

CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

**1st January 2025
to
31st December 2025**



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.



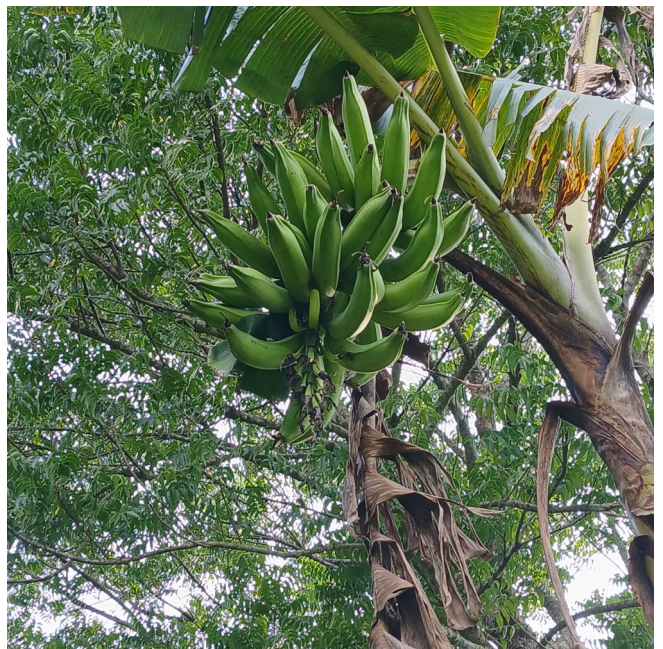
Our Achievements

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 road funding within the Springfield Community in which we live. By the end of December 2025, we now have close to 24,000 litres of water storage from rainwater collection. 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.



The land owned by the organisation continues to develop. We keep planting trees, flowers, vegetables, 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 centre in the North East Region 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 are also part of these sessions, and we meet with them two times a week.

In 2025, our Director, made visits to support the Manager. 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 2025 to 31st DECEMBER 2025

Weekly classes were ongoing at the Children of the Light Learning centre in Kitase and at our centre in Dibisi and surrounding villages in the North East Region of Ghana.

Highlights throughout the Year

January 2025

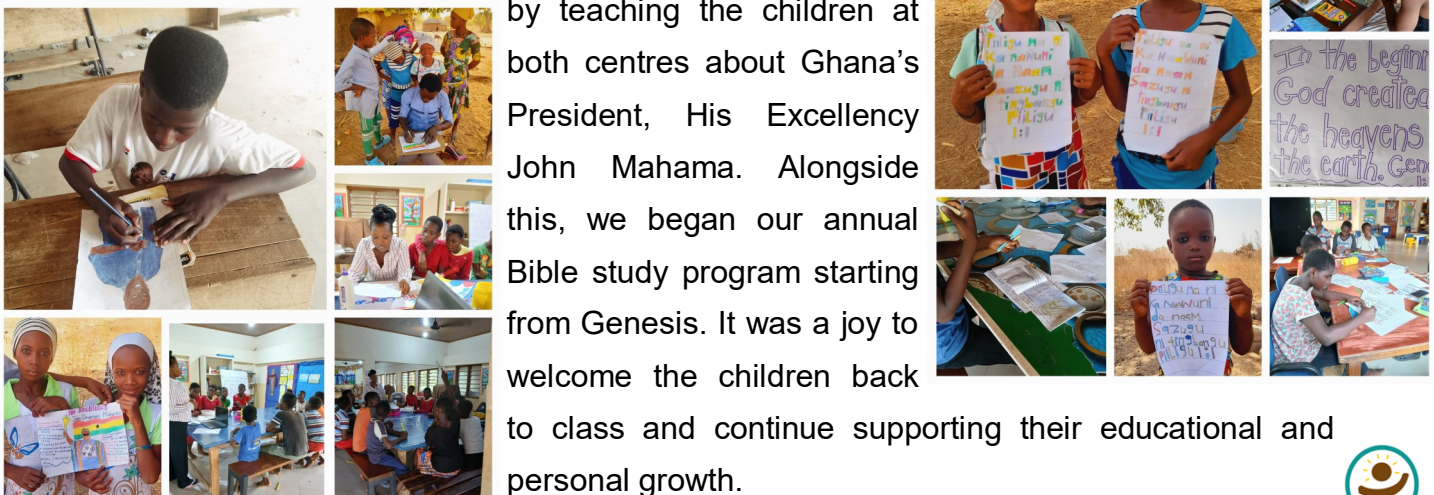
Each year, we close the centre for part of January. It was during this break that we received a package from Asantewa Opoku in New Zealand, filled with school supplies, books, and gently used clothing and shoes for both babies and adults. Since the centre was quiet, we had time to go through everything and distribute the items to those in need, while also packing a large portion to send to our centre in the North East Region.

While the centre was on break, we kept up with watering and sowed seeds for the upcoming rains. This was made possible by the water stored in our 4,000-litre polytank, generously donated by Shoprite Ghana in 2024. We also sent plastic waste that we had collected to Lynamps Enterprise for recycling. A snake slid out of one of the bags while we were sorting them for delivery, hence the sticks! Yikes!



February 2025

We commemorated Black History Month at Children of the Light by teaching the children at both centres about Ghana's President, His Excellency John Mahama. Alongside this, we began our annual Bible study program starting from Genesis. It was a joy to welcome the children back to class and continue supporting their educational and personal growth.



March 2025

On 6 March, the children at both locations made individual Ghana flags to celebrate Independence Day. At the centre in Kitase, they worked together to create two large posters about Ghana. To mark World Water Day on 22 March, we cleaned water bodies at both of our locations, one along the banks of the White Volta, and the other at the stream bordering the Kitase Learning Centre. Towards the end of March, our Founder and Director, Jeanette Brown, visited our centre in Northern Ghana and stayed for a few weeks. A few changes were made to improve the program, but overall, things were progressing nicely. Well done to our Manager, Silas Azong, and his team! Our work continued in the North with the Fulani children, and they were doing extremely well.



Back in December 2024, we received a donation from GTS Drilling. By March, all the tote bags had been made for us, and we purchased children's Bibles and acquired a speaker for our centre in the North East Region, which Jeanette delivered during her visit. Also, every two months, we received generous donations of supplies (pictured) from Top Choco Ghana, Flora Tissue, and Tango Prime Wash. These were distributed widely. Including the clothing received in January 2025, we again packaged a large package to the North.



April 2025

At the beginning of April, we held our Sisterhood program alongside our first-ever Brotherhood program, with the boys and girls meeting in separate groups. We were deeply grateful to Choose Love Ghana, who gifted us hygiene packages from Days for Girls NZ. We distributed these to the girls, while each of the boys received a handkerchief, lime, and soap.



April 2025 continued

On Holy Saturday, we held a special program at both centres where the children acted out the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The play depicted Jesus taking all our sins to the cross. The children also danced and sang. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed refreshments, including treats from Top Choco Ghana. We were blessed with a great audience, which included CEO Patricia A. Kumoji and her team from the Patricia-Varga Int. Foundation.



On the Monday after Resurrection Sunday, we were blessed with a visit from Fruitful Army International Ministries, who generously gifted us with many food items and clothing.

To celebrate Earth Day on 22 April, we planted an Ethiopian apple tree at our centre.



May 2025

With Mother's Day in May, each year we give the children the art supplies they need to make a beautiful card for their mother. This activity took place the Saturday before Mother's Day.

Also in May, we had the honour of welcoming NZ High Commissioner Michael Upton, Policy Adviser Olansis M. Worke (NZ Embassy Addis Ababa), and NZ Consul Nicholina Annor-Adjei. They visited to see the impact of the HEF fund donation from the NZ Aid Programme that we received last year, which funded upgrades to our solar power system, laptops, fans, and centre insurance.



May 2025 continued

Saturday, 17 May marked the start of our six-week reading program, which ran through Monday, 30 June and concluded with an awards ceremony on Saturday, 5 July. The goal of the program was for every participating child to advance by at



least one reading level. We were also joined by wonderful volunteers who helped read to the children and listened to them read.



To raise awareness on World Bee Day on 20 May, children at both centres collected and scattered flower seeds, made bee posters, and learned about the life cycle of bees.



June 2026

Throughout the month of June, the reading challenge continued. Also during this month, we sent 43.1 kg of plastic waste to Lynamps Enterprise for recycling.

July 2026

The Awards Ceremony for our six-week reading program was held on Saturday, 5 July, and was a wonderful success. Six prize winners each went home with a bag filled with items, including a children's Bible, a storybook, school supplies, and

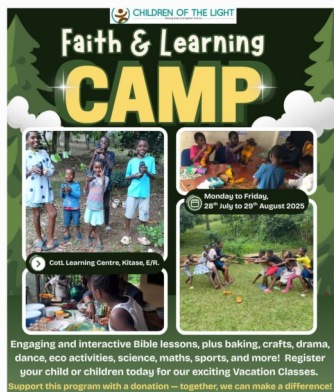


products from Top Choco Ghana, Flora Tissue, and Tango Prime Wash, with certificates also awarded to participants. While not all participants committed to the full six weeks, those who did showed clear progress and moved up a reading level. Everyone enjoyed celebrating with a meal of jollof rice, fried chicken, Top Choco chocolate drink, and a delicious cake baked by our volunteer and neighbour, Katherine Yentumi.



July 2025 continued

Our centre in the North East Region held a successful two-day Mathematics Competition, featuring Lower Primary on day one and Upper Primary on day two. The children performed well in a challenging contest, with the winners receiving wonderful prizes and everyone enjoying popcorn and Top Choco. Meanwhile, the Kitase competition was postponed to the first Saturday in September. As the school holidays began in July, we held a Faith and Learning Day Camp at both centres, which ran throughout the entire holiday period.



August 2025

The Faith and Learning Day Camp in Kitase, E/R, which ran through July and August, featured a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, as well as Bible lessons based on 1 Samuel. Snacks were provided daily, alongside a full meal served every Wednesday. We received a generous donation from the Christ Hands and Feet Foundation (CHAF), and their founder, Akosua Sarpong, joined us in person to make pancakes with the children. The camp also included sessions on health, road, and fire safety,

while rehearsals began for our upcoming 20th Anniversary performance. During the final two weeks of the school holidays, we hosted a Faith and Learning Day Camp at our centre in the North East Region, offering a similar array of engaging activities and safety workshops.



We received an amazing donation of 250 school bags, each filled with essential school supplies and hygiene products. This generous gift was provided by School in a Bag and manufactured by Trashy Bags Africa. We distributed 200 bags at our centre in Northern Ghana, while the remaining 50 were given to children at our Kitase centre in the Eastern Region during our 20th Anniversary celebration.



August 2025 continued

During the month of August we put together 25 colourful parcels containing a washcloth and a bar of soap as gifts for people in Goma, DRC. Jeanette met Dr. Eraston Kighoma from Goma at church, and before he returned home, we were able to organise the parcels.



Our 20th Anniversary celebration was truly wonderful. The children performed a play titled *Abena and the Corn Seed*, which tells the story of a young girl who cares for the environment, stands for truth, embraces the opportunity to attend school, and remains devoted to prayer and Bible study. At its heart, Abena's journey is a powerful story of integrity. The performance concluded with 1 Samuel 2:2: *'There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like*

our God.' We are deeply thankful to GTS Drilling for their generous support, Rev. Julius Coomson for sharing an encouraging message, Katherine Yentumi for the anniversary cake, Laurie Korum for the 200 delicious banana muffins, and Shoprite Ghana for donating drinks, bread, and foodstuffs. A special thank you also goes to Akosua Sarpong for the fresh fruit, as well as Elizabeth Karikari, Akosua Sarpong, and the team for preparing all of the food.

September 2025

We joined World Cleanup Day, picking up waste in two locations: along the Aburi Mountain Road in the Eastern Region and at the Bulbia Market in the North East Region. Many children took part, and their efforts truly made a difference. Afterward, all the children enjoyed a meal serving approximately 410 children in total.



In September we finally had our Math Competition in Kitase! It was a tough competition with many participants. All participants received two exercise books, and the winners took home great prizes.



September 2025 continued

We again delivered plastic waste to Lynamps Enterprise for recycling, this time weighing in at 94.1 kg.



October 2025

We had a successful Brotherhood and Sisterhood Program at the Learning Centre in Kitase. The day began with prayer, and the boys and girls met separately for open discussions. Topics included the hazards of drugs and alcohol, social media dangers, night clubs and peer pressure, premarital sex, teenage fathers and mothers, teenage pregnancy, puberty, and personal hygiene. Self-esteem was encouraged throughout. Refreshments and a hot meal were provided, with food sponsored by CHAF and CotL donors. All participants also received a gift sponsored by Global Girls Rescue and CotL donors. Our guest speakers were Philonese West, Founder of 'Global Girls Rescue', Pastor Michael T. Dompkeh, and Quesi Minta.



This year's Career Day was a vibrant success. Centered around the theme '*Dream Big, Career Day!*', the children had a wonderful time dressing up in a variety of professional outfits. On the day, we connected online with Chidimma from the U.S., who spoke with the children about different careers they can pursue. The day ended with refreshments and smiles all around!

November 2026

Once again, we were able to send goods through Dr. Eraston Kighoma to Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This time, the bags were filled with school supplies as well as gently used and new clothing and shoes. We are grateful to CHAF for helping us put this together.



November 2026 continued

In mid-November, we were invited by A Rocha Ghana to the 4th Allison Mary Howell Symposium on Church and Environment at 'Allison Greens Park'. Organised by the Akrofi-Christaller Inst. and A Rocha Ghana, the park itself is a testimony of determination, from dumpsite to beauty. Jeanette attended with a carload of children, and during the tree-planting initiative, one of our children also planted a tree.



Our Director once again visited our centre in the North East Region. Akosua Sarpong, founder of CHAF, joined her for a two-night stay. She brought a wonderful donation of clothing, school supplies, school bags, and biscuits. The bags were given to teen girls.

December 2026

We held a Brotherhood and Sisterhood program at our centre in Dibisi, NE/R. The program went very well with great attendance. The teens separated into two groups (boys and girls), each taking a classroom at the local school. Our manager, Silas Azong, was the speaker for the teen boys, and Belinda Anukaru was the speaker for the teen girls. We are so grateful to Philonese West, the founder of 'Global Girls Rescue', whose PowerPoint presentation was used as a guide. After the discussions, refreshments were served.



We shared the Christmas message titled 'A Child is Born' at both centres. It was beautiful. After the performance, everyone at both locations enjoyed refreshments.

Looking back on all that was accomplished across our centres, we ended the year on a truly blessed note.



Ongoing Classes throughout the Year

Alongside all these activities, we continued with our regular weekly after-school classes. Subjects included language, journal writing, vocabulary, mathematics, science projects, arts and crafts, music, and home economics.

Bible Lessons and Projects on Africa



Our regular activities continued across the year with Bible study, verse memorisation, and poster activities. In addition, our African Studies initiative, launched in 2024, continued throughout 2025. We are making steady progress through this project, and the students are learning a great deal about the history, geography, and culture of Africa.

Fulani Children

Our work with the Fulani children continued at our centre in the North East Region. The children are quickly learning to read and write Mampruli (local dialect) and picking up English fast. Story time is always a joy, and they get to express their creativity during our art lessons. They are also doing well in mathematics.



Sow, Grow, Harvest

We have been busy planting, and as the crops grow, we water whenever the rain pauses, leading to a great harvest.



SUCSESSES

- Our donors have continued to provide vital support, helping us sustain our ongoing and special programs, while at times enabling us to provide healthy snacks and hot meals to the many children we serve. As previously mentioned, we continue to receive regular donations of paper towels, toilet paper, washing powder, and chocolate drinks from Flora Tissue, Tango Prime Wash, and Top Choco. These contributions not only support our centres but also benefit many elderly community members. Throughout the year, we have also received generous donations of school supplies, art materials, and clothing, sending a significant portion of these supplies to our branch in Northern Ghana on multiple occasions.



- As previously mentioned, we continue to work with Fulani children at our centre in the North East Region. Marking nearly three years of working with these children, our Head Teacher and Manager, Silas Azong, recognized that two of the girls were ready to begin formal schooling. Following positive discussions with their family, both girls were enrolled and placed directly into Class 3. On their very first day, their classmates warmly welcomed them, it seemed as though every child in the room wanted them to sit beside them! Their father recently purchased their school uniforms, and each girl was also blessed with a school bag filled with supplies from School in a Bag, produced by Trashy Bags Africa.



- Thanks to a generous donation from Maagrace Garment Industries Limited, we were able to distribute a large supply of face masks to local

hospitals and clinics. The picture right shows just a small portion of what we received!



- We have a lawnmower again! A big thank you to CotL Board Member Sharon Kohler, who held a fundraiser at her workplace and raised the funds for us to get a new mower. It's been a year since the children were able to play on the large field due to the lawnmower issue.



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.



- Although progress was made on our wall last year, and our neighbor begun constructing an adjacent wall, full perimeter fencing remains a critical priority. Securing the land with a proper boundary wall will ensure the safety of everyone on-site and protect our farm produce from theft. We are also 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. Because we rely on rainwater, maintaining our water supply is a challenge

during the dry season. While it doesn't run out completely, we have to be extremely frugal with our usage.

- We again face challenges with our solar power system and need to upgrade our battery bank. To ensure long-term reliability and efficiency, our goal is to invest in lithium batteries, which offer a significantly longer lifespan and better performance.

Dibisi Learning Centre, North East Region

- We continue to make good use of our small center, which includes a library, storage, and a pavilion that often serves as a gathering point. Even though we boarded up the back of the pavilion for weather protection, put up a bulletin board for artwork and notices, and added a chalkboard and whiteboard to aid in teaching, these have all been temporary solutions. Rain has also been a challenge, with water getting into our library. Because of this, we urgently need to build a completely new, sturdy facility where everyone can gather safely and all of our resources can be well protected.



- We also face challenges at this centre when hosting large programs that bring in many children as managing them can be difficult. While community members frequently step in to assist, establishing a proper, well-built site would significantly lessen these issues. Additionally, we are currently understaffed following the departure of our assistant teacher, so we are actively looking for a permanent staff member to join our Manager.



THE TEAM

Management Committee

Children of the Light (CotL) is managed by a Board of Directors / Management Committee. The Management Committee meets two to three times a year, and all members except one are volunteers.

Staff

Staffing includes the Director, two 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 **53** registered, committed children at the CotL Learning Centre in Kitase, Eastern Region, and **200** registered, committed children at the centre in the North East Region. There are always many unregistered children who attend the special programs, i.e., Cleanup programs, Holy Saturday, and Christmas.



Planning Ahead

- **Build up our monthly donor support to help cover operational costs, special programs, and ongoing work at our centre in the North East Region**
- **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.*
 5. *Invest in lithium batteries for our solar system.*
- **Acquire land and build a Learning Centre at our in the North East Region comprising a library with adjoining living quarters and a separate pavilion.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **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**
- **ASANTEWAS CREATIONS, NEW ZEALAND**
- **FRUITFUL ARMY INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES (KALON EXPERIENCE), GHANA**
- **AKUAPMEN INTERNATIONAL INTERDEMONINATIONAL CHURCH (AIC), GHANA**
- **WOFORO, USA**
- **BEADS FOR A REASON, GHANA**
- **CHRIST HANDS AND FEET FOUNDATION, GHANA**
- **TRASHY BAGS, GHANA**
- **SCHOOL IN A BAG, UK**
- **SHOPRITE GHANA**
- **GLOBAL GIRLS RESCUE, USA**
- **A ROCHA GHANA**
- **MS BEADS AFRIK, UK**
- **MAAGRACE GARMENT INDUSTRIES LIMITED, GHANA**
- **AND ALL INDIVIDUAL COTL SUPPPORTERS**

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



Message from the Founder

It has been another year of deep gratitude. Our children continue to learn, grow, and thrive in all that they do. Though we faced challenges along the way, by God's grace, we made it through. Looking back over the past year, it has been a true blessing, especially as we celebrated our 20th Anniversary milestone! Countless children have passed through our doors, and I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our Management Committee, staff, volunteers, and generous donors for making this work possible.

May God richly bless them all.

Jeanette Brown Opoku



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