



HIPS – Charity Organisation

Weija, Ghana

Information letter No.23

September 2013

Dear friends and sponsors,

Sorry, I am late with my first annual report about what happened at HIPS this time. But finally, here it is.

March this year I made my first trip to Ghana. Just a few days earlier our new volunteer *Christina Knieke* also arrived.

We were welcomed as usual with a big Hallo by everybody at HIPS in Weija.

Also in March *Mrs. Noor van Hout* from the Netherlands joined us. She stayed there until end of July and worked on a special assignment for the organization and the board.

She used her everyday experience over the month working on an analysis about the whereabouts in Weija. The plan is to use this work to increase the efficiency of HIPS. In addition to that she put a special focus on the different capabilities of the teacher and gave a separate report on that matter. When she left end of July she donated a football and new sport T-shirts to the children to motivate them to work on their fitness. All of us at HIPS thank her very much for her engagements.



Unfortunately this spring we had a lot of electricity shortfalls, so that the work of Christina with her computer quite often had been a problem, so that very soon she found out, that she was in Africa and not in Germany any more. But overall she enjoyed her time in Ghana and all the children were sad, when she went home again.

One of the Telephone Companies (*MTN*) in Ghana equipped us with 15 modems for free usage of internet at our computer lessons. A great help for the school kids. Thank you to MTN.

During April we have been working on some general repairs in Weija. We were supported by our friends from *Coral* with color to repaint the schoolhouse No.2.

In addition to that I could get again 500,- GHc, when I had the chance to pay the management a personal visit again this year. The Company *Interplast*, another Company which is helping us regularly, gave us various tubing to reequip our watering system on the school garden. Our little garden will now bloom again quite intensively.

A fashion designer – who is working on our new school outfits – arranged an afternoon for everybody serving drinks and sandwiches. Thank you to *Maxwell* and *Mrs. O'Jeanne*.

I was very happy, that I have been successful in convincing 2 new companies to support us. So the Company *Batimat* helped us again with 500 GHc. The Companies *Britanica* and *Sintex Tanks*,

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both of them I could visit the first time, donated each 1000,- GHc. to us. A good friend of ours, the *Stellar Group*, donated again money for financing 2 teacher salaries. A very welcomed help, since it takes some of our fix burden each month. The *Melcome Group* also helped us again with various donations for the everyday school life. Thank you very much for your generosity. In general I was very happy to see, that now a few more Companies from Ghana are taking interest in the development of HIPS and helping us with some direct financial aids. To all of them a big thank you.

Someday in May the elders of the village Weija payed a visit to HIPS. They were shown around and informed about the value and the importance of the Kindergarten and School to the children, their families, Weija and the neighborhood. It was also discussed what could be done personally by the people of the village to intensify their support for the project.

Hips is also continuing to teach in the Kindergarten classes with the Montessori method to strengthen creativity and personal dedication of the children.

Right now we are looking for another teacher with that special knowledge.

Regularly a day with open doors is held at the Kindergarten and School. There the parents can observe the daily school life and talk to the teachers; a very welcomed new arrangement. Also new is the so called "clubtime" every second Friday. During those hours the children can decide if they want to join music, dance, art or discussion.

In our web-side we also asked for books for our library, so that our children can read also some interesting books when there are not at school.

During June and July in all the classes, but especially for the children which are leaving the JHS, various tests had to be done. For the JHS finishers it is decisive to succeed in those tests to get the permission to go to a Senior High School somewhere in Ghana until school graduation. The results are given out late September, but we believe, that also this year again all of our children will be successful – even if normally only 50 % of all the children in Ghana will reach this aim. Naturally I will report about this.

End of July the annual big summer party took place. The party was sponsored by our chairmen *Mr. Hubert and his wife Tanya*. The chief of Weija and the elders of the village gave us the honor of their attention and *Mr. Rupert Pate*, member of our board, *Mrs. O`Jeanne*, and the parents also joined the party.

Theater and dances were presented, an exhibition of products, which had been made by the children during their Art&Craft lessons, were displayed. Even some of those exhibits were sold. Also this year some children have been awarded for their special effort during the school year.

As we are uses to, the day was beautiful and everybody was very happy.



August 9th a relative of Mrs. Huberts, *Mr. Eddy de la Combe*, visited our Kindergarten and School. Mr. de la Combe works as personal trainer in the Netherlands. He wanted to do something for our children, and so he started over there a sportcamp where everybody had to pay 5 € to join. He told us, that it was quite difficult to get a good attendance, but finally he got 442,- € for us.



He brought them personally to Weija and used his visit also to show the children and teachers some training programs for their sport lessons. Many thanks for this special action.

Sometime in October two new volunteers from Meschede/Germany will come to HIPS. I am very curious to see how they come along and what they have to report about their time in Weija. The situation, when children, teachers and volunteers of different countries and cultures come together for some weeks or month, always delivers a lot of new impressions to each of them. Let's see what comes out of it this time.

A friend *Mrs. Birgit Strehler* this year again supported HIPS by selling self made candles on a Christmas market which brought 750,- € to HIPS. Thank you again for this repeated Christmas help. The *Lions Club Meschede Germany* also donated 500,- € to us for new schoolbooks, which we still don't get from the Ministry of Education though they have been promised to us several times. Again we were very happy, when the *Dr. Hans Messer Sozialstiftung* donated to us again 2000,-€, as well as the Company *Falke* from Schmallenberg/Germany, which also send us 2000, - €.



The publishing house *Gruner & Jahr* donated to us the worth mentioning sum of 18.887, - €. This money has been the result of a special social program, where some of the employees and the company jointly dedicated funds for a social project.

We all at HIPS thank the Company and the joining people very, very much. In addition to that at the annual Christmas bazaar the *Gruner & Jahr Wirtschaftsmedien HGB* collected another 2.042,20 € for our project.

Also the *Untitled Verlag* from Hamburg again send 1.875,70 € to HIPS to pay for the 2nd school year of 4 children they decided to finance up to SHS graduation.

All together a very remarkable sum of money from Hamburg. Thank you very much.

A very good friend of ours *Mr. Diether Klingelberg* and his wife also donated again 5000,- € to HIPS this year. We thank him and his wife for their ongoing help. Also *Mr. Peter Wiethoff* decided to sponsor one child to continue his education to the end of SHS. A great help for a very happy little person. Also an unnamed Swiss donator send us 5000, - CHF through his bank. We thank him also very much.

Finally a big surprise occurred. An undisclosed donator gave to us the remarkable sum of 20.000 €. You can imagine how happy I was. Thank you very, very much for this wonderful donation.



Dear friends of HIPS!

To say it again, thank all of you very much for your help. Be it big or small, thank you.

We still need all we can get to keep the HIPS project alive. We especially need some more sponsors – private companies – who help us with a regular donation, so that we are able to do a solid and longer planning for our social project.

On September 10th 15 new little children started their time at HIPS Kindergarten. And so we are now about 200 children who are hoping for your help.

Dear all, that's it for today,
best regards to all of you, until next time

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brigitte Honsel".

Brigitte Honsel
Co-founder and
Member of the board of HIPS Charity Organization

