



# **HIPS – Charity Organisation**

Weija, Ghana

## Information Letter No. 25

July 2014

Dear friends and sponsors of HIPS!

My first trip to Ghana this year I already arranged for January since I could not go in autumn because of illness in the family.

Naturally I was especially eager to see all the children, since it was almost a year ago when I visited Weija.

As I have been all the time very well informed about the entire major occurrence by Mrs. and Mr. Huberts I felt at home immediately. Almost at the same time our new volunteer Miss Daria Matlakiewicz arrived, so that both of us have been welcomed very cordially at Weija. The children had prepared a welcome presentation which we enjoyed very much. I was told, and could see personally, that all the children were in a healthy condition and still very happy, that they could attend our Kindergarten and school.

At my first visit I could also meet the new entries to our Kindergarten. It is always great fun to see, how much they enjoy this possibility.

While I was attending lessons in various classes I could recognize, that the school is still developing nice. A good prove for this is, that also this year again all of our children, who left our school after its last JHS class, made it through the nationwide acceptance test, which allows them to enter a Senior High School.

Some help seems to be, that our new and constantly developing library allows us a regularly training with the children in reading English and talking about the matters they have read about. One can see in addition that more and more books are taken home to read them there. When the parents of Mrs. Huberts came to Ghana and visited Weija they donated some new books for the library. They, Mrs. Huberts and me visited a company which is producing glass beads which we also could buy for a very good price for our Art Club, where the children are making bracelets and handbags, which they are selling at the annual school party. Our 2 other seminars – one is teaching hygiene matters the other sewing – have a very good resonance with children.





Some of the self made items I took with me to give them to our two partner schools in Germany which are supporting us every year. So the *Schillerschule* in Göppingen send us 1045. - € last year. We thank them very much and also *Mrs. Brigitte Strehler* who again at the annual Christmas market in her area sold self-made candles and donated € 1200.- to us. The well-known textile Company *Falke* donated again € 2000. - to HIPS as well as *Fleck Promotion* which again gave € 2000. - to our Organization. Both of them I thank very much for their help.

Since I could not go to Ghana at the end of last year, I bought for the children a little late for Christmas this time some new equipment for their playground – a rocking horse, a new swing, and a new table football. The last one which I bought needed to be replaced, it seems to be their favorite.



As always when I am in Ghana, I spend quite some time to contact well known and potential sponsors. This time *Mrs. Huberts* joined me and I am happy to say, that we had been quite successful.

Our friends from *Batimat* gave us a check of GHc 700. - and the people from *Corall* donated to us again color to repaint our buildings. Also our friends from *Polytank* supported us again with an additional water tank, this time for 10.000 liters of drinking water, since we were in the process of digging our own well. This not only makes sense because of cost-cutting reasons but it is also needed since for our now over 200 children the additional toilet house need additional water as well as the extension of our kitchen. Now we should have enough water for our use and it can be delivered to the different places since the Company *Interplast* donated and placed the necessary tubes for the different users.





*Mr. Toor from Hitesh Impex Ghana* gave us a worth mentioning discount of GHc 2.500.- on the work to dig the whole of our new well and Ghc 1000. - again donated the Company *Sintex* to us. *Sy Tris Bookshop* promised us a discount on our Story Books, which we need regularly. During a visit in Weija *Mr. Lavish Sobhraj*, a friend of *Mr. Kapil Dhawan* – the owner of *Britanica* – gave us all the money he carried with him – US \$ 501 - when he had seen what we are doing in Weija. This spontaneous gesture means that with this money one child can be paid for one year. Thank you very very much to all of the mentioned help. It is great to see that more and more sponsors also from Ghana engage themselves for their fellow children.

But this has not been all.

We were successful in getting from *Mr. Subhi Accad from Universal Motors LTD.*, *Mr. George A. Massih from Ashfoam*, and *Mr. Kapil Dhawan from Britanica* as well from *Mr. Sundeep Dhawan* the promise that each of them will finance one teacher for one year. A very special help to us since the money to pay for the teachers and food for all the people at HIPS in Weija takes about 90 % of our annual budget. I also would like to thank *Deloitte&Touche* for their Report and Financial statement of HIPS, which we got free of charge. I am very grateful to all of them.

A special thanks goes to *Mr. Kapil Dhawan* who helped us already last year. His personal visit to Weija this year certifies his readiness to help us even more in the future. He defined an aim for himself to find 8 more people who would pay each a teacher's salary per year. Thank you very much to *Mr. Dhawan* for his confidence into HIPS.

For me personally it is very pleasing to see that increasingly companies and persons from Ghana are helping HIPS, some of them with their personal input, others in helping us to finance the organization. This takes a bit of the pressure from my shoulders to collect each year all the necessary money in Germany and Switzerland. Through the international development of the economies and the huge amount of money which has been thrown away by the financial institutes, to get money for HIPS gets more and more difficult. But I believe that the personal engagement of the acting people at HIPS in Ghana as well as my own engagement there and in Europe documents that the promotion of our HIPS project is worth while each Cedi, Euro, Swiss Frank or Dollar.

During my last week we had a meeting at Rotary in Tema where we also this year got education material and story books. HIPS had only to pay a minor amount of the transportation cost, since all the books are coming from the US. I thanked *Mr. Buckmann* from Rotary personally for the help of his organisation.

In the meantime our bigger infrastructure projects, the new toilet building with 2 showers for the teachers, the renovation of the old toilet house, the extension of the kitchen house and the water project with a drinking water well and the new water pipes to all the needed areas at our compound at Weija are finished. Again many thanks to all sponsors in Europe and Ghana who made this possible.

The volunteer *Miss Daria*, who arrived in Ghana at the same time as I, was very happy about her visit and work with the children. She already had planned to extend her time at Weija, when she got information from home that she had to come back, since the continuation of her studies already started mid March.

Since I am back home some new things happened.



Mrs. Huberts brought some items which have partially been sponsored by *Compu-Ghana* to our school. Also she got tiles we need for the school from *Mr. Ahmad* CEO of *Westafco* as a donation to HIPS. Some friends of Mrs. Huberts, *Mrs. Nang*, her daughter and sister, when they visited Weija brought a lot of gifts for the children. We also got some help from *Mrs. Charlie van Dongen*, who came to Weija for some weeks. She also donated GHc 1.700.-, which she had collected from her friends, to buy books for the library. Another visit to Weija brought quite some excitement. Since Mr. Alan and his friend Mr. Richard very much like soccer they bought a great amount of soccer boots for our team.

July 25<sup>th</sup> a real great party has been celebrated at Weija. On the one hand the children from our JHS class 3 were said goodbye after 11 years at HIPS School. A lot of honored guests came to us, like the Chief of Weija, Mrs. Sonya from Melcom and member of our board unfortunately could not come but informed us about a special sponsorship for 2 children to motivate them to get better each year, Mrs. Maria and Mr. Chris from Nissan Auto Parts, Mr. Joe from Ashfoam, Tim and Chris, the two sons of Mrs. and Mr. Huberts and our new volunteer Charlie and Mrs. Nang. Most of the parents also attended this great day. On the other hand a lot of certificates of honour, given by special guests, were handed to some children and also some to the hardworking parents and Mr. Paul. Thank you all from myself and all the HIPS children for your encouraging engagement.



For me the time in Ghana again has been wonderful and some days naturally stressing. But when I look back, I would not trade those hours for nothing. The children, teachers and staff at Weija are like a big family to me, so that I already start missing them.

A special thank you to Mrs. Huberts, who accompanied me almost all the time, helped me with all the actions and gave me an at home feeling in Ghana.

Last but not least.

When I came home a wonderful surprise happened. I got a phone call informing me, that one of our sponsors from Switzerland, who paid already last year for most of our infrastructure actions, again gave us some money. This enables us to do our charity work and also allows us to build a new computer house which urgently is needed. Thank you very very much.



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So far for today. To all of you who support my project, I am very grateful and thank you for your generosity to realize some of the aims of HIPS.



My next trip will bring me to Ghana probably at the end of November, when we will celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I am looking forward to this special event. May be some of you likes to join me?

Best regards and until then  
Yours

Brigitte Honsel  
Co. - founder and member of the board

Toss a dime in a pond and the waves will get bigger

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