

# CATO

## Country-Side Children's Home

### Volunteer Programme

#### Ghana, West Africa

Children are precious and the basis of our very survival. Not all are privileged to go through life normally; therefore, assistance and love for the less fortunate ones in the society can make a great difference. You can support the Home in several ways: by donating money (any amount is appreciated), by sending books in English, basic clothing (light/summer) and materials to the Home, being a volunteer at Awutu Bawjiase in Ghana to help take care of the children, the school or the farm or just by telling other people about the Home/soliciting for financial and material support for these unfortunate children.

Country Side Children's Welfare Home a Special Home for abandoned babies and children in the rural area of Ghana. These children are not only orphans but also have no extended families to go to as is the normal situation in Ghana. The Home receives no Ghana government funding but is managed and administered by Ghanaian volunteers, with donations from individuals, businesses, organisations, philanthropists. These Ghanaians are making sacrifices to make a difference in the life of these unfortunate African children in Ghana, where there are no free health care for children or childcare benefits.

Bawjiase as a community centre has a population of about 18, 000, including its surroundings. It has a market twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays. You are sure of almost everything needed in life. Currently, children population at the orphanage stands at 120, age range from one week old babies to over twenty years. At the orphanage there is a choice between helping at the baby care centre, at the school, on the farm, at the kitchen or at the infirmary. Volunteers have a minimum of 4 hours or more a day. They can make their own timetable for activities in the morning and in the afternoon. In the afternoon, volunteers design group or individual tutorials in their area of speciality, e.g. drawing, computing, dancing, music, football, Bible studies etc. There is no minimum or maximum stay, and therefore depends on the volunteer.

Volunteers are accepted from all over the world through organisations such as ours, Cultural & Academic Travel Organisation ([www.catointl.org](http://www.catointl.org)). Supervision for volunteers is provided by the home. Volunteers are expected to assist in areas of:

- ▶ Teaching
- ▶ Taking children out for walks and places of interest
- ▶ Helping with home work
- ▶ Sports
- ▶ Creativity
- ▶ Mending of clothes, furniture, etc., painting
- ▶ Washing, playing and feeding of babies
- ▶ Providing love and attention

If you would like to come with something for the children, please you can, of course, items like clothing, shoes and sandals, pens, pencils, books and other learning and teaching materials.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

The orphanage has a separate building for the volunteers. This is a rented apartment for the orphanage. It is a compound house, walled around it and therefore has other tenants living there. It is very close to the orphanage, about 2 to 4 minutes walk.

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## QUALIFICATION /SKILLS

Volunteers must have at least a high school certificate. Teacher certification helpful but not required.

## ORIENTATION

Each programme begins with an orientation. Talks will be on African topics, staffs explain culture; currency and local students describe the social scene. Language training begins. Orientation includes talks about African values.

## CITY TOURS

All programme participants will have the opportunity to embark on an OPTIONAL full day tour of one of the most beautiful cities in Africa, Accra. Accra reflects its transition from a 19th-century suburb of Victoriasburg to today's bustling modern metropolis. Participants will visit the W.E.B. Dubois memorial centre for Pan African culture, Independence Square, the state ceremonial grounds, Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum, the National Museum with its splendid display of the exhibits that reflect the heritage of Ghana from prehistoric to modern times, the Arts Centre.

Participants will have the opportunity to buy African handicraft and clothes at the National Arts Centre. The cost of this city tour is NOT included in the programme cost.

### Programme Highlights:

<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Minimum age of 16 Years
<b>Dates:</b>	All Year
<b>Work Hours:</b>	25-35 hours per week
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Hostels (Dormitory Style)
<b>Minimum Duration:</b>	None
<b>Fees:</b>	4 Weeks US\$550 6 Weeks US\$650 2 Months US\$750 3 Months US\$1050 4 Months US\$1,030 5 Months US\$1,600 6 Months US\$1,850
<b>Duration:</b>	4 Weeks to 1 Year
<b>Arrival airport:</b>	Kotoka International airport, Accra

## PROGRAMME DETAILS:

Volunteers are expected to assist in areas of:

- ▶ Teaching
- ▶ Taking children out for walks, and places of interest
- ▶ Helping with home work
- ▶ Sports
- ▶ Creativity
- ▶ Mending of clothes, furniture and painting
- ▶ Washing, playing and feeding of babies
- ▶ Providing love and attention

## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

We can place volunteers all year.

Volunteers can stay for a period of 4 weeks to a maximum of one year. CATO is able to extend your stay beyond your initial placement period.

Volunteers have a minimum of 4 hours or more a day. They can make their own timetable for activities in the morning and in the afternoon. In the afternoon, volunteers design group or individual tutorials in their area of speciality, e.g. drawing, computing, dancing, music, football, Bible studies etc. There is no minimum or maximum stay, and therefore depends on the volunteer.

Cultural & Academic Travel Organisation  
Email: [info@catointl.org](mailto:info@catointl.org) Web: [www.catointl.org](http://www.catointl.org)

*Your memories will live forever!*

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## ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The orphanage has a separate building for the volunteers. This is a rented apartment for the orphanage. It is a compound house, walled around it and therefore has other tenants living there. It is very close to the orphanage, about 2 to 4 minutes walk. Volunteers at times sleep in groups of two or three per room when necessary. Cost of Meals is included in the cost of the program.

You will need a weekly budget of up to US\$50 to cater for all your other expenses like bottled water, personal cost, beverages and entertainment. Bawjiase as a community centre has a population of about 18,000, including its surroundings. It has a market twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays. You are sure of bottled water etc. from Bawjiase and Agona Swedru (25km from Bawjiase).

## VISA

Visas are required for Ghana. You will need to apply for your own visa. CATO staff will provide information on consulates and application forms. Application forms for visa require 2 references in Ghana. Upon your enrolment in our programme, CATO will send you 2 references in Ghana for your visa application.

## VACCINATION

Yellow Fever vaccinations are required to obtain Ghanaian visa. We recommend you consider vaccinations for Hepatitis A & B, Meningitis, Typhoid, Tetanus and anti-malaria medications.

## INTERNET

Unfortunately we don't have access to Internet yet here at the orphanage, neither in the local community. However, in Accra and in Agona Swedru (25km) near by towns you can easily get access to Internet

## PROGRAMME FEES

### Fees Include:

- ▶ First Night Bed and Breakfast (Hotel Accommodation in Accra)
- ▶ School Placement
- ▶ Accommodation( dormitory style)
- ▶ Meals (Breakfast, lunch and dinner every day)
- ▶ Airport Transfer (Pick-up and Drop-off)
- ▶ Transfer to place of Volunteer
- ▶ Country Orientation
- ▶ Volunteer Support by CATO Staff

### Fees does not include:

- ▶ Visa Application Fees
- ▶ Flight to Ghana
- ▶ Insurance

## EXCURSION

Field trips are arranged for participants to attend traditional gatherings such as ritual events and social dance clubs in the area. These excursions are included in the cost of the Programme.

## GHANA TOURS

To make these experience complete, CATO offers optional programme tours that allow the volunteers to experience the vibrant history, people, culture, and sites of Ghana. Participants may choose to take weekend tours in the historic Central Region and/or embark on a longer tour before or after the volunteer programme. Volunteers pay optional fees for the optional tours. Click here to learn more about places you can visit.

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## APPLICATION PROCESS

**Step 1:** Complete the programme application form (online or mail) and submit it with your non-refundable \$100 application processing fee. Applications form should reach us at least 4 weeks before departure. The application processing fee goes towards the total cost of the programme. Application fee should be check or money order in U.S. dollars made to CATO. Application fee can also be paid using Pay Pal. Pay Pal payments can be made to [cato@catointl.org](mailto:cato@catointl.org). **Note:** Read carefully and understand CATO's cancellation policy, responsibilities and contract.

**Step 2:** After receiving your application and the \$100 application processing fee, we will begin your application processing. During that time, we will process your application, and provide you with your project assignment sheet, proposed itinerary, guidelines for application for visa, accommodation and food. Please allow up to 2 weeks for application processing.

**Step 3:** Once you receive your placement confirmation from CATO, you should begin preparing for travel by obtaining all necessary documents (passport, visa) and immunization requirements. Our programme details package includes information on application for passports, visa, immunization requirements, suggested packing list and many more.

**Step 4:** Purchase your ticket and send us a copy of your itinerary via email to enable us arrange your airport pickup. You will be arriving in Ghana at Kotoka International Airport. It is important that we have accurate itinerary information. Without accurate information, we will be unable to schedule a pickup.

**Step 5:** CATO staff welcomes you at the airport and your CATO volunteer or study adventure begins. The full amount of your programme is due upon arrival in Ghana. We believe your memories will live forever.

### ▶ Cancellation Policy:

Application fees are non refundable. If cancellation is up to 1 month prior to departure, a programme fee of US\$50 is charged. If cancellation is under 1 month prior to departure, 50% of the programme fee is charged. No refund is due if cancellation is on the day of departure and after.