

'BUILDING UP WOMEN OF VIRTUE'
NEW LIFE TO ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED WOMEN IN IVORY COAST

Mission

Our goal is to reach out to economically disadvantaged women who due to poverty have no education or haven't furthered their education, lost their values and self-esteem in life. Our service focus is building self-esteem, self-empowerment, and self-sufficiency in women which will eventually result in a better quality of living. Our mission is to rebuild lives by restoring them spiritually, academically, emotionally, and mentally, which will empower them to become whole-mind, body, and soul. The Project's goal is to open great doors of opportunity for these young women and give them an alternative lifestyle to promote independence, and career opportunities which will ultimately lead to owning their own businesses

Cote d'Ivoire, an independent nation in West Africa has a total area of 322 462 sq km and has Abidjan as the economic capital and Yamoussoukro as the political capital. Cote d'Ivoire has been going through critical political-socio crisis and in spite of the many attempts to bring an end to the present situation things have continue to deteriorate.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The duration of the rehabilitation program and training is six months (five months and one month internship). This program runs twice a year. Ladies are registered into the vocational program with an orientation on the different courses. Lot of emphasis is placed on practical sessions to ensure that they fully understand what is being taught. Personal production is a priority to generate extra income for them

Qualified teachers with good academic background and a lot of field experiences are employed for the different course offered. Adult literacy teachers are also of great importance for the better functioning of these training since most of the ladies are school dropouts. During these training, it must be noted that the change in environment can have some positive or negative effect on students and this may affect their class performance. A lot of professionalism and encouragement in handling the different cases is highly required.

Exhibitions are organized to help market our products and create more awareness of the project in the community. More evangelical outreaches and prayer meetings are organized to meet the spiritual needs of the group.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The Project currently runs a rehabilitation centre in Ivory Coast and an institute in Sierra Leone. It has been providing services such as:

- **Educational Programs**
 - Literacy Program
 - Supplementary Education with emphasis on Math and English
 - Computer Training

- **Job/Skill Training**
 - Home-Economics
 - Culinary Arts
 - Design and Tailoring
 - Tie dye, Batik
 - Soap Making

- **Life Skills Training**
 - AIDS and STD Awareness and Prevention
 - Bible Studies

To qualify in the vocational training students are required to fully participate in four courses. Students must major in one course. Supplies of materials are made available for the different course by the project.

How are these ladies established after training?

A job placement and self-business plan is already in place. Trainees who would want to gain more experience in already established enterprises are assisted through our internship program. Others are established in their own business. Those who would like to return home to their family will also be assisted with additional help of starting their own business. A sales department – **New life Designs** - markets goods produced by ladies in order to increase their revenue and at the same time boost up the activities of the Project.

Follow up program

The project Counselor is responsible for an accurate follow up of graduates. A program is designed to fully keep track of the development of the graduate. Graduates are obliged to constantly send in progress reports including pictures through emails, post or in person. Financial statement is also monitored quarterly. This follow-up program is designed for at least one year depending on the response of the graduate.