

CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

ANNUAL REPORT

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April 2015 to March 2016



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2.0 DESCRIPTION AND MISSION OF CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

Children of the Light (CotL) continues to be a dynamic organization bringing education to life, for over 150 children yearly. Its educational program is unique, in that it nurtures the children in all areas of learning: reading, spelling, English language, mathematics, social studies, science, environmental issues, arts & crafts, music and drama activities. In addition to academics the children are helped to grow intellectually, socially and physically. Six days a week children enjoy a lively educational experience which is conducted in a safe and non-threatening environment. In addition, each year the children participate in several exciting programs which broadens their scope of the world.

CotL seeks to make education an enjoyable and life changing experience to children who are caught in the quagmire of the current educational system. CotL believes strongly that education is a vital component of enabling children to reach their full potential. We strive to meet this desperate need in Ghana with providing holistic, child-centred and meaningful teaching.

“The mission of CotL is to impact young lives by providing creative, holistic child-centred education in order to build lives that influence society”

3.0 SPECIAL PROGRAMS

During the year the children participate in a variety of educational projects, these are outlined below.

April 2015 – Throughout the month of April the teaching activities focused on environmental issues. The children were engaged in doing community clean-up projects, like picking up of empty water sachets. The highlight was on Earth Day which was celebrated on 22nd April; the children planted trees at the local school grounds and the CotL’s current and future venue. Easter was celebrated on 5th April, the children created cards with the focus on Easter.

May 2015 – There were Anti-bullying awareness discussions and practice exercises with the children. A Social Study project took place where children selected a country researched and prepared a project on the country they chose and presented to the group.

June 2015 – June marks reading month at CotL, the month was filled with a number of reading activities. We were fortunate to have the Australian High Commissioner to Ghana, and her husband, come and read to the children one Saturday morning during the month; and

throughout the program, we had two overseas volunteers helping us and eight volunteer students from Ashesi University who were also a great asset to us. Over 120 children participated in the program.

July 2015 – On 5th July we had the Reading Month Banquet where prizes were given to the top readers and a take-home pack was given to all participants. An outreach program to Northern Ghana was carried out during the month in which we sent school supplies, soap parcels and clothing to a remote village near Sandama in the Upper East Region. Other programs during this month were road safety awareness and home economics. There were no classes 6th to 18th July.

August 2015 – We celebrated our 10th year of CotL with a cake. August included the telling of African Proverbs and folktales including drama.

September 2015 – September there was Spelling Bee, the winners received wonderful prizes and all the children received a take-home pack.

October 2015 – October there was a recycling competition and prizes were given out based on the most interesting and useful design. During this month the older children worked together to make a volcano and presented their creation to the younger children; this experiment used basic household products for the volcanic eruption. We held an Ampe Competition during this month, the children were divided into teams for this event. The CotL teachers participated in a professional development course, this was led by Sue Grainger, a retired teacher from America.

November 2015 – The children began preparing and rehearsing for the annual Christmas program. This included designing and making Christmas decorations and costumes.

December 2015 – The children performed the Christmas program which was titled, ‘For God so Loved the World’ at a near-by orthopaedic hospital and the main show was performed on 24th December at the Kitase taxi rank in Akuapem South. There was a great response from the community for the event; we had a huge turn-out of parents, guests and those passing also stopped to watch the program. Special thanks was given to the sponsors at the event and on social media.

January 2016 – In January there were NO CLASSES – Soap parcels and clothing were sent to a remote village in the Ashanti Region.

February 2016 – We had our annual Parent/Teacher’s meeting; classes started the first week in February with Road Safety, Mathematics, Black History Month and African Wildlife projects.

March 2016 – 5th March CotL celebrated Ghana Day, the children prepared projects prior to the event, these projects were put on display for the occasion and the children brought in a variety of Ghanaian dishes to share. There was also singing and cultural dancing. A Mathematics competition was held during this month and World Water Day on the 22nd March was acknowledged, we made projects related to this and discussed ways in which we can help the ocean. On Easter Saturday, the older children presented a short Easter skit to the other children.

4.0 ON-GOING ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE YEAR

The one-on-one literacy program continues on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and the regular programs on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. We continue to provide snacks for the children before the program begins.

Fortnightly we conduct a Sunday program to the children in a near-by orthopaedic hospital. These children are on long-term admission at the hospital and many of them are from other African countries. The children look forward to this activity.

5.0 SUCCESSES

- One of CotL's great successes for 2015 was the completion of the roofing of the Learning Centre
- At the Annual Christmas Presentation there was a tremendous turnout and the children's performance was commendable.
- We had a total of ten university students volunteering with us; they were great role models for the children and they filled the staff gap especially during Reading Month.

6.0 CHALLENGES

- Our need for continuous support for our monthly operational costs and the special programs
- Funding to complete our building project
- Need for an additional Board member
- Need for a paved road to the CotL site
- Need for a bus

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all our contributors, sponsors and volunteers who have played a tremendous part in the on-going work of CotL.

Our 2015/2016 sponsors: Shoprite, Ghana; Indomie, Ghana; Britanica, Ghana; The Support Group of the Swiss Tropical Public Health Institute, Switzerland; Gemeinde fuer Christus Buelach, Switzerland; Springforth International School, Ghana; Eden Assemblies of God Church, NZ; Mangaweka Assemblies of God Church, NZ; Helensville Christian Life Centre, NZ; Mount Roskill, Lynfield and Hillsborough Rotary Club, NZ; Royal Oak Rotary Club, NZ; Admintelecom, Ghana; Raincoat Roofing Ltd. Ghana; K. Ofori Ltd. Ghana; Hephzibah Christian Centre, Ghana; Geodrill, Ghana; Arabic Christian Church, Ghana; Tree Global, Ghana; plus individual contributors.

8.0 FUTURE PLANS

- 1) To have a fully equipped easily accessible learning centre in the Eastern Region of Ghana
- 2) To become an educational training resource provider in Ghana

Respectfully submitted:
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