



Group Sponsorship in Ghana

March 2026 Program Update

Thanks to your continued support, group sponsorship is transforming the lives of vulnerable children and youth in Ghana. Through a holistic approach that includes education support, health care, psychosocial care, and child protection, children who were once at risk are now growing in safer environments and gaining the tools they need for a brighter future.

We have seen some powerful breakthroughs with this program in the last few months. Children who had previously dropped out are reentering school, youth are graduating and earning acceptance into university, families are receiving support, and young people are rebuilding confidence after trauma. Here's a look at the difference your support has made over the past six months.





Education Restored for Vulnerable Children and Youth: To ensure children could participate fully in school, students received key educational supplies such as books, notebooks, learning materials, backpacks, and school uniforms where needed. These essentials help remove barriers that often prevent vulnerable children from attending school consistently.

Over the past six months, our partners successfully reintegrated six out-of-school children and youth into formal education, including adolescent mothers, street-connected youth, and children affected by neglect. Beyond learning, returning to school has meant stability, dignity, and the chance to dream again.

Dorcas is one of these students. After becoming an adolescent mother, she left school to care for her baby and assist her mother at the market for a year. As time passed and financial constraints grew, Dorcas feared her educational journey was over. Through sponsorship, however, she was able to return to school and resume her studies. Today, she is determined to complete her education and pursue her dream of becoming a military dietician or nurse.



Erica's story is another powerful example of the transformative power of education support. After losing her parents, Erica lived on the streets of Accra, surviving by hawking and sleeping in unsafe conditions. She recalls that period as the moment she believed her life had ended. With group sponsorship, Erica was enrolled in high school and provided with safe accommodation. The stability and support enabled her to thrive academically and socially. Today, she is one of the top-performing students in her class and has been appointed house prefect, a testament to her growing confidence, discipline, and leadership.



Skills Training and Vocational Success: Your support enabled the continuation of 10 vocational trainees pursuing catering, hairdressing, and dressmaking by providing essential materials for practical learning. These included baking ingredients, fabrics, zippers, thread, and hair supplies, allowing trainees to actively participate in hands-on lessons and strengthen real employable skills.

All 10 vocational trainees successfully completed their National Vocational and Technical Institute professional exams and went on to participate in a one-month internship in their respective trades. The internship provided workplace exposure and helped participants build confidence in customer service, discipline, time management, and business skills.





Before receiving sponsorship, **Francisca** didn't believe she had any practical skills. Through the training provided by group sponsorship, she has learned the basics of baking and even started making cookies during school vacations to earn some income. Now back in school, she is expanding her skills by learning to prepare popular snacks like spring rolls and samosas.

For Francisca, this training has been transformative. It has replaced self-doubt with confidence, showing her that she can create something productive with her hands. She shared that no matter what challenges may come in the future, she now knows she has the ability to support herself.

Daily Nutritious Meals for Better Attendance and Learning:

For many vulnerable children, hunger remains one of the greatest barriers to education. Group sponsorship continues to provide daily nutritious meals to participants. This intervention has directly improved school attendance, focus, and participation.

Teachers consistently report that meals motivate children to attend school regularly, and for many children, this school meal is the most reliable source of nutritious food they receive.



Health Support That Prevents Crisis: Over the past six months, our partners worked closely with local health services to provide health screenings for all 60 participants. Children and youth were tested for malaria, typhoid, hepatitis B, and dental issues, conditions that often go undetected in vulnerable communities. The screenings revealed some serious concerns, including typhoid infections among a few participants, cases of malaria, and one hepatitis B reactive case. Many were unaware they were unwell until the results were shared.

Because participants were registered with health insurance, those who tested positive were referred for treatment and accessed care they otherwise would not have received.

Dental care was also a critical part of this health support. Oral health is often overlooked, yet untreated dental problems can lead to severe pain, disrupted sleep, and missed school days. Through group sponsorship, eight children received professional dental treatment, including extractions for severely decayed teeth and fillings to restore damaged teeth. Caregivers expressed deep gratitude, including one grandmother who shared that when her granddaughter's pain became severe, they were unable to sleep and could only rely on painkillers at home. This intervention brought serious relief for her granddaughter.



Recognizing that health includes emotional wellbeing, our partners also provided psychosocial support to all 60 participants through a group counselling boot camp led by professional counsellors and coaches. Children and youth took part in emotional awareness sessions, role plays, wellness activities, and art therapy. They learned to identify emotions such as sadness, anger, and fear, and practiced coping techniques to respond constructively.



Deborah's story reflects why this support is so essential. Deborah previously struggled with severe trauma and social anxiety. Her childhood was marked by neglect and abuse, and she has been diagnosed with PTSD, anxiety, depression, and OCD.

Through group sponsorship, Deborah now receives monthly therapy support and medication. She has also been supported to remain in school through hostel assistance, allowing her to live away from an abusive home environment and giving her the stability she needs to continue learning and healing.

One of her greatest breakthroughs came when she stood confidently before a crowd of more than 1,500 students and teachers to recite a poem she had written during an assembly. What may have seemed like a simple performance to others was, for Deborah, a powerful victory over fear and silence. Today, Deborah dreams of becoming a psychologist so she can support others who have experienced trauma.

Child Protection and Safe Intervention: Group sponsorship includes active monitoring of children’s wellbeing at school and at home. This helps identify children who are at risk and ensures concerns are acted on quickly.

Through routine home visits, our partners identified **Patience’s** situation as a serious child protection case. At just 13 years old, Patience had been made responsible for caring for her bedridden great-grandmother, responding to her needs at all hours of the day and night. When she was unable to respond quickly enough, she was punished through beatings, deprivation of food, and emotional abuse.

Upon learning of her situation, our partners immediately reported the case to the police and Social Welfare. Patience received a medical examination and treatment and was removed from the abusive environment. She has since been placed in the care of her grandfather, where she is now safe, supported, and able to attend school consistently.



Patience shared the difference this intervention has made in her life: “Since I started living with my grandfather, he takes good care of me and supports me to attend school, which was not the case before. I am now able to attend extra classes after school. I now focus on my studies to become the teacher I want to be instead of going through pain. I am very grateful.”

Patience’s story reflects the critical importance of strong child safeguarding systems, ensuring vulnerable children are not only supported in education, but also protected, nurtured, and given the chance to experience childhood with the safety and dignity every child deserves.

Additional Area of Need - Justice’s Medical Support: While group sponsorship has supported many children through education, meals, mentorship, and healthcare access, there are some with additional needs that exceed the scope of the program’s funding, like Justice.



In October 2025, a medical team from Canada travelled to Ghana and assessed many children at Bubiashie School, and Justice stood out as someone who required further care. The team believed he was showing signs of mild cerebral palsy (CP), a neurological condition that affects muscle tone, coordination, and controlled movement. Justice later received an initial assessment and his first physiotherapy session at a hospital in Accra, where the diagnosis was confirmed.

With proper physiotherapy, many children with mild CP can significantly improve their mobility, strength, and independence.

The physiotherapist recommended weekly sessions for one year to strengthen Justice's muscles, address movement limitations, and improve his mobility. To ensure he can attend each appointment, reliable transportation to and from the hospital will also be required.

To help Justice access the medical support he needs, we are fundraising separately to cover his continued physiotherapy and care. Every contribution brings Justice closer to long-term mobility, independence, and the ability to participate more fully in school and daily life.

Support Justice here: <https://internationalneeds.ca/ghana-steps-for-justice/>

Additional Area of Need - Establishing a University Fund for Graduates: We have also established a separate University Fund to support graduates who qualify for post-secondary education.

This year, six students were accepted into university, and their tuition will be covered for the first year through group sponsorship. However, as these students continue their studies and as more youth reach graduation, we want to ensure we can sustainably support university tuition without pulling too many resources away from the broader group sponsorship program.



University and college costs in Ghana are significantly lower than in Canada, but they are still far beyond what most vulnerable families can afford. Depending on the program and institution, annual tuition is often in the range of approximately CAD\$500 to \$2,000 per year, with additional costs for accommodation, books, transportation, and required fees.

A dedicated University Fund helps ensure that students who have worked so hard to overcome barriers do not lose their opportunity at the final stage.

Support university students here: <https://internationalneeds.ca/ghana-university-fund/>

Thank You!

Because of donor support, vulnerable children and youth are not only staying in school. They are healing, growing, gaining skills, and discovering new confidence. Your generosity is helping children move from survival to stability, and from hardship to hope.

