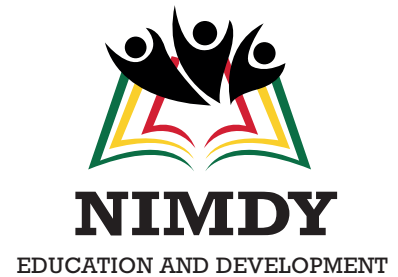


# President's Report

## 2017-2018



We are very grateful to look back at a very blessed year filled with great memories, amazing people and their contributions and generosity. The rewarding connections and the growth and development of all concerned are evident on all levels.

Unfortunately, the war shows no sign of ending in Donetsk, Ukraine. We continue to support the organizations that have proven effective in providing people with food, clothing and necessary assistance locally. Teenage mothers and their babies, Palliative care clinic, private family orphanage and the Wild Volunteers who go to the newly bombed sites and give valuable assistance. A visit on site is scheduled for Spring 2018. All the people involved are modern day heroes and we are privileged to be in contact with them.

### January

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated our one year anniversary in Gye Nyame Kidz Foundation. This is all due, not only to the workers involved but mainly to our donors and members. Thank you! A team effort to celebrate!

Initial work on getting a well at the school site was started in 2016. There are four wells in Ahodjo, population of 1,000, and they dry up about an hour after “fetching” from late December to April. One of these is a hazard for the children as it is contaminated. None of the existing wells go very deep and the water quality is in question. Combined efforts of Gye Nyame Foundation and three Rotary clubs successfully resulted in the 100 metres deep well being officially inaugurated in February 2017.

Diseases from dirty water kill more people every year than all forms of violence. A sobering thought. Nearly one out of every five deaths under the age of five worldwide is due to a water related disease. So, having access to water and sanitation is certainly one of the wonders of 2017. Thanks to a member, Ernst Zuberbühler, we had the water tested in Flawil SG and it was deemed safe and drinkable.

We were delighted when Gladys Anaba joined the management team as Human Resource and administrator to help Mohammed with his growing responsibilities. She has been a great support to teachers and staff there. Of course, our lives were also enriched by her baby Solomon who has a smile for everyone he meets. Our teachers teach with their babies on their backs – not every school allows this. We certainly do.

Brigitt Baumgartner, retired teacher, visited and did an amazing amount of work with the teachers and children with games and lesson plans, parachute games, activities and her boundless energy.

We got a present of a computer from our Nigerian friend Theresa.

### February

Diana started her Early Childhood Education course and more work started on the building in February.

We had Genka, Ksenia and their son George visit from the Ukraine thanks to a generous donor, uniting our two projects. They had a packed programme full of art, theatre, games, sports and creativity. Non-violent communication and issues like trust and developing confidence were also part of their day's work. The green garden was also initiated. We have amazing videos and photos to add to our collection as well. They are looking forward to returning.

## **March**

Dr Roland visited. During those two weeks, he worked hard to start and fill our school Pharmacy with very effective alternative medicine which the firms Biotikon and Dr Ghysaert very generously donated. He also connected with other doctors at home and in Ghana to enhance the health care in the school.

We now have a photo copy machine, the school was painted and gravel stones laid on the ground.

## **April**

Mid-term break

## **June**

Since the number of children were increasing, it was decided that the kitchen needed an extension so it could continue outside the house. Cooking for 80 to 90 children every day is a mighty task taken on by Mohammed's mother Mary and her helper Viktoria and baby.

This was also the month where our 4-year-old Angel got knocked down by a motorbike on the 3 June. Thanks to Nimdy we could provide the means for food and medical attention for mother and daughter. Her brain injury has left her with certain challenges for everybody and we are grateful to still have her in the school.

## **July /August**

Swiss ladies Vanessa and Janina arrive loaded down with enthusiasm, ideas, joy and outfits for every child, projector, a guitar, primary one chairs donated, play items, colouring books, footballs, balls and a badminton set to name a few. They did a lot of activities: hand printing, soccer, creative art, left 300 dollars – plus a few thousand raised once they came back to Switzerland. Amazing!

Roland meets Mr Hornbach and a huge tool box arrived from the firm Hornbach on the 25<sup>th</sup> July. Cutting tools, drilling tools, sanding tools, sharpening tools and 20 t-shirts now used as football jerseys and extra clothes for children who need a change. Mohammed has been busy since doing a lot of the carpentry himself.

## **September**

Sept 4 -25<sup>th</sup> Sept German ladies Melissa and Ricarda visit, bringing with them good humour and openness and much needed articles like colouring pencils, balloons etc. They painted the name Gye Nyame Kidz Foundation beautifully on the wall. They generously gave of their time in the classrooms and helped build some furniture.

Ayishatu moved on and Solomon left his teacher assisting position in September. He is now being sponsored to attend high school and continue his education.

## **October – December**

Rotary Library books donation approved. December 6<sup>th</sup> they brought the books – they are much needed and appreciated.

October 27 – December 16<sup>th</sup> Philomena from Nimdy and Omanand, a compost toilet expert and talented man, join the Gye Nyame team for a while. Met the whole staff and discussed their needs and wants and present situations. To address the needs Phil gave five Workshops for teachers and daily in classroom support and inputs. Classroom materials like crayons, paper, plastic building blocks, puzzles, alphabet and number puzzles, markers supplied to support the classroom experience. Omanand did French with P1 and P2, which they enjoyed. He showed the teachers how to use the projector to show appropriate movies as a tool for discussion and language. Great fun was had demonstrating how to make play dough, African style, with the big metal pot over the fire.

The classrooms were enhanced with shelves built, sand and water activities, white boards for classrooms, Pin boards for classrooms, containers for teacher materials, rulers, markers, scissors, floor mats etc.

The outside kitchen got tiled, floor and walls plastered, shelves made, two gas cookers and cylinders bought thanks to gymnasium Friedberg in Gossau and Aaron Stettler's initiative in sharing our project. The list continues: inside kitchen, fridge repaired, shelves built and painted, kitchen curtains made. Urinals and entrance wall built, soak away added, compost toilets painted and compost farm constructed and Mohammed trained in the whole process. The children had many lessons in sanitization and washing hands.

Additional top story added on top of existing one. Media, Art and Resource Room as well as a store space and extra room will be used for P1 at the moment. A secure wall built along the stairs in cement. Two new trees, a moringa (on behalf of Dr Roland) and a mango, were planted, adding to the existing trees, avocado, cocoa, Ghanaian apple and coconut. Continued negotiations with neighbour about buying his land to use as a playground (3,500 to 4,000 CHF)

New malaria medicine Pc 240 m put very effectively to use and a sick bay created. Having Dr Ghysaert's medicine along with the malaria medicine from the Amma Resonance Foundation was another Godsend. How wonderful to see the healing properties of both. Thanks to Biotikon's immune system boosting medicines as well, we are very well set up in the pharmacy.

The sponsoring school fees system started with an initial eight children being sponsored.

We visited neighbouring private schools and talked to the managers. They shared a lot with us as we did with them. Only one didn't use the cane for discipline – "just slapping if needed".

We hired an extra help for the kitchen, Beatrice (and her baby) for 22 Francs monthly as the workload increased for Mary and Viktoria so much with up to 90 children attending. Granma Diana, a new addition to our family, helps now with bringing the children to the toilet and washing and sanitation.

JJ Rawlings, the well-known ex-President invited us to Accra and was kind enough to donate some money to the school. This was a great boost for all.

Diana graduated on the 18<sup>th</sup> November and has already started her continued year's education as an early childhood teacher.

Met a Ghanaian gentleman Zwesi Cyriaano who will work with us on a special parallel programme to empower the parents to exit poverty, as they put it, in a Child and Family Development Programme.

A decision was taken to keep the numbers at present at 85 active children and concentrate on Early Childhood Education as a foundation for life and their continued growth in the Educational system.

We now have six teachers in training, Doris, Diana, Fustine, Helina, Matilda, Faiza and with your continued generous financial support we can train them to teach effectively, live with more dignity and to positively influence individual lives and communities.

Thank you to Mohammed and his amazing energy, hard work integrity and passion. Thank you to the different teams who give and give and bring an increased quality of life to their communities and themselves.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to the ever generous Nimdy Team members: Karin, Ruedi, and Roland. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of all the people whose lives you have touched with your time, talents and generosity – including mine.

Thank you to all our donors, sponsors and members for without whose support all this would not have been possible. You are the ones providing a solution to an urgent need in the lives of these people. On their behalf, let me extend their heartfelt gratitude. Each and every one of you have made a difference with your gifts, big and small.

It remains for me to add that it has been a blessing and a privilege to work in close connection and contact with everybody involved. You are making a difference and with the support of future and present donors we gratefully head into a bright future for all involved.