

# Sharecare Ghana

Sharecare4u 

Annual Report &  
Financial Statements for  
the Year ended 2015

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

Director : Nana Yaa Agyeman

Executive Council : Doris Ahiney Obodai-Sai - Chairperson  
Adwoa Sey  
Phyllis Christian  
Lara Cookey  
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 –

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 DIRECTOR**

2015 was an election year for Sharecare Ghana and all the directors, except one, opted to stay on. We say thank you and farewell to Lara Cookey, who faithfully served on the Executive Council for five years and had to leave because she relocated to Nigeria. Sharecare's Executive Council has expressed gratitude to Lara for her invaluable ideas, direction and enthusiasm. The Council says she is sorely missed, though she remains a member of the association and is still in touch by internet.

The organization's main focus for the year was activities at the rehabilitation centre at Osu which ran smoothly thanks to SWEB Foundation and Liliane Foundation's support for community-based rehabilitation of some of the children. The indirect benefit to other children at the centre was immense. We also appreciate the hard work of the physiotherapists - Augustine, Baafour and Della - for their tireless work, love, encouragement and respect for the parents and children which led to the improvements parents noticed in their wards. Sharecare thanks all parents who through their commitment made these gains possible.

We say a big thank you to SWEB Foundation, Liliane Foundation, Aviation Alliance, PwC, United Way Ghana and other organizations and individuals that have brought us this far.

The gallant members of Sharecare should be congratulated for coming to the monthly meetings in spite of health challenges and/or financial difficulties. Thank you for your efforts and understanding. For the next three years Sharecare members have developed a strategic plan to provide a disciplined approach to management. The plan is complete and will be put on our website, however we welcome any useful changes that will help fulfill Sharecare Ghana's mission.

Our membership with Ghana Federation of the Disabled has helped us mature in organizational development, capacity building and financial management. We will continue to look up to GFD (now Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations) for guidance and direction.

In all, Sharecare Ghana had a fairly stable year in spite of some challenges – health, finances and the death of some members. We look forward to the year ahead with hope, mainly for good health, better finances and the support of agencies mandated to assist organizations of persons with disability in Ghana.

In gratitude,

Nana Yaa Agyeman

## **REVIEW OF YEAR 2015**

### **1. ACTIVITIES**

#### **SHARECARE REHABILITATION CENTRE**

The Sharecare Rehabilitation Centre was renovated to create a big window for better ventilation and light. This made it more comfortable for the children and workers.

#### **Attendance:**

The number of children attending the Centre increased to 37 from 23 at the beginning of 2015. There were two physiotherapists in attendance and the social workers followed up with home-based care. Sixteen of the children were supported by Liliane Foundation through SWEB Foundation.

#### **Health:**

20 of the children had health problems during the year and some were hospitalized for up to six weeks. Joshua Tagoe aged 3 with Hydrocephalus underwent a series of medical tests in preparation for surgery at the Korle Bu Neuro Clinic. He went into crisis on 26<sup>th</sup> August and was rushed to the Police Hospital because of the doctors' strike at Korle Bu. He was discharged on 30<sup>th</sup> August, but unfortunately, died on 31<sup>st</sup> August. He was buried that same day with the assistance of the Assemblyman. The Centre also recorded the death of a care giver of another child who has since been buried.

Mercy Holm aged 3 suffered Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) through a stampede at the Independence Square in Accra. Her condition was delicate and needed urgent attention. This compelled the Centre to raise funds for an MRI test which may lead to surgery.

#### **Education:**

Of the 16 children being supported by Liliane Foundation through SWEB Foundation, four are in mainstream schools including a boarder at the Akropong School for the Blind. Elizabeth Brock was promoted to KG 2 and her performance was encouraging. Ruth Otoo participated in the school's Africa Day Celebration.

Michael Donyo's placement in school was deferred to 2016 because of poor health.

#### **Social Events:**

- World Cerebral Palsy Day was observed with dental screening and treatment.
- The Centre participated in a day's seminar organized by the All African Disability Centre in Tema Community 2.
- Three families joined in the annual retreat by Joni & Friends from USA at Abokobi.
- Thanks to PwC, a donation of food and toiletries was made to Enoch a teenager with untreated hydrocephalus in the adjoining community.
- Marvin Nii Odoi Yemofio celebrated his 5<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Centre with other children, staff and parents.

- A Christmas party was organized on 24<sup>th</sup> December with drinks sponsored by Kasapreko.
- A walk took place on December 26<sup>th</sup> to end the year's activities.



### **Challenges and Successes:**

The Centre had insufficient assistive devices to help the children with home-based care. This lack was evident during feeding time. Devices like gaiters, corner seats, parallel bars and standing frame are needed.

In spite of the challenges, improvements in the children were seen by their parents. By the end of the year the noticeable changes were:

- Ephraim could now control his neck for more than two minutes and roll over.
- Marvin could control his neck for five minutes, relax his fingers and roll over.
- Nii Darko was trying to walk when given support and also to wash himself.
- Yaw Oteng was taking hurried steps.
- Enam Vondee was trying to feed herself.
- Oswald made a significant improvement.
- Emmanuel Donkor could move with a walker.

## **SUPPORT GROUPS**

### **Member Support Group:**

The support group met every month during the year with the attendance ranging between 20 and 30 members. Topics included the rights of persons with disabilities, Inclusion Ghana, and the work of International Red Cross. The highlight of the year was World Cerebral Palsy Day. Every first Wednesday in October is observed as World Cerebral Palsy Day and last year's fell on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

Sharecare marked the day with dental health education and screening to identify abnormal oral conditions and make referrals where necessary. In addition, the day was to create awareness about CP especially in children. A team from School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Ghana, supported Sharecare with free screening and oral health education. Over seventy people participated in this memorable event.



**Parents Support Group:**

A parents' support group was formed by parents of Sharecare children, as a follow up to the research carried out in which the daily activities of their children were photographed. The group met with a team from SWEB Foundation and decided to start a day-care programme and income generating activity - liquid soap making. On November 24<sup>th</sup> the group presented a proposal for the planned activities to SWEB Foundation and YEBEGO of the Netherlands, and samples of the liquid soap.

**MOBILE PHYSIO AND ADULT PHYSIO**

Aviation Alliance Ltd. began supporting Sharecare Ghana in February 2015. The monthly donations of GH¢500 were used for a project dubbed "Mobile Physio", which involved physiotherapy for children with disabilities who could not easily access the facilities of the Sharecare Rehabilitation Centre. The project started with five children, all of whom were immobile. At the end of one year, ten children with disabilities had benefitted from this project and most of them had improved remarkably.

A neuro-physiotherapist based in Canada, Dr. Tobi Omu, gave a donation towards adult physiotherapy sessions. The idea was to assess and give the beneficiaries a number of physiotherapy sessions. Accra Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinic supported this project by giving a discount on their facility and physiotherapists. The challenge to this project was the inability of many Sharecare members to transport themselves to the clinic. A beneficiary suggested that such projects should be handled by facilities closer to members' homes.

## **ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS CREATION**

### **National Health Insurance Authority:**

Sharecare Ghana met members of a government appointed review committee collecting comments and views on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). The meeting which took place in December 2015 was for Sharecare to present problems with the NHIS list of conditions, diagnostics and drugs. Sharecare asked for full coverage by NHIS of services and drugs used by its members.

At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that some of the services and drugs are already on the scheme but in generic form. NHIA agreed to send the generic drug list to Sharecare as well as a list of services. Sharecare was advised to write to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health for inclusion of conditions, services and drugs since they have the power to make amendments to the scheme.

### **Metro Mass Transit Limited:**

Sharecare Ghana had a meeting with the Managing Director of Metro Mass Transit Limited (MMT) Mr. Al Hassen Ligbi and his staff. The purpose was to find out, if the organization's new buses are disability friendly. They confessed that they had only two disability friendly buses and acknowledge that this was not enough. They said the buses were donated so they could not insist on specifications.

They promise to meet the needs of everyone in their next procurement of buses. They also agreed to put disability stickers on the disability friendly buses and asked Sharecare to help decide which routes those buses would take. The MMT team said they were ready to support Sharecare with those buses whenever they are needed for functions that demand them. They did not have a solution for the buses that are not accessible.

Sharecare also sent a petition to the Roads and Transport Minister to make provision for PWDs on Buses Rapid Transit (BRT) and MMT.

### **Others**

Sharecare participated in a programme organized by Ghana Aids Commission at La Palm Royal Hotel as a partner organizations of Ghana Federation of the Disabled (GFD).

WaterAid Ghana invited GFD member organizations to a meeting to find out their needs and what to put out in their plans and projection. The meeting took place at Cleaver House on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Sharecare also attended WaterAid's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at British Council Hall.

## **2. PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING**

### **Ghana Federation of the Disabled:**

A new constitution was promulgated by the Delegates Assembly of GFD following consultations that led to the review of the previous constitution. Among other issues, the new constitution establishes the governing structure as the Delegates Assembly, National Executive Council and an elected Executive Board.

Elections for the national leadership were held at an extraordinary Delegates Assembly in March 2015 and the elected President of GFD for the next four years, was Mr. Yaw Ofori-Debra, with Mawunyo Yakor-Dagbah as Vice President and Victoria Kinful as Gender Representative. The other members are the experts, Gertrude Oforiwaa Fefoame, Gifty Anti, Aziz Mohammed and the Executive Director, Rita Kyeremaa Kusi.

Guidelines were developed for the criteria and procedure for conducting elections at the regional and district levels. Also, a new name - Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations - was adopted by the federation to take effect after the completion of the legal registration process.

During the year GFD's activities included the validation of the review of the Disability Law of Ghana (Act 715) to bring it in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD); and discussions on a policy document on employment for persons with disabilities. On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Sharecare Ghana joined member organizations of GFD to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities and a petition was sent to Parliament.

### **SWEB Foundation:**

A management team from SWEB Foundation visited Sharecare Ghana on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 as part of SWEB's assessment of partner organizations (POs). Sharecare presented them a draft strategic plan, and answered their questions satisfactorily. They made a few suggestions on the strategic plan.

SWEB Foundation held two conferences during the year; one for contact persons and the other for PO heads. The PO heads conference was from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 with the main purpose of discussing the change in SWEB's model of implementation from Institution Based Rehabilitation (IBR) to Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) at the request of the donor, Liliane Foundation. Some of the POs already practicing CBR made presentations, and new ideas were welcomed during a question and answer session. SWEB's 2016 budget was presented and members were advised to present their next budgets by September.

A network of POs was formed with the purpose of sharing ideas and resources; fundraising; advocacy and checks and balances to quality of work and programming of CBR.

SWEB also involved Sharecare in a mushroom production training project for youth with disabilities. Sharecare had difficulty with the age limit for the trainees, so Hope for Life, another NGO was brought in. Sharecare management proposed that SWEB should look beyond the children and include parents and care givers in the training project. Owing to delays, the project was scheduled for the beginning of the upcoming year.

**Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection:**

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection invited its organization including Sharecare to the first ever Annual Sector Management Performance Review Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to examine itself and create a platform for stakeholders to reflect on their work and present independent view on the performance of the ministry. Nothing was specifically said about disability and a representative of GFD pointed this anomaly out.

**Department of Social Welfare:**

As part of partnership with government agencies, Zone ‘B’ of the Social Welfare Department visited the Sharecare Rehabilitation Centre to encourage parents of children with disabilities in their tasks and what they are doing for their children.

**GAPA:**

Sharecare joined in the celebration of International Day of Persons with Albinism at the Accra Rehabilitation Centre and gave a solidarity message.

**PAGE and PSD 2015:**

December 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 was the day set aside by International Alliance of Patients’ Organization (IAPO) to celebrate Patient Solidarity Day (P.S.D.) around the globe. PSD brings into focus the need to put the patient at the centre to improve healthcare outcomes. The theme for PSD 2015 was: Healthcare is a Human Right.

Patients Alliance of Ghana in Engagement (PAGE) an association of patient advocates across Ghana was to spearhead the celebration, but due to unforeseen circumstances the planned event could not come on. A press release on the theme was issued to mark the day. This was the second consecutive time that the PSD event could not come on. IAPO meanwhile granted Sharecare Ghana a fee waiver for the year.

**3. FUNDRAISING & FINANCES**

**Investment**

Sharecare Ghana’s investment of GH¢20,000 with Liquide Consult yielded GH¢600 a month, the investment amount was increased to GH¢30,000 with remaining funds from ‘A Taste of Ghana’ on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2015, to yield GH¢900 monthly.

**Dues**

Membership dues collected for the year amounted to GH¢545 which was paid into the welfare account. GH¢85 was paid as welfare benefits.

## **Donations**

Sharecare received monthly standing orders from Dr. Joyce Aryee, Mr. Derrick Dankyi and an anonymous donor, totaling GH¢550 every month. Several other donations were received during the year. An amount of GH¢1,500 was allocated from the District Assembly Common Fund, Dr. Tony Oteng-Gyasi gave a donation of GH¢1,000 and Phyllis Christian GH¢500 for the World CP Day activity. Phyllis Christian also donated a desktop computer and printer to Sharecare. Melting Moments donated snacks for monthly support group meetings. Dr. Tobi Omu donated CAD600 for adult physiotherapy in collaboration with Accra Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinic.

The MacCarthy family donated physiotherapy equipment worth eight thousand pounds sterling (£8,000) to the Sharecare Rehabilitation Centre. Aviation Alliance gave GH¢500 every month, which was used to support physiotherapy for Sharecare's home-bound children. KATASolar Ltd. donated and installed a solar system for the Centre's lighting with a promise to cover the fans and other equipment in due course. United Way Ghana donated furniture to the Centre. An opinion leader in the Osu Anorhor community donated electricity credit to the Centre for three months as his contribution towards the Centre's activities. A number of individuals including Nana Perbi gave cash donations amounting to GH¢1,398 towards Mercy Holm's planned surgery. PwC donated GH¢450 towards the upkeep of young Enoch.

## **Finances**

Total income for the year was GH¢56,236.14 as against Gh¢48,514.37 the previous year and expenditure was GH¢54,316.05 as against Gh¢27,524.46 the previous year. Investment of GH¢20,000 in fixed deposit was rolled over. The detailed financial report follows these pages.

## **4. SHARECARE ESTABLISHMENT**

### **Strategic Plan 2016 - 2018**

A three-year strategic plan was developed by members of the organization in order to provide a disciplined approach to management of Sharecare Ghana over the next three years. The strategic plan details the organization's structure, tenets and strategic objectives.

### **Executive Council**

The tenure of the Executive Council ended in July and a questionnaire was sent to all members. By their consent, all except Lara, Cookey who has relocated to Nigeria opted to remain on the council. The new Executive Council comprises:

Dr. Doris Obodai Sai  
Mr. Joseph Gadagbui  
Adwoa Sey  
Farida Bedwei  
Iris Anie-Annan

Agnes Fobi  
Anne Sekyi  
Phyllis Christian  
Thiawa Dieng-Opon  
Nana Yaa Agyeman

It was suggested that more members could be co-opted since there is no limit to numbers and to make up for those who are unable to attend regularly.

The Executive Council held two meetings - on September 5<sup>th</sup> and December 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 - to review activities carried out and finalize the strategic plan drawn up by members. Activities and budget for the year to come were discussed and approved. The Executive Council decided that the management team should draw up the organization's child policy which should be publicly displayed. Consent forms should also be signed by parents of children attending the Sharecare Rehabilitation Centre.

### **Management team**

Rebecca Sai continued to manage the Sharecare Rehabilitation Centre, assisted by Desmond Papa Adabla, Social Worker. Mr. Wilson Essien was given the role of Welfare Officer and became a signatory to the welfare account as well as the GCB Bank account. Laura Adzima worked as Finance/Administrative Secretary two days a week from October 2015. The management team carried out the planned activities and made projections for the upcoming year for approval by the Executive Council.

### **Internship and field work**

The work at the Sharecare Rehabilitation Centre was aided to a large extent by interns. Nine students from three universities - University of Ghana, KNUST and University College of Education, Winneba – interned at the Centre. They were assigned to families and saw to the registration and renewal of the children's NHIS cards, 2% District Assembly Common Fund allocation and assisted parents to take their wards to hospital. Sharecare gave them gifts of appreciation at the end of their internship. A number of visitors also walked in to volunteer their time with the children.

### **Operations and staff**

Sharecare office

The Accra Rehabilitation Centre manager promised Sharecare office accommodation when available. Thanks to Ms. Phyllis Christian the office now has a computer and printer.

Physiotherapy was the focus of treatment at the Sharecare Rehabilitation Centre. The three physiotherapists showed commitment and compassion for the children and parents saw marked improvements in their wards. Thanks to them and the support from SWEB Foundation, therapy days are likely to increase from three to five days a week in the year ahead.

**Prepared by:**  
*The Management Team*  
*March 2016*