

Sharecare Ghana

Sharecare4u 

Annual Report &
Financial Statements for
the Year ended 2012

Sharecare Ghana is an association of people with autoimmune and neurological conditions, including families and caregivers. The association, founded in 2006, was registered in November 2007 as a non-profit organization, and launched in 2008.

Charity Registration Number	:	G 22,564
Social Welfare Reg. Number	:	DSW 3972
Registered Address	:	P.O. Box CT 4910 Cantonments Accra Ghana
Executive Director	:	Nana Yaa Agyeman
Executive Council	:	Doris Ahiney Obodai-Sai - Chairperson Adwoa Sey Lara Cookay Phyllis Christian Anne Sekyi Thiawa Dieng-Opon Farida Bedwei Agnes Fobi Iris Anie-Annan Nana Yaa Agyeman
Company Secretary	:	Joseph Gadagbui
Bankers	:	Ghana Commercial Bank Ltd
Auditor/Accountant	:	Portfolio Financial & Management Systems
Advisors & Patrons	:	Dr. Albert Akpalu – Physician Specialist/ Neurologist, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital Dr. Nii Adjetey Bonney Andrews – Neurosurgeon, neuroGHANA Alhaji Abdul-Rahman Harruna Attah – Managing Editor, The Accra Mail.
Broad Objectives	:	To create awareness about autoimmune and neurological conditions; support and advocate for people with these conditions and promote research into these conditions and the disabilities they cause.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Time indeed really flies and so soon Sharecare has reached a significant milestone. In 2013 we will celebrate our 5th anniversary.

We thank the Almighty for giving Nana Yaa the laudable vision to set up Sharecare which has become a strong and vibrant support group for sufferers of neuroimmunological diseases and their care-givers.

The journey has not been smooth but in spite of a few challenges, we are grateful for the successes chalked so far.

We are privileged to have very resourceful personalities on our Executive Council and we are grateful for their invaluable counsel and support. I must also make special mention of the numerous Resource Persons who over the years continue to educate our members so that they have a better grasp of their conditions and are better poised to cope with their ailments.

It is my fervent hope and prayer that, we will not rest on oars, but continue to stay focused and work hard to achieve the aims and aspirations of this noble association.

In conclusion, I salute our dynamic Director, the Executive Council and Management Committee for their drive, initiative and commitment; and all members for working tirelessly to keep the spirit of Sharecare alive.

May the Good Lord renew our strength and bless us in the years ahead.

Doris Ahiney Obodai-Sai (Dr.)
Chairperson

REVIEW OF YEAR 2012

1. SHARECARE ESTABLISHMENT

Sharecare continued to work towards its stated mission of regrouping persons including children with autoimmune and neurological conditions through awareness creation, advocacy, support, care and promotion of medical research.

2. OPERATIONS AND STAFF

a) Executive Council

The Executive Council held two meetings in 2012 as required by the Sharecare Constitution. The meetings were on October 4th and December 29th 2012 and took the following decisions:

- Sharecare Constitution was amended and adopted.
- Membership of Executive Council was increased.
- Executive Council members to contribute allowances to the volunteers, which will be topped up by the organization.

b) Management Committee

The Management Committee working under the direction and supervision of the Executive Council was expanded in 2012 with more volunteers.

c) Volunteers

The volunteers were very active and helpful and kept the organization afloat, especially in periods that the executive with challenges were indisposed or unavailable. The organization has five regular volunteers.

3. AWARENESS AND SENSITIZATION

a) Sharecare Support Group

The support group met monthly for members to share experiences in their health situations. As usual, Sharecare brought professionals and specialists in various fields to educate members on issues of healthcare, physiotherapy, health insurance, diet and care-giving.

b) Care Giving

Sharecare used every opportunity at meetings and public forums to advocate for a stronger support and care system in the country. The message was as follows:

- i.** Persons with mild disabilities from autoimmune and neurological disorders require limited support and care from others. But persons including children with severe disabilities need total support and care.
- ii.** Society, including husbands and families, should be more supportive of mothers and children with disabilities in their therapies and care.
- iii.** Parents, patients and care-givers should seek medical attention instead of resorting to unorthodox methods or hiding the disabilities from public knowledge and assistance.

c) Sharecare Children

Sharecare has put more focus on children with autoimmune and neurological conditions and has put a team of social workers in place to locate such children for assistance.

In 2010 Sharecare adopted Osu Alata in the Osu Klottey Constituency of Accra, as the focal point for assistance to children with cerebral palsy. Through Vodafone World of Difference, Sharecare received funds to begin physiotherapy for ten children with cerebral palsy in the community.



Under the two month project which was awarded to our volunteer social worker, the children received two months of physiotherapy and aids for their therapy. A training programme for speech therapy facilitators was also carried out. Sharecare aims to continue this project through partnerships and sponsorship in the year ahead.

On 9th March 2012, Sharecare took 12 families and a psychologist to the Mephibosheth Training Centre at Apam junction. The children were assessed and treated based on their individual needs. At the end, eight of them were given special shoes to correct deformities and straighten their legs and feet, one was given a walker and one was offered admission into the school.

The psychologist also assessed the children and at the same time counselled the parents, asking them to care for and accept their children`s situation.

4. MEMBERS' WELFARE

Members accepted the suggestion of the Executive Council to pay monthly dues to help improve their welfare, and started paying from January 2012.

5. ADVOCACY & NETWORKING

a. Disability Act 715 (2006)

This Act still did not provide benefits to persons with disabilities (PWDs) because the Legislative Instrument to back and enforce the Act has not been passed by Parliament. GFD after extensive discussions with stakeholders submitted a memorandum on the LI to the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare.

b. National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)

Unfortunately most of the diseases/disorders that PWDs suffer are not covered by national health insurance. Sharecare invited GFD and its stakeholders to harness all efforts to get NHIS reviewed so that relevant medical conditions are covered and PWDs receive free treatment or at a reasonable rebate.

c. District Assembly Common Fund (DACF)

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) District began to disburse funds on the DACF 2010, 2011 holdings to association members of the GFD, but only two Sharecare members among many had their proposal approved with partial funding.

Sharecare agreed to the fund committee's demand that each association should be paid its percentage holding on the District Assembly Common Fund for its own disbursement, management and control. This would enable Sharecare to empower the partially disabled members economically and to find financial supports for those that are home-bound.

d. Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)

For the past three years Sharecare has been unsuccessful at accessing the LEAP from the Social Welfare Department to support home-bound members who are without any economic empowerment.

The government expanded the programme during the year and made the process less laborious. Unfortunately while waiting for the LEAP Sharecare lost another member.

e. National Council on Persons with Disability (NCPD)

NCPD has been in existence for over three years, but persons with disabilities have not felt the presence of NCPD.

Sharecare advocated that NCPD should be reconstituted into an autonomous body such as the Electoral Commission for the disability movement to operate and execute the concerns of PWDs.

f. International Alliance of Patients' Organizations – IAPO

Sharecare received a grant of \$300.00 from the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations, to establish a network of patients' organizations in Ghana. This money was insufficient to form the network, but Sharecare held discussions with interested

organizations and an interim committee is continuing the process to establish and register the network.



6. RESEARCH

The exploratory study by Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research began but was put on hold because the principal investigator and doctor collaborator were away and the ethical clearance expired. Noguchi has given the assurance that the study has not been abandoned and has applied for renewal of the ethical clearance certificate.

7. CHALLENGES

a) Financial Resources

Finding adequate funds to keep the organization going continues to be a challenge. Thanks to a few individuals and Vodafone World of Difference, the organization was able to carry out most of the activities for the year.

b) Sharecare's National Office

Sharecare needs to open and operate independently from its own office at Accra. Currently, due to financial constraints, the organization is borrowing space from another organization.

c) Sharecare's Regional and District Chapters

Sharecare decided to launch its outreach programs into the regions and districts by encouraging groups of persons desirous of setting up the nuclei in their regions and districts.

8. FINANCES

Sharecare renders audited accounts for incomes and expenditures at the end of each year to its members and the Registrar General.

This year the association received GH¢11,471.03 in project funds, donations and membership dues as against GH¢5,288.00 received in 2011 (see financial statements).

Our donors, partners and sponsors for the year included Vodafone Ghana, Alternative Source of Income Program (ASOIP), Melting Moments and several individuals. We are grateful to them for keeping the association going.

9. GOALS FOR THE UP COMING YEAR

Sharecare Ghana marks its 5th anniversary in 2013. We expect to continue to create awareness on autoimmune and neurological conditions and advocate for persons with these challenges. We also hope to seek funding for the mobility and education needs of children with neurological disorders.

We hope to come out with more innovative fundraising methods, write project proposals to potential donors for funding and enter into partnerships with like-minded NGOs in the year ahead.

Prepared By:

*Nana Yaa Agyeman, Executive Director
January 2013*