

## Newsletter December 2021



### News from Kinder Paradise

This year went by in lightning speed and here we are again, writing a newsletter. Despite a difficult year there were delightful moments, and we would like to share some of the stories...enjoy reading!



### My "KINDER"-Journey

I joined Kinder Paradise as a pioneer headmistress of the Basic School in 2006 with eight (8) teachers. The students were from the Children's home with an additional ten (10) on scholarship from the neighboring Abia Community.

Since it was a new school, the teachers and the children came together to set its own rules and regulations. Most of the staff were housed together in the "Mentor house" and together we nursed our new baby, 'the school'.

We joined the other schools to mark the "Ghana @50" march past at the Anglican Park where all major public celebrations took part. This helped the town folk to know of our existence. District Education officers visited the school after that.

We started our own "Kinder Olympics" during which athletics competitions were undertaken. It was one of the greatest fun activities of the school as teachers all have houses or groupings, together with the students, generating healthy competitors. Right from the first year, the school participated in all sporting activities organized by the Ghana Education Service in Prampram. We realized that during break, the children were idle so the staff had to teach them outdoor or normal school break activities e.g., ampe, skipping, hopscotch and anto ankyire. Several

traditional Ghanaian games for children. Students decided and we went on yearly excursions to places of interest to let them know more about their country.

A competition was organized for a school anthem. Classes and individual groups feverishly worked towards that, and this helped us to come up with the school anthem.

Serious teaching and learning took place starting from the first batches, passing their BECE with distinctions. I have a passion for reading so I personally had the Primary children read to me and ensured that those who needed re-enforcement came to read weekly till they improved.

Discipline was with love. As is expected in all human endeavor, both adults and student are corrected as and when necessary. I am happy to be part of the "Kinder" story because I've played a part in giving some of them a better life, as our school motto says, "Learning for a better life"



A send-off program for Mrs. Aryee was done, with children performing in dance, song, recitals, and staff and Management showing their appreciation for her long-time service. We wish Mrs. Aryee all the best for her new period of life, and welcome Mr. Tamakloe, the new headmaster, into our team.



Meet our 2021 BECE graduates! After many years of studies and hard work, our teachers prepared them for the exams in November this year and they successfully completed. They are currently waiting for their results to enable them further their education at the Senior High/Vocational school level to pursue their respective programs of choice. They are being prepared for re-integration into their families in January 2022, after which we continue to support them through their education.

We wish them well in all their endeavors



### **Ma Christie 15 year anniversary**

I joined the Kinder Paradise family in 2006 as a caregiver with little knowledge of caring for children in different age groups, though a mother myself.

However, with the help of Kinder Paradise, through trainings on best child care practices etc., I have gained much knowledge and experience over the past 15 years in caring for children.

My greatest motivation and joy as a mother is seeing the children I care for go through school, develop and grow beautifully. Though I am advanced in age, I successfully completed a Diploma program in Early Childhood Education at the University in 2018, taking inspiration from the children, and having the desire to be more effective as a caregiver.

I express my gratitude to Ma Silke (the director), my colleagues, staff and the children for their love and support over these years.



In the year 2004 I was very lucky to meet and join the Kinder Paradise family and since then my life took a different course. Before this time, my home was the streets of Madina, and I had no hope for education. But with the help of Mama Silke Rosner and Kinder Paradise I was enrolled to school and I am proud to say I hold a Higher Diploma in Ports and Shipping Management from Regional Maritime University, Ghana.

However, with the changing trends in education and competition in the job market, I decided to return to school on my own, for an upgrade to be relevant in the job market. Thus, I am currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in International Shipping and Chartering at Hochschule Bremen, Germany.

I would like to use this opportunity to say a big thank you to the staff, sponsors and donors of Kinder Paradise who made my basic and tertiary education possible in Ghana, and thereby laying the foundation for my dream profession. I am most grateful to Mama Silke Rosner and the former supervisor of the Home, Eric Kwabena Duodu, who never gave up on me despite my stubborn behavior and troubles. I thank God for how far He has brought me, and I am very grateful and appreciate everybody who contributed to my well-being and upbringing. I say God bless you. Thank you! *Isaac Agyekum Omari*

### **SWOT 2021, improving as an organization**

Our motto "Learning for life" equally applies to our organization, meaning to continuously develop, and to find out where we have further potential to improve.

This year we moderated, facilitated by Andrea Riley, a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats).

In a process including multiple steps we examined and prioritized top-down and bottom-up all departments, the Home, KP School, Day Center, and Management in collaboration with all staff, all the areas of our work, applying SWOT principles. The summaries and priorities were discussed with each department, and backed up by specific measures, which now form the development plan for the next 2 years.

We thank all who involved in this process for the open, constructive cooperation and goal-oriented exchange.



In the past, KP went to 10 public schools in the Ningo-Prampram District each year with a Child Rights and Child Protection program. This program comprised, among others, talks with children by stakeholders (e.g., Ghana Police Service, Ghana Health Service, and others), and a drama presented by the Obaale Drama Group of Mark Nii Lomotey, which used to be presented before the entire school. With the advent of new rules due to the pandemic, although teaching may be continued in classes, it is no longer possible to assemble hundreds of school children to attend a live presentation of the drama.

We are of the opinion that the topic of child rights and child protection is very important to be

brought across, and therefore thought of how we could possibly continue the program. The drama always used to be a highlight never to be forgotten – not the least because of the more than life-size puppets!

The idea came up to transform the stage play into a film, because a film could be shown in each class. The script was duly converted for film-production, and the children were excitedly rehearsing towards their performance. Currently, the filmed material is in for cutting and editing. We can't wait to see the final product.



***This year has been very eventful and we would like to thank all friends and supporters. Especially in times like these we would like to wish all of you a restful, pleasant Christmas season***