

CATO

The Least of These Children's Home (LOT)

Volunteer Programme

Ghana, West Africa

Would you like to become a Volunteer in The Least of These Children's Home (LOT)?

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.

The Least Of These CHILDREN'S HOME Mission School is Thirty-five minutes northwest of Accra, the capital city of Ghana, is a small village named Awutu Anomawobi. The friendly people of this village live in tiny, one-room, mud brick shacks. They have no running water, toilets or kitchens. All cooking is done outdoors over an open fire while chickens scratch looking for scraps. The people of this village, like most Ghanaian villages, are extremely poor. Chief Nai Tetteh Brang, the head man of the village sold "Trips with a mission" 15 acres of land where they begun building the first Children's Home, and as funds are generated. **As at today the orphanage now has flush toilets and electricity.**

In Ghana, 49.9% of adults over 15 years old are totally illiterate. Our school will educate the abandoned children who live in the Home as well as the community! The construction of the first Children's Home began in late summer 2004. [Click here to learn more](#)

Volunteers are accepted from all over the world through organisations such as ours, Cultural & Academic Travel Organisation (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 Volunteers live with the children in the home. The orphanage has separate rooms for volunteers. The rooms have bang beds, lockers. There may be as many as four volunteers in a room. The volunteer accommodation has flush toilets and showers. The orphanage now has electricity.

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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:

Prerequisites:	Minimum age of 16 Years
Dates:	All Year
Work Hours:	25-35 hours per week
Accommodation:	Dormitory Style
Minimum Duration:	None
Fees:	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
Duration:	4 Weeks to 1 Year
Arrival airport:	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,

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football, Bible studies etc. There is no minimum or maximum stay, and therefore depends on the volunteer.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Volunteers live with the children in the home. The orphanage has separate rooms for volunteers. The rooms have bang beds and may be shared by volunteers. The volunteer accommodation has flush toilets and showers. . Volunteers at times sleep in groups of two or three per room when necessary. The orphanage now has electricity. 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.

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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. **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.