## A Special Kind Of Family

Ghana's Children Of Hope Orphanage

Story and photos by Teresa and Andrew Allen







You are invited to Asebu, Ghana, and the humble home of 17 happy, smiley, and bouncy Children of Hope.

Running to meet us is little Olivia. Her welcome gifts to us are her smile, laughter, kindness, and love of learning.





The Children of Hope are proud to introduce us to their goats. These lucky goats couldn't have better caretakers — or friends — than the Children of Hope.

Pictured here are Margaret, Elvis, Paul, Samuel, Joseph, ... and, of course, the goats.





Twice a day, the Children of Hope collect fresh water for meals and baths. Their home does not have electricity or running water, so the children walk a mile to and from the water source, carrying buckets on their heads.

Pictured here are Joshua, Elvis, Paul, Joseph, John, and Teresa.





Two kind women care for the Children of Hope, day and night. And on Sundays, they spend many hours making the children's favorite food: fu fu!

Fu fu is a traditional Ghanaian dish made from pounded cassava root and is served with a savory stew.

Pictured here are "Aunties" Esther and Georgina.





The Children of Hope are always very helpful. They assist Aunties Esther and Georgina with cooking, cleaning, and caring for the younger children.

Pictured here are Andrew and Sammy, fanning the coals to cook stew. Elvis "supervises" in the background.





The Children of Hope are also very bright. They love to do homework! In fact, they can't get enough of it.

Whenever volunteers Andrew and Teresa visited them, the Children of Hope chanted: "More homework, more homework."

Pictured here are Joshua, Grace, Samuel, Joseph, Christie, and Sammy.



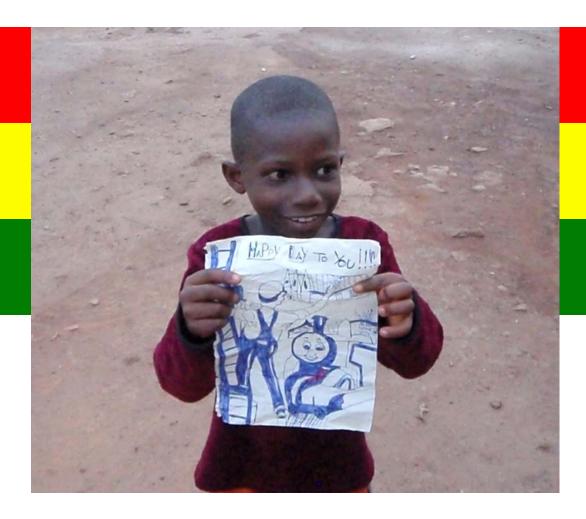


The Children of Hope love to play games and teach visitors games, as well.

The Children of Hope could spend all day playing games — once they finished their homework and chores, that is.

Pictured here are Margaret, Christie, Teresa, Clement, Joseph, Ruth, and Grace.





Even though the children have very few toys, books, pencils, and pens, they have great fun using their imaginations and creativity.

Pictured here is Joshua and his work of art.





The Children of Hope are very good friends to each other and everyone who comes to visit them.

Pictured with Andrew are Christie, Priscilla, Paul, Samuel, Clement, Joseph, and Joshua.





The Children of Hope made Teresa and Andrew feel welcomed and loved every time they visited their home.

The children helped Teresa and Andrew learn about life in Asebu, Ghana.

Pictured with Teresa are Christie, Charity, Grace, Elvis, Margaret, and Auntie Esther.





It's very hard to say farewell to good friends. Teresa and Andrew wished they never had to leave Ghana. But the time came for them to return to the United States.

Pictured here are Andrew and a very sad Olivia.







Teresa and Andrew have many wonderful memories, thanks to the Children of Hope and Program Director Elvis Donkoh.

Pictured here are some of Andrew and Teresa's favorite memories from their time in Asebu, Ghana.











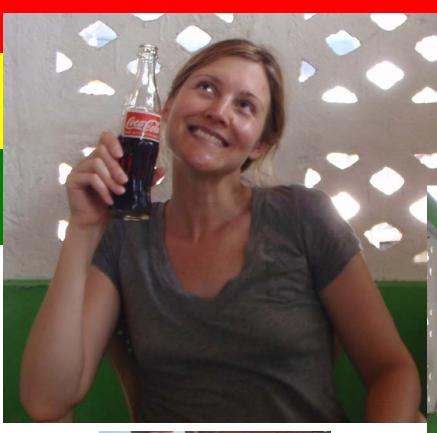














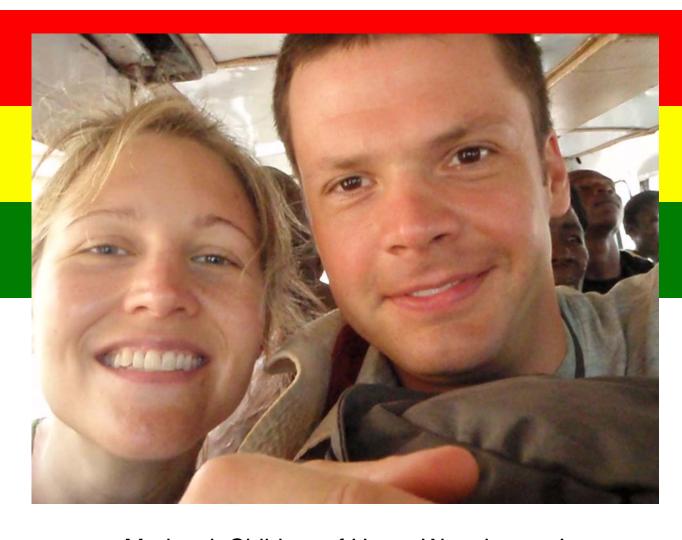












Medaasi, Children of Hope. We miss you!

- Andrew and Teresa Allen





Asebu, Ghana, home to the Children of Hope

