



Unifying Neighbors Through Education and Development

Sidse M. – 2012 & 2014 – Denmark
HardtHaven Children’s Home

Coming back to HardtHaven – that’s HEAVEN!

“Auntie Sidse, Auntie Sidse!” That is what all the children run to the gate to say when I came back to HardtHaven for the second time. This time I came during summer. We were many volunteers – sometimes too many, but the amount of volunteers also made it possible for us to do different things with the children; The HardtHaven Olympics were held, and a sponsored trip to Accra was arranged. When I go through my mental pictures of my trips to HardtHaven, many different memories come to my mind. Especially the children’s physical, mental, and educational development from autumn 2012 until summer 2014 is huge! An example is Ruby. Ruby is a mentally disabled girl. The first year I was in Kpando, Ruby was a sponsored child. I worked with her every morning. We were singing, playing, painting, and reading in an effort to make Ruby speak and understand English. In my three months’ work with Ruby no doubt that progress was made. Still, I was SOOO impressed, when I came back and once again worked with Ruby, who now lives at the home. “Auntie, where’ you going? To church? Auntie, you go home.” Ruby could really speak English! That is so amazing. No more just “yes”, “no”, and “teacher”. She was singing and speaking a few sentences.

In the afternoons, it is tutoring-time. I want to share one of my tutoring-time-pearls with you. One day Paulina, Gabriel, Small Emma, and I were reading, “Ten Thing Jesus did”. I asked Small Emma to tell me about Jesus. He said, “Jesus. He died on a cross.” He was thinking and then added, “He’s in heaven.” I asked him if he remembered anything about a donkey (we just read the story about Jesus riding a donkey). Emma responded, “Yes. The donkey is in heaven with Jesus.”