



# Light for Children 2010

Providing Care and Support for 50 HIV/AIDS positive children for a year

## *Project Summary*

50 Ghanaian HIV/AIDS positive children residing in the city of Kumasi and its surrounding communities will be provided with Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) drugs, nutritional supplements in the form of Zincovit which is a blood booster to help improve upon their immune system to help fight the HIV virus in their blood. These children will be assisted to access health facilities (HIV Clinic) every month for medical review with some financial assistance as well as assisted to access educational facilities since most of these children have parents who died as a result of HIV/AIDS infection and even with those who parents are alive, they are virtually economically inactive because of their HIV/AIDS status therefore making it difficult for the children to have a normal life if they are not assisted because their caregivers are their grandparents who too old to work or their parent who are battling the same disease these children are facing.



Therefore, these children need our support and assistance to enable them live long and be well educated so that they will be self sufficient when they grow up and be able to integrate themselves into the society in which they find themselves without their HIV/AIDS status becoming a hindrance.

## *Project Needs and Beneficiaries*

About US \$ 10,560 will be needed to purchase ART drugs, nutritional supplements as well as improve access to education and health facilities for 50 HIV/AIDS positive children in the city of Kumasi and its surrounding communities in the Ashanti Region of Ghana for one year.

## *Project Activities*

Anti Retroviral Therapy drugs will be purchased for all the 50 HIV/AIDs positive children at a cost of US \$ 5 for a child every month for one year. Nutritional supplements in the form of Zincovit will be purchased for each of the 50 children every month at a cost of US \$ 5 for a year. Each of the 50 children will be assisted to attend medical reviews every month at a cost US \$ 5 for one year. And also each of the 50 children will be assisted with US \$ 10 every month for educational purposes for a year.

## *Donation Values*

**\$ 10** – Will buy Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) Drugs and Nutritional Supplements for 1 child for one month

**\$ 50** – Will buy Anti Retroviral Therapy Drug for 1 child for an entire year

**\$ 50** – Will buy Nutritional Supplement for 1 child for an entire year

**\$ 50** – Will pay for a monthly visit to the HIV Clinic for reviews for 1 child for a year

**\$ 90** – Will provide educational support for 1 child for a year

## *Potential Long-Term Impact*

“It is anticipated that in the long term, all the 50 children would have matured and acquired enough education that will be used to earn a living so that they will be able to buy the ART drugs and nutritional supplements themselves without waiting for other people to come to their aid before they do so. Also, they will be in a position to pay for their monthly medical reviews themselves and also assist the rest of their family financially.

Most importantly, they will become living testimonies of the fact that when one gets infected with the HIV/AIDS virus, that is not the end of that person's life but with the necessary support and assistance, they will be able to become people others can look up to.”

**- Enock Kyei Baffour (Project Officer)**





## *Effects of AIDS*

The effect of HIV/AIDS on the economic activities of people in the developing countries is very serious because of the stigma attached to the disease.

The devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on our society can not be downplayed.

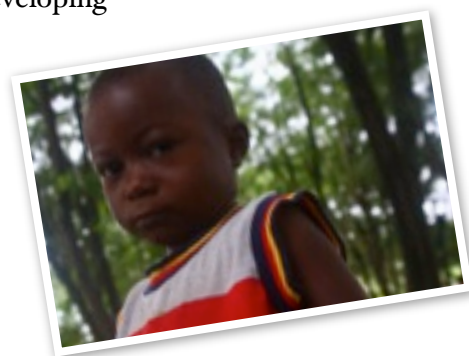
Without the ART drugs, these children will not be able to survive the infection for long.

They will die without been able to fulfill the purpose for which they came into this world.

These children have hopes, dreams and aspirations like any other normal children.

Your donations will assist each of these children to grow to be the best person he or she could be and contribute positively to the society without being a burden unto someone else.

**- Yaw Otchere Baffour (Executive Director)**



## *External Support*

There is a Japanese volunteer sent from JICA to assist the implementation of this project by name Yukali Karsai whose area of study was Social Sciences and International Relations and specialized in Social Cultural Study in HIV/AIDS as well as Basic Knowledge in HIV/AIDS.

The volunteer who is 25 years of age has experience in other developing countries like Guatemala.



## Profile of a few supported children

*Terrance*

**Name:** Terrance Kwaku Kyei Mensah

**Age:** 6

**Family status:** Non orphan

**Educational background:** Primary/Basic School



### Family History

Terrance and his older sister Hilda are both HIV positive children who contracted the virus during child birth from their mother and are both currently on ART medication. They were discovered by Light for Children through Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital. Terrance suffers from recurrent colds and coughs due to the virus.

Terrance's mother is HIV positive. His father refuses to be tested as at the moment he feels healthy and doesn't believe that he has the virus. Terrance's father works as a farmer in Suame and does not always stay with the family. Terrance's mother works as a secretary and has been working with the same company for the past five years. The family tries hard to make enough money to cover the cost of the ART medication although at times this proves difficult.

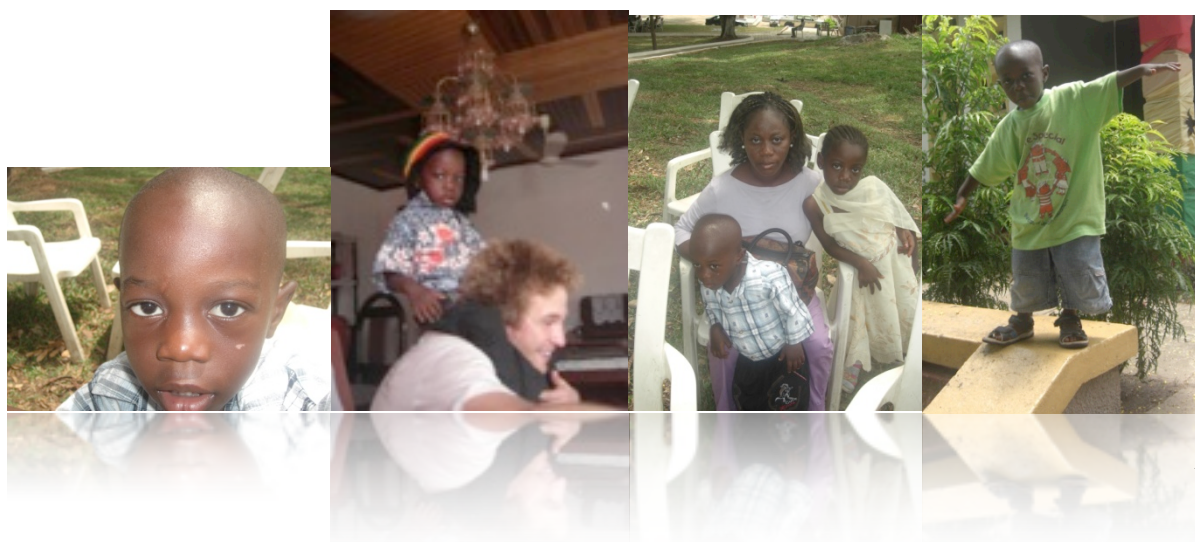
The children live with their mother and their grandparents, as well as their aunt and her two children in Adiembra, a suburb of Kumasi. Terrance's grandmother is the only member of the family who knows his status due to the stigmatization that surrounds HIV.

### About Terrance

Terrance is a shy little boy with a big character; he loves to play with his older sister Hilda and his cousin Henry. He is a typical six year old boy full of energy; however his recurrent colds and cough cause him to tire quickly during play.

Terrance is currently at primary school which he enjoys despite finding it difficult to concentrate.

Terrance enjoys the monthly socialization meetings and is a very popular member of the group. He is often seen being paraded around on volunteers shoulders!



**Name:** Ilham Shakibu

**Age:** 7

**Family status:** Single orphan

**Educational background:** Primary/Basic School



### **Family History**

Ilham lives with her mother and her younger sister Nasiratu in Ahwia, Kumasi. The girl's father was sick for a long time and sadly died, it is now presumed that he died of the HIV virus. The girl's mother did not realize that she too was positive until her youngest daughter fell ill. Nasiratu fell ill shortly after birth and was not developing properly; she was tested and found to be positive. It was then that Ilham and her mother were tested, and they too were found to be positive.

The mother lost her livelihood because of the constant care she has to provide for her daughters, particularly Nasiratu who cannot walk properly due to her illness.

Due to the stigma attached to HIV the girl's mother could not tell her family about the problems she faces for fear of discrimination. She faces a constant struggle for money and support. Light for Children met them at the AIDS clinic at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital.

### **About Ilham**

Ilham is a beautiful little girl, who is very mature for her age. She is very well behaved and patient. She loves playing and having fun especially with the other children.

Ilham has recently started school and is so far enjoying it.

Ilham is very sociable at the monthly meetings and is always off having fun with the other children. She loves playing games and is popular with all the children and volunteers.

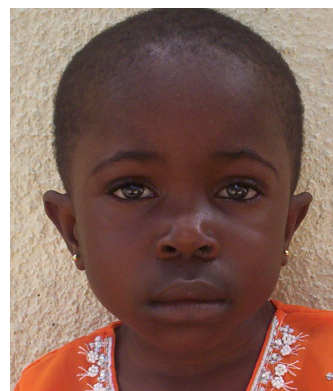


**Name:** Christiana Appiah

**Age:** 8

**Family status:** Non orphan

**Educational background:** Primary/Basic School



### **Family History**

Christiana tested positive for HIV in July 2007, she was tested after her older sister became ill and sadly died. Christiana suffers from recurrent colds and a runny nose as well as coughs and regular headaches.

Christiana's mother unknowingly contracted HIV from her first husband and passed it on to her second husband; Christiana's father without realizing. Christiana then contracted the virus through child birth yet this wasn't discovered until after the death of her older sister.

Christiana's father runs his own mechanic shop and works very hard to provide for the family.

Christiana's mother, Kate, is currently not working but is trying to save up to start her own business. This is particularly difficult due to the strain of providing ART and constant care for herself and Christiana.

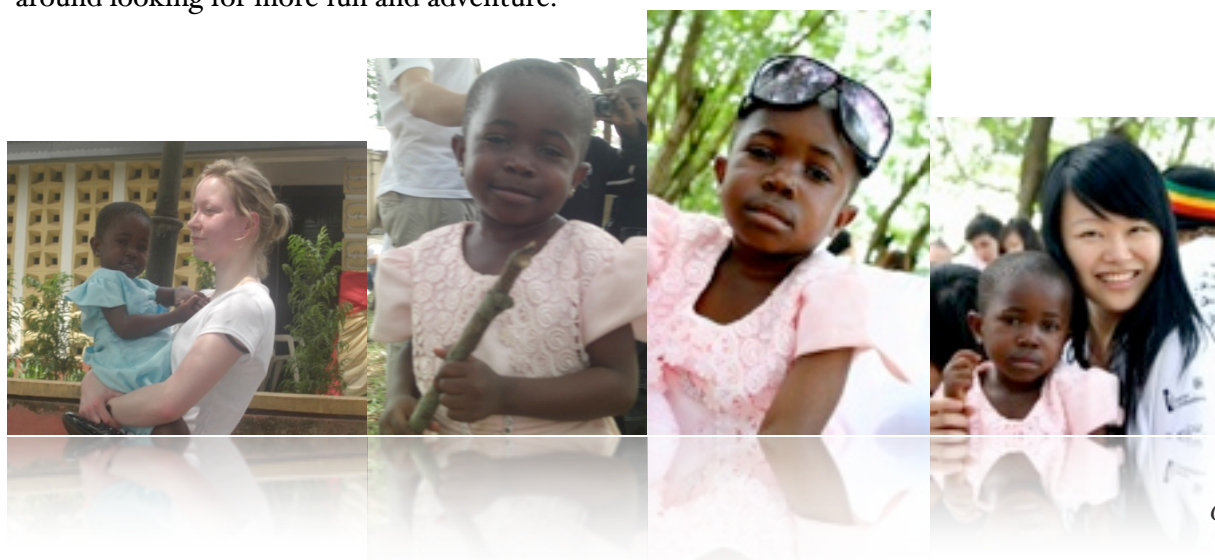
The family rents a house in Maakro, Kumasi where they have lived for four years.

### **About Christiana**

Christiana is a very playful, giggly little girl. She loves to laugh and will capture your heart when she smiles. She is full of energy and loves to play.

Christiana enjoys school but she is currently struggling with her lessons. Her father normally practices English with her but due to periods of absence she is beginning to fall behind in class. Currently volunteers are visiting Christiana to help her with her English and reading skills.

Christiana loves the socialization meetings and playing with the foreign volunteers. She is full of mischief and runs rings around everyone at the meeting. She is never still and is always running around looking for more fun and adventure.





**Name:** Clarence Anane

**Age:** 11

**Family status:** Non orphan

**Educational background:** Primary/Basic School



### **Family History**

Clarence lives in Kronum Kwapra, Kumasi with his mother, father and younger sister Janet. Clarence and Janet's mother fell sick and had to go to the hospital. Whilst in hospital she was tested for HIV and found to be positive. The rest of the family were then tested for the virus. All of them tested positive.

Neither of the parents works due to their illness and they have to survive on the benevolence of other people. The mother, father and Clarence are all on ART. Janet does not yet require the ART medication. The father tries to do menial jobs to save up for the medication. Life is a constant struggle for the family.

### **About Clarence**

Clarence is a very well behaved young boy. He is very helpful around the house and is always willing to do household chores.

Clarence attends Top Bridge Preparatory School and is currently performing very well. His favourite subject is English language.

Clarence has recently started attending the monthly meetings with his sister Janet. He is a very pleasant and outgoing boy. He takes part in all the games with the other children and loves playing and having fun!



**Name:** Kwadwo Amankwaah

**Age:** 9

**Family status:** Non orphan

**Educational background:** Primary/Basic School



### **Family History**

After Kwadwo's mother gave birth to him she began to fall ill. Her health deteriorated further and she had to be hospitalized for a significant period of time. Unfortunately the situation did not improve and she was tested for HIV and found to be positive. At this time ART medication was not available and she sadly died.

Yaw and Kwadwo were then tested. Yaw tested negative but sadly Kwadwo was found to be positive. Kwadwo could not be breastfed due to his mother's condition, he became very sick and came dangerously close to death. He has since been put on ART medication and he has improved vastly. He is now growing well.

Since the death of their mother and finding out the status of the boys the father has not been to be tested. He refuses to take responsibility for his sons. They are now cared for by their Grandmother.

### **About Kwadwo**

Kwadwo is an outgoing, energetic little boy. He has a mischievous side, but a cheeky smile that would always get him out of trouble!

Kwadwo does well at school; he is always trying hard to beat his brother in everything, so is always motivated. He is very popular at school and when not in class can always be found playing football.

At the meetings Kwadwo is a very popular member of the group, always running circles around the volunteers. He has boundless amounts of energy and partakes in all games.

