

THE ARK FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

HOPE LIVES HERE



Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God [Hebrews 13:10]

As we draw the curtain over the year 2021, what are you thankful for? The world is still grappling with the reality of living with COVID-19 and its associated adverse impacts on lives, livelihoods, homes, families, etc., yet, we have hope!

We find hope through you, our dear Friends and Givers. We are able to rise and keep working because you have made it possible through your generosity for us to provide the necessary services to bring about peace; joy; positive self-worth, recovery and even healing to the brave survivors we work with. Here, at The Ark, we believe the Lord uses our amazing and committed Givers to bring hope and a brighter future for many. For your commitment and support we say THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU!

CASES RECEIVED

Through the year 2021, a total of seventy-six (76) cases were received at the Crisis Centre, out of which eleven (11) were provided Shelter services. Also, in 2021, fifteen residents were discharged from the Shelter and resettled in new communities or with family. Out of the seventy-six cases, fifty (50) contacted The Ark through its hotline, and twenty-six (26) were walk-ins to the Crisis Centre. Cases received comprised sexual abuse (rape, defilement, and incest), domestic violence, child non-maintenance and child custody, family legal issues and mental distress, among others.

OUR AMAZING GIVERS

Our wonderful Givers (our preferred term for our financial supporters), which includes our Foundation of Givers (those who have committed to give us regular monthly donations), have been remarkably generous. Through our Givers, the services we provide have been sustained. A total of about GHC 395,000 was received from January to December 2021 in cash donations. We also received in-kind donations of food, clothes, detergents, toiletries, and other items from our friends and well-wishers. In Mid-2022, as has been our convention, a full list of all Givers and Contributors will be published; however, in appreciation, The Ark wishes to acknowledge a few of these benevolent groups, organizations, and individuals in this Newsletter. These are Zonta Ladies of the Zonta Club of Accra Metropolitan, Mr. Akwasi Anning, Barry Calebaut Ltd., Justice Georgina Datsa and daughters; Mr. Kojo Appiah; Madam Hannah Agbozo, St. James Ladies Committee of the St. James Catholic Church; Donewell Life Insurance Co. Ltd; and Haiflow Ghana.

Below are a few photos of donations made by some of our supportive Givers:



Zonta Ladies presenting a donation of clothes and cash; purchasing copies of Dr. Angela Dwamena-Aboagye's book on women's mental health.



Justice Georgina Mensah-Datsa's daughters (middle)



Haiflow Ghana



St. James Ladies Committee



Donewell Life Insurance

To all our Givers, we say AYEKOO. We appreciate your astounding generosity and we say THANK YOU once again.

A CLIENT'S TESTIMONY

I can do all things (which He has called me to do) through Him who strengthens and empowers me – Philippians 4:13. I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.

My name is Peace (not my real name), and I am a survivor of domestic violence. I met my partner in 2017 at church in Accra. We had our traditional marriage (knocking) in March 2018.

He actually started beating me when I was pregnant with our first child. We were staying with his parents but later moved to a different location, and at our new residence the abuse continued. "I was your cure and you were my disease, I was actually saving you, but you were killing me"! My partner is an alcoholic, although had tried to help him change but it seemed not to work. One fateful weekend, he got drunk and beat me up, and hit my right hand with a stick. He strangled my neck and punched my face. I called my uncle and informed him about what has happened, we reported the case to DOVVSU. They locked him up and decided to discipline him.

I got to know about The Ark Foundation (The Ark), through my uncle who helped me. He told me a lot about The Ark and its interventions. He said, "The Ark will be the best organization to help you heal", he said, I was admitted into The Ark shelter pregnant with my second child and my first daughter. I had my own hurt which I was trying to overcome. I hurt others in the process, some were my housemates and the staff. I had some challenges such as anger and other things that reminded me of what my partner did to me, but through counseling, I

have been able to overcome it. I have learned to care for my children and to relate better with other people. Through our prayer sessions, God has taken all my burdens away, including being sexually abused in my childhood, that's from age 4 to 12. I was taught to love myself and put myself first. Brennan Manning once said the unwanted life bears no resemblance to the Rabbi. All these haven't stopped me from being a good mum to my children and a better person for others to be proud of.

For it is written in Psalm 62:1, "Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from Him. I thank God for all that He has done for me, rescuing me from hopeless situation to a better place in life. If not for Him where would I have been. I give all the glory and adoration to Him for what He has done!"

YEAR 2021 IN RETROSPECT

Despite the restrictions associated with keeping the COVID-19 safety protocols and also protecting lives, The Ark participated in a number of activities such as;

- ✓ Women's Health Fair held at the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons in October - a counseling and information Desk on gender-based violence was made available for participants.



- ✓ Loving Hands of Hope in collaboration with The Ark organized a medical outreach for four communities in the Eastern Region. A total of 150 participated in the screening exercise at the Golden Little Angels school premises at Tontro in the Eastern Region.
- ✓ In August, The Ark organized a sensitization session with traditional leaders of the Tontro community. The objective was to sensitize community leaders on domestic violence and how to respond to victims of violence. At the end of the session, women leaders in the community urged The Ark to have a separate session for women in subsequent encounters.



- ✓ A fundraiser garage sale first was held at the Dome Market on the 4th of December 2021 and at the Haasto Bus Station on 8th December 2021. The garage sale was another avenue for raising funds to support the Shelter as well as to promote the organization's ideals and causes to get the attention of victims, and potential volunteers, and donors.

Below are a few images shared of the fundraiser sales and campaign.



AYEKO DR. ANGELA DWAMENA-ABOAGYE



“Not everybody can be famous but everybody can be great because greatness is determined by service... You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.” (Dr. Martin Luther King Jnr)

The Executive Director of The Ark Foundation was selected as the **Humanitarian of the Year Honouree** for the 2021 Ghana

Women of the Year Honours. This is a Glitz Africa initiative which seeks to celebrate and recognize outstanding women who use their expertise, position and influence in various fields of endeavour to inspire others to make a difference in their communities in Ghana and Africa at large.

She was also nominated as one of the **100 – Most Influential Change Makers** by the Humanitarian Awards Global through its “Celebrating Unsung Heroes Project”. Warmest Congratulations to our ED Dr. Angela Dwamena-Aboagye on your well-deserved achievement! May God’s name alone be praised!

SUPPORT FOR VEHICLE ACQUISITION



In our previous half-year newsletter, we placed an appeal for funds to acquire a vehicle in order to facilitate the safe movement of clients to and from the Shelter. However, the target amount of **GHC 75,000** was not reached. So far, an amount of **GHC24,000** has been raised, thus, we still need an amount of **GHC51,000** to be able to reach our goal. The purpose of the vehicle will be to convey clients to the hospital, police, and courts, and for emergency purposes such as rescuing survivors from hostile environments or medical emergencies. The Domestic Violence Regulations, 2016 (LI 2237) which regulates the operation of shelters states that it is statutory for a shelter to have an operational vehicle. We are again, therefore, kindly requesting your support in raising the rest of the money in order to provide better services to our clients. Again, THANK YOU for considering giving towards such a worthy cause; and as always, your support is **INVALUABLE** to us and your money is safe with us with God as our help.

How you can make Cash Donations to The Ark

- MTN Mobile Money: +233 243 777 773
- Vodafone Cash: +233 501 071 065
- Bank Transfer: Ecobank, A/C 1441001929302, Reinsurance House.
- Find us on GlobalGiving and GoFundMe online and on our Shelter Fundraiser Website: <https://www.arksheltercampaign.org>
- Ecobank Account swift code/short code: ECOCGHAC 130131

To contact us for more information about The Ark Foundation, Ghana:

- Main Organization Website: <https://www.arkfoundationghana.org/cms/>
- Email: thearkgh@yahoo.co.uk/info@arkfoundationghana.org
- Hotline: +233 243 777 773//0501071065
- Head Office: Queen's Street, Block Factory, Haatso, off Atomic Energy Commission Road, Accra, Ghana

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The Ark: God is our Refuge and Strength! Psalm 46:1.