

THE DORDRECHT BAMENDA FOUNDATION DONATES ANOTHER CLASSROOM TO ISFD

The CBCHS Integrated School for the Deaf (ISFD) Mbingo has been blessed with a new classroom constructed by the Dordrecht Bamenda Foundation. The Classroom with another one near completion is worth 6million franc CFA and was constructed with funds solicited by the Volunteer for the Dordrecht Bamenda Foundation, Truus Treep from a Dordrecht-Netherlands based company Mainnovation. The classroom which has been described by the head teacher of the school Mr. Che Manasseh as an ultra-modern inclusive classroom was inaugurated and handed over to the MBH Administration by the Lord Mayor of Dordrecht municipality in Netherlands Mr. Arho Broh on January 28th 2015 in Mbingo.

On hand to welcome the Lord Mayor of Dordrecht municipality and his entourage from the Netherlands and a delegation from the Bamenda City Council were the pupils and teachers of the CBC Integrated School for the Deaf who presented bouquets of flowers to the Mayor and the representative of the Mainnovation Company as a sign of their joy to welcome them to ISFD.

While officially opening the building, Mr Arho Broh expressed his gratitude to the Mainnovation Company for funding the building. It was an exciting moment for both the pupils and teachers of ISFD when the Mayor cut the ribbon indicating that the building was ready for use. In an interview after the opening ceremony , the Dordrecht Lord Mayor recounted that his municipality in the Netherlands built a classroom, dormitory for the school some years back. He added that this time around Mainnovation Company joined them in the kind gesture by funding the new classroom. He noted that his motivation behind the gesture is to enable children with hearing impairments come out of their communities, be educated in a mainstream setting so as to interact and share knowledge with their peers without impairments so that they can build gainful professions. Mr. Broh expressed his optimism about the future of the children because they have and will continue to gain education.

The representative of the Mainnovation Company, Netherlands who is one of the founders of the company Mr. Guy Delahay while presenting a gift from the company to the school said, they are delighted to start off a partnership with the CBC Health Services in the area of infrastructures. Mr Guy Delahay explained to the Chronicle that, the company looks for good projects that reflects their values like the ISFD. He admitted that the partnership between his company and the CBC Health services is a lasting one because the decision to assist the school was not taken by the management of the company but by the staff .He revealed that funds for the school were raised partly by the company staff who offered part of their salaries voluntarily, and their children through sales of their arts works and part of the funds from the company.

The Lord Mayor handed the keys of the classrooms to the Administrator of Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Mr. Nji Richard who opened the classroom amidst excitement from the pupils and teachers. The classroom was dedicated by the MBH Head Chaplain who thanked God for moving the hearts of the donors adding that all gifts come from God

It should be noted that the brain behind the CBCHS/Dordrecht Bamenda Partnership is Truss Treep a Dutch Volunteer for the Dordrecht Bamenda Foundation. Ever since the start of the partnership in 2003 she has been canvassing for funding for different projects in the ISFD including the construction of an

multi-purpose hall/refectory, the construction of the girls dormitory, and residence of the dormitory master, and 5 new classrooms for the school with the sixth near completion. She has been instrumental in the relocation of the school premises from near/beside the MBH garage to the present location which is in the same setting with the CBC Mbingo mainstream primary school enabling the ISFD pupils with hearing impairments to study in the same setting with their peers without impairments. This has helped the two pupil bodies to interact with each other building a culture of acceptance of differences and fostering the spirit of inclusion in them.

At the end of the handing over ceremony, Truus noted that she was very satisfied with the building. She extended appreciation to the funders, the teachers and the builders for a job well done while lauding the partnership between Dordrecht and the CBC Health Services. She promised to lobby for funds to complete the unfinished classroom which was constructed with left over funds from the funds directed at the new classroom while hoping that if there be funds in some years to come, she will come back to build another classroom and office facilities. Mama Truus as she is fondly called within the CBCHS revealed that she has been using newsletter, and the media to appeal for funding. She advised that Cameroon can learn from the gesture because sharing with the vulnerable children is important and fulfilling. The Dordrecht Volunteer implored the school administration to use the building judiciously.

The administrator of Mbingo Baptist Hospital Mr Nji Richard on behalf of the CBC Health Services appreciated the funders for such a wonderful gift to the school. He noted that ISFD is blessed to have the Dordrecht Bamenda Foundation and the Mainnovation Company as her development partners while wishing that the partnership will continue. The Socio Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities SEEPD Program Manager Mr Awa Jacque Chirac added his voice to that of the administrator by describing the partnership as that of commitment, sacrifices and tangible results. The partnership which started in 2003 he added, has not only produced infrastructures, results, but has also built the capacities of the teachers through annual seminars which have visibly improved on the performance of the teachers and the children.

The ISFD is located on the campus of Mbingo Baptist Hospital situated in Boyo Division of the North West Region

It should be noted that apart from infrastructure the Dordrecht Bamenda Foundation has also been donating didactic material to the pupils and teachers of the ISFD and other basic necessities including uniforms, beddings, kitchen utensils, toiletries, amongst others. The Dordrecht Bamenda Foundation Volunteer has always put a smile on the faces of the ISFD pupils and says having been infected by the CBCHS/Dordrecht Bamenda Foundation partnership she hopes to continue maintaining smiles on the faces of the children.

The CBCHS/Dordrecht Bamenda Foundation partnership developed thanks to the friendship between the Dordrecht City Council and the Bamenda City Council which are twin councils. Thanks to the partnership between the two councils the city of Bamenda has benefitted from several other projects in the areas of hygiene and sanitation, water, health care provision, education etc



Dordrecht Mayor, Mr. Broh, (left) cutting symbolic ribbon flanked by representative of the Mainnovation company, Mr. Guy Delahay (right)