



# ORPHANS' HEROES

*Empowering Children to Rise Above Adversity*

Annual Report 2009





# Mission & Vision

*Empowering Children to Rise Above Adversity*

## Mission

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Orphans' Heroes (OH) helps children who are currently orphaned by empowering them with the tools necessary to succeed in life — shelter, education, nutrition, nurturing, and medical assistance — and become agents of change within their communities.

OH also addresses preventative measures to stop the progression of more vulnerable children becoming orphaned such as providing clean water, health care, education, and micro loans to impoverished families. We aim to help families keep children in the home and off the streets, or from becoming victims of child trafficking.

## Vision

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Our vision is to empower children of this generation to become productive citizens and in doing so they will become the driving force to make significant changes within their own communities. All the necessary support systems need to be in place; however, at the root of this change is education and instilling a belief in this generation that they in fact have the ability, knowledge, and power to effect change for their people. Orphans' Heroes seeks to shift the undercurrent of relying on outside sources to self-reliance.

# Letter from the President

Jennifer Millett-Barrett



*We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we're in a time when there are no heroes, they just don't know where to look.*  
- Ronald Reagan

As you look through the pages of this annual report, you will see the names and faces of many heroes — people with the compassion, conviction, and courage to change life for those less fortunate. These volunteers and donors shared a vision of a better future for orphaned and vulnerable children and came together to make a big impact on the lives of 160 children.

In this first year of Orphans' Heroes becoming a 501(c)3 organization, we have made significant strides in creating a model that works to help children rise above adversity and become productive citizens of their country. We built structures to house and educate the children and surrounded them with a support system of teachers and housemothers. We've not only created a rich learning environment, but also a wonderful play area for children to run, slide, and swing. We have also created a sponsorship program — a critical plan to ensuring sustainability.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of our donors. In the eyes of the children, every small gesture is grand. The volunteers who spend time with them, and the donors who feed, clothe, and educate them are their heroes.

It does not escape the children that you are giving them a future. If they could, they would hug every person who has contributed to making their life richer, and say *akpe ka ka ka* (thank you very much.) And then, they would sing and drum for you to express their love and gratitude.

I am deeply grateful to all who contributed to the success of our first year at Orphans' Heroes and enriched the lives of the children of Hohoe, Ghana.

Warm regards,

Jennifer Millett-Barrett  
Founder and President



# Letter from the Board

*Adriana Doyle*



*When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.  
– Ralph Waldo Emerson*



It has indeed been a remarkable year for Orphans' Heroes.

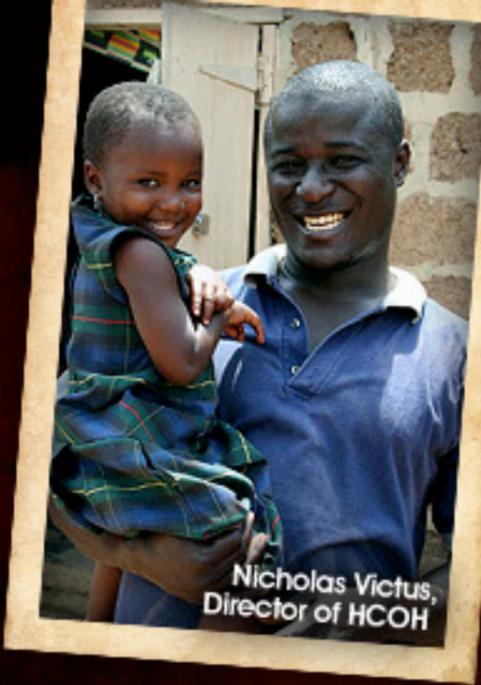
As a Board member, I join our president in celebrating the incredible work accomplished this past year through the generosity of our donors.

Our donors have enabled Orphans' Heroes to help children in need by providing aid in the form of food, shelter, education, and clean water.

It is an honor to be associated with this organization and to serve under such a committed and insightful president.

Let us join together to continue to fight poverty and enable these children to rise above adversity!

Adriana Doyle  
Member of the Board of Trustees



Nicholas Victus,  
Director of HCOH

# Improvements at HCOH

*Hohoe Christian Orphans' Home, Hohoe, Ghana*

Throughout the year, orphanage administration worked hard to improve the quality of life, level of education, and standard of living for day students and boarders. Orphans' Heroes donors graciously meet all of the challenges and supported its efforts.

Two areas of concern that were most important were education and nutrition. We expanded the staff and the teachers worked diligently to establish a challenging curriculum. Soon thereafter, as children were making wonderful progress, the orphanage held its first awards assembly where children were presented with certificates of achievement. Nutrition has been enhanced with the addition of more protein in the form of eggs and fish powder, along with additional servings of fruit and vegetables.

Donors and volunteers were very generous with in-kind donations, as many books, clothes, toiletries, games, teaching supplies, and soccer equipment were delivered throughout the year. With the soccer equipment and uniforms came the creation of the official HCOH soccer team, and the children enjoyed a year of competing with area schools.

One of the most exciting developments in 2009 was the addition of the playground. It started with swings, and grew to include a slide and merry-go-round. The children have enjoyed hours of fun each day until the last bit of light can be seen in the sky.

These are just a few highlights of some of the ways in which the orphanage administration, Orphans' Heroes, and donors have helped to create an enriching environment for the children who attend school and board at the orphanage. Moving forward, we will continue to evaluate the needs of the children and always focus on how best to support them in life.



# Sponsorship Program

*Hohoe Christian Orphans' Home and the HCOH Town School*

The Hohoe Christian Orphans' Home (HCOH) cares for and educates 40 full-time boarders and 40 day students. The children officially moved into the home in May of 2008, and the sponsorship program was launched shortly thereafter. In addition, 80 children from the new HCOH Town School are included in the sponsorship program.

The sponsorship program is vital to the success and sustainability of the orphanage and both schoolhouses. The fees have been carefully calculated to include all operating costs in caring for and educating the children. Unlike other programs, this sponsorship program is unique in that 30% of the funds are earmarked to an account designated solely for future higher education for the children. It is our goal to ensure that every child receives, at minimum, a secondary or vocational school education.

Educating children is a big part of our mission. Poverty and lack of education are too commonly found throughout Ghana and other countries. It has become systemic, passed down from generation to generation. We believe that providing an education for children is a fundamental step in breaking the cycle of poverty.

Not only does sponsorship provide an important function of supporting operating costs, but it also boosts the children's self-esteem. When children receive a sponsor, they feel that someone out there cares about their well-being. When children believe they are of value, it raises their desire and commitment to become a productive citizen.

Our sponsors receive updates about their children a couple of times a year, which often includes hand written letters from the children and general updates about life at the orphanage. The administration welcomes letters and photographs sent to the children by their sponsors as well. The children enjoy getting to know their sponsors from around the world, and learning about where their sponsors live.

The sponsorship program is off to a good start in 2009. It is our goal to have every child sponsored at both the Hohoe Christians Orphans' Home and the HCOH Town School. Our sponsorship program will grow to include children from other homes and schools that support orphans and vulnerable children as our projects expand.





## The HCOH Town School

*Hohoe, Ghana*

The Hohoe Christian Orphans' Home owns and operates an orphanage and two schoolhouses. One schoolhouse is located on the orphanage property on a lovely, spacious plot of land, while the other is located in the center of Hohoe and is referred to as the HCOH Town School.

The Town School was where it all began. It was the original schoolhouse — two decaying buildings that served to educate children before there was even an orphanage. As a temporary arrangement, children attended school and then stayed over night with housemothers throughout town.

When the orphanage and schoolhouse were built on the edge of town, the children who attended the old Town School moved to the new orphanage schoolhouse. The old Town School was to be turned into a daycare center to offer assistance to working mothers. As the economy declined, more parents faced the difficulty of not being able to pay government school fees. The orphanage and Town School director, Nicholas Victus, was increasingly approached by parents and asked if their children could attend the Town School.

(continued)

## The New Town School

By the summer of 2009, the day care center had once again expanded to a school and 80 children attended daily. Since the school was staffed only with volunteers expecting to baby-sit young children, it was not properly equipped to be a formal schoolhouse for all grade levels. The environment was chaotic and needed to be addressed.

We decided to transform the school from the inside out and quickly hired three college educated teachers to create structure in the classroom. This alone made a huge improvement.

Since the property on which the school was built was too small to accommodate the number of children adequately during playtime, we purchased the adjacent piece of property. This doubled the size of the property, and also gave the children a place to play under an area shaded by trees.

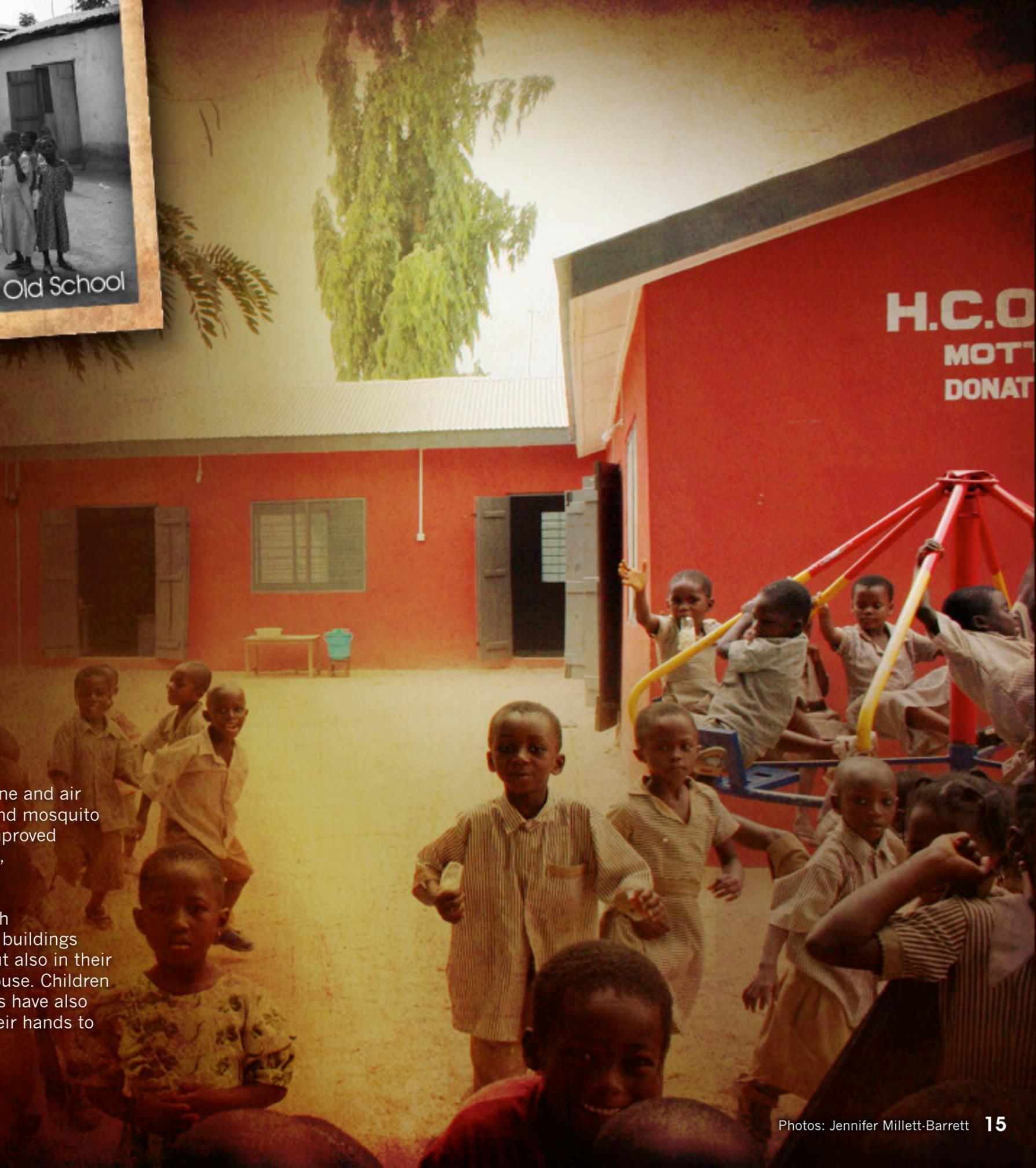
The two buildings that made up the Town School were in need of structural repairs and a donor offered to contribute toward the repairs. On the first day of construction, the workers took off the roof of one of the buildings and the entire structure collapsed into a pile of rubble. This was a blessing in disguise, as these buildings could easily have collapsed when school was in session.

The family who made the contribution toward repairing the buildings stepped forward and generously donated the funds to completely rebuild both buildings. In starting from the ground up, we were able to build the school the way we wanted, and made significant improvements to the new buildings.

The rooms are divided up into smaller age-appropriate classrooms. Plenty of sunshine and air filter through the many windows. The children have ceiling fans to keep them cool, and mosquito netting on the windows to keep them safe from Malaria. A western-style toilet has improved sanitary conditions. The playground is spacious and is equipped with swings, a slide, and a merry-go-round.

Orphans' Heroes is pleased with the classroom structure that has taken place at both schoolhouses with professional teachers and a revised curriculum, and the beautiful buildings and grounds. The students are equally as happy. It shows not only in their smiles, but also in their grades. In just one year, striking progress has been made at the orphanage schoolhouse. Children who could not say their ABCs are now reading. In just a few short months, big strides have also been made at the Town School. Children are sitting quietly and obediently raising their hands to answer questions, and are eager to learn.

160 children are well on their way to becoming productive citizens.



# Volunteer Program

*At the height of laughter, the universe is flung into a kaleidoscope of new possibilities.*

*- Jean Houston*

How is it possible that children who have lost so much, and have so little are overflowing with joy? This is what many volunteers who have visited the Hohoe Christian Orphans' Home (HCOH) in Ghana have asked. Many go to Ghana with the idea that they are lending their experience to help some needy children, but return home realizing that they learned more from the children, especially how to appreciate the small joys in life.

Laughter is indeed healing, and certainly an endearing quality of the people of Ghana. As people spend time with the children at the orphanage, and learn more about them, volunteers come to truly admire the resilience of the children in the face of adversity. Visitors discover how the children appreciate simple pleasures, are grateful for any small gesture given to them, and have a thirst for knowledge. It was this mix of joy, gratitude, and enthusiasm that helped plant the roots for Orphans' Heroes in Ghana to create new possibilities for the children of Ghana.

The volunteer program was created by the director of the orphanage, Nicholas Victus, with the help of a handful of people who were the first volunteers on site. Orphans' Heroes proudly supports the volunteer program on its website, promotional materials, and by being actively engaged in answering questions about the volunteer experience at the orphanage and Town School.

Volunteers from all over the world visit the orphanage and connect with the children through teaching, playing games, dancing, singing, sharing meals...and plenty of laughing.

# Thank You

## Leadership giving to Orphans' Heroes

Our leadership donors set an example of philanthropy. We cannot express enough gratitude for the unparalleled generosity of these contributors.

### Visionary: over \$15,000

Colleen and Steve Carrico

### Angel: \$10,000-\$15,000

Anonymous  
Lisa and Kenneth Stewart

### Humanitarian: \$5,000-\$9,999

Lisa and Bernard Seltz

### Guardian: \$3,000-\$4,999

Jennifer Millett-Barrett and Bill Barrett  
Servpro, James D. Young Co.

### Benefactor: \$1,000-\$2,999

Carol and Mike Allen  
Hillary Barnard  
Vicki Blumberg  
Beth and William Gotha  
Shelley and Ron Hansen  
Arthur Hewett  
Cindy and Mark Manson  
Laurie and Wesley Millett  
Barbara and Peter Mitchell  
Printech (Ed Furci & Carmine Furci)  
Tova and Christopher Sido



### Donor Tribute

Special Thanks to Colleen and Steve Carrico  
of the Carrico Family Foundation

When the HCOH Town School was showing marks of instability, and too many children were crammed into the tiny courtyard, the Carricos felt compelled to help expand the property and make the necessary repairs to the buildings to create a safer learning environment for the children. They offered to pay for the purchase of the property and all of the structural repairs.

And when the buildings crumbled after the roof was taken off, the Carricos did not hesitate to underwrite the construction of a new Town School from the ground up. The result has been not only been transformational in classroom and play space, but for the children themselves — in their behavior, desire to learn, attendance, and performance.

Thank you to “Sister Colleen” and “Brother Steve” from all the children at the HCOH Town School, Nicholas, and “Sister Jennifer.”

# Thank You

*to our generous donors and sponsors*

We feel blessed by the Circle of Friends who supported our efforts throughout the year. We are truly fortunate to have such caring and thoughtful friends who make our mission to care for orphaned and vulnerable children possible.

## Circle of Friends

Lynne and Chris Abston  
Carly Allen-Martin and Blake Martin  
Lindsay Allen  
Katherine W. Alpert  
Anonymous  
Christie Aronow  
Janet Arrington  
Robin Bagwell  
Lori and Michael Bannon  
Kim and John Barrett  
Meg Bassett  
Byron Bateman  
Bruce Berman  
Michael S. Berman  
Betty Bowman  
Nancy and Kevin Boyle  
David Bullinger  
Dana Lou Bunten  
Ginger Carlin  
Glen Carter  
Jary Carter  
Lesley Clover-Brown  
Sallie Cochran  
Kristie Condry  
Kathryn Crow  
CDR Insurance Group  
Custom X-Ray Markers  
Kerry L. Dantzig  
Pam and Dean Davis  
Darlene Devries  
Jennifer Dieke  
Jessica and Phillip Dieke  
Adriana Doyle  
Bronwyn Dunne  
Aggy and Charlie Duveen  
Melissa Eastman  
Nancy Edwards

Samantha Ellinwood  
Michael Ernst  
Alyssa and Eric Faulkner  
Drew Fessenden  
Emily Fritz  
Michelle Gass  
Lori Glanzer  
Joe Gould  
Richard M. Granpre  
Cynthia and Kenneth Grantham  
Dawn Greenwood  
Roxanne Harmon  
Christi Hernandez  
Catherine Hightower  
Tara L. Hoover  
Erwin Kaufman  
Doug Kemme  
Ann Kibler  
Diane Komodromos  
Catherine Koonsman  
Melissa and George Lamb  
Erin Lamon  
Andrew Lawrence  
Carla Leffert  
Annette and Craig Leslie  
Angela Lovell  
Lauri and Thomas Leuder  
Janet Madigan  
Kim and Jeff McAdams  
Allison McAfee  
Pamela Marth  
Amy May  
Alison McIntosh  
Dave Merullo  
Deborah and David Michel  
Lee Ann Millard  
Sara Moody

Elizabeth Moir  
Edward Moreland  
Minnette Murray  
Jennifer A. Murphy  
Leigh Myers  
Carol Nelson  
Kelly Noblin  
Susan and Dennis Noebel  
Robin Novak  
Piper and Eric Olivo  
B. Scott and Erin Olson  
Linda Pagillo  
Staci and Frank Pryor  
Kersten Rettig  
Linda Riek  
Rippowam Cisqua School  
Jacqueline V. Ross and  
Blanca A. Velasquez  
Shannan Sanchez  
Joyce Sanders-Collie  
Drew Seelman  
Paula Sutton  
Elle Taft  
Anuj Uppal  
Matt Vaughn  
Cynthia Wagner  
George and Marth Wainstrath  
Keyea Webster  
Anne Wenaas  
Claudia Williams  
Sandra Wilson  
Melissa Wise  
Diana Wood  
Sarah Cameron Wynne and  
Thomas D. Williams  
Judy Ziller

## Sponsors

Sponsors are the lifeline of the Hohoe Christian Orphans' Home and the HCOH Town School. They provide consistent monthly funding throughout the year. Our deepest thanks goes to every sponsor who recognizes the importance of providing stability to the operation of these institutions, and a future education for the children.

Hillary Barnard  
Hope Catterton  
Linda Catterton  
Nancy and Andrew Kirby  
Cindy and Mark Manson  
Kim and Jeff McAdams  
Laurie and Wesley Millett  
Rebecca Zarin Pass  
Matt Vaughn  
Fran Vaughn



## Operations and Funds Distribution

At Orphans' Heroes our pledge is to maintain effective outreach by being good stewards of the funds entrusted to us. Contributions to Orphans' Heroes are tax deductible as allowed by law.

## Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

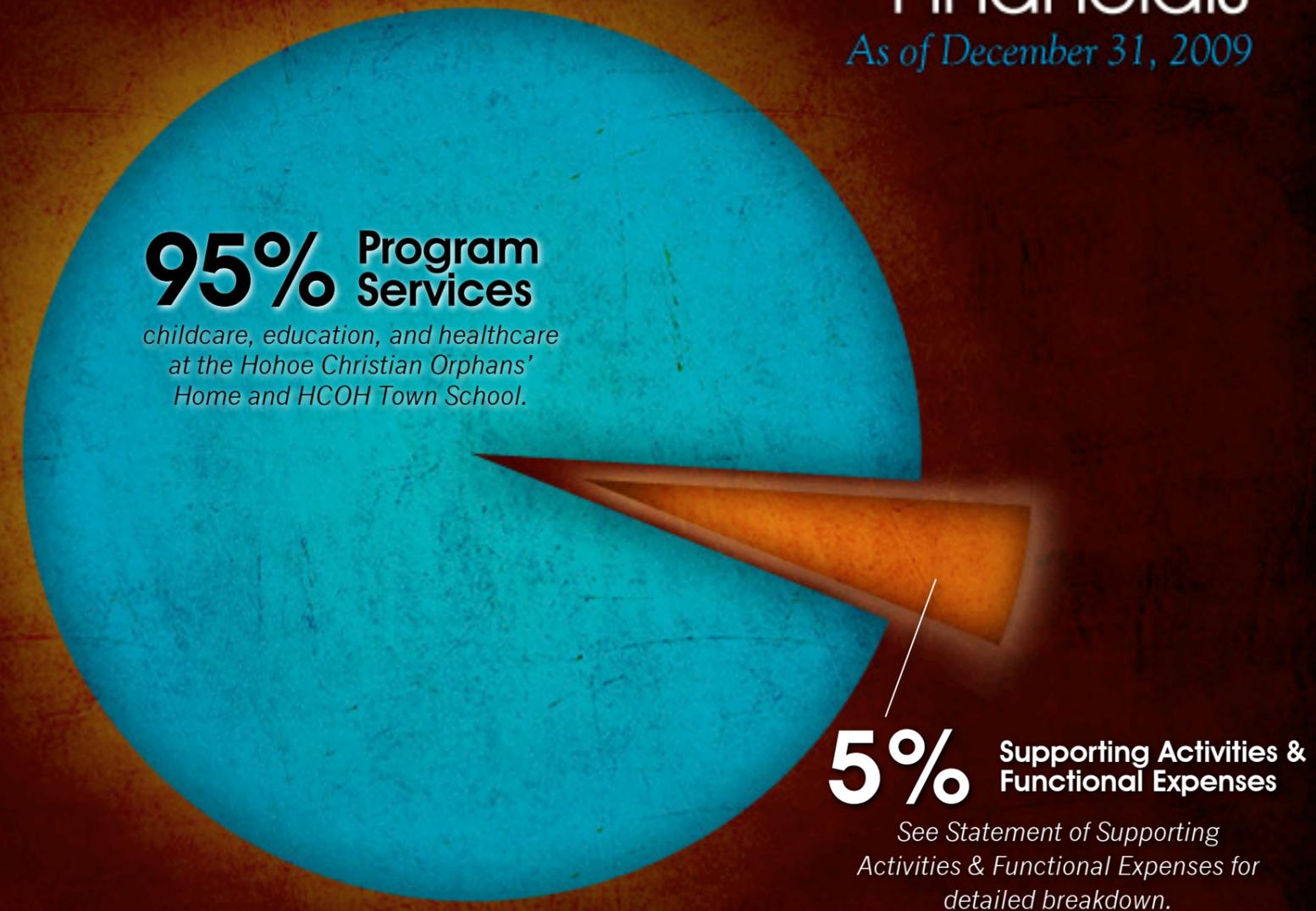
### Support and Revenue

Restricted	\$89,005.70
Temporarily Restricted	\$10,000.00
Unrestricted	\$10,037.70

Total Assets	\$109,533.40
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### Expenses

Program Services <i>HCOH (Orphanage and Town School)</i>	\$82,807.70
Supporting Activities/Functional Expenses	\$4,369.92



## Statement of Supporting Activities/Functional Expenses

<b>Program Services</b>	
In-kind donations to HCOH	\$2,921.70
Hohoe Christian Orphans' Home	\$29,404.00
HCOH Town School	\$50,482.00
<b>Supporting Activities</b>	
Utilities	\$1,385.17
Wiring Fees	\$509.89
Web/Newsletter Communications	\$585.83
Office Supplies	\$138.14
USPS/Mailing	\$241.19
Independent Contractors in Ghana	\$350.00
Travel	\$1,159.70
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$87,177.62</b>



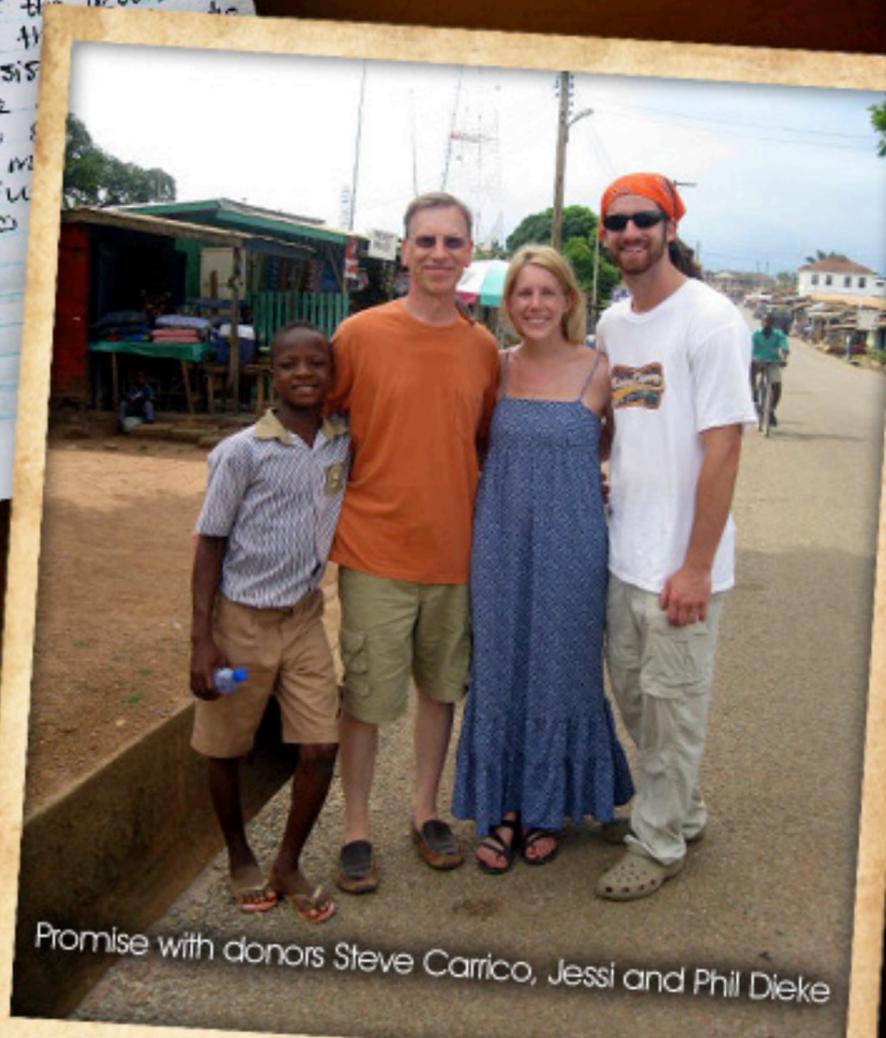
# Thank You

In the words of the children

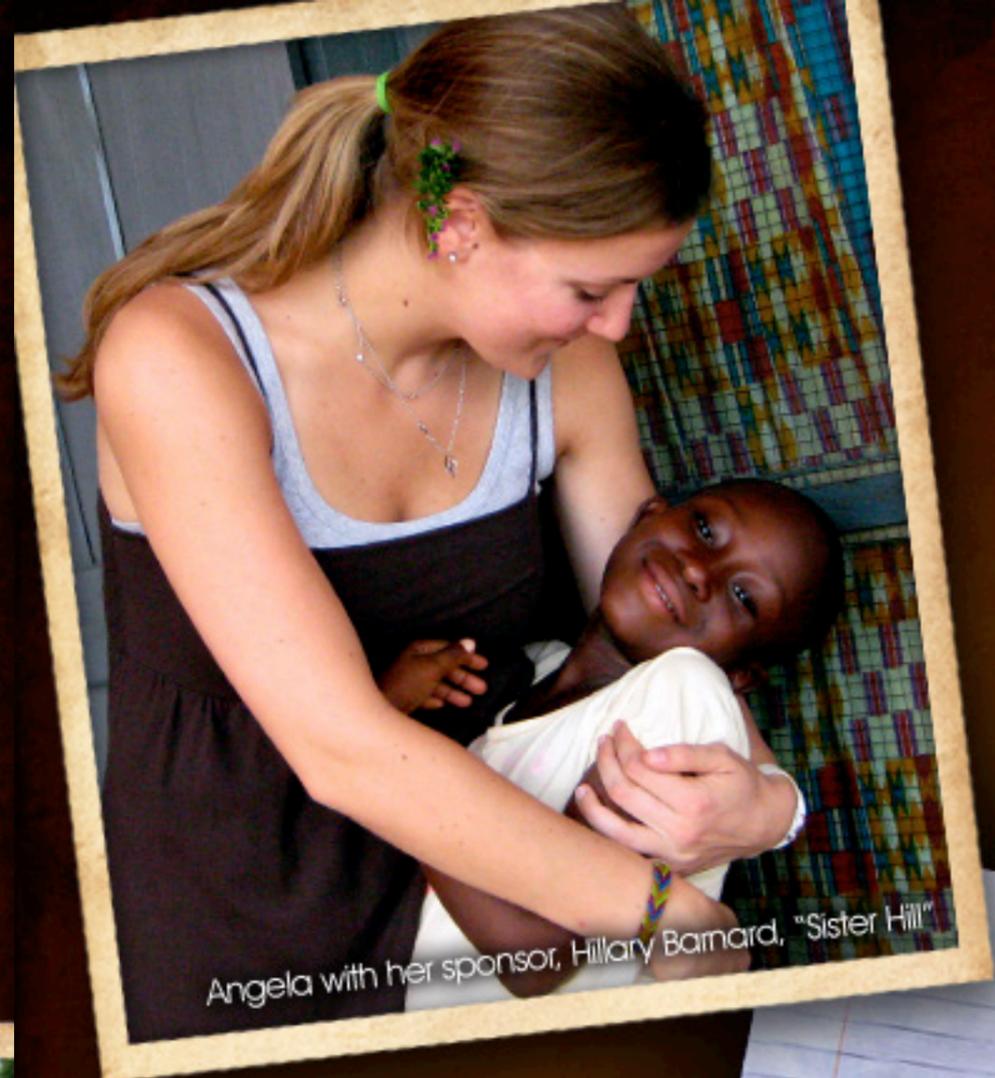
Dear Donors  
 It is my greatest pleasure to write you this letter. I just want to thank you for your great work done for the orphanage. The time I was at home I don't know my father because since I was born and he ran away from me so I don't know my father my mother also don't have a lot of money to take good care of me and we also don't have a house so I sleep on the streets. And one day I heard about this orphanage and I climb a coconut tree to make my own money and come here because I know that orphanage can help something in future. The time I come people think I know a lot so I was put in the first grade because I don't know how to read I was sent to class three to learn the sound of the letters. So now I know how to read. My teacher and Mr Felix they are mixy and I can also see the orphanage is helping in something great in future.  
 All My Love to Donors.  
 from Promise

"So now I can read...I can also see that the orphanage is helping me to become something great in the future."

-Promise



Promise with donors Steve Carrico, Jessi and Phil Dieke



Angela with her sponsor, Hillary Barnard, "Sister Hill"

"I will never forget you in my life... in the future, I will be a doctor."

-Angela

Hohoe Christian Orphanage Home  
 P.O. Box 569  
 Hohoe, Volta-Region  
 Ghana

Dear brother Donors,  
 How are you. I am happy to write you this letter. I will like to see your face. I will never get back home till you have come I miss you very much. I like to read and I don't in p.4 I will never forget it and I don't how are you families. I hope they are fine by the grace of God. I like to do whatever the kids are doing. I will do in future I will like to be a Doctor. bye well

LOVE FROM ANGELA EO brother  
 Donors. please write me back

# Looking Ahead

*The future of Orphans' Heroes*

Orphans' Heroes plans to deepen and expand its relationship with the children of Ghana. We will continue to support the Hohoe Christian Orphans' Home and HCOH Town School in its mission to educate and nurture the children of Hohoe. We will help HCOH grow its sponsorship program, while assisting them with ideas to help the orphanage become self-sustainable.

In 2010, Orphans' Heroes plans to launch the OH Freedom Project which will take us to other areas of Ghana. Through the OH Freedom Project we will research the underlying causes of child slavery in Ghana, and work to address this critical issue.



# Be a hero.



## Board of Directors

*The leadership of Orphans' Heroes*

Jennifer Millett-Barrett, *President*

Meg Barnes, *Director*

Bill Barrett, *Director*

Adriana Doyle, *Director*

Brandon Millett, *Director*

Our donors are extremely important to the life of our organization and we make every effort to insure accuracy in reporting their names. If we have made an error of any kind, please accept our sincere apology and bring it to our attention so that we may correct our records. Please email Jennifer Millett-Barrett at [jen@orphansheroes.org](mailto:jen@orphansheroes.org) with any corrections.

# Orphans Heroes

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Annual Report designed by Hillary Barnard  
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Photo: Kathleen Ismail