

"If anyone has been looking for an ethical and professional NGO in Ghana, then I can personally recommend Ikando and its leadership."

Ralph Stone



Got more questions?

Request a call back.

Email call@ikando.org including your name and telephone number and we will call you back.



"Thanks so much for all your support during my stay, you went beyond the call of duty. It was an amazing experience."

Lorna Williams

The Autism Awareness Care and Training Centre (AACT), is a local support and education centre for children with autism that was founded in 1998 by Mrs. Serwah Quaynor, a mother of a child with autism. In search of services to help her child, Mrs. Quaynor made a personal commitment to help other Ghanaian children with autism. Mrs. Quaynor fulfilled her commitment by creating AACT seven years ago. Since creating the Centre, Mrs. Quaynor has worked tirelessly to help parents of children with autism in Ghana to understand better the disability and to feel that there is a safe place to go for support and help.

AACT's mission is to support the families of children with autism. In order to achieve this mission, AACT focuses on two primary areas: 1) promoting awareness and understanding of autism in Ghana; and 2) providing training and educational services to children with autism in order for them to function more effectively in society.

While developing countries understand autism as a medical disorder, the general public in Ghana have little or no understanding of autism. Given this "gap", families of children with autism are often left ostracized from their communities and extended families. In some cases, the mothers of children with autism are seen as "witches" that have possessed their child with evil spirits. For these reasons, having a child with autism in Ghana is a traumatic and painful experience for most families.

Autism Awareness Care & Training (AACT) was formed to help children with autism and their families in Ghana to better understand the disorder and to feel that there is a safe place to go for support and help. Today the organization not only supports the parents and families but it also has become a centre for these children to receive quality education.

Some of their work includes:

- Daily care and education for children with autism
- Public awareness campaigns with newspapers, national TV and radio to discuss autism, what it is and what it isn't to reduce the social stigma around the disease
- Educational approaches to teaching language and communication
- Life-Skills training
- Sensory integration therapy
- Training of caregivers, parents, family members, attendants and professionals.
- Art & Music therapy
- Field trips and extracurricular activities
- Respite care for families

A **Speech Therapist** is required to help teach the children how to speak through verbal and non-verbal communication using pictures and diagrams. The candidate must have a background in speech therapy.

The volunteers will be required to do some or all of the following:

- identifying children's developmental speech and communication difficulties/disorders;
- devising, implementing and revising relevant treatment programmes;
- advising carers on implementation of programmes and training other professionals in therapy delivery;
- assessing communication environments;
- monitoring and evaluating students' progress;



How to Apply

Please fill in the application form you have been sent and email it together with an up-to-date resume (CV) to: info@ikando.org

We will email you within 48 hours of receiving your completed application form and resume.



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- writing and maintaining confidential student case notes and reports, as well as information for students, carers and other professionals;
- working with the staff to improve the effectiveness of service delivery.

What kind of skills you need to go on this placement

Volunteers must have a strong interest in and commitment to helping disadvantaged children. You will need to be flexible and tolerant, show initiative and enthusiasm to face the many hurdles and challenges that you will encounter. We are only looking for positive, flexible and proactive people!

You will have to be able to cope with simple living and working conditions. Volunteers should be aware that early starts will be required.

Where is the placement based?

The placement is based at the Autism Centre in Accra. It is roughly a 5 to 10 minute journey to and from the Ikando Volunteer Accommodation in the centre of town. The volunteer must be aware that the working environment will be basic and resources will be limited.

Extra Details

Project Duration	Min Duration 6 weeks - Max Duration 26 weeks (can be extended in-country)
Dates	You can volunteer at any time throughout the year.
Pricing	£ 829 for 6 weeks, £87 per week thereafter. For pricing in a different currency please check out www.oanda.com .
Deposit	£ 150 (included in total price)
Location	Accra & National Parks
Airport to fly into	Accra Airport (ACC) - (also known as Kotoka International Airport)
In-country Budget	From \$50 on a tight budget to \$150 p/week if you wish to explore Ghana.

What's included in the project fees?

- Accommodation & fully furnished kitchen
- Welcome pack
- Airport pick-up
- 24/7 Emergency support.
- Introduction to life in Ghana.

What's not included?

- Flights & Visa
- Food
- Vaccinations (please speak to your local GP)
- Insurance (required)

We work hard to include as much information as possible online. Please check out the following links on www.ikando.org for further information regarding:

- Health & Safety: www.ikando.org/healthandsafety.html
- Accommodation: www.ikando.org/accommodation.html
- Organizing your flights: www.ikando.org/flights.html
- Organizing your visa: www.ikando.org/visa.html
- In-country Food: www.ikando.org/food.html
- Airport-Pick up: www.ikando.org/airport.html

If you have any further questions on this placement, please do not hesitate to contact us.