



**TOUCH A LIFE**  
2020 YEAR-END REPORT

# BACK *to the* BASICS

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE





**LETTER** *from*  
**PAM COPE &  
BERNARD FIANKU**

The Touch A Life family continues to grow and change year after year, but one thing remains constant: our roots run deep. This year COVID-19 has turned the world's sense of normality upside down, and Touch A Life was not exempt from challenges.

Over the years Touch A Life has slowly been working towards a self-sustaining model. When the pandemic took the world by surprise, we were forced to go back to the basics. Here are some of the steps we took to protect our children, staff, and facility:

- Acquiring healthy food was our top priority. Plans were also made to augment food provision and expand our existing farming projects to enable the Care Center to have sufficient produce, meat, and other groceries. We try to grow what we can and buy what we cannot grow.
- We took bold action to lock down the Care Center. No one went out, and no one came in. Supplies were dropped off as needed. Hygiene protocols were strictly observed by all children and staff.
- Medical services were mostly done through a remote option to prevent unnecessary interaction with people suspected of having encountered the coronavirus.
- We provided enough internet devices and data for our students who transitioned to e-learning during the lockdown period.

As a team, we came together to address a crisis that none of us had ever faced before. The children were especially a beacon of hope: they served as a reminder that all things can be rescued, restored, and renewed.

Thank you for your support—during the worldwide pandemic, your generosity has meant more than ever.

*Sincerely,*

**Pam Cope (Co-Founder) and Bernard Fianku (Ghana Country Director)**

# OUR NEW NORMAL

BY ESTHER YANKYERA, ORGANIZATIONAL LEAD

As the Organizational Lead for Touch A Life, I live and work in Ghana as a mentor and leader for the college-aged students in our nonprofit's care. I assist the students with academic planning, financial budgeting, housing, compliance with Touch A Life's programming, and mentorship training. But beyond logistics, I focus on developing relationships with each student so I can know and understand his or her dreams and goals, and then to help each student achieve them. I am so proud of how our students handled the adversity they faced during the worldwide pandemic. They not only stepped up in the face of fear and uncertainty but they tackled this new season of life with ferocity and grace. Here is what a few students had to say about their new normal:



"The COVID-19 crisis came as a big surprise and a lot of adjustments had to be made, which has become our new normal now. But for me the most exciting adjustment was the switch from in-person classes to online lessons—it has been a really neat experience."

**BERNARD**



"Keeping our environment extra clean and making a conscious effort to live healthier lives has become the normal thing now. I believe it is making us more conscious of some very important life issues."

**MARY**



"The outbreak of COVID-19 brought about strict restrictions, and that was quite difficult to deal with, but now we are living a normal life with these regulations because we have come to understand that our safety is the first priority."

**GODISKING**

The darkness of this pandemic seems never-ending, and the idea of dawn seems like a faraway dream. With the promise of dawn we are assured that this chaos shall pass, and we will find calmness—we will hug the people that we love again. We will find normal again—not normal as we used to know it, but normal as we have come to adjust and adapt to.



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While we have been making strides as an organization towards being a more sustainable program for a few years now, the global pandemic has reminded us now more than ever of the importance of being able to support our children and staff in Ghana by cultivating the essentials right on site at the Care Center. As much of the global market has shut down due to the coronavirus, we want to look back to simpler times for inspiration. Over the course of the past several months, we have taken major leaps in two main areas:





## FARMING & ANIMAL CULTIVATION

Since 2016, we have been raising pigs at the Care Center. Over the years, our staff members have honed their skills and become efficient in raising and managing the pigs in healthy and humane ways.

This year, we embarked upon a unique project: snail cultivation! Snails are a critical part of both the farming project on our site and a nutritional food source for our children and staff.

We have received partial funding to develop a very large chicken coop. Want to help us complete this project? See page 6 for more details!

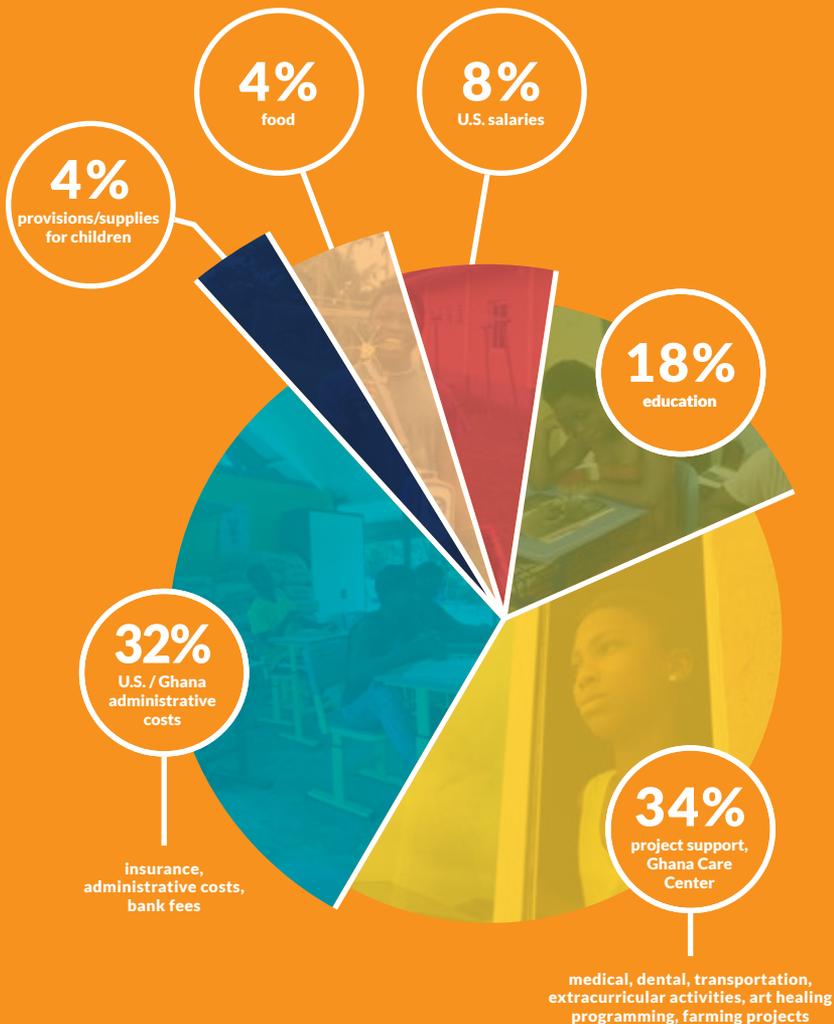


## EDUCATION

In January 2020, we announced that we opened a primary school on site at the Care Center—this was such an exciting development for us! Our school exists to customize each formerly trafficked child's education needs using Social-Emotional learning curriculum. Because most of our children are illiterate when we receive them, this will help accommodate and support their needs. The curriculum teaches critical social competencies necessary for academic and life success such as resiliency, self-management, and decision-making skills.



# HOW YOUR DOLLARS ARE BEING SPENT





# OUR FOCUS: BACK *to the* BASICS

As we look into the future, our focus is getting **back to the basics**, and we need your help. Would you join us by donating today to support our first phase of our sustainability projects at the Care Center? Once these are completed, we have dreams of solar projects, fish farming, a pineapple farm, and more!



## WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM \$10,000

Investing in a high-quality water purification system will save us \$1,200 per year, as we will no longer have the need to purchase drinking water.



## FARMING PROJECTS \$8,000

We have needs for new tools, new seed packets, and additional farm equipment.



## CHICKEN COOP \$7,000

While we have raised chickens at the Care Center for several years, we are making a leap by building a much larger chicken coop that will not only be home to our feathered friends but will serve as a hub for egg production. Generous donors have already given \$4,000 to complete the first phase of this project—will you help us finish it?

For more information on how we are getting **back to the basics** visit [TOUCHALIFEKIDS.ORG/BASICS](https://TOUCHALIFEKIDS.ORG/BASICS)

VISIT [TOUCHALIFEKIDS.ORG/GIVE](https://TOUCHALIFEKIDS.ORG/GIVE) TO MAKE YOUR DONATION.



# TOUCH A LIFE

400 East Royal Lane  
Building Three, Suite 290  
Irving, TX 75039



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