

OrphanAid Africa
"Helping children to grow up in stable, safe
and permanent families."

OrphanAid Africa is a non-profit, non-governmental organization. Its aim is to support orphans and vulnerable children in Ghana through programs in care reform, education, and development. Our goal is to ensure that children grow up in safe and permanent family settings with appropriate care and protection.

www.oafrica.org

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

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A letter from the founder

Lisa Lovatt-Smith

...

To All Our Collaborators,
Contributors, and Friends,

2011 was a wonderfully exciting year for OA. We increased our income from 963 525 GH¢ in 2010 to 1 309 677 GH¢ in 2011, despite one of the worst economic meltdowns in recent history. First and foremost, let me express a heartfelt thank you to all our donors and supporters!

In 2011, **OA consolidated its Family Support Services**. We produced our 2011-2016 strategy plan during our midyear strategy meeting in Ghana. The document provided a valuable update on all the work we have done in the past nine years, and a clear road map for the way forward.

In essence what the strategy plan says is that OA is working hard to bring its services to vulnerable children up to the **highest international standards**. For this we have to further reduce caseloads, train our social workers on case management systems and research best practices: in essence it is about providing **sustainable support** to families and at the same time avoiding encouraging dependency. For the first time too, OA is formalizing and resourcing its **income-generating activities**, which is a key strategy for sustainability of our programs.

At the same time from 2012 we have prepared to **increase our support to the Government of Ghana** and its commitment to closing orphanages, through the National Plan of Action that we were so instrumental in crafting. However in order to free up funds and personnel we have to be sure that our own family support services are working sustainably on the cutting edge of care reform.

I would also like to highlight the progress of our **Young Adult Support Services** (YASS). A new partner, The Stern Stewart Institute, gave an important injection of funds to this care-leavers program considered as truly groundbreaking in Africa. OA believes that supporting youth that have been in care is an essential component of all social services: **the transition to adulthood is** a key process that needs to be carefully supported. This year YASS benefited from increased strategizing and funding to become a "stand alone department" within OA.

My personal highlights this year? Our greater presence in the United States! OA USA elected a **brand new board**, whom we warmly welcome into the OA family. Another highlight includes our **collaboration with Missoni, who has produced an entire fashion collection to benefit us**. Additionally, Marcel Desailly was named our lifetime ambassador,

REFLECTIONS ON 2011



OrphanAid Africa founder, Lisa Lovatt-Smith with children supported by the Family Support Services Program.



In 2011 former football player, Marcel Desailly, was proclaimed lifetime ambassador for our cause.

and our five-year collaboration with **Laureus Sports for Good Foundation** entered a new phase working together on a three-year sustainability grant.

As for my own activity, I was very proud to speak at a global UN think tank meeting on alternative care, **The Better Care Network**, in New York in March. I discussed OA's work in strengthening families and communities so that they care for their own children in Ghana. Seeing our work taken seriously by a group of respected peers and individuals is very encouraging to me, and should indeed be encouraging to all of us! As they say in Ghana, "Aykoo"! ("Well done everyone!")

Lisa Lovatt-Smith
Founder of OrphanAid Africa

Where we work

ORPHANAID AFRICA IMPLEMENTS ITS PROJECTS IN GHANA, AFRICA

OrphanAid Africa works in Ghana,

located in West Africa, bordering the Gulf of Guinea, between Cote d'Ivoire and Togo. Ghana, with a population of just over 24 million, is well endowed with natural resources. Following three consecutive elections perceived as relatively peaceful and free and fair, Ghana is generally acknowledged to be a beacon of hope for democracy in Africa. Ghana has roughly twice the per capita output of the poorest countries in West Africa. Even so, Ghana remains heavily dependent on international financial and technical assistance.*

DESPITE GHANA'S RELATIVE PROSPERITY, poverty remains pervasive in the country, with half of Ghana's population living under the poverty line. It is also battling with a long tradition of child labour and child ritual and economic slavery. Extended families are often the first protective safety net for children who lose their parents, or become separated from their families. OrphanAid Africa is implementing programs to improve care for orphans and vulnerable children through their extended family by providing support services and alternative care solutions.

* <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gh.htm>



One of the problems is that despite the existence of a well established extended family network...

Ghana has responded to the twin stress of the HIV/AIDs epidemic and rural-to-urban migration with a sudden mushrooming of an unprecedented number of Children's Homes, estimated to be 148 in number nationwide at the time of the last comprehensive survey by OrphanAid and the Department of Social Welfare in 2006. This is partially explained by the fact that Ghana is a largely

matrilineal country. In the Akan tribal traditions, women and their blood relatives take most of the responsibility for their children. This tradition, when combined with the relatively new urbanized culture based on material wealth, which for the most part is not easily accessible to women, has the knock-on effect of high rates of child abandonment.



Half of Ghana's population lives under the poverty line. The country also battles with a long tradition of child labour and child ritual and economic slavery.

According to the research done by the Department of Social Welfare and OA, 80-90% of the almost 4,000 children living in un-registered and unregulated orphanages in Ghana are not actual orphans, and the main factor leading to their institutionalization is poverty, not death of the parents. International research has proven that children should only be institutionalized as a last resort, and that living in an orphanage infringes on children's elementary rights to a family, identity and development. It is therefore one of OrphanAid Africa's principal aims to support the Government of Ghana in the implementation of a reform of the care system, as it affects children.

In 2011 OrphanAid Africa's work directly improved the lives of more than 4,350 children, young people and women, as well as their extended families and communities they live in.



SCOPE OF OUR WORK

Changing the trend: The Care Reform Initiative, whose main co-ordinating office is resourced by OA, affected approximately 4 000 children.

Keeping children with their families: The families, including foster parents, of 171 resettled children and young adults or those at risk of abandonment received cash transfers, educational scholarships and material support within their families, through our Family Support Services, which is focused on keeping them out of orphanages.

Education: 140 children attended the Ayenyah community primary school built by OA, 21 junior high students from the community were sponsored to continue their education and the 132 students in the Family Support Program received educational support. All of them received registration for National Health Insurance and those in the OA school received free school meals.

Community development: 419 residents of the underserved, rural village of Ayenyah had access to a health center, sports programs, a vocational program and adult education classes.

Shelter and care for sick or disabled children, or those with no family: A fluctuating number of children between 21 and 30 were given temporary or permanent care in our Foster Family Community (FFC). Of those children 8 permanent residents have special needs and were cared for by a team of specialized caregivers.

Vocational training, education and support for young adults: 69 young adults were given financial support for their living expenses, and higher education or vocational training. They also received individual career counseling, attended peer and group counseling and received registration for National Health Insurance.



NUMBERS

Resettled children and young adults whose families received support

171

Children living in the sheltered community in foster families

21

Children and young adults supported to stay in school

294



OA history and philosophy

OA Beginnings

Lisa Lovatt-Smith founded OrphanAid Africa in October 2002. Lisa is an established author whose published work includes 13 books on design and photography. She was an editor at Vogue magazine for many years while living in both Spain and France.

In 2002 Lisa decided to volunteer with her daughter at a Children's Home in Ghana. There were more than 100 destitute and abandoned children living at the Home, some brought to the home by police or social welfare workers because the children's parents had died of endemic sicknesses such as malaria, AIDS, or tuberculosis.

Very often, however, the children were abandoned because the parents simply couldn't afford to take care of them. This experience proved to be so life changing for Lisa that she left behind her glamorous lifestyle in Europe and moved to Ghana full-time.

Her desire to help vulnerable children was a long-lasting and substantial one, driving her to launch OrphanAid Africa with the aim of helping make sure no child should need to grow up in an institution, unloved and with few prospects for the future.

OA Branches

In addition to our headquarters in Ghana, OA has staffed fundraising offices in Italy, Spain, and the United States. We also have registered branches with boards in France, Germany and Switzerland; all sharing the similar goal of building awareness and developing fundraising programs that will help fund our OVC care initiatives in Ghana.



OA's Evolution

From supporting only one orphanage, over time we drastically extended our approach away from supporting institutional care to programs that build stronger families and communities. We felt that by helping families we ensured that they could care and provide for their children resulting in less abandoned or orphaned children that would end up in institutions.

In parallel we developed an ecologically built, solar-powered sheltered living project, integrated into a rural community, specializing in temporary care for babies and children with acute health problems, HIV/AIDS, or young adults. Our project has received an award for its ecological design and use of solar power.

In 2006 OA adopted a new policy, inline with the guidelines of UNICEF, the UN and the Government of Ghana, to avoid institutional care for orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) whenever possible. Under the motto "Every child deserves a family" we decided to place our emphasis and resources on community and family care, such as kinship care, and on the reinforcement of civil society organizations and the Department of Social Welfare to

encourage the preservation of family ties.

Since 2006 when we initiated the creation of the "Care Reform Initiative" with the Government of Ghana, we have been contributing to changing the way OVC are cared for across Ghana, collaborating with the Department of Social Welfare, the lead agency, and UNICEF as partners. We also form part of the Government of Ghana Multisectorial Committee on Orphans and Vulnerable Children that meets every three months, hosted by the Department of Social Welfare and have actively participated in the following processes:

- Ghana National Forum on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2008)
- Draft Guidelines for the Operation of Residential Care Institutions (2010)
- Draft Guidelines for Foster Care (2010 and 2011)
- Ghana National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2010)
- Annual review of the National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2011)

OA Mission and Vision

MISSION STATEMENT

OrphanAid Africa is a non-profit, non-governmental organization. Its aim is to support orphans and vulnerable children in Ghana through programs in Care Reform, family support, education and development.

Our goal is to ensure that children grow up in safe and permanent family settings with appropriate care and protection.



Vision

The staff and management's vision for OrphanAid Africa Ghana in 3-5 year's time is:

To create an environment where orphans and vulnerable children grow up in safe, permanent and loving family settings with appropriate care and protection and with equal rights and opportunities.



Our policy regarding institutional care



Our policy, inline with UNICEF guidelines, is to avoid institutional care whenever possible. We believe that the family is the structure most suitable for providing care for children. International research has proven that consigning children to orphanages for long-term care can be detrimental to their development and does not respect a child's basic rights.

Children may be placed in orphanages after losing a parent, despite having family members who want to care for them but lack the means to do so. Orphanages often represent access to food, clothing, and education, when what really should be done, is make these necessities accessible in the local villages and communities. When an orphanage is treated as the principal solution, it can hinder the incentive for the local population to address the orphan problem and at the same time channel resources into making better orphanages, which encourages parents and families to abandon their children for lack of a better alternative. For all these reasons we channel our resources into supporting families and encouraging family and foster care as opposed to orphanage care for vulnerable children.

Our work in 2011



1. The CRI and NPA
2. Family Support Services
3. Young Adult Support Services
4. Foster Family Community
5. Community Development Projects
6. Sports Programs

1. The Care Reform Initiative and the National Plan of Action for Orphan and Vulnerable Children: creating an enabling environment for de-institutionalization

THE CARE REFORM INITIATIVE

was a joint venture between the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), OrphanAid Africa and other partners. It involved the provision of various forms of support by OrphanAid Africa and other partners to enhance the capacity of DSW to encourage family based care.

The Care Reform Initiative (CRI) 2006-2010 sought to de-emphasize over reliance on care systems for vulnerable children based on institutions and move towards a range of integrated family and community based childcare services. The goal of the CRI was the establishment of a more consistent and stable approach to caring for vulnerable children in Ghana so that each child will be assured of a permanent home in a supportive and loving family.

The main components of the CRI approach were to prevent the disintegration of families through linkages with strategies that

strengthen families such as the Ghanaian social grant program Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), scholarships, food packages, access to National Health Insurance and other support programs. The CRI advocated reintegration with the extended family (Kinship Care) in cases where children are separated from their parents, to find loving relatives who are able to create a caring and stable environment for the child.

In 2010 the CRI was absorbed by the Government of Ghana's National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (NPA). OA is proud to have been one of the main actors behind the adoption of the plan, funding a number of the meetings that led up to its creation. We were the only NGO

mentioned as an implementer in the actions matrix. The aim of the NPA is to ensure three key areas of intervention for children:

Prevention: Vulnerable children are supported to continue to live with their families within their communities through social protection interventions and improvements to health and early childhood development services.

Protection: Improving commitment to child protection by using social work and specifically targeted social protection mechanisms to support children, who are separated, exploited or exposed to abuse so they can return to their (extended) families or other family placements.

Transformation: Improving the capacity of the state and other stakeholders to promote the rights and wellbeing of OVC.

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NPA Review Meeting

The Care Reform Initiative and the National Plan of Action for Orphan and Vulnerable Children (cont.)

OA is mainly active in the area of Protection, ensuring along with other stakeholders that institutional care is used as a last resort, and that when it is used, these establishments comply with the requirements of the Children's Act 560 (1998) and the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child, 1990 (UNCRC) and the UN Guidelines for the Protection and Alternative Care of Children without Parental Care.

Our hope is that Ghana will replace its institutional system with one where the children are as much as possible kept within families – either their own or foster families - as OA believes that the best place for a child is the family. As mentioned previously, international research shows that raising a child in an orphanage can be harmful to their development and well-being.

The problems that have been identified for children living in residential care settings in general are numerous. Institutions often limit contact with family and community life and children living in them may be stigmatized by the larger society. Children living in institutions often do not develop social networks in their community and many institutions are unable to respond to the psychological needs of children who require an adult of reference and consistency of care, in order to become emotionally stable adults in later years. Furthermore, institutional care is expensive; the per capita cost of raising a child is often 5 to 10 times more than in foster care, due to infrastructure costs and additional personnel needed to run the Home.

IN 2011

Some major achievements by OA in the area of Care Reform and the implementation of the NPA were the following:

Attendance at the Prague Quality in Alternative Care Conference

The Better Care Network hosted Lisa Lovatt-Smith, founder of OrphanAid Africa, in NYC for a discussion of OA's work in strengthening families and communities so they care for their own children in Ghana.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) quarterly committee meetings regularly attended

OA funded the 2011 NPA Implementation Annual Review Meeting with all stakeholders, in Accra, Ghana extending the NPA to 2015.

OA contributed to the publication of the Standards for Residential Facilities by the government of Ghana

Preparation of a second draft for the Foster Care Regulations

Updating of OVC Ghana Website (www.ovcghana.org)



REGULATIONS FOR CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN WITHOUT APPROPRIATE PARENTAL CARE IN GHANA



PART 2 - KINSHIP CARE AND FOSTERING

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DSW)
MINISTRY OF MANPOWER, YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT (MMYE)
GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

2. Family Support Services

Department: supporting families to care for de-institutionalized children or those at risk of institutionalization or otherwise vulnerable

THE SITUATION IN GHANA:

Worldwide, the main reasons cited for child abandonment is poverty. A Children's Home can be wrongly perceived as more capable of providing care for a child, rather than his or her extended family. It has been proven, however, that children need the long-term and permanent attachment to one caregiver, in order to thrive and develop emotionally. The traditional African extended family system provides a much better structure suited to raising children than orphanages do.

There are many abandoned children in Ghana who end up in Children's Homes, which, often unintentionally, do great harm by separating children from their roots, religion, family and their source of lifelong emotional security, condemning them to continue in a cycle of vulnerability. OA aims to greatly reduce the need for Children's Homes by implementing programs

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES



By providing financial subsidies to these families and covering education and health costs, their capacity to care for the needs of their children is increased.

✱ Relatives do want to cater for these children, but find it difficult to maintain them financially, which is what leads to the children being abandoned in institutions.



that assist families to ensure that they are capable of caring and providing for their children.

The program has garnered extremely positive reviews from funders, government, partners and beneficiaries. What we have learned the most from our visits with the families is it is not necessarily that the relatives don't want to cater for these children, but that the difficulty in maintaining the children in terms of finance and resources is what

leads to the children being abandoned in institutions. By providing financial subsidies to these families and covering education and health costs, their capacity to care for the needs of their children is increased. In 2010 OA provided assistance to 161 beneficiaries through this program, and during 2011 that number decreased to 132 children, as the OA Strategic Plan 2011-2016 was implemented, and a number of children "aged out" into our young adults support program.

ASSISTANCE THROUGH CASH TRANSFERS, COUNSELING, START-UP KITS, AND PARENTING CLASSES



Inline with our initiative to favor family care, at the end of 2008 OA resettled and transferred all children under our care to their families or foster families, under

the direction of the Department of Social Welfare of Ghana. We ran a cash transfer program for foster and kinship caregivers, as well as gave extensive counseling services to provide living assistance to extended families of orphaned children, who are otherwise unable to care for their children. OA aims to provide this support so that these children may continue to live in their communities as opposed to ending up in an orphanage. At least once a month, and often times more frequently,

depending on the vulnerability level, the OA social workers pay a visit to each of the OA beneficiaries and their extended family. After review of their current situation, they are given access to counseling services if needed, as well as a monthly living stipend paid through their bank. The program also covers national health insurance and any medical bills that fall outside the scope of the state-sponsored health insurance.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES, ACCESS TO NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE AND SPONSORED EDUCATION



BIRTH CERTIFICATES

OA's support to families includes applying for birth certificates for children who don't have them.

It is an important objective of the program that the beneficiary children and their families get access to full citizenship, and consequently to their full legal rights and responsibilities.

Most of the vulnerable families are illiterate, and are as such sometimes left out of the Ghanaian national social protection system that they consider difficult to understand and access. They don't have birth certificates or indeed any ID, and are not informed about the existing possibilities. For this reason, one of the first activities OA undertakes with the families is to help them get access to health and social support systems.

The support is not limited to the payment of administrative costs, as these processes are sometimes long and complicated. The social worker accompanies them in the process so that they lose their fear of interacting with the administration.

Introduction to the banking system is essential to receive financial support, access to credit, and have the option of safely keeping potential savings.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

The registration and payment of National Health Insurance helps families to get access to medical services subsidized by the state, which reduces the health costs that otherwise represent a high percentage of the family spending, at the detriment of investing in their children's education, food, or basic hygiene needs. In 2011 OA helped over 300 children and young adults access or renew the National Health Insurance.

SPONSORED EDUCATION

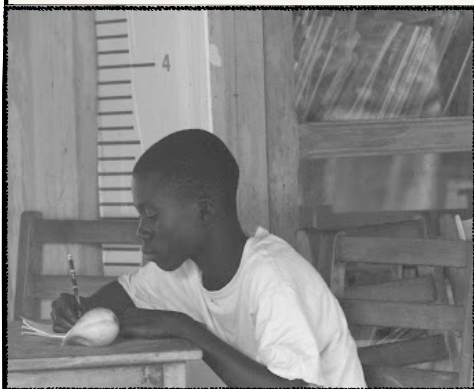
OA assists families in our Family Support Services program by financing school related costs, such as fees, uniforms, books, and transport in order to relieve economic burdens on impoverished families.

In line with the second Millennium Goal, OrphanAid Africa seeks to ensure that by 2015 boys and girls throughout Ghana will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. By sponsoring children's educational need and relieving poor families from this economic burden, OA provides a valuable incentive to keep children in school full time and to work toward achieving this milestone goal.

In 2011 all children - except babies - who benefited from our Family Support Services, as well as the 69 Young Adults in our YASS program, received support for their educational needs.

In Ghana many children do not attend school even though it is free up to the Junior High level, because of the high costs of supplies, uniforms and transportation, and in the worse cases some children are simply abandoned to live in a Children's Home because the parents believe that there, at least, the child will be educated.

By sponsoring educational needs we take the economic burden off of families who might otherwise abandon their children.



3. Young Adult Support Services: resettling young adults in their communities

The OA Young Adult Support Services (YASS) Program aims to resettle young adults in their communities, particularly those who have spent time in an orphanage or in another type of institution. OA assists them to finish their schooling, whether it is university or technical training for their particular vocation. We provide them with cash transfers and by linking them up to the banking system, with the end goal of being employed and financially and emotionally independent.

In 2011 The YASS department received a much need injection of financial support from The Stern Stuart Institute and a development plan was laid out. YASS also grew exponentially by almost 50% from serving 49 young adults in 2010 to serving 69 in 2011. It is the strongest care-leavers program in the country helping young adult care-leavers in their transition to independent living through cash grants, peer support groups, career guidance, counseling, and funding for access to national health insurance.



ADI'S STORY



My name is Adi Kwesi Kissiedu and I am 19 years old. I come from Akropong, a suburb in the Eastern Region of Ghana, where I live with my mother who is a farmer. My father died many years ago. I came to OrphanAid Africa's program in 2007. I was enrolled in Mount Sanai Senior High School in Akropong. This year I completed high school and I am currently waiting for my results and hoping to continue my education.

Through OrphanAid Africa I am given an allowance until I

complete Senior High, I was registered to the National Health Insurance Scheme, and I get the opportunity to attend the Young Adult Support Services Meeting. It is really encouraging and fun to be with friends. I love the program and I am so happy and grateful for the help I am receiving from OrphanAid Africa.

SABAH'S STORY



Sabah Patience is my name and I am 18 years old. I come from Hohoe, a town in the Volta Region of Ghana. My father is dead but my mother is alive. I have been in OrphanAid Africa since 2004. When I was in primary three, I was put into Christ Faith Mission School in Foster Home. I then transferred to St. Peter's Mission School, which I have completed. I am now waiting for my BECE result so I can continue to the Senior High Level.

Ever since I came to this program, OrphanAid Africa, I have been treated like family. I have been sheltered, fed, and, most of all, educated. OrphanAid Africa is putting smiles on vulnerable children's faces. They've made me realize that I have the opportunity to be somebody in the future. I have a dream and I believe the most important single thing, beyond discipline and creativity, is daring to dare. OA has made me realize my vision and with my determination and their help I am going to make it a reality.

4. The OA Foster Family Community: for children in need of care and protection

OA maintains four foster families, in a community project near a rural settler village called Ayenyah. These foster families care for children that cannot be reunited with their extended families but are in desperate need of care and protection or, sometimes, in need of a place of safety while awaiting reunion with their families. This type of care setting recreates the permanent long-term love, protection and care that a child would normally receive from his or her family. Typically children that are admitted here include refugees, victims of war or disaster, survivors of child trafficking for ritual and other purposes, or victims of incest or child labor and sexual abuse within the family setting. They are therefore children that cannot be resettled in their families.

This means that rather than sleeping in dorms divided into age groups or need categories, the children are grouped into self-contained family compounds, where a specially trained foster mother takes care of a maximum of 6 children. This type of sheltered living environment has a proven effect on the growth and development of a child who would be otherwise forced to live in an institution.

There is also an Intensive Care Center that serves children with special needs such as autism, disabilities or cerebral palsy (more details on the Special Children's center in the following section). OA created a farm that produces mostly fruit, especially bananas and plantains with the goal of depending less on external funding for nutritional needs.



Beneficiaries

The principal beneficiaries of the project are up to 30 children between 0 and 18 years of age currently under the care of OrphanAid Africa. The population fluctuates constantly as we also offer temporary care. We are very careful with our gate keeping: children are only admitted here once every other possibility of family or kinship care has been exhausted.

Special children

In a country where 50% of the population is living below the poverty line, the care and education of children with special needs is extremely rare. Abandonment of children with mental or physical handicaps is common.

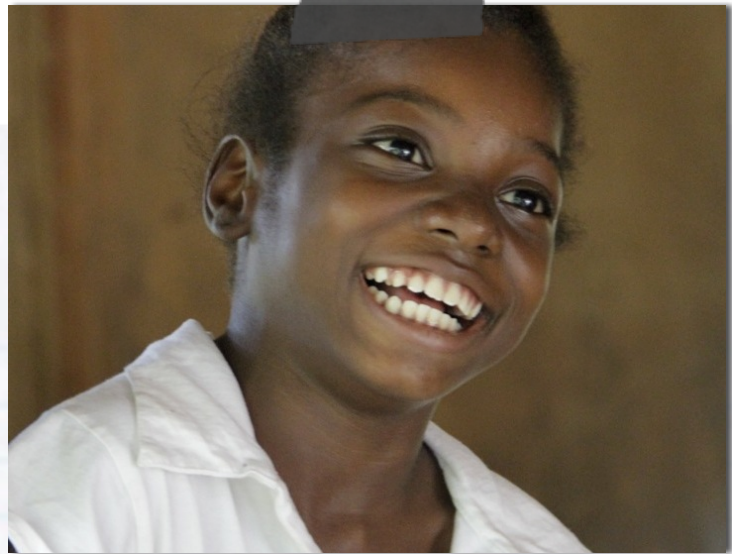
OA provides holistic care, protection and development for 11 beneficiaries of whom 5 are severely physically disabled children comprising: physical evaluations, physiotherapy, play therapy, special education, expert staff, specialized nutrition, and healthcare.

The program supports children who suffer from the following range of illnesses/handicaps: cerebral palsy, hyperactivity, psychotic issues, speech difficulties, blindness, and autism.



AMA VICTORIA'S STORY

In February 2004 Ama Victoria came under the care of OrphanAid Africa (OA). She had formerly been living in Osu Children's Home - an orphanage recently exposed by the local media, rocked by scandals including child abuse and corruption.



by Lisa Lovatt-Smith

OA Founder

When I saw Ama Victoria, I went straight to her and picked her up. She was tiny and acutely malnourished and seemed to be just a baby, although she was actually about six years old at the time. She also suffered from Cerebral Palsy and had not been stimulated or properly cared for. She therefore could not walk, talk or even eat unaided. She could not crawl and spent all her time on her back sucking on a bottle.

Under the care of OA, she started improving drastically as soon as she met Rose, the woman who was to become her OA Foster mother. From the beginning there was an incredible bond between them.

A few days following her arrival, OA spokeswoman Victoria Abril came on a site visit and connected with Ama Victoria immediately- that's where the smiling, brave little girl got her nickname "Victoria". Slowly she started crawling and become more active, and all of us, especially Mother Rose, put a lot of energy into helping her become more mobile.

We tried therapy in 2009 to straighten her legs without great results, but this year a German volunteer physiotherapist Chis Christensen helped us to get in contact with a Dutch orthopedic surgeon on a mission to Ghana.

In May 2011 Ama Victoria underwent a complex painful operation, staying three months in a hospital in the Volta Region with Foster Mother Rose by her side. From there, they then went to Nswam Orthopedic Training Centre to learn physical therapy exercises for almost two months.

Today Ama Victoria is home at the OA Foster Family community again. Everyday she attends school with Mr. Peter our special needs teacher. Her favorite activities are drawing and writing- she can say almost half the alphabet! She loves playing with her toy kitchen set where she pretends to cook.

Ama Victoria was visited by Farida Bedwei, a Ghanaian software engineer and writer who was also born with Cerebral Palsy. She has been instrumental in giving Ama Victoria the inspiration of a valid role model and has also taught her how to control her jaw muscles, so that she no longer drools.

Against all odds, the future looks bright for this little girl who started life out with so many setbacks. OrphanAid Africa aspires to continue to support Ama Victoria through therapy and special education classes so she can eventually learn to both walk and talk.

5. Community Development Projects: supporting our immediate environment

OrphanAid is developing community projects in Ayenyah village, located about 50 kilometers North East of Accra and near the predominantly rural community of Dodowa, the capital town of the Dangme West District of Ghana. Ayenyah is about 20 kilometers from Agormenya, the epicenter of the Aids epidemic in Ghana. A component of the activities carried out by OA seeks to address some of the socio-economic problems of the Ayenyah community.

Thanks to OA, the local residents of the Ayenyah village benefit from various services, including a school with the capacity to educate all the children from the surrounding area, a health center, and a community center.



THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL AT AYENYAH

The first community school in the village of Ayenyah began operating under a tree in July of 2006. A building was built and equipped by OA over the next year. At the end of 2008 the school was incorporated by the Ghana Educational Service, which assumed the majority of the school's costs, while OA continued to support the school on a financial and managerial level. In order to receive the support from the Ghana Education Service, OA needed to comply with the conditions they had established, which were to renovate and prepare the school with the necessary infrastructure to receive more children.

In 2009 OA increased the capacity of the school by renovating and adapting already existing buildings just a few yards from the current school, formerly used as a children's home. The renovated complex consists of eleven rooms, which were converted into classrooms, a kitchen, a storeroom and offices, as well as an adult education classroom, a library and a laboratory. There are three toilet blocks, showers and a large gazebo for open-air activities.

The new construction and the improvement of the school's facilities has allowed more than 120 children that previously did not attend school to have immediate access to free, high quality, primary education. The school was also able to offer a new space for literacy and career training classes for adults, with the purpose of giving them the skills to find jobs or create work for themselves and improve the economic situation of their families.

OA continued to support the school in 2011 by supplying the children with national health insurance cards and free access to a nurse.

THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PLANNING SERVICES CENTER (CHPS)

In March 2006 OA constructed a clinic to offer basic healthcare to the Ayenyah community as well as the residents of our Foster Family Community. In 2009, OA was able to enlarge and improve the facility using the former school building complex.

OA developed partnerships with the Government of Ghana, the Ministry of Health, the Ghana Health Service and the Dangme West District to oversee the Community Health Planning Services (CHPS) that will offer better services, improved hygienic conditions, more adequate installations, a fully qualified resident midwife, and higher quality medical attention with the capacity to cater to childbirth and other emergencies 24 hours a day, as well as offer door-to-door community outreach.



The principal objectives of the health center is the prevention of contagious diseases, sex education and HIV prevention, reduction of illness and mortality in the community. It also aims to give family planning support and basic gynecology services, in order to avoid undesired pregnancies and increase the probability of healthy pregnancies and babies.

The facility is fully integrated into the national network of CHPS facilities that receive financing from the Government's medically orientated development partners such as the WHO and the Global Fund. In 2011 the CHPS center was fully absorbed in the national health system, which allows for the continued support of the Ghanaian government and the overall maintenance of the health center, free mosquito nets and drugs, as well as access to free services for pregnant and lactating mothers. The Government of Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme also allows everyone to access basic health care through the payment of a yearly adhesion fee.

SPORTS PROGRAMS

In 2011, OrphanAid Africa, through the financial support of the Laureus Sports for Good Foundation, provided sports and play activities, as well as counseling to increase the development and wellbeing of children and young adults in the poor rural community of Ayenyah. Through the support of partner organizations, OA's activities met the school curriculum's physical education and recreation. Funding from Laureus specifically supported salaries for sports coaches, a culture teacher, a life skills counselor, sports equipment and maintenance, the organization of sports events and competitions, as well as transportation, including fuel and bus maintenance.

Overall, the program has been an effective and structured in a practical way to demonstrate how sports and recreational activities provide a positive and motivating experience and enhance the lives of the children encouraging them to succeed.

The main areas of development are as follows:

We created and followed up a sports network with five communities near Ayenyah through football, volleyball, basketball, netball, athletics and keep-fit classes.



We facilitated awareness raising workshops regarding deviant behaviors, as well as physical abuse, in school and at home.

We have increased and improved the health and fitness of nine children with disabilities.

We improved the living standard of children with disabilities through maintenance of facilities. Through the use of sports, other children and community members also became more aware of the challenges faced by children with disabilities.

We continued to support other community development activities, including the community school, through reparations of furniture, donation of uniforms and of a hand-washing stand for disease prevention.

We organized awareness-raising activities in the surrounding communities about the existence of the school in Ayenyah and the possibilities for parents to send their children there.

The relationship between education and sports has definitely improved attendance at the school.

We increased opportunities in the lives of vulnerable girls and young mothers through vocational sewing classes to increase their income generating capacity, which also sets an example for other community women.

Training programs for both local coaches and youth leaders have enabled the growth of new projects and increased the number of beneficiaries. It has also greatly influenced the development of the surrounding communities.



COMMUNITY CENTER

The new community center at Ayenyah was inaugurated in 2010 and in 2011 ran for the full twelve months. It is a cultural resource and adult education centre which offers a library, access to e-books and paper books, computing classes, as well as professional training for community adults. A film program runs on Fridays and Saturdays. The sewing program was a huge success with full attendance and a range of clothes that were sold to visitors.

Victoria Abril visits Ghana to get an update on OA projects

Jan 12th, 2011. Spanish actress, musician and OA ambassador, Victoria Abril, arrives at the remote village of Ayenyah where OA operates its Foster Family Community and has constructed an infirmary, school and community center for its 560 habitants.



The long walk down the 1.5 km dirt road to access the village takes 20 min. One of our goals is to rehabilitate this road in order to facilitate access to the village for its 560 habitants, including 120 children attending the school. The total cost of reconstructing the road is 35 000 euro.

Victoria meets the children's smiling faces at the rehabilitation and care center for children with disabilities. OA gives full time care to 30 beneficiaries in need of care and protection and with disabilities ranging from cerebral palsy to blindness and other illnesses such as AIDS.



Victoria Abril in Ghana in 2004 with Courage, a young boy who suffers from cerebral palsy, epilepsy and autism.



Victoria and Courage reunited in Ghana 2011. OA has today helped him develop to the point where he can walk and eat unassisted.



Changing these children's lives... one step at a time! - a walkway costs an average of 50 euros per meter and really changes the life experience of the differently abled children as they can move around more easily.



Nothing but pure satisfaction when visiting children reunited with their mother in their community, alongside OA founder Lisa Lovatt-Smith. Children may be placed in orphanages after losing a parent, despite having family members who want to care for them but lack the means to do so. Orphanages often represent access to food, clothing, and education, when what really should be done, is make these necessities accessible in the local villages and communities.

A visit and a chat at the community clinic constructed by OA. Its principal objectives are the prevention of contagious diseases, sex education, HIV prevention, and support for family planning and basic gynaecology, in order to avoid undesired pregnancies and increase the probabilities of healthy births.



The day is not complete without a visit to the classroom in the local community school built by OA. Since it's opening, there has been a significant improvement in the education level of the school's 120 students, especially in English, mathematics, reading and writing, as previously there was no school at all.



In 2007 OA built this bathroom as part of a community sanitation project that includes more than 30 dry toilets, which have enabled the incidence of transmissible diseases in the community to decrease dramatically.



Victoria visits the computer lab at the community center. OA has provided 12 computers, which serve 150 children attending the Ayenyah community center, which also offers adult literacy classes.



Literally and figuratively helping put lives back together one piece at a time...

OrphanAid Africa Workplan 2012



In 2012 we hope to achieve our major strategic objectives in line with the new strategy plan 2011-2016, which includes:

Expand the most cost effective programs that affect the most children: Care Reform Advocacy, Tracing and Reunification, De-institutionalization, and Training.

Expand the services seen as essential, because there is no other stakeholder providing them: Special Children, Foster Family Community.

Partner with other NGOs for Young Adult Support Services and Family Support Services.

Build Partnerships: The skills and capacities of partners, especially at Government level, affect us and the implementation of our services, so we must build on those partnerships, and if necessary support them in capacity building. This will be particularly important regarding other NGOs who are prepared to specialize in family based care in other regions of Ghana where OA does not operate.

Monitoring and evaluation: We will improve the evaluation and performance processes and increasingly link them into our programs particularly through the use of a database monitoring and tracking system.

Investing in our people: We will develop our own team through training, performance management systems and coaching.



SPECIFIC PLANNED ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Our Family Support Services will be reduced and the overall costs for this program reduced.
- Foster Family Community will be maintained and expanded.
- Care Reform Advocacy.
- Young Adult Support Services (YASS) in partnership with the Stern Stewart Institute.
- Project proposals will be prepared to obtain funding for de-institutionalization, tracing and reunification and training as per the NPA. Funded projects will be implemented in line with the NPA.
- Positive audits of all our maintained programs will be recorded.
- Service delivery will be documented and show continuous measurable improvement.
- An efficient monitoring system for service delivery will be maintained and improved.
- A database system will be created and maintained to include all our beneficiaries.
- The performance management system will be developed further.
- Income will cover program needs, which will be actively reduced by 15% per year for 3 years.
- There will be a shift to project-based funding to fulfill our commitment in the NPA. We will build on and retain high-level partnerships with Department Of Social Welfare, Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, SOS and UNICEF.
- The search for partners to fund our community projects will intensify. We will invest in projects that will eventually make the community services self-funding.

2011 Financial Statements

OrphanAid Africa's accounts are presented in three parts: by breakdown of expenses on the field in Ghana; a consolidated view of income and expenses by the fundraising offices in Europe/USA; and the same breakdown by country.

In 2011, 59% of OA's resources in offices abroad were from private sources, essentially due to generous donors and private individual companies. 16.5% of the income was thanks to monthly donors and 17.5% of the income was thanks to foundation support. Roughly 5% was earned from charity events and 2% was acquired from government grants. (see the following page for details and amounts in euros).

The total funds sent from OA offices abroad to run projects in Ghana showed an increase of 13% (58 849 €) in 2009 from the previous year, (505 875 € in 2011 from 447 026 € in 2010) which can be attributed to the increase of OA's prominence and experience of the European fundraising offices, as well as the reduction of costs tied to fundraising.

Of the funds received in Ghana (1 309 677 GH¢), 822 825 GH¢ (63%) were spent on project costs directly affecting our beneficiaries. 145 206 GH¢ (11%) was spent on administration and 213 429 GH¢ (16%) on administrative human resources, with a surplus of 128 217 GH¢ and an accumulated fund (assets) of 732.705 GH¢ on January 1st.

In addition to the increase in funds sent directly to Ghana for OA projects, the ratio of money spent in Europe on professional services has increased slightly in order to support fundraising initiatives and build awareness to African issues among the public.

Over the next year we aim to maintain the amount of funds sent for our programs in Ghana in 2011 thus enabling us to maintain the OA Foster Family and Community project, as well as advance with our collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and, consequently, to sustain the future programs and OA's long-term strategy.

The full audited financial statements, are available upon request by emailing to africa@oafrika.org.

OA Ghana is audited by PriceWaterhouse Coopers.

2011 OA Ghana Consolidated Accounts*

Income	1 309 677 GH¢
International donations (OA offices abroad)	1 126 067 GH¢
Donations received locally	183 610 GH¢
Project Expenses	822 825 GH¢
Family support services	472 911 GH¢
Young adults services	140 051 GH¢
Foster family	55 982 GH¢
Special children unit	31 931 GH¢
Care reform initiative	15 104 GH¢
Sports and life skills	45 957 GH¢
Ayenyah community centre	9 273 GH¢
Ayenyah DA school	9 953 GH¢
Ayenyah Clinic	2 030 GH¢
Workshops and meetings	3 874 GH¢
Repairs and maintenance expenses	9 289 GH¢
Software development	3 828 GH¢
Fundraising	22 642 GH¢
Administrative expenses	145 206 GH¢
Non depreciable assets	1 227 GH¢
Telephone and communication	7 763 GH¢
Utilities	739 GH¢
General expenses	15 963 GH¢
Bank and interest charges	2 519 GH¢
Audit fees	29 844 GH¢
Depreciation expenses	85 132 GH¢
Amortization	2 019 GH¢
Administrative staff expenses	213 429 GH¢
Salaries and wages	213 429 GH¢
Total expenditure	1 181 460 GH¢
Surplus	128 217 GH¢
Balance at 1 January	732 705 GH¢
Balance at 31 December	860 922 GH¢

*OA consolidated accounts for the operational branch in Ghana.

2011 Financial Statements

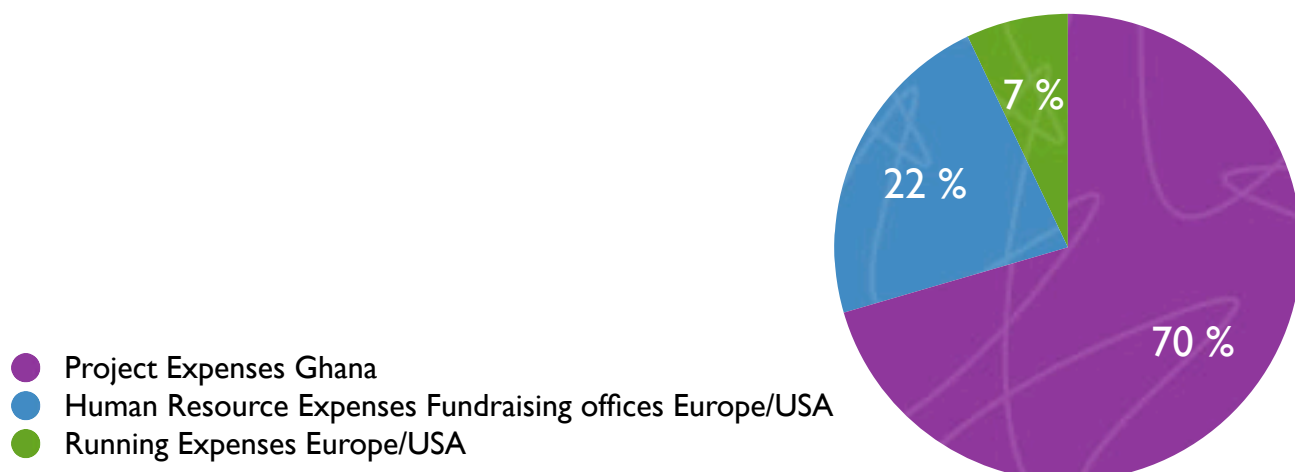
Consolidated accounts for OA fundraising branches in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States.

Consolidated Summary in Euros*

USA and Swiss currencies were converted to euros taking the historical rate of the 15th of each month and then dividing by 12.

Income	Consolidated
Monthly Donors	123 837 €
Private Donations	438 325 €
Foundation/NGO donations	130 464 €
Government Grants	14 106 €
Events	34 372 €
Products	405 €
Other	5 259 €
Total Income	746 768 €
Project Support, Programs Ghana	Consolidated
Project Support - transferred to Ghana	410 904 €
Project Support - spent on behalf of Ghana	82 971 €
Project Support - received directly in Ghana ¹	12 000 €
Total Project Support	505 875 €
Other External Expenses	Consolidated
Fundraising / Awareness Building	27 377 €
Administration & General Expenses	23 303 €
Total External Expenses	50 680 €
Salaries	Consolidated
Salaries	73 617 €
Social charges	32 169 €
Professional Services	55 354 €
Total Salaries and staff	161 140 €

¹ These funds (Project Support - received directly in Ghana) were sent directly to Ghana's bank account by the Italian donor Fondazione "aiutareibambini" therefore they are not included in the global income and in the global outcome because they didn't transit through OrphanAid Africa European/US bank accounts but they are recorded as contribution received directly in Ghana.



2011 Financial Statements

**OrphanAid Africa European and US offices - Detailed Account Summary by Country:
France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States.**

Income	France	Italy	Spain	USA	Germany	Switzerland
Monthly Donors	58 935 €	22 385 €	34 982 €	\$1 035	6 123 €	820 CHF
Private Donations	27 855 €	81 872 €	265 006 €	\$46 442	29 548 €	660 CHF
Foundation and NGO Donations	10 000 €	30 050 €	13 955 €	\$25 000	58 421 €	0 CHF
Government Grants	0 €	0 €	14 106 €	\$0	0 €	0 CHF
Events	8 490 €	15 833 €	2 560 €	\$3 385	0 €	6 224 CHF
Products	0 €	0 €	405 €	\$0	0 €	0 CHF
Other	516 €	777 €	3 965 €	\$0	0 €	1 CHF
Total:	105 796 €	150 917 €	334 979 €	\$75 862	94 093 €	7 705 CHF
Project Support, Programs Ghana	France	Italy	Spain	USA	Germany	Switzerland
Transferred to Ghana project	20 000 €	93 931 €	187 456 €	\$44 175	74 321 €	4 100 CHF
Spent on behalf of Ghana project	22 057 €	3 088 €	56 522 €	\$1 807	0 €	0 CHF
Received directly in Ghana ¹	0 €	12 000 €	0 €	\$0	0 €	0 CHF
Total:	42 057 €	109 019 €	243 978 €	\$45 982	74 321 €	4 100 CHF
Running Expenses	France	Italy	Spain	USA	Germany	Switzerland
Fundraising / Awareness Building	14 994 €	4 183 €	4 776 €	\$3 307	114 €	1 139 CHF
Administration & General Expenses	8 122 €	4 192 €	5 707 €	\$4 116	2 210 €	127 CHF
Total:	23 116 €	8 374 €	10 483 €	\$7 423	2 324 €	1 266 CHF
Human Resource Expenses	France	Italy	Spain	USA	Germany	Switzerland
Salaries	17 250 €	18 995 €	22 437 €	\$20 700	0 €	0 CHF
Social charges	15 405 €	10 883 €	5 650 €	\$320	0 €	0 CHF
Professional services	5 942 €	13 521 €	32 584 €	\$4 583	0 €	0 CHF
Total:	38 597 €	43 399 €	60 671 €	\$25 603	0 €	0 CHF

1. These funds (Project Support - received directly in Ghana) were sent directly to Ghana's bank account by the Italian donor Fondazione "aiutareibambini" therefore they are not included in the global income and in the global outcome because they didn't transit through OrphanAid Africa European/US bank accounts but they are recorded as contribution received directly in Ghana.

OPERATING TEAMS 2011

OrphanAid Africa is registered in France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States.

There are executive committees in each country and the organization has set up a team dedicated to daily operations and fundraising missions. OA employs about 50 Ghanaian staff working directly in Ghana.

OrphanAid Africa Ghana

OrphanAid Africa (OA) is a Non-Governmental Organization (N.G.O.) registered with the department of Social Welfare in the Greater Accra region in Ghana. It was registered in accordance with the companies code (act 179) on 27 Dec 2002. Registration as an NGO with the Department of Social Welfare No.D.S.W. 1951, issued on 30/10/03.

Board

Lisa Lovatt-Smith, President and Director
Jamil Marby, Executive Committee
Geena Punjabi, Executive Committee

Management team

Celia Wechenk, Country Director
Busara Sauda Family Support Services Co-ordinator
Robert Dakwa, Financial Manager
Richard Klu, Project Director
Jamilah Kukubor, Psychologist
Godwin Ador, YASS Manager

Team in Ghana

We work with a team which consists of: social workers, psychologists, counselors, foster parents, teachers, sports coaches, a community center manager, a farmer, an accountant, cleaners, security personnel, and drivers.



OrphanAid Africa Spain

OrphanAid Africa established an office in Barcelona, Spain in October 2002. ORPHANAID AFRICA (OA) is a non-profit association, (non-governmental organization - NGO), with N.I.F. G-62986971, registered in the Association Register of the Generalitat of Catalunya under the number 26.940/B.

Board

Fernando Masià Martí, President
Lisa Lovatt-Smith, Treasurer
Ramón Masià Martí, Secretary
Patricia Boving, Secretary
Jonathan Hooker, Board Member
Ernesto Obrador, Board Member

Operations & Fundraising

Angela Millán, Fundraising & Communication
Carmen Pérez, Fundraising & Communication

OrphanAid Africa Italy

OrphanAid Africa, known as OrphanAid Africa Onlus, established an office in Milan, Italy in December 2003.

OrphanAid Africa Onlus is a non-profit organization with its registered office in Milan, in Via dell'Annunciata 31, C.F. 97365440151. OrphanAid Africa Onlus is registered at the Direzione Regionale delle Entrate della Lombardia (13.01.2004) and at the Anagrafe Unica delle Onlus under the number 2010/21622.

Board

Margherita Missoni, President
Lisa Lovatt-Smith, Vice-President
Luca Magni, Secretary

Operations & Fundraising

Francesca Pinto, Fundraising & Communications

OrphanAid Africa France

OrphanAid Africa, formerly known as Orphelinats d'Afrique established an office in Paris, France in October 2003. OA is an association declared on the 21st of October 2003 (Insertion in J.O. the 15th of November) where the objective is to help children in Africa grow up in the best possible conditions through helping families, communities, organizations and administrations in charge of their care. Siège social: 2 rue Marengo, 75001 Paris.

Board

Lisa Lovatt-Smith, President
Gerlinde Hobel, Vice-President
Didier Hassan, Treasurer

Operations & Fundraising

Elizabeth Eichhorn, Fundraising & Communication

OrphanAid Africa USA

OrphanAid Africa was established and registered in the United States on March 7th, 2007 as a U.S. 501c3 non-profit organization headquartered in San Francisco California with the purpose of helping orphans and vulnerable children in Ghana grow up in healthy, nurturing environments that provide quality care, protection, education, and support.

Board

Ashley Allison, President
Edward Asante, Secretary
Rachel Roy, Board Member
Nana Brew-Hammond, Board Member
Ashley Rhodes-Courter, Board Member
Rebecca Davis, Board Member

OrphanAid Africa Switzerland

OrphanAid Africa established itself as an association in Switzerland in September 2006 with its headquarters in Geneva.

Board

Katie Kennedy, President
Hsien Tan, Treasurer
Teresa Francombe, Secretary
Amy Meyer, Country Manager
Christine Wangeci, IT and Events Manager

OrphanAid Africa Germany

The OrphanAid Africa Foundation was established and recognized by the tax office Munich under the control number 143/235/63005 with an official certificate starting from July 23rd, 2007 for charitable purposes as well as child welfare service recognition.

Board

Anja Rüttermann, Chairman of the board
Carsten Jeremias, Member of the Executive Committee
Petra-Alexa Heinze, Member of the Advisory Committee
Sandra Klinger, Member of the Advisory Committee
Janina Lückoff, Member of the Advisory Committee
Lukas Rosenkranz, Member of the Advisory Committee

COLLABORATORS

Thank you to all our donors and collaborators who made our work possible in 2011.

A special thanks to...

OrphanAid Africa official spokespeople for all of their time and energy to help spread the word about our work:

VICTORIA ABRIL • MARCEL DESAILLY • MARGHERITA MISSONI • ROSSY DE PALMA

Our main donors and sponsors in 2011 by country:

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Soft Living Places SpA
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Ernesto Obrador
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