

OUR HISTORY



Two years ago, in the midst of a global pandemic and economic as well as spiritual uncertainty, a small group of Christian volunteers from varying backgrounds came together and acted upon a vision to share the love of Christ with those in the developing world whose lives are caught in the grips of abject poverty. Thus, Spirit of Our Lord Ministries (SOLM) was born. Our vision is to see **a world in which all people in developing countries are able to realize their full God-given potential.**

SOLM has a deep commitment to share Christ's love to those throughout the globe that no one sees. These individuals suffer quietly and are only known by those within their communities. Our partner organizations who work in these communities are an integral part of these local communities. Thus, they are uniquely positioned to develop innovative solutions to meet the specific needs of their communities. Our mission is:

To share the love of Christ in the developing world by providing physical and spiritual support to disadvantaged people. SOLM will partner with local communities to empower vulnerable populations in obtaining food, education, housing, and vocational training.

2022 was the first year that SOLM began to execute its mission to serve as a catalyst of hope for the forgotten poor and vulnerable within the developing world. Despite its limited resources and against a backdrop of global economic instability and supply chain disruptions, SOLM has been able to touch the lives of over 2300 vulnerable persons in Ghana.



SOLM IN GHANA

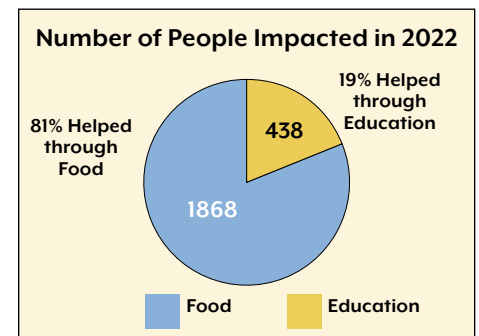


Soaring prices for energy and food supplies have created additional hardships for the poor in Ghana—particularly in the remote rural areas. Additionally, many families who are struggling to meet their daily needs are not able to afford the cost of sending their little ones to school for basic education. By partnering with small Community-Based Organizations (CBO) across 3 regions in Ghana, SOLM and its partners are able to act upon their common goal of sharing the love of Christ by empowering the forgotten of the world.



Despite being a small startup nonprofit, SOLM was able to provide aid to vulnerable individuals in Ghana's Central, Eastern, and Volta regions in 2022. Partnering with six small CBOs, we were able to feed over 1800 people and provide

funding for basic education to over 400 children. These programs were able to give a glimmer of hope to people who are in desperate need.



EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM



2022 saw a drastic rise in food insecurity. In response, SOLM partnered with CBOs to provide emergency food assistance to 435 vulnerable people in Ghana.

SOLM's partners in the Central, Eastern and Volta regions were able to work through their church networks to identify those families and persons who are in desperate need of food. As our partners work to provide food assistance to these communities, they are also able to identify those families who are not able to send their children to school because of a lack of money for school fees and

young adults who are in dire need of vocational training, but who lack the resources to enter a program. In many cases, these are single mothers or teenagers who may be the only provider for the entire family.

One of the families who benefited from the emergency food program is headed by Esi (*pictured on the right*). Her husband died a year ago and she is the only caregiver for 13 children. To support her family, she weeds people's gardens and fetches water. The emergency food relief that SOLM and our partner One Life Aid Foundation (OLAF) provided was a tremendous benefit to the family.



SCHOOL LUNCH PILOT PROGRAM



In Fall of 2022, SOLM partnered with Act of Charity a Christian nonprofit in the Volta Region to pilot a program to provide lunch to children who attend school, but are facing hunger on a daily basis. The program helped 11 children in the Volta Region of Ghana. At the end of the program, students appeared healthier and were more able to focus in class.

One local junior high school teacher applauded our efforts to help poor



students who are without the support structures at home. The teacher implored SOLM's partner Act of Charity to continue the program and to broaden its outreach to include more vulnerable children. SOLM is seeking additional funding in 2023 to implement the program on a long-term basis to help a limited number of students who are struggling.

FUNDING FOR BASIC EDUCATION



In early 2022, AJ Hope Foundation, one of SOLM's partners, made us aware of 22 children in a remote village in Ghana's eastern region who could not afford to go to school. SOLM provided uniforms, shoes, school supplies (including desks & chairs), and school fees. In addition to helping the children attend school, our partner in Ghana is mentoring the parents to help them find ways to support their families financially and counseling the parents to improve their parenting skills.

Additionally, SOLM sponsored a joint project with One Life Aid Foundation to empower 416 children to attend school in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Support given included school uniforms, shoes, school supplies, backpacks and feminine products which enable girls to attend school.



CHRISTMAS DINER FOR POOR CHILDREN



In December of 2022, SOLM was able to partner with Act of Charity and iPraise, CBOs in the Volta Region of Ghana, to provide a wonderful Christmas dinner and celebration to 1433 poor children in Ghana. This was a collaborative effort between SOLM, its partners and local community churches. While the dinner was a one-day event, it served to provide both physical sustenance and spiritual support for many who are suffering quietly in the remote villages. The children were provided plenty of food and drinks for the day and were able to participate in games and other fun activities.

A local community leader in a village in Ghana's Volta Region commended our partners and SOLM for the work that was being done to help the poor within their midst:

“We are very grateful to welcome you into our midst. For some time now, we have been looking for this kind of support for these little ones and today our dream and hope has come to reality. Therefore, I the Chief and my elders, the unit committee and the Assemblyman have highly appreciated your good

work done. So, we hope to see that your coming here; the dream that you bring, will come to more reality. May the Almighty God help you and make all that you are coming to do in our community fall on a good soil. Amen.”



LOOKING AHEAD



Throughout 2023, SOLM will continue to utilize social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter) to both raise funds and increase awareness of SOLM and its mission. However, while these mediums are an effective means of raising awareness, we did not realize a corresponding increase in donations. What we found is that personal outreach to donors via social media and email (i.e., direct texting to friends through FB Messenger and sharing our GofundMe link) did raise significant revenue. SOLM was also able to obtain one grant last year to support its mission and we are seeking additional funding through other philanthropic sources.

As we continue to witness the various catastrophic disasters facing the globe today, humanitarian organizations are faced with the challenge of meeting the immediate needs of vulnerable populations (i.e., food, water, and shelter), while finding innovative ways to empower individuals through education and vocational training. Many of our partners in Ghana have also stressed the importance of education and vocational training for vulnerable populations within their communities. Throughout 2022, our partners witnessed many families who are suffering because they lack the education and job training needed to claim a sense of agency over their lives and the quality of life within their communities.

In 2023, SOLM will continue to partner with CBOs in Ghana to provide emergency food relief and access to basic education, as well as, vocational training for the vulnerable. While SOLM is currently partnering with only small Christian CBOs in Ghana, SOLM is committed to partnering with nonprofits and other organizations who serve vulnerable populations throughout the globe. Our focus is to share Christ's love with the forgotten of the world...one person at a time.

