



# HIPS - Charity Organisation

Weija, Ghana

## Information Letter No. 16

January 2010



I started my second trip to Ghana in 2009 with great anticipated joy, since we had planned to have our HIPS 10th anniversary at November 5th at Weija.

So my husband, who joined me this trip again, and I flew to Accra a week before, again equipped with a lot of cloth, shoes and other things, which many sponsors from Germany and Switzerland gave us. Two days later my son Jan and his girlfriend Deborah followed, to help us with the preparations for the big event.

The teachers together with the children from the Kindergarten and School had studied a really impressive program with poems, songs and dances for the anniversary party. Deeply moved we all could get a first impression at the general rehearsal. Naturally there were a lot of additional things to organise, which kept us busy for the next days. Paul took care of the flower decoration, tents, tables and chairs had been put at our disposal once again by Ballast Nedam. They also were so kind to take care of the catering for the children, parents and guests at our anniversary party.





On November 5<sup>th</sup>, we then celebrated our big event. The acting Dutch Ambassador Mr. Michiel Bierkens gave us the honour of his attendance. The German and the Swiss Ambassadors unfortunately could not come, since both of them had been on an international assignment. Also we had to miss Mr. Jeffrey Pinkney, the head of Ballast Nedam Ghana, since he had to be on a business trip out of Ghana during that week.



In the course our anniversary party we also had the official inauguration of our 4<sup>th</sup> school building, which includes aside two classrooms also the laboratory for the Physics- and Chemistry lessons for the Junior High classes.



The acting Dutch Ambassador and a member of the regional parliament gave us the honour to take care of the ribbon cutting ceremony.

We also were very happy that we could welcome various representatives from churches and the business world. Mrs. Emma Gottfried, a member of our board, brought us a big birthday cake, which was eaten with great enthusiasm by our children.

Everybody who has been able to attend our anniversary event had been much emphasised, and I am sure that it will be in the memories of children



Many thanks to all who have been engaged in the success of the party. A very special one goes to Mrs. Kathrin Atta Agyemang, the chairwoman of our board, who took personally a huge part in the whole organisation of our event.

My husband had to go back to Europe, but with the help of Debbie and Jan and naturally all of the teachers, we arranged a few days later a special party just for the children. Everybody had a good time, but since at all of the games a lot of prizes could be won, Debbie was busy to pack up all of them, which we had brought from Europe. The enthusiasm of the children rewards her for her engagement.



Back from his trip to China Mr. Jeffrey Pinkney and two person from his company came to visit Weija and since we arranged some presentations, which have been shown at our anniversary event, they also could enjoyed the songs and dances.

When a week later the top management of Ballast Nedam from the Netherlands, while there had some business in Ghana, also came to see us and watch the presentations. They liked what they saw so much, that they decided to subsidised our project with a special Christmas donation of 12.500 US \$, 5 Computer and a container with a porch, which will be housing class 4 until the lacking second room for the kindergarten early 2010 is ready.

As soon as class 4 can moves, the container shall be used for workshops of different artisan lessons.



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Inflation in Ghana together with a drastic cost increase mainly for building materials, made it necessary to do some adaptation of the design for our new assembly hall and kindergarten building and needed new quotations. All of this naturally effected the start of the construction, so that we now expect, that we can move around May. A warm thank you again to the Swiss sponsor, who gave us the funds to erect this last building for the school.

In the meantime we also did some repair work at the kindergarten. During the Easter vacation we will finish the work on our oldest building, - as you may recall – with a repaint of the outside.

I am also very happy that in 2009 again friends of us and HIPS used special occasions to collect money for HIPS. Some birthdays, donations of two schools in Germany - were they made and sold little things for Christmas decorations - ,



some companies in Germany and Switzerland and special Christmas donations of two companies in Switzerland together with a personal donation of the family Marcollo from Locarno/ Switzerland brought about 23.000 CHF for the education of our children.

I thank all of them very, very much. They and all those sponsors who regularly donated money for our project, help us to give now over 160 children a decent education. All of you are laying the foundation for our HIPS children to once take their life in their own hands with a much better starting position as most of their fellow Ghanaians have.

In the meantime I am preparing my next trip to Ghana in March 2010. I am very anxious to see, what has happened until than,

Good by to all of, god bless you and until my next report

Yours

Brigitte Honsel

“To find your joy in the gladness of others is the secret of happiness “

Georges Bernanos