



Ananda Marga Universal Team – Ladies

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APPEAL FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Our educational project, Lotus Children's Center at Mamprobi is going to its 30th anniversary next year. It was created to give the poor access to high quality education and it was established by the sacrifice of missionary and local teachers who endured the difficulty process of starting a new school. Lotus is a non profitable project; however, there is need of charge a minimal amount from the pupils to pay the staff and bills.

SCHOLARSHIP

Tuition fee per child: 1, 500 GHS for the whole academic year of 2024 (January-December)

If possible, we would also appeal for support of the stationeries and toiletries otherwise the parents may withdraw their kids. It would cost 350 GHS per child for the whole year.

Total requested per child: 1850 GHS



“The centre was called “LOTUS CHILDREN’S CENTER” because the Lotus flower symbolizes purity. It grows in muddy ponds, yet all dirt simply roll off its petals. Similarly, we hope that despite whatever disadvantaged backgrounds our children may come from, they will also grow up to be like these symbolic flowers.”

GIVE A GLOWING FUTURE TO A CHILD IN GHANA, AFRICA (Title)

Provide high-quality early childhood education and free nutritious vegetarian meals daily for the 50 students of LOTUS CHILDREN’S CENTER. These children come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Their impoverished families are unable to pay for high-quality education elsewhere.



For the past 30 years Lotus has been running a Home for girls in vulnerable situation as well a non-profit preschool in Accra. We also rend charitable service in poor stricken villages.

Investing in children’s healthy, holistic development during the early years is one of the most important interventions you can make for the long-term welfare of these children.



Why should you support their education?

To improve the quality of life of the poor and underprivileged: The government’s pre-school in our community is free but grossly overcrowded. Private schools are not an option to the many that do not have a stable job and depend on street trade to survive and maintain their families.

Photo caption: students from Shukura slum area coming to Lotus school

For a Social change: Our educational approach is based on Neohumanism, a benevolent outlook which nurtures a deeply ecological perspective by encouraging love for all the creation. Once the awareness of a young child is awakened, s/he naturally develops an unconditional service mind towards the welfare of other people, plants, animals, soil, water, air, ultimately his/her actions will be dedicate to the welfare of the whole world.



Individual Attainment: Our goal is to fully develop the physical and mental potentialities of the child by applying creative and dynamic learning activities, as well the use of yoga to help with the management of emotions. Through stories, play and different forms of art we infuse a sense of morality as the base of the child's intellectual growth. Morality is not imparted by using fear, but either understanding of doing good for oneself and for others.

You can provide these children not just the bare minimum, but rather a progressive holistic form of Early Childhood education.

*Why should you support their **feeding**?*

In Ghana, children are 40 percent more likely to live in poverty than adults. UNICEF states that 1.2 million households are unable to supply an adequate amount of food for their children. The World Food Program reports that 27% of households are at risk of hunger in Ghana. About a third of the population is living on less than \$1.25 a day, which means providing a balanced diet for one's family is extremely difficult.



*What about the **Organization** which is running these projects?*

The Lotus Children's Center is one of AMURTEL'S local development projects. AMURT-EL is a global non-profit organization recognized by the United Nations. AMURT-EL was created in 1975 to run relief and community-based programs focuses specifically on issues relating to women and children. It is active in over 80 countries.

*When women access resources for locally-directed change,
the community as a whole become stronger.*

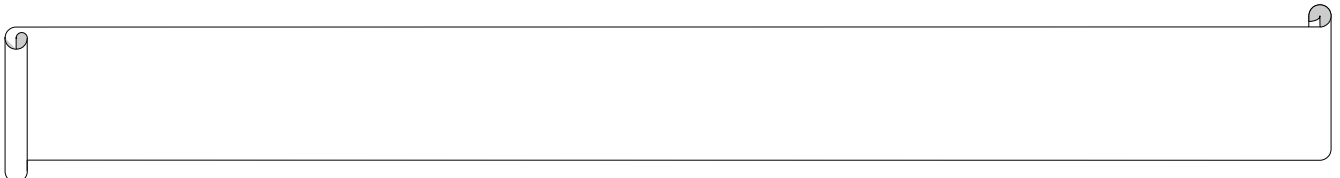
Our work includes the personal transformation of the individual because it is the starting point of social change. Consequently, we lay great emphasis on education.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWAuYoAGptk>

click above to check our video



Understand more about our EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIBRARY and TRAINING IN SELF-SUFFICIENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES



Our focus is on developing individuals to become creative, confident and caring so that they will utilize their knowledge for the welfare of society and consequently contribute to break the cycle of poverty in their communities.



Our Children's Center main goals:

- To address educational needs in Ghana by preparing and providing suitable activities on different subjects;
- Improvement of language arts and rational thinking by encouraging reading;
- To encourage the indigenous language, local music and dance;
(picture of local dance)



- To awake the artistic potentialities of our students;

(Photo Caption: making candles)

- To provide a place for people to come and learn about healthy lifestyle such as personal hygiene, physical fitness, etc.
- To inculcate ecology as a way of life by arising love, compassion and respect for animals, plants and environment.

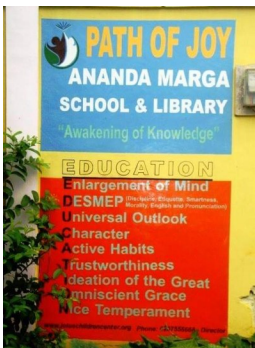


LOTUS CHILDREN'S CENTER has been running successfully for 30 years, we need your help to keep it and also expand to a Primary School by establishing "Path of Joy" Children Center! This

school will also benefit Lotus Children's Home by providing education for the younger girls and temporary employment for those from the home who completed SHS while searching for their profession.

Currently we are running the preschool at Lotus Children Center in Accra, Ghana. We also have built mostly of the ground floor of our new Primary School called "Path of Joy Children Center" at Central Region of Ghana but due to lack of funds to complete the building, the preschool/primary sections has not started yet.

LIBRARY



In order to utilize the part of the building which is ready, a library has been running since 2015. Many students of various ages use to come daily after school to learn about organic gardening, get help with their home works, practice English grammar, writing and Mathematics. We also run a Reading Club to reinforce reading. Active habits such as hygiene, etiquette, balanced diet, recycling, and others are reinforced. The children also learn practices such as meditation and yoga for a healthy physical, mental and spiritual growth. They also have opportunities for creative expression and for the development of their talents and capacities. They are given scope for the development of leadership and sense of responsibility.

We now intend to teach the teenagers skills which can help them to get financial support as they grow up. As these activities are free of charge mostly we depend on volunteers, but now that travelling has become complicated due to the epidemic of Covid-19 we need to assure funds to pay regular allowances for capable educators.



PRIMARY SCHOOL

Even before gaining independence in 1957, Ghana has been working to increase population access to basic education and school enrollment. The 1961 Education Act reinforced the right to a free basic education, but the act failed to fully address all the problems related to school attendance and completion rates. In addition, beyond the financial issues associated with improving education quality and the ability of students to afford school there are also problems with other non-monetary constraints such as the availability of school buildings and trained teachers.¹



AMURT-EL (Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team/Ladies) was created to prepare team works that can meet disaster and development needs almost anywhere in the world. In 1985 we broadened our goals to include long-term development. There is also a strong focus on education. The organization has worked to build a network of schools, institutes and projects that educate and serve society using the philosophy of Neohumanism.² This guiding philosophy is about the study of how all life is

¹ Ojangmah, A., Oduro, A., Seidu, A., & Hunt, F. (2007). Access to Basic Education in Ghana: The Evidence and the Issues. CREATE.

² Dharmavedananda, A. (1999). *Travel with the Mystic Master*. Singapore: Ananda Marga Publications.

intertwined and it explores the interconnections that exist between the inner-self, nature and between human beings. This exploration teaches respect and love for everyone without regard to race, religion or creed along with a respect for all of nature's resources. Our children grow up with cardinal human values such as honesty, truth, respect, service and cleanliness through the example of role models of caretakers, as well as through regular lessons and reinforcement. In fact, often visitors comment that our students are more peaceful, respectful and disciplined when compared to other local schools they have visited. This kind of education will eventually lead to humanity fully developing an all encompassing sense of love and respect for all creation and a high value of moral principles.

Caption: Teaching about nature at Lotus

Our members are dedicated to help others learn to stand for honesty, unity, love and working together to build healthy communities and societies. This background and motivation were at the root to decide to work on improving education in Ghana. On 2005 the Missionary Sisters of AMURT-EL came up with the idea to start a primary school in Ghana that would teach a Neo-humanist based curriculum, but at the time there was only the small preschool and children's home in Accra (Lotus Children's Center) and not enough accommodation to house a large school. At this point they decided to arrange land to start the primary school. They were not able to find any land nearby, so efforts were made to locate suitable land just outside of the Greater Accra area, and finally a location was found near Kasoa (Central Region of Ghana). Dedicated members of Ananda Marga in Taiwan came forward at that time to donate the money to buy the land. We couldn't get sponsors for the building but in 2015 the same members helped to start the building. We rely on donations to conclude the building as well start the Primary School in the classes which are already built.



Support [All-round care for girls](#) page

There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of woman is improved. A bird can't fly with one wing. If women are given proper nutrition, health care, education and job training the balance of the whole society will improve very fast.

The LOTUS CHILDREN'S HOME (title)



The children's Home was started to ensure guaranteed basic rights and provide all-round care for girls who became fatherless/motherless, or were abandon or children from needy families in an uplifting environment - in a family atmosphere - and to educate them in all spheres: physically, emotionally, intellectually, morally and spiritually in order that they may become dignified members of their society, and assets to the development of Africa.

We have focused on looking after girls, since these are the most neglected by their families, and many villagers never send them to school, viewing them only as household servants and farmhands. The women's low economic status and exploitation in Africa is a direct result of illiteracy and lack of education.

You can help them by donating goods or supporting the opening of the Primary School [Path of Joy Children's Center](#) which will provide the girls primary education and able the teenagers with skills to support their future economic independence.

Photo Caption: All round Improvement of a needy girls from our home after 3 years

Understand more about our Home in Accra - Ghana



For 30 years the home provides quality care, protection and primary and secondary school education for girls in vulnerable situation. The girls receive ongoing university, college or technical training if they demonstrate a mature outlook and self-discipline sufficient for their studies. Those who have completed their formal education receive practical skills and job training.

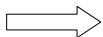
The Home fosters self-dependency and career development and assists all the girls in their transition to employment and responsible, independent living after their formal education.

Photo Caption: Above the inmates learning yoga exercises, below performing

dance

The center is a safe, clean, orderly family-like setting where the girls develop pro-social skills and behaviour. It inspires appreciation for one's cultural and religious heritage and respect for other cultures and religions of the universal family.

The Home staff is comprised of the director and one mother. The facility capacity is for 10 girls. The Home has been running since 1992 successfully. International volunteers are most welcome. [Click here](#) for get more information on volunteering:



VOLUNTEER NOW!

(Click here and go to the volunteer page)



Page of volunteering

Be a volunteer of a Neo Humanist Project!

Volunteers who wish to contribute in any way are welcome. We recommend to plan for at least a month, as it takes 2 weeks for most people to adjust with the new environment. You will be accommodated in our Children Centre.

There are so many opportunities to serve the people in Ghana, be in the classroom, in the office, creating new receipts for children's menu, teaching music or even your mother tongue! Just by giving attention and love or taking the children home for a walk makes a happy time in our lives. You can help out with the [Relief project](#) in the village as well.

For those who love working with children we would suggest a routine to teach small groups of the young children in Lotus or participate in the activities for the teenagers at [Path of Joy Children Center](#). Even if you are not an experienced teacher, there are so many activities you can share, for example you can teach the children fine arts or even baking! Experienced educators can also help introducing psychological methods of teaching, improving the curriculum and training the teachers. After school session you can help the Children Home with their studies, or expand their knowledge about different subjects. The younger ones love to listen to stories and the elders to chat to know more about you and



the place you came from. You have the weekend days free to go around as you like. If you come on school holidays you would mostly help with the Library activities as the number of kids increases during that period.

(Photo caption: a volunteer teaching English Grammar to teenagers at Path of Joy)

Accommodation is simple but spacious and delicious vegetarian food is provided from the volunteer's contributions. Please contact the email didigayatri@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteer.

Support [Relief Service in villages](#) page

By donating you can play a useful role in helping vulnerable communities break the cycle of poverty and gain greater control over their lives. Development of society is a human exchange: people sharing wisdom, knowledge, resources and experience to build a better world.

AMURTEL's Story in Ghana

ACCRA AND CENTRAL REGIONS

AMURTEL has been active in Ghana since 1984 operating a wide range of social projects to uplift the lives of women and children through clinics and midwife training programmes. We opened numerous primary health outposts in the rural areas of Greater Accra and in the Central Region of Ghana to provide cheap medical treatment for local people. The clinic in Akwakwaa, Swedru district opened in 1999 and is still active today.



Bellow: Relief work at Akwakwaa clinic, In the right: Mass feedings organized at our Centers in Soko, Korlegonno -Accra and Ejura-Kumasi)



Our workers started out with

pre-schools

and supplementary feeding

programmes in the Amasaman district (Obom Area) of the Ga region, Yet, it became clear soon that one of the most URGENT NEEDS were primary healthy facilities because of the water-borne diseases such as guinea worm, cholera and yaws that were rampant at that time.

VOLTA REGION OF

AMURT-EL is the section of AMURT. In Region of Ghana, our AMURT has brought drinking water through empowerment



GHANA

ladies-managed the Volta partner clinics, safe community programs

starting in 1990. AMURT constructed a dam, a water treatment plant and a water tower at Mafi-Zongo because they were badly affected by Guinea Worm. The project



expanded to provide water for 42 villages.

In the clinic at MAFI-Seva (started by AMURT in 2002 and handed over to government in 2012) the nurses observed several cases of malnourishment amongst the children. The main cause of their poor diet is that the villagers use to sell all their vegetables and consume mostly maiz dishes with pepper. Although the nurses tried to educate them to add in their daily diets popular local wild herbs and leaves, such as moringa, contombre, baobab, etc. However we sadly observed that the new generation of house wives carelessly ignored our advises. Therefore we started to approach the young children who already start cooking for their families (as a matter of fact the 9 years old girls are already able to cook for the whole family while their parents go to farm). We visited schools to stress the importance of eating vegetables in interactive talks with the teachers and students. In a high primary school it was so difficulty for the kids to mention the name of vegetables they knew that a teacher try to help mentioning “egg” as a vegetable! After school we distribute meals made with nutritious local



ingredients to reinforce what the kids have just learned. This project became therefore short term by relieving hunger and at same time long term by educating children.

In the Right are pictures of the educative mass feedings in Volta Region)

Another issue that we are addressing is that most farmers from MAfi Zongo experience poverty once the harvest season is over, they need to learn skills which will keep them economically active during the dry season as well learn how to administrate their income. We have choose working with the ladies as they are in a more vulnerable situation.



You donation for [Relief Service in villages](#) could be used for what?

Short-term services: To provide educative mass feedings, to support medical camps, clothes distribution and other relief activities in the area of MAfi-Zongo, Volta Region of Ghana.

Long-term services: You contribute to educational programmes that support women’s personal and social development, income generating activities for underprivileged women.

“[society] are not as developed as we should be. Why? One of the reasons is that we have kept women confined within the walls of their homes, resulting in the progress of only fifty percent of the population -- the males. And as only the men are progressing, they will have to carry the load of fifty percent of the population. Thus the speed of progress is reduced. Ideally, women should also move with their own strength and with the same speed as their male counterparts. In the process of movement, if they feel pain in their legs, if they fall on their faces, they should be physically lifted up. The fact is that we must move together in unison with all.”

-- Shrii P. R. Sarkar, Two Wings in the Importance of Society

Photo Caption: Lotus Teachers doing social service in our clinic at Akwakwaa village, Central Region



Since to be a teacher is to give, we bring our teachers from Accra to experience relief work. Bellow some of the feelings shared by our teachers after participating in relief work:

“... I like to do more social services because I was very happy to see that the people were all happy to come for the goods we have for them. I like to do more for the needy one, I wish that one day I can also get things for

distribute to those who are in need.” Abigail – KG1 teacher

“...I become happy because I think about others and not myself alone. Doing social service also helps me to love God more because if you love your



neighbour it means you love God. It makes you think positively about others.” Kate – Nursery2 teacher

“It was my first time embarking on such activity, travelling from the city which I have lived all my life to a village just to distribute articles to the needy ones. It was distributed without favouritism in the sense that the toddlers, young and old all had something to take home.” Kofi Festus– KG2/Administrator volunteer

Some of the feelings of teachers about Neo humanism values:

“NHE is about how to create a universal world, where there will be love for all creatures”. Festus Kofi – KG2



”NHE is teaching to love everything in the world and care for them.” Abigail

“Vegetarianism helps the body to be strong and healthy as well as making the mind become sharp as you can digest well.” Abigail KG1

“Vegetarianism helps you to focus on God because your mind will be stable. It also helps you to live long and stay healthy; it also helps to love the animals created by God.” Kate Nursery2

“Meditation is to sit and to think only about God. It helps the mind to think good things and gives an open mind for the day.” Abigail KG1

“Meditation is interacting and thinking about God with your entire mind, your heart and to devote yourself to serve Him only. We practice meditation because it brings us closer to God... and it helps to be mentally sound and fit.” Kate Nursery

“Meditation is a practice to help one to be near to God, that is, to know God.” Lad, Nursery 1 teacher

“Fasting- when one devotes oneself to not eat but only think about God so one’s spirituality can be strengthened.” Kate Nursery2

