

**Subject: Policy of admittance in the Care Centre**

The Netherlands, Nuenen, 22 August 2012

Dear Mr.Asante and the other members of the Board of Kings and Queens,

Thank you for giving us the chance to look also at the policy of admittance in the Care Centre of Kings and Queens and at concrete applications.

Since the start of Kings and Queens (**K&Q**) in 2006 we could discuss this issue and advice the directors and the Board of Kings and Queens.

Also could we assist the discussions about some applications this year and last years, when we were staying and working in Offinso. Because we have a broader network now in Offinso and Ghana, we also have seen handicapped children, who would be better off living in the care centre Kings and Queens.

The Board of Rising Stars (**RS**) did discuss the application of two extra boys from Kumasi and has come to the following conclusion and advice:

**We cannot support the admittance of any new child after the admittance of Adua and Sharif in the new house under the present conditions that Kings and Queens and Rising Stars can offer to the children and the team.**

**We advice to have a good discussion about the future admittance – policy of Kings and Queens and communicate this policy to relevant people in Offinso. Aline Hut can be asked as a professional to support this discussion with professional advice and her knowledge of the new rules and regulations in Offinso ( as mentioned by mrs.Doris Asare of the District Office for special education ).**

Explanation:

- RS did see the last years a constant change in the number of inmates: 15 under the direction of Margaret Adutwumwaa; only 5 soon after her death with only Evans as caregiver and with Lydia Asare as the new director. Also K+Q did send 1 boy back to his mother in 2011. Now we do have 9 children as inmates with an agreement to admit Adua and Sharif ( after getting a medical assessment in Kumasi and a contract about the material/financial support from the parents/family and an agreement about the continuing relation between parents/family and their child ).
- RS and K&Q did agree the last 2 years upon the following admittance policy: the Care Farm will get in the future 2 houses for admitted children: 1 house for 10 boys and 1 house for 10 girls. With the admittance of Adua and Sharif we do have already more than 10 children!

K&Q and RS did communicate so far to everybody who was asking for admittance that we are crowded and that we have to wait till the second, new house is ready in some years. Also Jaap and Henny Matser did advise some people to ask admittance in the Dutch-Ghanaian institution Hand in hand Community in Nkoranza ( Mr.Immanuel is the director for the care ). They have a capacity for 60 people now and will expand to 90 people!

- According to Mrs. Doris Asare new children do need a medical assessment to be sure about their condition and their physical abilities/disabilities. We did agree that parents/family do need to pay also money for the costs of the care of their children. Also the children do need, if possible, attention from their parents and family. K&Q cannot deliver a good family-parent relation to the children, only good care and a good living.
- The experience of the last two years is that every public information given by K&Q and RS in Offinso ( catholic churches ) and in the district Offinso and now also in Kumasi immediately arouses new applications for admittance. So Linda and Mr.Asante and Henny and Jaap Matser constantly have to ask people to wait or to look for other places. You can say that we have already a waitinglist with children from Offinso !

Moreover Henny and Jaap Matser has seen that there are living several severe handicapped children at home in Offinso and direct surrounding. Two of them have found a temporary place in Mr.Ark's institution for physically handicapped people (PCAF) with financial support from physiotherapists in The Netherlands and Norway. In our opinion they need in the future a more appropriate and fitting place in K&Q. In the OCC orphanage of Mary Osei Tutu is living the light intellectual disabled girl. She is not fitting anymore in the OCC and is suffering from the non-inclusion. She is physically strong and can do good cleaning work under the guidance of a cleaner. We want to introduce this application in 2013 to K+Q.

- Without a good team of caregivers and without good salaries and money to care for 10 children we cannot deliver good care. Since 2006 we have seen that it is very difficult to get and keep a good, experienced team ( and director) to support the children. Many caregivers and cleaners left K&Q for good or lesser good reasons. It is also not easy to find new ones and to keep them with only an allowance/ food and bed and the demand to work many hours each week.

At the moment that only one of the present two, positive caregivers gets ill or other problems, we do have a severe problem. Volunteers from abroad cannot be a good , professional solution for this problem.

So, we do need a third, more experienced caregiver to give the team and the 9-11 children more continuity.

- The first team of caregivers with late Margaret did work only for free food and living. On request of the Board of K&Q NGO Rising Stars was willing to pay some amount of allowances to them, till today. **Only a profitable farming will give K&Q the possibility to get and keep a team of good caregivers, cleaners and cook who will get a normal salary. Till that time we must be very modest in our ambitions to expand the number of children!**

Rising Stars is willing to support the development of a good care farm and is doing so since 2006. We strongly advice K&Q to go first of all for the development of an income generating farm. With that income you can pay salaries to the hardworking team members and feed the 9-11 children.

At the same time we can try to build up together the other facilities.

Rising Stars cannot guarantee in advance when and how we can raise the necessary money in the Netherlands. We do have also a growing financial and economic problem in our country and in Europe. So we must be careful and cannot give promises in advance. We can do our best to guarantee to support the present monthly budget for some time. More money for paying salaries and to pay for more caregivers is not available at the moment and will diminish the eventual, extra money for the building process. So to expand the number of children above the 11 is not good at the moment. Maybe in the future we can go from 11 to 20, when the second, new house is ready and K&Q self can pay the cost of care and salaries.

- We do advice to develop in the near future a clear policy for the admittance of children and the necessary conditions to care for them. Maybe the Board of K&Q can ask mr.Prince Annor to initiate this process and to support Linda Amanda in practicing the policy.

RS can be asked for advice. Also RS will initiate the discussion about the admittance and financing of some children from Offinso ( see above ).

We strongly do advice to admit only children from Offinso and the district of Offinso, because K&Q is and will stay a small facility for maximum 20 children and we know for sure that there are more than enough children in Offinso who are needing this care.

Citizens, churches and other organizations in Offinso will also be more willing to support K&Q, when they know and experience that K&Q is **a facility for their children.**

Yours sincerely,

Jaap Matser, on behalf of the Board of NGO Rising Stars. .