

FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

Summary

Families for Children International (FFCI) is a non-profit, volunteer based, non-government organization (NGO) registered with and approved by the IRS for 501(c)3 status. This means that financial contributions to FFCI are tax deductible. The officers and Boards of Directors in both the US and Ghana bring to the organization a wealth of talent as well as national and international experience in administration, education, health services, business and humanitarian service.

There are a reported 12 million orphans in Africa and if the present trend continues it is projected that in 10 more years there will be 40 million (World Health Organization). Essentially all of them live a short unrewarding life of suffering and disease, with a lack of education and no preparation for a vocation or parenthood.

Children are orphaned in Ghana because of poor or unavailable health care. Many mothers die in child birth and many children die at a young age because of malnutrition and high susceptibility to disease. Many young women are unable to provide for their children, even though both survive childbirth. Statistics are inconclusive as to the degree that AIDS contributes to children being orphaned.

Goals and Objectives

The immediate Goals and objectives of FFCI are to provide loving care, a healthy diet, adequate health care, an excellent education, and preparation for vocational employment and responsible citizenship for orphaned, abandoned and destitute children in the West African country of Ghana. They will be achieved by:

- nurturing the children in a family setting
- providing a surrogate mother for each group of 10 children
- providing a minimum of a high school education for the children
- teaching employable life skills
- preparing them to be productive members of their society
- helping them develop an appreciation for their cultural heritage
- helping them develop the qualities of love, respect for self and others, cooperation, honesty, integrity, caring and responsibility

We will create a family setting by building small homes to accommodate 10 children each with a surrogate mother. Children will assist in household duties, meal preparation, gardening and will live in an environment that encourages the development of the qualities of love, respect for self and others, cooperation, caring, and accountability.

A school will be built and staffed with local specially trained teachers who will offer a curriculum designed to provide a well rounded educational program. In addition

to educational basics, the children will be taught marketable vocational skills, honesty, integrity, civic responsibility and an appreciation for their cultural heritage.

The uniqueness of the program rests in our philosophy that the way to achieve peace in the world is to rear children who grow up to become peace loving individuals. We are not providing institutional care for these orphans but rather homes where they will be cared for in a family setting and will experience the love and nurturing that their parents could not provide. The homes and the school will focus on developing the qualities of honesty, trust, accountability, healthy self esteem, pride in their heritage and leadership skills so that as adults they can make positive contributions in their communities. They will be taught about their own culture and history and will also be taught the principles and practices of a democratic society.

Even more important than food, clothing and shelter, we will provide experiences that will lead to personal, social and civic responsibility. Each small village will have 10 houses, a school, and auxiliary buildings that will provide a home for the director, administration facilities and accommodations for interns. There will be a small garden by each house and money producing facilities in the village. Children will participate in learning production, sales and management skills for income producing projects that will contribute to the operation of the village and break the cycle of poverty for our graduates.

We realize that our plans for FFCI are only a beginning, but also an important step to help make this world a better place. Compared with the people in Third World countries, we in the United States have been richly blessed. FFCI operates on a philosophy similar to one expressed by Mother Teresa. Someone challenged the work she was doing ministering to the poorest outcasts in Calcutta, India, on the grounds that she could never succeed at what she was trying to do. No matter how hard she worked, her antagonist insisted, there would be more of the poor and sick tomorrow than there were today, and all her efforts could never even make a dent in the problem. Since she could never hope to succeed, why did she waste her efforts in a losing cause? Mother Teresa's answer was a classic. "God does not require that I succeed, only that I do what I can."

FFCI will work closely with local people who are a valuable source of what is best and what is needed in their area. It is also important for them to have a sense of ownership in the project so that there will be social and community support.

We are a volunteer-based, non-profit organization committed to maximizing the value of all contributions to help the needy children we serve and to minimize any expense not directly providing benefit. Our overhead costs are minimal because all officers and board members volunteer their time. The officers of FFCI are cognizant of the stewardship responsibilities we have to those who entrust us with their donations. We have no paid personnel in the organization.