

Concept Proposal for Partners/Donors re: *Preschool Equity Education, Garden & Minipark*

ANNEX 1: Pictures of 3 years progression

Founders Building Donated, and the Conversion thereof to a Learning through Play Daycare



After some two years of conversion founders and stakeholders are happy the dream is realized



Innovation Strategy is using the world around OSL - Kids Learning Garden under development



Daycare opened 18 October 2021. Next OSL Strategy use space to develop Learning Minipark



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Context

One Step Learning daycare opened in October 2021. Now the mission is to sustain the establishment through quality education and innovative ideas for learning – The Project.

We need benefactors to help us pay for operational needs, purchase a bus/van, build a Learning Minipark or Playground, .and to maintain the Learning Garden. Stakeholders, donors and philanthropists whose interests align with OSL will be recognized by name and awards.

Basic Project Information

Title	Preschool Equity Education, Garden and Minipark
Organization	<i>One Step Learning Opportunities Centre (OSL)</i> – a Canadian Charity
Duration	3 years, 2022 - 2024 (based on 2020 – 2024 Strategic Plan)
Country and Sector	Ghana Early Childhood Education (and Empowerment of Women and Girls)
PARTNER/DONOR Funding sought	\$98,000
Contributions	Partner/Donors support operational needs and capital items. No funding will be used to pay students' school fees. Parents pay the token low affordable fees for feeding and sanitation.
Revenue	Yes B (school fees) (Learning Garden & Minipark are non-commercial)
Contact	John Hagan, President, Tel: 780-717-4055, Email: jcbhagan@telus.net
Signatories	John Hagan and Celestina Hagan, Co-founders of (OSL)
Partners	Not yet. We are looking for partners, donors. philanthropists

Development Challenge

Entumbil is an impoverished farming community in Ghana. Majority of the population are girls and women who are mostly illiterate and unemployed. Ghana Statistical 2010 Population Census District Analytical Report¹ <https://new-ndpc-static1.s3.amazonaws.com/CACHES/PUBLICATIONS/2016/06/06/AJUMAKO+ENYAN+-+ESIAM.pdf> indicates the majority of the population are female (53.3% females, 46.7% males) whose rates of literacy and education trail behind their male counterparts. The Report states that “among the male population...3 years and older 12.5 percent has never attended school”, while “among the female 26.9 percent never attended school”. This points to a disparity in educational opportunities for females in the district.

The challenge is rural children have potential, but rural towns like Entumbil lack the means to elevate children’s talents and abilities so that the children can acquire lifelong learning skills. UNICEF Ghana states the Challenge “Many girls do not have the chance to get an education mainly because of poverty, gender and long distances to school.” [[www.unicef.org>Ghana>girls_education/Early childhood education UNICEF/UNI123643](http://www.unicef.org/Ghana>girls_education/Early_childhood_education_UNICEF/UNI123643)]

Entumbil environment offers natural resources for learning if an opportunity is created. There was no preschool facility until 18 October 2021, when One Step Learning started a daycare after three years of hard work.

Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy states “eliminating barriers to equality and helping to create better opportunities, women and girls can be powerful agents of change...This

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is a powerful way to reduce poverty for everyone”. The Policy “recognizes that supporting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is the best way...to close gender gaps...”.

Solution

What:

The founders of *One Step Learning Opportunities Centre*, (OSL) are addressing the need for local early childhood education facilities by establishing a Learning-Through-Play daycare. The charity charges affordable low early childhood learning fees for the impoverished community.

The successful initiation of OSL in Entumbil is a direct result of the founders’ charitable donation of a large, fenced compound building for the daycare and registration of a charitable organization in Canada to manage the daycare’s affairs. Facts are 22 (70%) of the 32 enrolled are girls, whose parents can now pursue gainful employment or careers. There are another 68 children waiting for admission when resources become available. 7 (70%) of 10 jobs created by OSL in Entumbil are occupied by women. OSL goals align with Canada’s international assistance priority objective to empower children, especially girls, to advance literacy, prosperity, and gender equality in the community.

OSL’s model supports Canada’s international assistance priority objective of innovation in international assistance by enabling a locally driven solution to address the development challenge of disparity in female and male literacy and education rates. Receipt of PARTNER/DONOR funding for OSL would be a demonstration of the Policy’s aim to support “scaling up of new solutions to development challenges”; that will result in these **Outcomes**:

- Rural children, especially girls, get the opportunity to learn through play, be happy and healthy, and become learners of tomorrow.
- Children’s parents, who are mostly single, low-income, or unemployed get a chance to pursue gainful employment or careers
- Employment is created in the Entumbil community.
- Stakeholders whose goals align with OSL are recognized in this little corner of the world.
- Reduced disparity in literacy and education rates between females and males

Who:

OSL, is a Canadian registered charity, a qualified donee whose mind and control are in Edmonton Alberta. Canadians who are interested to reach out and help children will be engaged in order to streamline their generosity and intentions. Entumbil area families, particularly preschool aged children, will be direct beneficiaries of the OSL activities. When at full capacity of 100 children, there will be 24 jobs available, 70% of which will be reserved for women inline with the current trend. Majority of Entumbil preschool children are rural girls mostly cared for by their low-income or unemployed mothers. Again, 70% of the students will be girls who will learn.

UNICEF [www.unicef.org>Ghana>girls education/Early childhood education 123643] states that “By providing all young children between 0 to 8 years, equal access to quality health, nutrition,

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protection, early learning services, support to parents and caregivers ..., we build a strong foundation for a child's life." The Entumbil community fully supports the initiative and has readily volunteered some \$10,000 in services. The town representatives accompanied the founders for OSL certifications at the Municipal and Social Welfare offices.

Where:

The Head Office of OSL is in Edmonton Alberta Canada. The registered charitable daycare for OSL purposes is located in Entumbil, Ghana. Ghana Statistics Report describes "Ajumako-Enyan-Essiam District is one of the twenty (20) districts in Central Region of Ghana" and Entumbil is a rural community with some 12 other towns within a 10km radius. The surrounding towns' citizens also want to attend OSL in Entumbil when transportation become available.

When:

The daycare project has been three years in the making, since 2018 to opening on October 18, 2021. The funds requested are for the next three years 2022 to 2024, as per OSL 2020 – 2024 Strategic Plan.

The OSL progression to date is (See Annex 1): 1) Conversion of donated building to a daycare, 2) Daycare opened 18 October 2021 for classes, 3) Start an innovative Kids Learning Garden, 4) Operate the daycare, and 5) Undertake innovative improvement projects for sustainability.

Why:

UNICEF's Early Childhood Development (ECD) program in Ghana² was established following UNICEF's identification that "43 per cent of children less than five years old are not achieving their full potential. This could be because they do not receive the five elements of 'nurturing care' for children". UNICEF identifies these elements as health, nutrition, early stimulation, learning opportunities and protection.

OSL agrees strongly with the philosophies of the proven UNICEF ECD program and seeks to provide children with the "elements of nurturing care for children" through its innovative integrated curriculum in the Learning-Through-Play approach of early childhood education. OSL anticipates this will be successful in rural Entumbil as children will have opportunity to apply lessons learned at daycare to assisting parents in home life and the world around them. UNICEF's experience is that exposure to early childhood education and access to the "elements of nurturing care for children" will help to drive continued learning.

How:

To accommodate affordability for the predominantly lower income families, OSL charges:

- one-time registration fee of GHC20 (twenty Ghana cedis, i.e., \$5 CAD or \$4 USD),
- daily attendance fee of GHC3 (three Ghana cedis, i.e., \$0.75 CAD or \$0.60 cents USD).

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These fees only cover feeding for the children and sanitation supplies. The projected monthly staff salaries and operating expenses of \$3,500 can only be provided through voluntary donations and contributions by willing sponsors and partners like me. The OSL goals align with Canada's Gender Equality objectives and PARTNER/DONOR priorities. OSL founders in addition to donating a \$241,000 building for the daycare, have contributed \$37,000 the last three years to open the daycare facility on 18 October 2021. The PARTNER/DONOR funding will be used to supplement payments of:

50% of Payroll, 2022 - 2024	\$30,000
50% of Payroll Benefit expenses, 2022 - 2024	\$6,000
Operate and maintain Learning Garden, 2022 - 2024	\$6,000
Computer education equipment and supplies	\$5,000
Education Supplies and Materials	\$5,000
Staff Training and Development, 2022 - 2024	\$4,000
Minipark equipment (suppliers contacted)	\$32,000
Construction of Minipark (Vendors and local tradesmen visited)	\$10,000
TOTAL PARTNER/DONOR Funds	\$98,000
Other Contribution Sources	
Volunteer services valued at \$20,000	---
Shipping, Freight and duties	\$15,000
Founders donation of land space for Learning Garden and Minipark	\$30,000
Transportation – Van/Used School Bus	\$25,000
Other donors/partners	\$25,000
TOTAL Other contributors	\$95,000
GRAND TOTAL FUNDS needed 2022 - 2024	\$193,000

Visit OSL website www.onesteplearning.org to learn more.

Organization Capacity

OSL has hired competent local employees, predominantly female, to run the daycare's daily operations, using no intermediaries. The Principal is a Bachelor of Education graduate with specialization in social work and disabilities enhancement. To date, 10 people have been hired, 7 of whom are women. The rest of the staff are: three qualified teaching attendants, one nanny, two matrons and sanitation, one Gardner, and two security personnel. As additional resources become available and the planned capacity of 100 children is reached, there will be 24 positions available, 70% of which will be reserved for women.

OSL is a Canadian charity, incorporated in Edmonton Alberta in 2019. OSL is accountable to Canada Revenue Agency, Alberta Provincial Government, and similar Ghana authorities. Canada Revenue Agency registered OSL as a Charity in 2020. OSL is certified by Ghana Department of Social Welfare as a Category "A" Daycare, the highest grading available. OSL is also registered as a Community Based Organization (CBO) operating in Entumbil, Central Region, Ajumako+Enyan+Essiam District, Ghana.

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The Board is headed by John Hagan, President, who is a chartered professional accountant and a professional certified internal auditor. A CPA, CIA, CRMA, BAccS. John has over 30 years work experience in Canada and seven years in Ghana. John is co-founder of the registered charity One Step Learning Opportunities Centre, (OSL) based in Edmonton, Alberta Canada. He is a CPA Financial Literacy Volunteer. He is also a big-time volunteer for various organizations in the Edmonton community.

Celestina Hagan, also a co-founder, has worked in hospital services for over 20 years in Canada. Prior, she worked in Ghana for ten years as dressmaker and coach.

The couple has business acumen and valuable experience in children’s program development and volunteering. Their children and eight grandchildren have experienced the benefits of preschool opportunities and Learning-Through-Play concepts.

They have supervised the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the converted building for early childhood education. This included completion of security fencing, partitioning of land for agricultural use, and repair and enhancement of facility utility services (drainage, power, connectivity) and furnishing. On October 18, 2021, OSL opened its inaugural Learning-Through-Play daycare in Entumbil for 18 months old to six-year-old children, the majority of who are girls.

Risk Management & Mitigation	Performance Measure/ Evaluations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and elders buy-in is present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milestones and scheduled goals tracked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent and Qualified staff hired. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrollments continues to climb to 100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers are readily available Founders and Directors have experience Reach out for PARTNER/DONOR funding and others for sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities improvement with equipment. Maintain Category A Ghana DSW rating Periodic external agency inspections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical materials to purchase are visible for inspection in Canada and Entumbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning Garden’s growth and status regularly monitored and visible.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent, Staff and Volunteer Policies, and operation Handbooks exist for guidance, plus other formal agreements/documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents surveys Town/Community surveys

[Put pictures here]

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ANNEX 2: REVENUES

Students Registration Fees GHC20 = Can\$4.44 & Daily Attendance Fees GHC3 = \$0.67 cents

Duration re 2020 -2024 Strategic Plan	Total Can \$ Fees (No PARTNER/DONOR funding)	One-Time Registration fee	Daily Attendance Fees
Daycare Opening (2 months only in 2021) Oct 18, 2021 to Dec 31, 2021	142 + 768 = Can \$910	32 students 32 x GHC20 = 640 @ \$1 to GHC4.50 =Can\$142	32 Students Avg monthly school days = 18 Oct 18 to Dec 17 2021, = 36 days x 32 x GHC3 = GHC3,456 / 4.50 = Can\$768
Year 1 2022	107 + 8,064 = Can \$8,171	24 new Students 24 x GHC20 = 480 @ \$1 to GHC4.50 = Can\$107	56 students' average school days = 18 Jan to Dec 17 2022 = 18 days x 12months x 56 x GHC3 = 36,288 GHC36,288 / 4.50 = Can\$8,064
Year 2 2023	107 + 11,520 = Can \$11,627	24 new Students 24 x GHC20 = 480 @ \$1 to GHC4.50 = Can\$107	80 Students average school days = 18 Jan to Dec 17 2023 = 18 days x 12months x 80 x GHC3 = 51,840 GHC51,840 / 4.50 = Can\$11,520
Year 3 2024	89 + 14,400 = Can \$14,489	20 new Students 20 x GHC20 = 400 @ \$1 to GHC4.50 = Can\$89	100 Students average school days = 18 Jan to Dec 17 2024 = 18 days x 12months x 100 x GHC3 = 64,800 GHC64,800 / 4.50 = Can\$14,400

References

1. Ghana Statistical Service (2013). 2010 Population and Housing Census; Ajumako-Enyan-Essiam District; District Analytical report. Ghana Statistical Service, Accra.
2. <https://www.unicef.org/ghana/early-childhood-development>