



HIPS – Charity Organisation

Weija, Ghana

Information Letter No.20

December 2011

Back from my second trip to Ghana this year I want to inform all of you quite soon, since a lot of very important things have happened. But let me start from beginning.

My first interest naturally had been the children. I was very happy to see, that they are all in good shape and most of them are working very hard to be successful in Kindergarten and School.

The children of our final Junior High School class, who left now Weija in September, all attended the annual nationwide tests for the entrance into Senior High School. I am very proud to inform you, that this year again all of them were successful, while this year also only about 50 % of the children from all over Ghana succeeded. Thanks to a donation from **UNTITLED publishing house** from Hamburg/ Germany they can now also continue their education. Up to now the necessary funds are secured for 2011/2012.



In the meantime the children have started their Senior High School at the various places, where the Government has them assigned to. Unfortunately one girl could not continue her education at the school she has been elected for, since her father did not allow her to go to a boarding house. Since the area the family lives now closer to Accra could be quite dangerous for a little girl in the dark, we decided that we would not take the risk for HIPS to let her go back and return each day. That leads to the situation, that she has to follow her parents decision and cannot continue school. A sad story – since the girl has been quite good over all the years at school – but we could not convince her father



In the meantime Neele, the girl which does her voluntary education for her future studies at a university in Germany, has got used to the life in Ghana and especially at Weija. Her work in that climate for almost all the day is tough for her, cut she learns so much, that she is doing her job with great enthusiasm.



At Kindergarten we started a new educational program which we got from **Miss Manuela Wettstein** the owner of **Sternsicht GmbH**. The program Olympos, which she has developed and which has been successfully implemented in a lot of schools in Switzerland, should show methods and ways for a faster integration into school.



This educational program is also supposed to make successful learning easier, especially for children from minor educated families.

I am very curious to see the result of this.

During this visit I was basically busy with administrative work, so that the 2012 budget can be decided by the board. In addition I traveled again around to talk to various companies to get them acquainted with HIPS and interested in helping our Organisation. This is getting more and more difficult, not only in Europe with its huge financial problems, but also in Ghana.

But it has not been totally in vain.

The **Atlantic International Holding** from Accra has promised us again for next year 1000 Cedis. The company **Coral** also donated to us the oil color for the refurbishing of our buildings. I also have to thank **Rotary** again, since it's **Club in Meschede/ Warstein Germany** this year donated to us 1000 Euro for our project.

During my visit in March this year I also tried to get in contact with the person in charge at Melcom Group in Accra to inform her about my project. Through lack of time this did not work out then, but now I was successful. It was a pleasure talking to **Mrs. Sonya Sadhwani, Director of Corporate Affairs Melcom Group of Companies Accra Ghana**, who was enthusiastic about the HIPS project right away.





We arranged a visit in Weija for one of the next days and she really liked what she saw there. When I saw how she was enthusiastic I asked her, if she would be willing to join our board to help the program and use her network to find additional sponsors. She promised to do that and made the promise, that The Melcom Group itself would also get engaged into HIPS.

The week started so promising, that I also tried to get into contact with **Mr. Arthur Huberts CEO of Interplast LTD**. The company had been helping HIPS several times and also promised to do so for the next 2 years. During our discussion Mr. Huberts personally also got so enthusiastic about the HIPS Project, that we also arranged a visit in Weija for the week after.



His wife and he came to Weija, took a very intensive look around, talked to the Headmaster, administrator, teachers and school kids and made the promise that they would personally help as much as they could for HIPS. **Mrs. Huberts** gave her consent to come once a week to Weija to get a personal view about what is happening there and reporting about that regularly to the board. Her personal input into this will be of a great help to HIPS, since on one hand there has always been complaints, that the contact between the people on site in Weija and the board was much too poor on the other hand there is a saying, that the eyes of the master make the cows fat. For HIPS her assignment has to be rated very high, since it will take her more than 6 hours every time to visit Weija. Thank you very, very much for that.

Mr. Huberts will engage himself in our board and look for the financial necessities of HIPS Ghana, try to get additional sponsors and working on various activities to intensify the brand recognition of our project in Weija.

Right away he declared that he would personally bear the cost of the repairs at our kitchen house and Mrs. Huberts will pay for a new lawnmower. When she visited Weija a few days later with her son, who visited his parents coming from the Netherlands, spontaneously gave the money for the repairs on the computer container, where a large bee's nest had destroyed part of the roof.

Now you understand that I said, that I will report about very important matters. I still can't believe it, that I finally found dear and engaged people to help me with my project directly in Ghana. Thank you all very, very much, Mrs. Sonya Sadhwani and Mrs. and Mr. Huberts for your personal help. You gave me back the faith, that I have been doing something right during the last 12 years to help the children in Ghana.

Not believable but true, this has not been all.

During my last days in Ghana I finally had the chance to meet **Mr. Chinery-Hesse**. He is a very successful man building up and running an **IT Company in Ghana**.

When he was young he has been growing up partly in Switzerland and when The Financial Times of Germany brought a feature about him, I felt, that I should try to talk to him on my next visit to Accra.



Seite 4

He listened to me very carefully and spontaneously promised to also join our board helping the future development of HIPS and bringing some additional contacts into our Organisation.

All of our board members will join the board honorary.

Also the **School in Dorlar/ Germany** which has been helping us with money they could earn on a Christmas market for handicraft items the last years, has told me, that they will help us again this year. It always of a special value for me to see, how engaged the children of this school are helping their friends in Weija.

Now you can understand, while in total this visit to Ghana has been a very special one for me.

To all of you who always stayed close to HIPS over the years with smaller and bigger donations, with personal help and unbroken engagement I thank very much. Your help will, and that is what we see through the last years when our children succeed in the Senior High School tests, open a much brighter future for the children in Weija, for themselves and their families.

Please let us together not give up to follow that route. I am very grateful that you help HIPS on its way.

That's all for this time. I will report again after my next visit supposedly in March 2012.
I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year
Yours

Brigitte Honsel
Director and member of the Board of HIPS Charity Organisation

The greatest happiness on earth is
finding human beings who feel and think with us the same way