

FRIENDS OF THE HANDICAPPED INTERNATIONAL (FHI)

UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2010 – SEPTEMBER 2011

We thank the Lord Almighty God for sustaining our lives and strengthening us to enable us serve the underprivileged children with disabilities whom you have been actively supporting us in cash and in kind since its establishment in 1998. Yes, the Word of God encourages us to press on, for we shall reap in due course in the near future whatever we have sowed. (One of such encouraging verses is found in Ecclesiastes 11:1, “Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days”) KJV. We thank you also for being faithful with us. We hope that very soon, the Good Lord will cause you to harvest in abundance whatever you have sown in these children through FHI ministry.

DONATION FROM A CHURCH IN USA

I am glad to inform you that, on 11-22 October 2010, the Lord touched the hearts of a church, “God’s Storehouse of Blessings Church in Tennessee, USA with a team of 9 Christians who paid us a friendly visit, shared fellowship and to donate over Six Thousand US Dollars (US\$6,000.00) through FHI to adequately equip the Cape Coast School for the Deaf Carpentry Department of the Vocational Complex to make the Department operational and functional. The donation covered a sufficient carpentry tools and supplies and/or materials that have made the department self-sufficient to enable it meet all kinds of carpentry work one may request or order. I am pleased to say that the department has started seeking for regular marketing to sell its products. We are glad that the purpose for the Carpentry Department is being achieved because it is serving as a teaching and learning. The students are being taught the skills in Carpentry. There is now no reason for the Carpentry Teacher to complain that there is no tool or materials to facilitate his teaching, neither will the students at the Department will also complain that there is no tools or materials to facilitate his learning.

The donors also helped FHI to renew its Certificate of Incorporation at the Registrar General’s Department (Government’s Department for the Registration of Companies, NGOs, etc.) which was in arrears for over ten (10) years.

It also donated for the purchase of 4 bales of school uniform, 4 bales of prescribed house dresses and a bale of white-drill for prescribed church dress for the students.

CHALLENGES

Despite the above mentioned generosity the donors showed to us, there is still big challenge which keeps hindering our progress as an organization and also affects the school in general. The challenge is that, it is still a problem for most of our sponsored children to come back to school when the school reopens. The parents are supposed to supply/replace all their wards worn-out basic educational materials and needs, such as school exercise/text books, uniform, shoes/sandals prescribed school dresses, payment of their wards PTA levy, stationery and provisions such as washing/bathing soaps, bed sheets, buckets, powdered milk, sugar etc. This is what FHI has been doing all the time for the poorest sponsored children when school reopens to enable them attend school. The children become dropout when there is no funding for FHI to take care of those children’s needs. So, in effect, those

children cannot benefit from the huge carpentry tools and supplies that had been deposited at the Vocational Complex when they become dropout because of their parents unable to supply their required educational needs. As I am writing this report, there are more than 10 sponsored children who have not yet reported to school when the school reopened about 2 months ago.

You might have been informed how most of the children are enrolled in their special schools due to abject poverty of most of the parents from the villages. It is through your prayers for and generosity to FHI that have made most of the children at Cape Deaf/Blind, Swedru Deaf, etc. enrolled and some having trade skills. We also thank you that you have chosen a good cause for supporting FHI in serving these disabled children.

2 RAPED SPONSORED GIRLS

It is disheartening to inform you that two (2) of the FHI poorest sponsored girls had been raped and for that matter had brought forth 2 bouncy baby boys. One of the boy's father was once a sponsored student of FHI who has graduated from Cape Deaf. He has assumed the responsibility of taking care of the child. The other father is a boy attending a high school who lives in the same community with our sponsored girl. The boy has refused to be a father to the child. We have talked to the sponsored girls not to harm themselves because of their child-mother attitude, but to continue schooling when their children start to walk. You can help us with children's upkeeps to help these needy girls who are now mothers.

FINANCE

Apart from the donation for the Cape Deaf Carpentry Department, which we are grateful and very proud of, all other FHI Administrative and Field Operational costs are being funded by a personal loan. This of course, is not a good practice for an organization such as FHI, but it has happened, so please pray with us to come out of this lack of finance to enable us sustain our ongoing Child Sponsored Program.

OSLO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

During the year under review, FHI was privileged to host 4 students from Oslo University College who chose to do their Field Studies in Ghana on Disabilities Issues in the Developing Countries. They stayed at Cape Deaf for 5 weeks duration.

Another student from Reading University in the UK who is pursuing his PHD in Sociology also called on FHI on Disability Issues in Africa,

We also had a couple from Germany who have declared interest in FHI and so visited us for almost 1 month. We had the privilege of taking them to some of the villages where some of our poorest children come from. It is our prayer that they would actually be a blessing to FHI to enable us sustain our cherished Child Sponsorship Program and other activities, especially the establishment of the Sign Language Center and/or the University for the Deaf.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please, pray that FHI will have a business done as a backbone for income generation, so that when there is no donation anywhere, the business can be a source of income or a sustainable project that can take care of our ongoing Child Sponsorship Program and other visionary project of FHI.

That, all those who have been donating cash or in kind to FHI will be blessed and really see the blessing in its manifestation in their lives, business and all their endeavors so as to be encouraged to continue donating to FHI projects.

That, the Lord Himself will take care of those sponsored girls-mothers who have brought forth children so that they may go back to continue their education after their children have mature enough to be taken care of their parents.

Your Response

Please do not hesitate to inform us your kind response or comments to this update.

A P P R E C I A T I O N

We are most grateful to all of you who, in divers ways have and are supporting us in cash or in kind to enable us reach out to the vulnerable, disadvantage and needy children with disabilities whom we are privileged to facilitating their education, skills training and helping them to integrate well into the society. We believe, it is the Lord you have shown all these generosity to, (Matt.25:40) so it is our prayer that He, the Lord Jesus will reward you adequately according to all that you have done through FHI.

GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU!!

KOFI ODUM

FOUNDER/EXEC. PRESIDENT

FRIENDS OF THE HANDICAPPED INT.(FHI)

P O BOX GP 20275, ACCRA – GHANA

TEL.: 00233 277 609 701

E-MAIL info@fhi-ghana.com; fhikodum@yahoo.com; kofiodum9@gmail.com

WEBSITE <http://www.fhi-ghana.com>
<http://www.fhi-ghana.com/founder.html>
<http://www.fhi-ghana.com/award.html>
<http://www.fhi-ghana.com/videos.html>