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NEWSLETTER 2 - 2019



THE HOME



MUSIC

Music lessons for some of Kinder Paradise's children started end of 2015 and since their first rehearsals as an orchestra, they have made a lot of progress. There have been several concerts and events in which our orchestra performed, and did very well. The children had the opportunity to play in a concert by Musicians without Borders at the Alliance Francaise, followed by a concert at the National Theatre, Accra on 31st August, 2019.

They were particularly excited about the latter experience, where they performed with international musicians, that is, the German Classical Orchestra "Jam Session", led by Anna Fuhrländer, during the YMCA Anniversary Celebration.

KP's orchestra also performed during a signing ceremony between Brussels Airlines and Africa World Airlines. The Minister of Aviation, Hon. Joseph Kofi Adda, who signed on behalf of the government of Ghana, witnessed our children perform. In his address he expressed his amazement about the talents the children displayed and extended an invitation for them to perform at the international annual ACI Conference (Airports Council International) in the presence of the President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. True to his word, KP orchestra was given the opportunity to perform at the function. The soloist singer was called to greet the president, and the orchestra received acknowledgement by His Excellency, the President, by delegates and other participants. In all, the boys and girls had wonderful experiences during their performances.



DISCOVERING A MISSING FAMILY AFTER 13YRS

Loosing contact with one's family at an early age, with scanty memories of the surroundings, language, and names (of the location or family members) may prove traumatic, disheartening and frustrating after years of unsuccessful attempts in finding the family. Imagine as a parent, a family member comes to pick your child to a big city like Accra for the purpose of enrolling the child in school and three days after, comes to tell you that the child has disappeared and all efforts to find your seven-year-old child from 2006 to 2019 have been unsuccessful! Family rancor, blame game, rage, frustrations and pain will undoubtedly suffice.

The scenario illustrated above vividly describes the dilemma of Rose, one of our recently re-integrated youth, and her family. After she got missing she was picked up and taken to a police station by a good Samaritan, from where she was sent to the Shelter for Abused Children. She was placed on TV on different occasions for identification purposes but to no avail. Subsequently in 2008, Rose was transferred to Kinder Paradise (KP) by the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) for care and education. While in KP, several attempts were made over the years by our social workers to trace and find the family but this remained unsuccessful due to the scanty and unclear information about the family location. However, our persistence and efforts paid off in August this year. Yet another search in the Volta Region by chance revealed that the name of a place the girl remembered, is also the name of another place in a different Region. After a long journey, and painstaking community to community and door to door search following the lead, her family was finally found. The situation was emotionally charged as the parents and some community members crowded around Rose just to catch a glimpse of her. Some broke into uncontrollable tears of joy, ecstasy, relief shock and disbelief upon setting eyes on their hitherto seven-year-old girl who is now a 19 years old Junior High school graduate. Some of them had no hope of ever seeing her again.

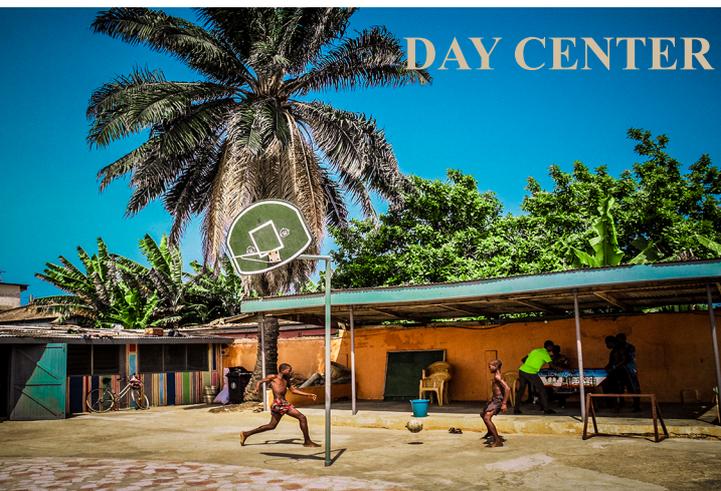
Imagine similar emotions on the faces of staff and friends of Rose in KP upon seeing a group of family members coming to visit Rose, who over the years never had anyone visiting her, and who they knew had no family as efforts to find her family had never worked! Rose has since been re-unified with her family by Kinder Paradise and DSW, in September, 2019.



The biological mother, grandmother, aunts and uncles visiting Rose (yellow T-shirt) for the first time in KP

A KIDNAPPED BABY

One day, a teenage girl came to the Day Center with a 2 months old baby. Initially it appeared to be her own but our staff investigated and heard the horrific story that this was a kidnapped baby from another town. In collaboration with the police, Kinder Paradise was able to reunite the little baby with its parents. After police investigations and court procedure had ended, the teenage girl was also reunited with her parents with the help of the Department of Social Welfare.



TIPS FOR PARENTS

Important Tips for parents and guardians

1. Children must be taught the names of their biological parents as soon as possible. The family name and significant others is equally important.
2. Teach children the name of their community or village as early as possible. Where possible teach them few landmarks such as church, school, market, chief's palace etc.
3. Teach children their specific ethnicity/tribe and the language of the people e.g. Dagarti -Dagaare, Ewe-Buem or Anlo, Akyem-Akuapem Twi etc.
4. Be mindful of the kind of people you leave your children with at home or give out your children/child to in the big cities.
5. Never send a child who is new in a community on an errand alone!
6. If you have a new child in your home, as soon as possible educate the child about your family name, the community and if possible, take a walk with the child around the area
7. Never abuse a child in your custody, they may run away and will never return or tell potential helpers their family location. Monitor the mood and movement of children in your custody.

NB. These tips will help the police, DSW, NGOs working with children etc. in tracing the family of a missing child

A VOLUNTEER AT THE DAY CENTER

My name is Astrid, and for almost 5 months, I was a student at the Kinder Paradise Day Center. It has been five extremely rewarding, fun and educational months, and I have come to know some of the children well. It was very difficult to say goodbye, as colleagues and children alike, get under your skin. I have seen the tough living conditions these children have, and I have learned how to create possibilities and requisites for them. It has been an amazing experience to have studied at Kinder Paradise, and I will take many great rewarding thoughts back to Denmark.

TRAINING

On the 16th of August two of our children took part in a Children's Forum and Street Champion review organized by StreetInvest. The children were put in focus groups to discuss issues on their life-styles on the street which was followed by a presentation to the team. The main objective of the forum was to train street children to educate other street connected children about their fundamental rights.

GENERAL NEWS

We are sad to announce that one of our alumni, Mansah Ackon, a young mother, has passed away

Wisdom Sogah and his wife Margaret welcomed their first baby!



RICHARD NUAMAH



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR GRADUATES**



AUGUSTINA MENSAH



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE

BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

While waiting for his National Service posting, Richard took the opportunity to do a small vegetable farm in Kinder Paradise where he put into practice some of the things learnt at school. The yield was good, and included pak-choi, radish, and other vegetables.

FUSEINI ABDULAI



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

As part of our new strategic directions, teachers have received continued professional development on facilitating inclusion in education over the past months. One of our alumni, who is now a teacher himself, has joined the teaching staff of our school.



**Your donations are welcome
- please contact us**

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