

CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

**1st January 2024
to
31st December 2024**



Giving kids a brighter future

<https://childrenofthelightghana.org>

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Mission Statement

Children of the Light (CotL) impacts young lives by providing creative, holistic, child-centred education in order to build lives that influence society.

Description of CotL

CotL is a dynamic organisation that brings education to life for numerous children and teenagers aged 5 to 17 years in Ghana, West Africa.

It's educational program is unique in that it nurtures children in all areas of learning:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science
- Physical Education
- Environmental Issues
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Character Building

CotL meets with the children after-school, on Saturdays, and during school holidays.

Additionally, a refreshment or a hot meal is served during Saturday classes.

The children enjoy a lively educational experience which is conducted in a safe and non-threatening environment.



Our Vision

- 1) To have a fully equipped, easily accessible learning centre that provides quality education to many children in Ghana.
- 2) To become an educational training resource provider in Ghana and create CotL branches of the organisation.



Our Achievements

Over the years, we have continued to witness significant improvements across all our classes and special programs, many of which take place at our Learning Centre. The centre proudly showcases colourful boards displaying the children's work, ranging from Bible messages to environmental, science, art, language, and history projects. It also features a bright and ever-growing library that offers a delightful selection of children's books and valuable teaching resources.



Road access to the centre continues to improve significantly due to the recent extensions of the concrete road, which now reaches almost to the centre. This is all thanks to the efforts of the local



residents.

By the end of December 2025, we now have close to 24,000 litres of water storage from rainwater collection. Our borehole is no longer in use, as mineral removal proved too costly. We have also walled and gated a large portion of the property, which has been a great help, though there is still

more to be done. By the end of 2024, we had invested in eight batteries, additional panels, and a new inverter, which has provided us with much more solar power.

The land owned by the organisation continues to develop. We keep planting trees and grass, and the fruit trees we planted a while back are now bearing fruit. The vegetable garden continues to produce well, and each year we plant corn. All this food is used for the regular meals we serve to the children at the centre. Our composting areas continue to benefit the garden, showing the children how organic waste breaks down into rich, fertile soil when properly separated. We have also become a collection point for plastic waste, which we send on for recycling. This has been a great learning tool for the children, teaching them how to dispose of their waste responsibly.



The CotL branch that opened in October 2021 continues to thrive. We now provide quality education to five groups of children, meeting with them on different days throughout the week. A group of Fulani children is also part of these sessions, and we meet with them twice a week.

In 2024, our Director, sometimes accompanied by volunteers, made visits to support the Manager and staff working there. This branch actively participates in a number of special programs.

Many of our past students have gone on to pursue higher education and careers, while our current students continue to benefit from the program, acquiring a wide range of knowledge and skills.



1st JANUARY 2024 to 31st DECEMBER 2024

Weekly classes were ongoing at the Children of the Light Learning centre in Kitase and at our branch in Northern Ghana.

Highlights throughout the Year

January 2024

We had a team visit from New Zealand, which included our Director's daughter, her children, and friends. They brought many items ranging from clothing, school supplies to a chainsaw. Together with the Director, they travelled north to visit our branch in Dibisi, where they shared many of the beautiful gifts they had brought.



Macrame lessons were taught at the centre by Asantewa Opoku, the Director's daughter, a founding child of CotL, and now a volunteer and supporter through her business, *Asantewa's Creations*, which donates 10% of profits to CotL.

February 2024

We always participate in Black History Month at the centre.

Throughout February, students prepared excellent projects on

prominent Black figures and their inventions, such as the traffic

light. Also in February, the children, together with their teacher

Sarah Moxon, created an

amazing volcano and even

mixed the baking soda solution

for the explosion.



March 2024

Independence Day in Ghana,

celebrated on 6 March, gives us

an opportunity to focus on the nation. This March, students made

small Ghanaian flags and completed projects about Ghana,

Including time to learn more about the Founding President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.





March 2024 continued

We participated in World Water Day on 22 March. The children created projects about water, including a 3D model of the water cycle. They also cleaned the nearby stream at the Learning Centre in Kitase and, at our branch, collected plastic waste from the riverbank.

Easter Saturday

Easter this year was a special time in both centres. The children prepared Easter art beforehand and, on the day, performed a short skit on the death and resurrection of Christ. A meal was served afterwards, and at our branch 360 children were served. We were thankful that there was enough food for everyone.



April 2024

This month, we celebrated 'Earth Day' by planting a tree at our centre and another near our small library and pavilion in the North. The children, together with their teachers, created posters to mark the occasion. We also welcomed our volunteer, Brigitte de Ronde, from Christchurch, New Zealand.



For Save the Frogs Day in April, the children learned about the importance of frogs and created posters.



May 2024

May began with a Sports Day on the 4th. The event was a great success, concluding with a sausage sizzle and a Bible lesson on the Parable of the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8–10).



On 20 May, World Bee Day was marked with flower seed planting, lessons on bees, and creative posters by the children.



May 2024 continued

The children prepared beautiful cards to give to their mothers for Mother's Day.



This month, Brigitte de Ronde sponsored a trip to the Kwame Nkrumah Museum for the children with the best attendance at the holiday program during the Easter break.

May and moving into June 2024

Our annual June Reading Month began earlier this year, extending into a six-week reading challenge. It started on Saturday, 18 May, and concluded with a grand finale on Saturday, 29 June. The theme was **'Dive into Reading.'** On 1 June, the children enjoyed another Sports Day. To conclude the event, we were blessed with a guest speaker, Mr. Adu Amankwa Opoku, who encouraged the children to take their education seriously and to be respectful. Also in June, Director Jeanette and volunteer Brigitte made a trip to our branch in Northern Ghana. The visit was used to support Manager Silas Anukaru and staff member Lawrence Laar Bingo, and to assist with teaching the many children.



July 2025

We had a wonderful Sisterhood Program in July, organised by *Start from Ghana* and *One Seed*, who held a **Duafe Sisterhood Program** at the centre. Twenty-five teen girls attended the event. They were divided into small groups and covered three important topics: menstrual hygiene, sex education, and mental health. Each participant also took home a gift pack sponsored by *Start from Ghana* and *One Seed*.



We held another Sports Day on Saturday, 6th July. The children had a lot of fun, and prior to their time on the field, they prepared for the Mathematics Competition scheduled for the following Saturday, 13th July.



We said farewell to our volunteer, Brigitte de Ronde, who spent three months with us. During her stay, Brigitte assisted with numerous tasks and contributed greatly to the work.



In the month of June, we also sent 57 kg of plastic bottles to Lyamps Enterprise for recycling.

Mathematics Competition



The competition was held at both locations the Learning Centre in Kitase (E/R) and

under the pavilion in Dibisi (NE/R). We had prepared many children to participate, and they performed incredibly well. It was a tough competition. The winners received great prizes.



August 2024

19th Anniversary

This month we celebrated our 19th year of operation. The children enjoyed cakes and drinks as part of the celebrations.



Vacation Classes

During August, we held vacation classes over a two-week period. Each morning began with a devotion, followed by a range of activities throughout the day. These included hand-sewing, baking, reading music, beading, and health and safety sessions covering topics such as fire safety, road safety, and nutrition. The children also researched and presented projects on Cabo Verde and Cameroon, worked on a climate change project, and learned about IT, the circulatory system, and natural resources.



September 2025

On 20 September, we joined the global observance of World Cleanup Day. The children in Kitase cleaned the streets near the centre of plastic waste, while those at our branch in Northern Ghana cleaned areas in two villages, one near the river and the other at the local market. They enjoyed refreshments after the cleanup.

October 2025

During this month, we held a Career Day at the Kitase Learning Centre. The children had a lot of fun dressing up in various attires. The day also included two skits. In the first, a stage was set with a receptionist, where someone demonstrated both the wrong and right ways to drop off a job application. In the second, a director called in the next applicant for a job interview, again showing both incorrect and correct approaches. The children were taught what to do and what not to do in both situations.



November 2024

Spelling & Sports

On Saturday, 23 November, we held a Spelling Test and Sports Day at the Kitase Learning Centre. A spelling test was also given at our branch to all students in both English and their local dialect. They all performed exceptionally well.

December 2024

Jesus is the reason for the season!

The month of December is always a busy time at CotL. At our Learning Centre in Kitase, Eastern Region, the children sang Christmas carols under the trees, and a drink and meal were served to 126 children. The centre was filled with laughter and joy. At our branch in Northern Ghana, they performed a Christmas play titled ***'The Indescribable Gift,'*** during which popcorn and drinks were shared with many. Then, on 31 December, a drink and meal were served to 419 children. In total, 545 children enjoyed a delicious meal over Christmas. These Christmas parties were sponsored by our long-term donor, Geodrill Ltd., now GTS Drilling Ltd.



Teen Programs

The topics 'How Do You Develop Trust' & 'Media Hazards' were discussed during the teen programs held on a Friday evening at the Children of the Light Learning Centre in Kitase. Paulett Opoku (CotL Board Member) was the speaker, and refreshments were served, including cookies prepared by Paulett.



Bible Time and Projects on Africa

This year, we also focused on helping the children learn Bible memory verses and create posters to go with each verse. In addition, we began an Africa project where the children are learning about and making individual miniature posters for all 54 countries in Africa. This project is ongoing and will take a couple of years to complete. The children are gaining a wonderful insight into this amazing continent.

Old Jeans to Cool Bags

We received sponsorship from GTS Drilling Ltd., Ghana, for the production of 300 bags to be distributed to the children. These upcycled bags, made from jeans purchased at the second-hand clothing market, were crafted by Reusable Bags Ghana.



Ongoing classes throughout the year

Alongside all these activities, we continued with our regular weekly classes. Subjects included language, journal writing, vocabulary, mathematics, science projects, and more.



THE TEAM

Management Committee

CotL is managed by a Board of Directors/Management Committee. The Management Committee meets two to three times a year.

Staff

Staffing includes the Director, four full-time teachers, and at times part-time staff to work on the CotL land.

Volunteers

We are fortunate to be able to complement our staffing with the help of our wonderful volunteers. All volunteers are required to complete an application form and read and sign our *Child Protection Code of Conduct*. Volunteers provide immense support across all areas of the organisation.

Children

This year, we had 55 registered, committed children at the CotL Learning Centre in Kitase, Eastern Region, and 112 registered, committed children at the centre in the North East Region. There are always many unregistered children who attend the special festive programs.



SUCSESSES

- Our donors continue to support us, helping us sustain both our ongoing and special programs. All programs at both centres remain enjoyable and beneficial to everyone involved. Through the support we receive, we are able to provide healthy snacks and meals for the many children we work with. We also receive regular donations



of tissue, toilet paper, washing powder, and chocolate drinks from Delta Paper, Tango Prime Wash, and Top Choco. These contributions not only support our centres but also benefit many elderly people in the community. Throughout the year, we have also received school and art supplies, as well as clothing

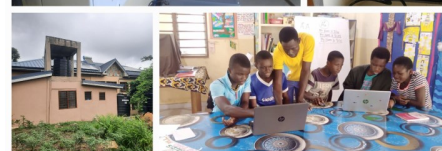


donations. From these, we have sent a significant portion to our branch in Northern Ghana. We also received funds from GTS Drilling for a speaker for our branch, and a chainsaw was donated by Grace Lemusu, who brought it over from New Zealand during her visit earlier in the year.

- There has been a great improvement in our solar system through funding from the New Zealand High Commission. We now have an upgraded inverter, eight strong batteries, and additional solar panels.



- There has been another improvement in our water storage. Through a donation from Shoprite Ghana, we now have an additional 4,000 litres of water capacity. The new tank has been mounted on a concrete stand, and all plumbing has been completed. This water will be used for the vegetable garden, allowing us to grow food throughout the dry season.



- Our composting area continues to enrich the garden and teaches the children how waste becomes fertile soil. We also collect plastic for recycling, promoting responsible waste proper.



- Through funding from the New Zealand High Commission, we now have four additional laptops, each being used by a teacher to assist with lesson planning and presentation. From this same funding, we have also installed ceiling fans throughout the entire centre.



- Throughout the year, we had volunteers who supported us in many ways.



CHALLENGES

Kitase Learning Centre, Eastern Region

- Even though we have been able to pay staff and the program continues to grow, we need more donors to commit to regular contributions to help us meet all our operational needs.



- Even though progress was made on the wall the previous year, the entire land still needs to be fenced to secure the property, ensure the safety of those living there, and prevent thieves from stealing our farm produce.
- We are in dire need of a kitchen and dining area. Currently, all cooking is done on the verandah and on large coal pots outside. We face many challenges with the weather and in keeping everything in order, and it is not always safe for the children.
- We are in need of additional support to employ at least two permanent staff members to carry out the land work, and we also need the funds for a new lawnmower.

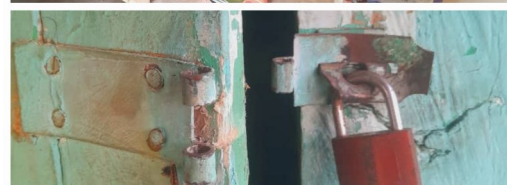
- We still need another 10,000 litre polytank to ensure sufficient water supply all year round.

Dibisi Learning Centre, North East Region

- We have outgrown our small temporary library and storage space and need to secure funds to build a Learning Centre.



- In the early hours of the morning in November, thieves broke in and scattered many items in our small library at the branch in Northern Ghana. They took stationery and broke the locks.



- Due to the rains in the rainy season, large portions of the road were flooded, making it challenging for staff member Silas Azong to reach some of the locations where teaching takes place.



Planning Ahead

- **Build up our monthly donor support to help cover operational costs, special programs, and ongoing work in Northern Ghana, and employ additional staff.**
- **Complete the construction of the Learning Centre in the Eastern Region.**
 1. Invest in additional water storage.
 2. Build and furnish a separate kitchen and dining area to cater for all meals and refreshments served at the centre.
 3. Secure the entire grounds with a fence wall.
 4. Complete the landscaping on the grounds and plant more fruit trees, vegetables, and flowers.
- **Acquire land and build a Learning Centre at our Northern Ghana branch, comprising a library with adjoining living quarters and a separate pavilion.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION
- IMPACT FLUID SOLUTIONS, USA
- HOSANNA TRUST FOUNDATION, NEW ZEALAND
- THE HAZEL DICK TRUST, NEW ZEALAND
- GTS DRILLING, GHANA
- TOP CHOCO, GHANA
- FLORA TISSUE, GHANA
- TANGO PRIME WASH, GHANA
- ARKAS GHANA LIMITED
- EL SHADDAI WORSHIP CENTRE, NEW ZEALAND
- ASANTEWAS CREATIONS, NEW ZEALAND
- NU HOUSE OF FASHION, USA
- WOFORO, USA
- SHOPRTIE, GHANA
- BEADS FOR A REASON, GHANA
- GROUNDUP GHANA
- MS BEADS AFRIK, UK
- ONE SEED, GHANA
- START FROM GHANA
- DUAFA SISTERHOOD, GHANA
- TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - CAS PROJECTS, GHANA
- AND ALL INDIVIDUAL COTL SUPPPORTERS



THANK YOU, MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS!

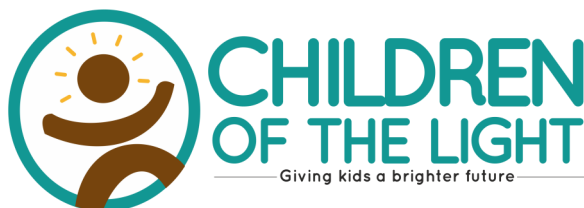


Message from the Founder

We are thankful for another year of fun and learning. We first give all glory to God and then thank all those who have made this year a success. May God bless the CotL staff for their dedication and hard work, the volunteers for sacrificing their precious time to be a part and help us with their skills, and the donors for their generous support, both in cash and in kind.

May God richly bless them all.

Jeanette Brown Opoku



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