



## ABOUT AS4AK

Australian Sponsorship 4 African Kids Limited is a South Australian based charitable organization committed to helping poor and disadvantaged children in Africa, in particular Ghana.



AS4AK, with the support of a major benefactor, is undertaking the construction and renovation of a large multi-functional education facility with sufficient capacity to accommodate children attending BASICS.

Our objective is to help provide an after school academic and vocational program centre where children can incorporate

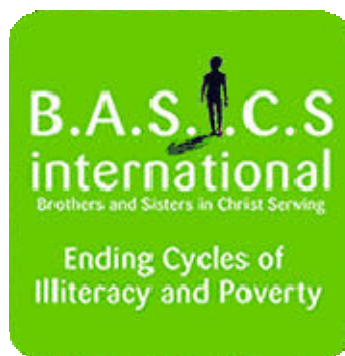
academics, visual arts, music and dance, sports, sewing and computer work as part of their education.

## ABOUT B.A.S.I.C.S.

BASICS is a “safe haven” Day Centre based at Chorkor, a poor, deprived suburb in Accra, for children in the surrounding fishing communities where schooling and teenage pregnancies are a problem and increase daily due to poverty and ignorance. The children attending the Centre range in age from 4 to 23 years.

They are a mixture of ‘street kids’, and deprived and abused children living in appalling conditions on the streets and beaches of Chorkor. Many are also victims of child labor. Most

want to go to school but do not have the means or any practical and emotional support to do so.



The new facility will allow BASICS to increase its sponsorship from 250 children to approximately 500 and enable BASICS to increase programs in the community ( for example, adult literacy/and vocational training to parents, family planning).



## ABOUT BASICS cont ....

The BASICS Day Centre, since its inception, has seen the results of children suffering from malnutrition being restored to healthy children due to the feeding program provided at BASICS. Also, children who could not read are now reading books. BASICS programs are designed to end cycles of illiteracy in families who do not see education as a priority. Children will have consistent support to enable them to complete school, therefore minimising the likelihood of returning to the streets; and giving them a brighter future. Children are given positive examples of choices that they can attain to make this a reality.

## ABOUT THE CHORKOR COMMUNITY

Chorkor is one of the poorest areas in Accra and, on occasions, can be quite violent. The average income of a family in Chorkor is AUD32 per month. Most homes are without sanitation and the community relies on public latrines. Houses can accommodate several families and generally only have 1 bathroom. The community relies on public toilets and baths. Those who cannot bear the additional expense of using the toilets (there is a fee) – resort to using the beach as their latrine.

Only about 45% of the Ghanaian population has access to sanitary means of excreta disposal. Ghana does not have adequate sanitary facilities and relies principally on seashores, bushes and farms as free range for defecation. This has serious implication for the health and safety of children. Even where



some facilities exist, children are not allowed to use them, especially, if use involves payment of money. Children play in filthy gutters and are often seen scavenging on waste disposal sites. These unhealthy habits are sources of disease and ill health. In Ghana, children are the main agents for waste disposal from the household; a task performed by children as young as four years, thus exposing them to various disease pathogens.

The Chorkor community does not have the capacity or infrastructure to educate its children. The few local public schools are generally overcrowded and are split into morning and afternoon shifts to deal with the lack of space. Some schools require the children to provide their own chairs and desks.



## ABOUT CHORKOR cont ...

This requires children to carry their chair and desk to and from school each day often in hot and humid weather, and quite often on an empty stomach. Although these days this practice is less common, children are nonetheless asked to bring money to purchase their furniture which becomes the property of the school. Most cannot afford to do so.

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST ABOUT THE CHILDREN

Truancy and absenteeism are major problems. Truancy is very high among children in most poor areas of Ghana. Market days and Fridays especially, register very low turn outs of school children in impoverished areas. Truancy and absenteeism is not limited to only school children but also teachers. The large proportion of female school drop outs is attributed to teenage pregnancy and lack of motivation. When it becomes necessary for a child to eke out a living by doing odd jobs, going to school becomes only a dream. It is the right of every Ghanaian child to have Free Compulsory Basic Education. The denial of basic education is an infringement of a child's basic human rights.

Many children meet only 25% of their dietary requirements. Their low calorie intake and malnutrition have grave consequences and include stunting, kwashiorkor, diminished intellectual development or death. Protein rich farm and animal products like milk, beans, groundnuts and eggs are denied to children.

Many Ghanaian children do not have access to adequate food and nutrition although they may be residing with their parents or guardians. The situation is worse for children who are not under parental or guardian care especially street children.

The majority of the children who are girls end up as maids and are made to work around the clock. They have little or no time to play or interact with other children. They are denied education and are subjected to hunger, even though in most cases the young girls prepare most meals. Many



children who are abused suffer emotional and psychological trauma. They may end up as delinquents in the streets of the major cities of Ghana.





## ABOUT THE CHILDREN cont ...

The problems associated with increasing numbers of street children may not be only economic. The prevalence of street children is a combination of many factors of which abuse and maltreatment of children are paramount.

Poverty and the inability of parents to pay school fees, the age and condition of buildings, schools without buildings and extortion of unauthorized fees are amongst the main reasons for poor school attendance.

Our objective is to provide a positive focus for the children so that they have a safe nurturing environment in which to flourish, interact with their peers to aid their development and mutual growth and help them stay off the streets. In short, to give the children a future.

### AS4AK's Board of Directors are:

- The Honourable Justice Robyn Layton
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- Mr. Vahid Chittleborough (Lawyer)
- Ms Anne Howe (CEO SA Water Corporation)
- Mrs Nicola Downer AM (Board Directorships)
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