



# HERITAGE CHARITY FOUNDATION

Located in Tagadzi community, North Tongu district  
Volta Region, Ghana

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## HERITAGE CHARITY FOUNDATION PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

### **Introduction**

Heritage Charity Foundation is a community based not-for-profit organization founded in the year 2013 but legally registered in Ghana in the year 2014. Our main focus areas are to provide free basic and compulsory education and health care to out-of-school children in hard-to-reach communities in the North Tongu district in the Volta Region of Ghana. Currently, we are operating in the Tagadzi community in the North Tongu district in the Volta Region of Ghana.

Members of this community's main source of living is seasonal farming therefore life became very unbearable during dry season hence their inability to produce crops in commercial quantities. This is tremendously affecting children of this community resulting in very high rates of school drop outs and the unfortunate teenage girls gets pregnant and become teenage mothers without husbands.

It is with this regard, Heritage Charity Foundation was founded to provide basic educational support to enable children between the ages of 4 – 15 years experience the formal education system and the young adults between the ages of 16 – 20 years will be trained in various entrepreneurship skills to enable them become self-dependent.

### **Mission statement**

- The centre aims at reaching out to young women on the street and assists them to explore other options in life such as dressmaking, hairdressing and the like.
- It offers friendly services to young women on the streets irrespective of tribe, culture and religion.
- It seeks to empower young women through education, training and other opportunities for enterprise development.

### **Aims and objectives**

- It aims at assisting young women on the street into a stable living condition and facilitate their reintegration through information education.
- It seeks to provide resources for the street children and assist them to acquire some skills for living.
- It acts on behalf of the street children and cooperate with all interested groups and organizations for reintegration into normal life in society.
- It seeks to identify the origin and family background of the street child with the hope of regenerating them with their family.
- It provides awareness creation for the public on the plight of street children in the North Tongu district.
- To reduce child illiteracy rate, teenage pregnancies and extreme poverty among our children and women.
- Provide equal opportunities for all.
- Provide humanitarian services to deprived communities.
- To assist poor parents and families to utilized the resources available to them.

## **Our target groups**

The following are categories of our target groups

### **Children “on” the street**

These are children who live with their parents or guardians but work in the street for their own benefit or to assist household or domestic income. At the end of the day, they return to their homes, sleep at night and have some time with their family. But the truth of the matter is that children “on” the street usually do not have family friends and protection. In an interview with a 13 year old boy anonymously called Kofi Ghana who stays at a suburb of Juapong and sells iced water at the Junction. According to him, he sells iced water in the street to supplement domestic income.

### **Children “of” the street**

These are children who live in the street spend the day working in the street and at night find a place to sleep. These children have two main sleeping places, one group sleeps in open and unauthorized places, while another group sleeps in overcrowded hired rooms. Children “of” the street maintain loose relationship with their families. They are often migrant destitutes, and homeless who often face persecution at home.

In another interview, a girl of about 13 years who wanted to remain anonymous for fear of being intimidated by a man who owns a small kiosk close Tagadzi, said, she was raped on three occasions because she begged for a place to sleep. Asked why she did not report to the police her reply was: “I reported to my colleagues but feared ejection so I never pursued it further. I have moved to join my friends.

### **Abandoned Children**

These are children who have no family or place to sleep at night after hard days’ work. There are a number of such children in the streets of Battor the capital city of North Tongu district who feel homeless and rejected, thus having a serious social and economic implication on the country as whole. An interview with another individual, anonymously called Yaw Ghana (age 14) revealed that he sold biscuits and candies and earned between GH¢1.00 and GH¢3.00 daily and paid GH¢2.00 as rent. At times, he borrowed money with interest from his friends to settle the rent charge. If he failed to settle the debt his goods were seized and sold at a reduced price to settle the debt. “All these happen to me because I have no one or anywhere to go for help”, said Yaw Ghana.

### **Rural migrant children**

These are children found in the cities with the intent of seeking greener pastures. They come often through the persuasion of children from the same towns and are now dwelling in the cities. According to Gideon (age 16), the latter go back to the hometown on special occasions as festivals or Christmas, often boasting of great gains they have made in the city to persuade the other colleagues to join them to the city. They become street children when they realize that their aspiration have been different from the reality on the ground. They often have no place to sleep or anyone to approach for help. This makes them end up becoming street children.

### **Children from poor homes**

According to Godwin (age 14), there are children from poor homes in the cities who are forced to take to the streets in order to help make ends meet. Most of these children come from dysfunctional homes where usually, the father has failed in his responsibilities to cater for the family; or the fathers have completely absconded and left the family to their own fate. Single-parent mothers in these situations are unable to provide for the children, and so they often encourage especially the older ones to go on the streets to hustle and endeavour to supplement the family income. Not all fathers may be guilty of this but the fact still stands that the irresponsibility of parents can easily lead their children to hit the streets.

Children who love to stay on the streets instead of learning are due to money and the desire to be independent and self-sufficient. These children love to stay on the streets and will not yield to persuasion or pressure to leave in order to learn a trade or undertake some profitable venture.

### **“Occasional” street children**

These are children who are on the streets occasionally on or at some weekends selling their wares. During our field trips to places such as Juapong market, Adidome, Atimpoku, Kpong and Agormenya markets respectively, to mention but a few, we came across a number of children who were selling on the streets because it was a weekend and or school was on recess. Asked why they were doing that instead of attending vacation classes, they said they were doing that to support school fees.

### **“Second-generation” of street children**

These are children whose parents are with them in the streets. There are some fathers, mothers and brothers and sisters who happen to be in the streets with their entire family, begging. These parents sit at a distance and ask their children to go near the streets begging. Some of the children we interviewed at Atimpoku roundabout had remained in the streets for years and they could not exactly tell us their place of residence. The parents too felt embarrass to speak to us.

## **FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO STREET CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY**

### **Maternal mortality**

This could be a cause for some children to take to the streets. When there is the occurrence of death of some parents. Children at times become orphans and may end up on the streets; if it happens that there is no one to take care of such children. Such unpleasant occurrence often makes the child feels that society has rejected him or her and therefore takes his or her own destiny into his or her own hands.

### **Poverty**

In a situation where poverty hits hard on a family and has some ripple effects that cannot help, the children often resort to life on the streets as the next option to consider. Such children go to the streets to fend for themselves. Some of them never go back home or attend school.

### **Divorce / separation in marriage**

Some parents may abandon their children when eventually they realise they cannot live together any longer, they end up in divorce or separation of the marriage. As a way of punishment, sometimes the children become victims of circumstance. When children are left without any trace of their parents they may end up on the streets in search of greener pastures.

### **Selfish ambition**

Some parents in their selfish ambition ignore their children to fend for themselves, just to fulfill their selfish desires. By the time they realise the whereabouts of their children they are already on the streets. This could serve as a contributing factor of street children in the country.

### **The nature of environment**

The nature of activities that go on in a particular environment could influence the child and exposed him or her to bad company. Some children chase after drugs such as cocaine, marijuana and vices as prostitution and stealing, often due to the nature of the environment they find themselves. When children are left on their own and not attended to they may join some bad company.

### **Lack of education**

When agencies responsible for civic education like the National Commission for Civic Education are less resourced, not much could be achieved in terms of education. The general public may not know much about the plight of children on the street. During our interaction with the children a number of them expressed their displeasure about the government for not doing enough to rehabilitate them from the street. They rather commended some media houses, churches and other organizations for coming to their aid during Christmas with gifts and merry making. Seventhly, Peer pressure. Some children out of curiosity are ill advised by their peers and often take to the streets. They are lured to street life through persuasion by their peers to seek greener pastures, only to realize that their dreams are pictured differently than what pertains in their reality of city life. This could also be a contributing factor of street children in the country.

**Parental irresponsibility**

Some parents leave their children to their own fate. Unable to cater for the needs such children eventually take to the streets for their needs. Such irresponsibility of some parents may contribute to street children. It behoves on parents to make the interest of their children paramount to their own needs.

**Achievements****Education**

We are currently supporting about 150 children and youth between the ages of 4 to 20 years with formal and informal education cum entrepreneurship training.

**Self help projects**

Heritage Charity Foundation solicits for financial support to assist parents of the children with income generating activities that will sufficiently support their families.

**Health Care**

We support children and pregnant women to secure national health insurance and also invite resource persons for health talks periodically.

**Blood donation**

We have conducted free voluntary blood donation exercise to raise blood for the Akosombo community hospital blood bank. Our first donation exercise was carried in February 2015.

**Sources of income**

Since the formation of the organization, we have received contributions from local churches and the communities where we operate.

**The Project**

Tagadzi community is one of the very deprived communities in the Volta Region of Ghana. The inhabitants of this community's main source of living is subsistence farming therefore life become very unbearable during dry season due to their inability to farm in large quantities for commercial purposes. This is tremendously affecting the children of these communities resulting in very high rates of school drop outs and teenage pregnancies among the unfortunate girls.

Some of these girls also end on the street as teenage prostitute whilst the boys result to stealing and criminal activities. If this project is implemented, will go a long way to reduce the challenges facing the people of Tagadzi and its sister communities and also alleviate poverty among our future leaders.

Currently, we have been able to construct a classroom with funding from the North American Women Association (NAWA) Ghana, which is housing 150 children. Our challenge therefore is that, we could not purchase teaching and learning materials for the school hence our request for financial support. Due to lack of teaching and learning materials for the school, teaching and learning has come to a standstill hindering our smooth implementation of our literacy project.

Our target groups are the school dropouts; however, we also organize evening classes for those in various schools. We also wish to state that, the project is solely a community project of which the community whole-heartedly donated four plots of land towards the project as part of their contribution.

**Progress reporting**

Heritage Charity Foundation will be glad to update you before, during and after the project. This will be done by submission of progress reports on activities with pictures.

## Sustainability

Nonetheless, the foundation intend cultivating 6 hectares of land donated by the community for agribusiness and we hope to produce crops for commercial purposes which some of the money will be invested in other businesses towards the sustainability of the project.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, it could be said that God is concerned with all that he has created including children on the streets who have no choice than to engage in all manner of economic activities detrimental to their development. Children on the streets are looking for love from families they have lost touch with for years, and society should make them feel part of it and extend a hand of fellowship to them. Every individual bears the image of God and is a potential choice of God for transformation in society.

A number of children on the streets however have their rights trampled upon by adults who are supposed to protect them. It is time that humanity should demonstrate love and identify with such ones who probably due to inability to develop their potentials have ended up in the streets.

Even though Heritage Charity Foundation are doing much to alleviate the plight of street children in the North Tongu district, there is the need for the international organizations, and other donor agencies to support them in their endeavour. The North Tongu district is confronted with a huge task by the influx of children from other parts of the country. The plight of these children sends a strong signal for public support. It is essential for civil society to find appropriate way of dealing with child labour, strengthen advocacy on street children, sex education and the risks in early sex life, and appropriate measures put in place to prevent children to fend for themselves. This is because a number of children on the streets have enormous potentials for national growth and development.

## Budget

ITEMS	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE GHS	TOTAL GHS
Dual desks	100 pieces	90.00	9,000.00
White board	10 sets	100.00	1,000.00
Children chairs	40 pieces	15.00	600.00
Makers / pencils / erasers	50 packets	10.00	500.00
Desktop computer	1 set	1,000.00	1,000.00
Printer	1	500.00	500.00
Photocopier	1	4,000.00	4,000.00
A4 printing paper	10 boxes	80.00	800.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>17,400.00</b>

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REPUBLIC OF GHANA

The Companies Act, 1963, Act 179

## CERTIFICATE TO COMMENCE BUSINESS

I hereby certify that

**HERITAGE CHARITY FOUNDATION**

having complied with the provision of Sections 27 and 28 of the Companies Act, 1963, Act 179 is entitled to commence business with effect from **14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2014**

Given under my hand at Accra this **14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2014**



For: Registrar of Companies