



ANNUAL REPORT

April 2014 to March 2015

Page | 1

Description of Children of the Light

Children of the Light (CotL), is a dynamic organization that brings education to life to over 150 children yearly. It has a unique after-school program which nurtures children in all areas of learning: reading, spelling, English language, mathematics, social studies, arts & crafts, music and drama activities. In addition to academics, the children are helped to grow intellectually and physically. Three 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 unique programs which broadens their scope of the world.

Children of the Light seeks to make education an enjoyable and life changing experience to many children with dire educational needs. Education is a vital component in enabling an individual to reach their full potential and CotL meets a desperate need in Ghana with holistic, child-centred and meaningful learning. CotL, frees children from the harsh cycle of inadequate education and equip them to be productive and influential member of society.

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

Special Programs

The children participated in various educational projects during the year.

April 2014 - Throughout April children were presented with many environmental issues in which they made very informative projects with the information they received. The children worked together with staff to do community clean-up projects. Earth Day was 22nd April and the children planted trees as a special activity. We also celebrated Easter by having the children prepare Easter art to send home.

May 2014 - The children worked on individual Science and Social Study projects. They also prepared Mother's day cards which they presented to their mothers.

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June 2014 - June is reading month at CotL so the month was filled with reading month events. A total of 150 children participated in the reading month program.

July 2014 - The banquet to top off the reading month finale was a great success. The children enjoyed a meal and wonderful prizes were given to the top winners also everyone enjoyed a take home pack. Special thanks were given to Shoprite Ghana, and Indomie Ghana, for sponsoring this event. After the reading finale we had a short break with classes commencing again in August.

August 2014 - August was an activity filled month; the children participated in a simple carpentry and catering course that was organised by our New Zealand volunteers, there was also a focus on story telling which focused on African proverbs and folktales; recycling activities and teachings on road safety also took place this month. There was a recycling competition where prizes were given to the most interesting projects. The CotL Board of Directors had a Board meeting.

September 2014 - September there was Spelling Bee. The winners from each group shone in both English and Twi (the local language). First and second prize winners received wonderful prizes of school supplies. All the children received a take home snack pack.

October 2014 - The children participated in story writing and the best stories were selected for publishing by the Ducere Foundation. The children began preparing for the annual Christmas program; they made beautiful decorations with the help of CotL's staff.

November 2014 – The children continued preparing and rehearsing for the Christmas program. The CotL Board of Directors had a Board meeting.

December 2014 – The children presented a small Christmas performance and also gave gifts to the children at a near-by orthopaedic hospital and to the children at a near-by foster home. On the morning of the 24th December all Children of the Light members received a school bag or football plus snacks for Christmas. Our Christmas Concert was held the evening of 24th December; we had a great turn-out come to watch the performance. Special thanks to our sponsors who made these events possible.

January 2015 - NO CLASSES - A CotL staff member travelled to Northern Ghana and established a connection with a school in a small village where she handed out gently used clothing, school supplies a football and soap parcels.

February 2015 - Parents/Teachers meeting; Road Safety; Focus on Mathematics; Black History Month; African Wildlife projects

March 2015 - Ghana's Independence Day celebration (6th March) and projects presented on their study on Ghana, all the children came with a Ghanaian dish to share; a week focus on water conservation and projects were created and put on display commemorating World Water Day 22nd March; we had our annual Maths competition and wonderful prizes were given to the winners and take home packs were given to all participants. The CotL board of directors had a board meeting.

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE YEAR

This year we started an intense reading program reaching out to children that are challenged with reading. The one-to-one reading program is held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the regular programs are held on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Snacks are given to the children from 3:30 pm to 4 pm. Special thanks to our sponsor Britannica Biscuits.

We hold a fortnightly Sunday program for the children at a nearby orthopaedic hospital. Regular CotL Staff meetings were held throughout the year and the CotL staff went on regular Education Training programs.

SUCSESSES:

- The annual Christmas program was held in Kitase Township for the first time and it was a great success.
- The finance to complete the roof is now in place at the end of March 2015.
- A bulldozer was hired and an access road was made to get to the CotL's site.

CHALLENGES:

- We continue to seek sustainable sponsors to support the monthly programs and activities at CotL.
- The heavy rains washed away the soil in the road so a lot of our gains with the road has been stymied.

Respectfully submitted:
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Director

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Secretary