



JugendPartnerschaft Ghana e.V.

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Dear Members and Friends of JPG and YHFG,

2018 has been an exciting year full of work and interesting developments. We are happy to share the latest news with you.

Remedial School 2018

The fifth YHFG Remedial School (RS) has come to an end. With professional support by dedicated volunteer teachers and close relationship to the YHFG staff, the 27 participants of this year's classes worked hard to master the subjects they previously failed. The resit exams took place in October and November.

In June, as part of the intensive period of learning and support, YHFG has organised a homecoming event for former RS participants. Here, former and current students could meet and exchange their experiences. Furthermore, YHFG has invited guest speakers for interesting and motivating seminars. As in recent years, this event was a full success and a great experience for all participants.



RS homecoming event, Remedial School Class 2018, Close contact to the new director of YHFG

In 2019, despite of all the positive developments and the great demand for this project, YHFG and JPG will probably take a one year break in this program. This is partly due to funding challenges, but partly also to analyse all the data that JPG and YHFG have gathered in recent years related to the Remedial School. After proper analysis we would like to develop this project further, to make the Remedial School Classes more effective and sustainable.

During this period in 2019, JPG and YHFG will develop other activities and programs of the Youth Centre further, e.g. computer classes, vacation classes and sports activities.

Meet the new YHFG acting Executive Director

We are delighted to introduce Ms **Priscilla Nyaaba** as new acting Executive Director of the Youth Harvest Foundation Ghana (YHFG). As some of you might be aware, in late July 2018, Dr. John Krugu left the YHFG to take up a one-year post-doc assignment in Amsterdam at KIT Royal Tropical Institute.

As the ideal candidate to follow John as director of YHFG, the Board of Trustees (BoT) appointed Priscilla Nyaaba, who in the early days of YHFG, was one of the first Harvest Club presidents and YHFG volunteers. Today, with more than nine years of experience with the Ghana Health Services as a staff nurse, senior nurse and Public Health Nursing Officer, Priscilla is bringing hands on experience to the role and deep connections to young people and youth development. Her passion for women rights is matched by her commitment to empowering young girls to achieve their full potential. From her early work as a youth volunteer to her role as an advisor on the BoT, Priscilla has always kept a very close link to YHFG and her focus has been on evidence-informed youth-led advocacy. Priscilla is role-modelling a positive example for young girls and she is consistently called on by our Youth Centre team to lend her advice or participate in their programmes. She is someone we count on to be both knowledgeable at her youthful age and a joy to work with. We wish Priscilla a successful leadership at the YHFG. And we wish John all the best in his new job in Amsterdam.



Priscilla Nyaaba



Daniela, JPG volunteer at YHFG March - June 2018: Looking back to a wonderful stay

It is already five months ago that I left wonderful and inspiring Ghana. Before I left, I thought that soon the *Ghana-time* is over but it isn't. I am still in contact with a lot of family members and friends and because of that I still feel the vibe of Ghana. The time and the experiences are going on and for that, I am very thankful.

For me, it took about three months to get used to the European environment and the Western culture again. I really had to go through the *reverse culture shock* and even now, I am missing the people's dances and their positivity. *Everything is fine, everything is cool, soon it will be good.* I miss conversations about their beliefs and God and I also miss the way I got advices concerning several topics from my friends in Ghana. As I already mentioned, I am so thankful to be still in contact with them. They are just one phone call away.



What do you think about Ghana after your experiences you made over there?

Ghana and its people helped me to learn so much and more than I expected to learn.

Ghana and its people brought me back to my belief and inspired me.

Ghana and its people taught me to be patient.

My friends in Ghana help me when I need them (listening, joking, giving advice).

I will never forget that Ghana and its people made me that happy with their keen hospitality. Ghana is added to the list of my favourite countries. I will come back soon!

New Pilot Project: Young Leaders Initiative

In the last Newsletter, we introduced our new program to mentor and support outstanding young students in their education. The first scholarship was given to Matilda, a former student at the Harvest Club in Bolgatanga. With your support, since the beginning of August, Matilda started her Masters degree in development studies at the Kwameh Nkrumah University in Kumasi. The first weeks were dominated by program introductions and creating a learning environment among the participants. By now, she is in the middle of her first semester taking courses in development theories, research methods and statistics. She completed her first written assignment on economic theories and their relevance during the recent macro economic developments. It was followed by an assessment how development is defined, what it includes and what constitutes development for Ghana.



Matilda reports how busy life became at university and that the program is both challenging and fulfilling. She extends warm greetings and deepest gratitude to all the people who supported her so far and hopefully continue supporting the project in future.

Following her example, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your continuous interest and support and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy Year 2019.

Jolien van der Geugten- de Lang, Julia Frisch, Veronika Schlicker;
Board of JPG