



The Nest Project



Project Proposal for an Orphanage
Douala Cameroon, West Africa

Makah Foundation Inc. (EIN 81-3625557)

The Nest Project Summary:

This orphanage will provide a home for up to 20 orphans and also act as a resource center for other orphanages and women empowerment trainings. The home will have a director in charge of day-to-day administration, a cook/care taker, a driver/security person and an on-call nurse to supervise intake. The orphanage will work with the Office of Social Welfare for the recommendation of orphans and also bring some orphans from overflowing orphanages. The orphans will be provided with a health check during intake to establish a health record and will also have a yearly doctor visit. The orphanage will start with children between the ages of three and seven. This will allow the orphanage to be able to run an in-house pre-school program and then give enough time to identify and make arrangements for elementary school as the kids get older. Long term, the orphanage will identify scholarship funds to help the kids either attend boarding schools, so that they no longer have to rely on the orphanage, or attend vocational training if they would like to learn a trade.

Cameroon law defines an orphan as a child without living parents to care for them. It expands further that a child may be considered an orphan because of the death or disappearance of, abandonment or desertion by, or separation or loss from, both parents. The office of Social Welfare in Cameroon reports that these orphans generally become vulnerable and have to confront immense psychological and social problems. They are equally vulnerable to maltreatment (harassment and violence) and economic and sexual abuse and exploitation as they grow older due to lack of care and protection. These challenges and vulnerabilities are most likely to affect their livelihood and welfare. An orphanage is one of the solutions to help provide a sustained commitment to protect and improve the lives of these orphans, making sure that their needs are addressed and that they can benefit from government programs available for orphans and street children.

The political crisis in Cameroon in the last three years has exacerbated the problem of orphans and increased the number of children who are now labeled orphans. The three-year crisis has displaced more than 3 million people both to neighboring countries and to other cities like Douala. Some of these internally displaced people (IDP) include orphans whose parents were killed in the war and/or had their villages burned down. When villages are burned, it destroys the social structure that could look after children whose parents have been displaced or killed.

The Nest Project Objectives:

1. To provide orphans the childhood that they never experienced and help them to become useful members of the society.
2. To make available a secure place where orphans can play and enjoy their childhood.
3. To provide a good educational foundation to orphans.
4. To provide welfare services such as free lodging, boarding, and recreation.
5. To provide healthy physical and intellectual development for orphans.
6. To provide basic health care to vulnerable orphans.

Project Partners:

The leadership to manage the house will be:

1. Makah Foundation Management Committee (MFMC). This body that was created in 2011 consists of 9 members: Magdalene Tanyi, Churchill Munsam, Harrison Abili, Bertrand Bonkiyong, Roland Bimua, Charles Fohitung, Mercy Ngueni, Emmanuel Asong and Sam Dinga. This group will be responsible for deliberating and making decisions on the management of finances. They will meet monthly to analyze and solve any problems and to approve salaries and major expenditures. They will also plan and lead all fund raising activities for the project. Members of MFMC are all volunteers.

2. A House Manager has been identified. Mercy Nguenui was recommended by the Social Services Department. Mercy is currently an elementary school teacher undergoing training on how to manage an orphanage. Her role will be to manage the finances of the building, work with a nurse and the Social Services Staff to supervise and conduct children intake, write reports, chair MFMC bi-monthly meetings, manage volunteers and any staff that will be hired. She will also be in charge of any property owned by Makah Foundation. This will be a paid position.
3. Social Services – This office in Cameroon is in charge of approving the operation of orphanages. They also help in the referral and intake of orphans. Their role also includes the training and certification of orphanage operators in this case House Manager.

Project Sustainability:

The goal is that the orphanage will become about 70% self-sustaining. This will be attained by the following activities:

- a. Farming and produce sales -There is the need to acquire more land and the extra land would be used for farming food crops like corn, beans, peanuts, plantain and some fruits. Most of what will be grown will be consumed at the orphanage and some will be sold to generate money.
- b. The orphanage will request and accept subvention money from the Government of Cameroon.
- c. The MFMC, with the House Manager, will design a once-a-year fundraiser activity at the orphanage to raise funds locally to help run the activities of the orphanage.
- d. The House Manager will continue to seek and write grants and solicit funding from international donors to help run the affairs of the orphanage.

Security:

Douala, the economic capital of Cameroon, was identified as the location for this project because it is not affected by the insecurities in Cameroon. This city, and the Littoral region as a whole, is home to most of the people fleeing the areas with insecurities. The building will have a concrete fence around with a metal gate for added security. There will be a night watchman and volunteer day security to check folks in and out of the property. Generally, security forces grant orphanages, hospitals and schools priority in case of an emergency.

Cost Projection Summary:

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Item	Frs CFA	USD
Land purchase 500M square	7,085,889	\$12,653
House construction and fencing**	25,663,764	\$45,828
Land and project registration	900,000	\$1,607
Electricity connection	500,000	\$893
Water (Makah pump well)	2,950,415	\$5,269
Grand Total	37,100,068	\$66,250

***Refer to Appendix A for a breakdown of house construction & fencing costs*

Building:



Donation Levels and Naming Rights:

	Name on the building	Receive Plaque	Name a room	Name on the website and get a project shirt	Name on social media post	Name on donor board	Name in donor book
Platinum \$50000	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Titanium \$10000		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Gold \$5000			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Silver \$1000				\$	\$	\$	\$
Chrome \$500					\$	\$	\$
Bronze \$250						\$	\$
Nickel \$100							\$

Areas to be named	Levels
Whole Building	\$50,000
- Dining Hall - Fence - Admin Residence	\$10,000
- Bed room 1 - Bed room 2 - Bed room 3 - Infirmary - Pump well	\$5000