

# CATO

## Tamale Children's Home

### Volunteer Programme

#### Tamale, Ghana West Africa

#### Would you like to become a Volunteer in Tamale Children's Home and orphanage?

While Ghana is one of the more successful of the African nations, the northern part of the country still has a poverty level above 80%, with all the associated health problems poverty brings with it.

Tamale Children's Home is located in the Northern Region of Ghana. After about nine hours on the road from Accra (the capital) and a brief stop in Kumasi, you will arrive in Tamale, capital of the Northern Region to make a difference in the lives of the orphans at the Tamale Children's Home. There are about 30 children from one week old living in the Tamale orphanage and two permanent Ghanaian employees. Volunteers are needed to make a difference in the lives of the children. Normally volunteers work during the morning or the afternoon. The work responsibilities of volunteers include picking the children up from bed, feeding, bathing and dressing. Volunteers also help the staff with cleaning, entertaining and taking the sick children to the hospital.

**Tamale Children's 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 Tamale Children's Home is really a long way from being called a Children's Home. You are bound to have sleepless nights just thinking about its numerous problems. This is an orphanage established in 1969, by the Department of Social Welfare to cater to abandoned children and orphans, but, unlike other orphanages set up in the big cities (e.g. OSU, S.O.S. in Accra and Tema) which more frequently enjoy philanthropic services, the Tamale children's home is rarely heard of and does not enjoy such support. Perhaps because the Tamale community is predominantly poor, and has a disadvantageous location (13hrs drive from Accra) there is a lack of media interest; as such the home which serves the entire Northern region and a significant part of the Brong Ahafo region, has remained largely anonymous since its establishment. Can you picture a foster home with no donor support? Apart from one Catholic Rev. Father by the name of Martin who lends a hand from time to time, the children remain abandoned even in the foster home.

Tamale is the capital of the Northern Region. Residents of the surrounding savannah area are chiefly engaged in the activities of cattle rising, farming, and cotton growing. The city, which is a road hub and trade centre, contains cotton- and shea-nut-processing industries, and handicrafts, especially baskets, are made here. Tamale is the site of two government teacher-training colleges and of a technical institute. Tamale was founded in the early 1900s by the British as an administrative centre for the Northern Territories protectorate of the Gold Coast. Population (1988 estimate) 151,100. [Learn more >>](#)

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

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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- ▶ 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

Accommodation is usually with a host family and is included in the cost of the programme.

## 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:	Host family and food 3 times daily
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

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## 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.

## ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

You will be given at least three meals a day (local food like rice, banku, yam or kenkey with stew or soup plus fruits. Western fare like pasta and sauce, chicken fried rice, etc., are also provided on request depending sometimes on where you're placed).

We arrange for a host family or a hostel close to the Children's home. You will be assigned your own bedroom with a locker. The rooms in many instances are single rooms. There are always other people in the house as well; and they would be willing to provide you all the necessary assistance you require. In your room will be a bed with a mattress and in most cases a table and chair. You may choose to bring along a mosquito net and a spare bed sheet. Some host families may have a shower and flush toilet. In others, you would have to manage with a bucket of water and a pit toilet.

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.

## 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

Tamale Township has Internet, telephones, and post offices facilities. Volunteers will have easy access to phone, Internet, and post office.

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## 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.

## 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.

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**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.