

THE IDEA OF OPENING A CHILDREN'S SHELTER



The children's hut was opened by the Children of Africa Foundation, in order to offer orphaned or abandoned children all the benefits of a small family structure.

Situated in the very centre of Abidjan in the district of Plateau, the Children's hut has been welcoming for more than 20 years, abandoned children (girls and boys), orphans, children living in the street, and children coming from destitute families, without ethnic or religious distinction.

The shelter takes full charge of the children by providing them with food, lodging, supervision, schooling, training and health care. The primary focus of the shelter has been to give back their dignity to these children who have been tested by life from a very young age, by making sure they have every chance to integrate the society again and to reintegrate a family unit.

THE STORY OF THE SHELTER



The children's hut opened its doors in 1994 in Abidjan on the initiative of a group of friends who wanted to help street children. It was taken over in 1998 by the Children of Africa Foundation headed by Mrs. Dominique Ouattara, who became First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire in 2011.

The shelter takes care of 6 to 18 years young street children, orphans, abandoned children, or children involve in various forms of exploitation. At the beginning, there were only boys but in 2009, the shelter started welcoming girls. Now it has a capacity of 60 beds.

The Children's hut offers these children the opportunity to receive a good education, have access to numerous activities such as art, computer science, sports and so on in order to open their minds. Children also receive psychological assistance through listening sessions to help them regain self confidence. One of the objectives of the Center is to ensure that children reintegrate their families of origin. A three year follow-up program is set up to make sure the reintegration process is efficient. This social and academic support gives them the tools to move towards a better future.

OUR KEY FIGURES



CHILDREN'S HUT

THE CHILDREN OF AFRICA FOUNDATION'S RECEPTION CENTER FOR ORPHANS AND CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS



THE CHILDREN'S HUT, AN IDEAL SETTING FOR HAPPY CHILDREN



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

All the children are enrolled in nearby schools. They are also supervised by educators to ensure that their schooling takes place in the best conditions and children follow the programs with keen interest.



In addition, the children's hut has an important vocational training and apprenticeship project which aims to provide the children with a skill once they leave the shelter. These are sewing and market gardening activities which are also reinforced with computer training.

ENTERTAINMENT AND SOCIAL LIFE

The children enjoy handcraft activities, fun excursions (zoo, swimming pool, craft center, etc.) and have the great pleasure of participating in summer camps by the sea. Some of them also participated successfully in nanbudo competitions, a Japanese martial art. One of the sportswomen has won several gold and silver medals in national and international competitions. From the library room to handicrafts activities and computer learning, the recreational activities allow the children to be open to the world.



Kim KARDASHIAN



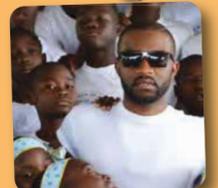
Gary DOURDAN



Alain DELON



Mamadou SAKHO



Fally IPUPA



Jamel DEBBOUZE

CELEBRITIES AND PERSONALITIES VISITED US

Our center has become the place to visit whenever celebrities come to Abidjan. They come to spend a good moment with the kids.

In all simplicity, celebrities and personalities come to encourage the remarkable work done by the center teams and by the Children Of Africa Foundation.

We have received the visit of : Princess LALLA SALMA - Princess IRA DE FURSTENBERG Mrs. Carla BRUNI-SARKOZY - Mrs. Catherine DENEUVE Mrs. Juliette BINOCHE - Mrs. Murielle AHOURE - Mrs. Karine SILLA-PEREZ Mrs. Daniela LUMBROSO - Mr. Copa BARRY Mr. Djimon HOUNSOU - Mr. Franck DUBOSC - Mrs. Claudia TAGBO



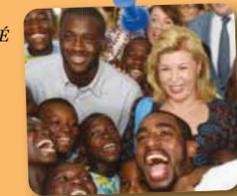
Youssou N'DOUR



Adriana KAREMBEU



Keri HILSON



Yaya TOURÉ

Kopa BARRY

ONGOING HEALTH AND SOCIAL FOLLOW-UP

The children are also immunised free of charge and are provided with regular health assessment at the Mother and Child Hospital in Bingerville.



THE SUPERVISION TEAM

A permanent team consisting of 10 people takes care of the children day and night, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. The shelter has a director, specialized educators, a social worker, cooks, guards and a pediatrician who comes regularly for visits. We also have a large number of volunteers who provide us with regular support. The children also benefit from the constant presence and supervision of the Sisters of the Congregation of Our Lady of Peace.



THE BUILDINGS

The center is equipped with several buildings dedicated to different activities: dining room, boys and girls dormitories, library, large courtyard, administrative building ...

