is taught in the classroom. This is similar to what happens in the library and the computer room. The exercises in the classroom are duplicated in the library and the computer room.



PERSONAL HYGIENE AND COOKING:

The staff introduced the children to personal hygiene such as taking regular baths, keep the clothing clean, brush their teeth etc. All staff assist because often “new” children come to visit us.

Children who learn cooking follow a certain program. This is adapted to the number of children present so that after the cooking exercise all children can receive something. This is not a full meal but a snack or a small dish or plastic bag of food.

COMPUTER:

Computer lessons this year were successful. We had so many children taking part in the computer lessons this year unlike before girls were not interested but this time around we make them know how important it is to them so they were much involved. We taught the children how to create and save files, how to draw on the computer using paint software, how to create their own Facebook account and how to make friends and chat online, Basic typing and also how to search for the trade they are learning and watch videos on YouTube.

We also changed the operating system of the computers from Microsoft to Linux. The motive is at the end of the day the child should know basic thing about the computer so that the child can fit into the job market. It will also make the child current to recent technologies.

Donor: Standard and Chartered bank

SECURITY:

Security of the House of refuge has improved a lot. A security company is in charge while during the day one ex-street child, now employed takes care of the day security job.

DONORS:

Kindermissionwerk- Germany, Lentenfund-The Netherlands, Stivosina, Right to Play-sports, Reik elkaar de hand-goods, Adeline Janssen Stichting-Education, and Private donors. Many Thanks!

DEMONSTRATION:

Trades and skills are demonstrated at various workshop at CAS. These skills are:

Carving, hairdressing, pedicure/manicure, General handicraft, sewing, decoration, cooking and catering, bead-making and working with waste materials. Skills and trades we cannot show in workshops are presented to the children on videos. The main aim is to show the children a variety of skills they could learn. Still it remains very difficult for a child to make up his/her mind.

Therefore, we give some children a trial period before a definite decision will be made. During the training we use a three steps approach. After a number of weeks, the child is tested and when s(he) passes can continue with the following step. In this way we encourage the children to sit for the N.V.T.I. practical trade test grade two.

SKILL TRAINING	BOYS	GIRLS		
SEWING	35	63		
WOODCARVING	70	3		
HANDICRAFT	58	31		
HAIRDRESSING		17		

In the coming year the decoration skill will be added.

In addition to demonstrating the skills, the various workshops have production units. Items are made in such a manner that they can be sold to the public. It is very difficult to make artifacts so attractive that the public will buy them. We do not

have copyright on items we make. As soon as a product is attractive other artists copy it and improve it. Therefore, we at CAS are happy when the products can be sold but we do not want to make it our permanent business to sell artifacts.

HOPELAND CENTER:

This center can be located in the village Adjei Kojo close to Ashaiman. The center was on land reserved for agricultural purposes. It was quite isolated some years ago. But because of the development and expansion of Accra city, people started building also in that area often but illegally.

We quickly had to fence our land because people were trespassing. Not enough money was available and therefore a three concrete block high fence was built to protect the compound.

Some people built their house just at the edge of the fence. Many buildings were demolished by the authorities. This became a problem that riots took place and the government asked them to stop the demolishing. Presently, soldiers and police men try to maintain peace in the community.

Our plot is completely surrounded by buildings. With the assistance of EOF- the Netherlands, we are reconstructing the fence and making it higher using bamboo poles. As soon as is completed we will be able to secure the area better.

The staff and children will feel more secure. Still it is problem to keep children at the center for a long period of time. Especially girls often abscond. We have put in place many good interventions such as guaranteeing three meals for the children. Provide all necessary personal items for the girls, etc.

Several young groups of sportsmen make use of the football field and volleyball court. This creates a more child friendly environment. In addition, we are debating to allow street children from the neighborhood to visit the center. We hope that eventually all these measures will create a better place for the children to live and learn.

64 children transited to Hopeland and 4 were re-united with their families.

12 children are now on admission.



SEWING AND HAIRDRESSING WORKSHOP:

The lady in charge for the hairdressing went on maternity leave. As a result, we decided not to send girls who were interested in this skill to Hopeland but to train them at the Refuge. Presently 10 girls are learning that skill.

The sewing center continue to operate and a lot of items were produced and sold at the Refuge to the public.

The lady in charge of sewing followed a course in decoration together with other members of staff. The skill is now introduced to the children at Hopeland.

TEACHING AT HOPELAND:

There are three different groups of children at Hopeland.

- Children who have to be re-formed
- Children who follow the basic literacy program and
- Children who are preparing themselves for the sponsorship program.

All children follow the classes offered at Hopeland. These include literacy, drawing, measuring, using waste materials, computer, and reading in the library.

A timetable has been adapted to suit the different children.

Sports is liked by all. Stivosina assisted Hopeland by improving the sport fields. These fields are well used.

The young groups keep them clean and in good shape. A gate has been made in the new fence behind the dam so that the children can enter the football field.

Reading is done in the new library which is not yet completed. A ceiling is yet to be made, electricity has to be connected and the building has to be painted. My Book Buddy, a Dutch organization assisted by providing a cupboard with books. In addition, we received books from private individuals and we are grateful to them all.

FARM:

Some activities at the farm are still active such as the piggery. CAS still invest monthly and the Ministry of Agric have provided 4 pigs. The chicken-houses are rented out to other farmers and a mushroom cultivation was also started.

As soon as the fence is completed, more vegetable gardens can be made.

STAFF:

The staff keeps regular monthly meetings. In addition, management organized some brain storming meeting to improve the center.

Donors: Lentenfund, E.O.F., 100%, Bookbuddy, Stivosina, Private donors.

Thanks to all!

SHORT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM:

Short Term Sponsorship provides a complete package of 18 months full funding of training and basic needs to individual migrant street children who expressed the willingness to learn a skill of their choice during the preparation period. Preparation allows the individual child during the process at the Drop-in-Center to take a decision to leave the street to acquire a skill or learn a trade. Children after going through the processes are referred by the Welfare Committee to benefit from the scheme support.

Children are enrolled on apprenticeship training in the following trades run at both 'In-House' and Private own 'Workshop' training centers. They are; Carving, Sewing, Hairdressing, Pedicure & Manicure, Vulcanizing, Barbering, Art-Sign Writing, Mobile telephone repairs, Cookery, Interior & Exterior Decoration and Catering.

TRAINING:

The department as at the close of this year had 38 children on the scheme, with 70% of the children trained in 'In-House' apprenticeship training centers. The Centers were created as part of the introduction of the Short Term training since it started 4years ago. The In-House centers train children in Hairdressing, Pedicure & Manicure, Carving, Cookery, Catering and Decoration. As part of the plans this year, the Department introduce two new trades/skills with Centers opened and equipped for each of the trade. The trades or skills are cookery (local dish cooking) and Interior Decoration May and August respectively. Two of the staff were also trained in Decoration to serve as a support to the Instructor who is a former street child. However, the Outside workshop apprenticeship training which constitute the rest of 30% trained children in mobile phone repair, barbering, Sign Writing and vulcanizing.

All the skill training has also developed three stages of training per part of the plans for this year. All children undergoing training have to go through all the stages leading to writing National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) Grade Two Trade Test. Prior to the NVTI trade test, children were also made to take internal proficiency trade test, where individual children were assessed using a format designed by the department based on the NVTI Trade test requirement. All children at different stages of the training had a chance of being internally assessed in the course of the year. The outcome of the assessment was used to re-shape the training provided to individual children. The result is also used by the Instructors in developing different methods in handling training challenges and to prepare the children adequately to take the trade test.

Below are number of children at different stages of apprenticeship trade training in trades listed below, however seven of them are due for the NVTI trade test early next year;

1. Hairdressing has a total of nine children, three of the children in Level One, one in Level Two and five in Level Three of the training stage preparing to write the NVTI anytime soon.
2. Woodcarving has a total of two children, all in level three preparing to write the next NVTI.

3. Cookery (Local Dish Cooking Training) has one child in Level One of the training stages.
4. Decoration has two children, one of the child in Level One stage of the training and the other one preparing to write the NVTI.
5. Barbering has only one child in Level One of the training stages
6. Mobile Phone Repair has only one child in Level One of the training stages
7. Art- Sign Writing Trade (External) has been one who supposed to be on the second level but have to complete some aspect of the first level due his absence from training.
8. Catering has four children, three are in Level three of their training stage preparing for the NVTI, in addition to one who has successfully completed but waiting to take NVTI Trade test.
9. Vulcanizing has one in Level One of the training stage
9. Sewing has four children, two of the children Level One and two in Level Two of the training stage.

Plans have been far advance for the recognition of CAS as a PROFICIENCY Trade Test Center, where each child will be made to take the NVTI trade test when he or she is due. This system will replace the old system where children have to take the NVTI trade test in other centers outside CAS. Initial contact was made with CAS assessment completed. If assessment proved successful, children who complete training will have an examiner coming from NVTI to test and issue certificate to the children in all the trades or skills when a child is due or complete the training.

Challenges

The major challenge was persistent flouting of training rules and lukewarm attitude towards training. Each one of them was made to sign 'Bond of Good Behavior' after many attempts to resolved this attitudinal problem failed. The trainees also benefit from weekly group counseling and individual counseling by their various

supervisors as a means of helping them cope with the positive behavior changes expected.

LONG SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM:

The long term sponsorship is one of the departments of CAS. It is composed of a three (3) members team- two supervisors and a head of department with a core mandate of overseeing the general welfare and overall progress and development of every child enrolled in the long term sponsorship scheme of CAS.

ACTIVITIES

The functions of the department include the following:

Placement of children: Children recommended by either the preparation committee or Hopeland training center are attached to various existing private workshops/trade centers, the department have been working with for the past years. In other situations, children are placed in schools and National Vocational Training center.

This year January- December 31st 2015.

The department was able to handle nineteen (19) children in total below is the break down.

NAME	TRADE	LOCATION		
Daniel Burce	Auto-mechanics	Adjei-Kojo		
Daniel Danor	Auto-mechanics	Lartebiokorshie		
Collins Oppong	SHS 1	Nkawkaw		
Jacob Ndebora	Electrical	Mambrobi		
Ernest Ofosu	Auto-mechanics	Adjei-Kojo		
Charles Gyamfi	Auto-mechanics	Lartebiokorshie		
Kwesi Arhin	Auto-mechanics	Ashaiman		

Philip Anaba	Auto-mechanics	Adjei-Kojo		
Emmanuel Williams	Spraying	Lartebiokorshie		
James Sakyi	Auto-mechanics	Lartebiokorshie		
David gyasi	Auto-mechanics	Manprobi Accra		
Lexis Amissah	Electrical	Mamprobi Accra		
Nathaniel Lamptey	Auto-mechanics	Adjei-Kojo		
Harry Ablorh	Auto-mechanics	Adjei-kojo		
Charles Owusu	Auto-mechanics	Adjei-kojo		
Kelvin dorge	Auto-mechanics	Adjei-kojo		
John Mensah	Welding	Lartebiokorshie		
Abdul Rahma Adams	Welding	Adjei kojo		
Prosper Halda	Welding	Adjei kojo		

BREAK DOWN OF TRADES

TRADES	FREQUENCY
AUTO MECHANICS	14
ELECTRICAL	2
AUTO SPRAYING	1
WELDING	1
SCHOOL	1

SEARCH FOR ACCOMMODATION:

Children selected for the long term sponsorship are housed in rented rooms owned by private individuals. This is done in tandem with the period of apprenticeship

training of a minimum of three years. Currently, the department has two rooms renewed in October 2015. One room located in Agege a suburbs of Accra.

In addition, the department technically has three rooms in Adjei kojo. The tenancy expired in March 2015 but has not been renewed (in-kind)

AGREEMENT FEES: At the beginning of an apprenticeship training, agreement fee has to be paid. The department represented by the supervisor is responsible for this. However, prior to the signing of any contract with the workshop manager the trainee is put on a trial (probation) period of three months for adaptation into the workshop environment. It is also used for observation by both the department and the workshop manager.

SUPERVISION/FOLLOW-UP

Visits are made to able the workshops, schools and other training centers where long- term sponsorship children are learning trades to know about their work performance progress and other needs. During these visits, issues concerning the child's health and social development are given the needed attention. In the 2015 year the department increase the visits to the children in training to curb the incidence of failure. Also supervisor visit places of abode of every child fortnightly to address pressing issues land with lords and land ladies.

EVALUATION NVTI SETTLEMENT

After completing sponsorship, the child has to choose a path for his future. Together with the supervisor and the instructor an evaluation exercise is done six months prior to completion.

This is done to prepare the child's mind about his future. During this period, he is encouraged to sit the NVTI exams. Depending on the availability of funds a settlement package wither in cash amount or in kind (tools) is given the child for start-up. This year no child has benefitted from the package.

SUCCESS

In spite of myriads of problems encountered the department was able to achieve some successes. For example, three boys were able to complete apprenticeship training successfully. Another completed JHS and is currently a student at Nkawkaw senior high school.

One boy, trained in auto-mechanic for 2 years asked to be disengaged from the trade instructor. After an evaluation the department together with the instructor agreed to close the sponsorship in December 2015.

Donors: Misereor, Aidworld, Paul e.v, Fam Heijden, Galen, Kunnen and Reik elkaar de Hand. Thank You!



CONCLUSION:

The year 2015 has been a good year for CAS. Many new avenues have been visited and several new plans made for the future. For sure, we are not stagnant but look hopefully to the future. Many children could benefit and many new actors are willing to join to improve their conditions. We like to thank all donors, benefactors and individual persons who have assisted us.

Many thanks. Our email address = casghana@gmail.com

Website = www.casghana.com

Bro. Jos van Dinther We wish you a blessed 2016.

(Director CAS)

