

## President's Report 2018-2019

It is an honour for us at Nimdy to take this opportunity to once again express our heartfelt thanks to you all for your generosity so far. The money has been raised to support our school community, the families in Ahodjo Village in Eastern Ghana and for the war-torn people in the Donetsk Republic in Eastern Ukraine.



Our school in Ahodjo in Ghana

Dr. Roland Hennes visited Ghana in March 2018. During his visit he extended the alternative clinic with further medication and consulting. We are very grateful to him for his commitment. Many thanks also to the generous support in the field of alternative medicine, which we received from Dr. Ivan Ghysaert, Dr. med. Michalzik, Biotikon and Dr. Harry van der Zee, Amma Ressonance Foundation. We have achieved amazing results.



Lunch break and activities in the schoolyard.

Meanwhile 85 children aged 4-10 attend school. For the time being, however, we have decided to maintain this level because we want to focus entirely on early childhood development and organic growth.

Research shows that over 90% of the brain develops by the age of five. Nutrition, care and cognitive stimulation are crucial in these early years to build a stable basis for survival. Healthy children, promoted accordingly, lead to a healthy and educated society in which citizens are better able to participate and contribute to the social and economic well-being of their communities.

Clean water, hygiene and disinfection have become very important for the school. Diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera and other infectious diseases caused by a lack of clean water, sanitation and basic hygiene kill about 1,400 children under the age of five every day. They kill more people worldwide than in any armed conflict. We therefore attach great importance to the training of all those involved in our school. In addition, a vaccination day for all children between the ages of 9 months and 5 years took place in October 2018 in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. (measles, rubella and vitamin A).



There are a total of 16 employees working at our school in cooperation with our tireless and proactive director Mohammed Sulemana. There are 9 teachers and assistants, 3 people in administration, 3 cooks and a nanny /cleaning woman.

Another focus is on the training of our teaching staff. Some of our teachers were able to complete an education or further training which noticeably improved the quality of teaching. We would like to honour this commitment with higher salaries. In addition, the cost of living is high and many teachers are single mothers. The jobs provided by the school are important for their survival. Nimdy also helps with unforeseen expenses and emergencies. We estimate the cost of these efforts alone will be at least CHF 25,000 next year.

## **Donezk , Ukraine**

Karin Gisler, her husband Yakov Yakushevskiy and I visited the still war-torn Republic of Donetsk in the Ukraine in May 2018. This was an experience full of emotions and lasting impressions. I was deeply touched by the bravery, generosity and resilience these people show every day under very difficult conditions.

Thanks to Nimdy, many receive a monthly sum that helps them to survive and to live as decently as possible in the face of the difficult situation in which they find themselves. The war has caused a manifold increase in the cost of living (food, heating, electricity), at the same time the shortages of supplies at all levels have become much greater, while the political situation is forcing them to make extremely

arduous and dangerous journeys in order, for example, to maintain their meagre pensions..



Lydia Kovalova has taken in 22 orphans and some children of single parents. They are between 4 and 18 years old and all live together as a family in one household.

We continue to support Lydia Kovalova and the 22 orphans she has taken in. She is doing a great job in the midst of so many challenges: a modern heroine! The sudden death of her husband and the war situation do not make her job any easier. It has become more and more difficult to raise money, and the new "state" also saves at her expense. Despite everything, the large house, where two or three children share one of the pretty and individually furnished rooms, has a beautiful and loving atmosphere. Our goal is to raise about 500 CHF per month to subsidize their meager income and thus enable the children to have regular meals, clothes, school and course attendance as well as short breaks from time to time.

In 2018 we also supported a group of women called the "Wild Volunteers". They visit elderly, disabled and sick people in the war-affected urban areas. Their houses are partly destroyed by bombs, the windows are missing, there are no shops in the neighbourhood. These people have neither the means nor the energy to leave their city. The Wild Volunteers bring them food, clothing and encouragement. Nimdy donated money, a special hospital trolley and a printer with paper for a village school that no longer had access to books.

## **Acknowledgment and Thanks**

Nimdy continues to invest every Swiss franc directly into its projects and we pay all our travel and expenses privately. In the new year, we will continue to work actively to reduce poverty and its effects, to improve people's lives through education and training, and to strengthen solidarity and support in Donetsk. As you can see, thanks to your donations we are able to make a difference in Ghana and the Ukraine.

You, our dear benefactors, are "the wind under our wings". We kindly urge you to keep your generous spirits strong and constant.

On behalf of the board members Ruedi Kyburz, Karin Gisler, Dr. Roland Hennes and myself we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your great support.

Ihre Philomena Benz-Howell



President of Nimdy