

Herald of Hope

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HOPE CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL ACQUIRES HEALTH INSURANCE FOR 305 POOR PEOPLE



An official from the National Health Insurance Scheme registering a student from the Fetteh community.

Recent research has shown that, each year, about 150 million people use more than two-fifths of their income reserved for items other than food, to cover their family and personal health expenses. In fact, 100 million people are pushed below the poverty line every year because they have to pay ready cash to cover more than half of their healthcare costs. As a lower middle-income country in Africa, a significant part of the population of Ghana falls within the demographic that suffers financially whenever they have to spend on healthcare. Until 2003, Ghana's healthcare financing was based on a cash-and-carry system, meaning that patients had to pay cash before receiving medical care at any facility, public or private. There were few community healthcare insurance schemes but most poor people could not afford healthcare in general. The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was established in 2003 to enable people living in Ghana and those visiting the country have easy access to healthcare without the need to have cash readily available.

The National Health Insurance Scheme is mainly funded by taxes and, to enroll in the national health



Some students from the Fetteh community at the NHIS registration room



Other members of the community waiting for their turn to start the NHIS registration



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LOCAL OVERSIGHT

The Elders of
Vertical Centre Church of Christ,
Community Six, Tema, Ghana.

SUPPORT

VOH-Ghana,
A 501(c)(3) Non-profit.

MINISTRIES

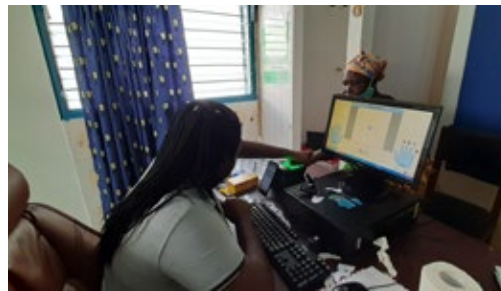
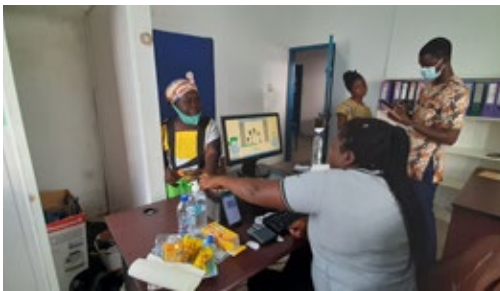
Hope Children's Village
Hope Training Institute
Hope Christian Academy
Hope Christian Hospital
Church of Christ School
Hope College
Agriculture
Church of Christ at Village of Hope
Campus Church of Christ - Ayawaso
Evangelism
Church Planting and Strengthening

insurance scheme, individuals have to pay a registration fee as well as an annual premium based on their income and the ability to pay. In addition to this, pregnant women, children, persons with disabilities, poor people, and adults older than 70 years do not have to pay the premiums. There is a major challenge, however, when it comes to identifying who is a poor person.

In a study of 7,000 individuals in the Central Region (where Hope Christian Hospital is located) and in the Eastern Region of Ghana, it was discovered that, even though people knew about the National Health Insurance Scheme and its benefits, only 17% of the poorest people in these areas were actually insured, whereas 44% of those from the richest households were enrolled. It was obvious then that an ability to afford the premiums was one of the major reasons. In addition to this, the national health insurance facility does not cover all medicines and services so, sometimes, people have to make cash payments to receive full treatment. In spite of all this, an uninsured patient still makes

between 1.4 to 10 times more cash payments than an insured patient and, therefore, being insured is still much better than having no insurance at all.

Against this background, and as part of the 25th Anniversary celebrations of Village of Hope, Hope Christian Hospital liaised with officials of the National Health Insurance Scheme to support the members of the rural communities surrounding Village of Hope, where some of the poorest people in the Central Region live. For three days, staff of the National Health Insurance Scheme were stationed at Hope Christian Hospital to register uninsured people who could not afford to do so. Hope Christian Hospital paid for each individual's registration and premium for a year. At the end of the three days, 305 people had been registered, exceeding by five the hospital's original target of 300 people. What better way to reach out to your potential clients than to help them get health insurance that gives them access to all the services at your facility? [🔗](#)



Scenes from the free NHIS registration organized by Hope Christian Hospital.



COVID-19 VACCINES REACH HOPE CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

On February 24, coincidentally the 25th Anniversary of Village of Hope, a shipment of 600,000 COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Accra as part of an initial tranche of deliveries of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine licensed to the Serum Institute of India. Actual vaccination began on March 1 and, within a week, 162,541 people had been vaccinated. The vaccines were deployed in the three regions which recorded the highest cases of the virus – Greater Accra, Ashanti and Central regions. The vaccination was quickly opened up to all people above 18 years after the first phase for health workers, senior citizens, people with underlying conditions, and security personnel was completed.

As a medical facility in the Central Region, Hope Christian Hospital received a consignment of 410 vaccines for all the frontline medical staff of Hope Christian Hospital, as well as the staff of the Community Health and Planning Services (CHPS) post in Fetteh. Once the hospital and CHPS staff received the vaccine, the hospital opened up vaccinations to all adults who qualified, with senior citizens given priority. All those who received this first dose of the vaccine were given cards to be brought back for the second dose of the vaccine which would be deployed within this month of May. The entire Village of Hope family is grateful for the safety and health we have enjoyed throughout this pandemic and we are hopeful that this vaccination is the beginning of better days to come. [📄](#)

COMMUNITY MEMBERS RECEIVE GENERAL HEALTH EDUCATION

In a rural area like Gomoa-Fetteh, a natural relationship exists between health workers and the rest of the community. Through daily interactions with community members, our health workers get to know the mindsets of the people and understand what is at the root of some behaviors and attitudes that affect health and wellness. This allows for healthcare issues

to be addressed in an informed and holistic manner. During the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Village of Hope, staff of Hope Christian Hospital visited various community groups and churches to give health talks on topics relevant to those groups. We anticipate that these talks will improve the wellbeing of the members of our community. [📄](#)



Staff of Hope Christian Hospital give a health talk to a sewing group at Senya Bereku.

SPORTS - HOSPITAL TEAM WINS TWO-DAY SOCCER GALA

Part of the activities of Village of Hope include building rapport with the community and keeping a connection in various ways. Hope Christian Hospital, as our healthcare facility, interacts significantly with the community on a daily basis. In order to foster good community relations and promote health and wellness, Hope Christian Hospital organized a two-day soccer gala involving three teams within the Village of Hope Group, and three teams from the community.

During the first stages of the tournament there were two groups. Group A comprised taxi drivers of Gomoa-Fetteh; staff of White Sands Beach Club; and administrative staff of Village of Hope. Group B teams were staff of Hope Christian Hospital; trainees of Hope Training Institute; and members of the Anapansu community (close to Gomoa-Fetteh).

Staff, children and community members came out to support their teams in healthy competition. The first round of matches on Day One were to determine who would play in the semifinals. At the end of the day, the scores were as follows:

		Scores	Points
Group A	White Sands vs Drivers	0 - 0	1 - 1
	Village of Hope vs White Sands	0 - 1	0 - 3
	Drivers vs Village of Hope	0 - 0	1 - 1
Group B			
	Anapansu vs Hope Christian Hospital	0 - 1	0 - 3
	Hope Training Institute vs Anapansu	0 - 4	0 - 3
	Hope Christian Hospital vs Hope Training Institute	2 - 0	3 - 0

This meant that White Sands topped Group A, followed by the drivers' team while the Village of Hope team placed third. Similarly, in Group B, Hope Christian Hospital came first, followed by Anapansu, and, finally, Hope Training Institute. With these results, the top two teams from each group qualified for the semifinal stage on Match Day Two. Hope Christian Hospital beat the drivers' team while White Sands beat the team from Anapansu. At this point, the drivers' team decided that they would forfeit instead of playing with White Sands to decide which team would take third place. The final match was between Hope Christian Hospital and Anapansu and we are pleased to report that the hospital team won narrowly by 3 goals to 2. If the goal of the Hope Christian Hospital team was to win the tournament, it was not lost on anyone. Perhaps, they are the healthiest group after all. [📷](#)



Shots from the soccer tournament organized by Hope Christian Hospital.



Shots from the soccer tournament organized by Hope Christian Hospital.

POOR PATIENTS' BILLS GET CLEARED

As a charitable organization within the ministry of Village of Hope, Hope Christian Hospital serves many patients irrespective of their financial situation. In fact, there are many times when poor patients without health insurance are treated and discharged for free because there is no other option left. In other situations, patients are given ample time, after they are discharged, to find the funds to come and pay their bills. Between 2007 and the first quarter of 2021, the revenue lost from unpaid patient bills was about \$3,500.

When Mr. Kojo Asemanyi, a former Member of Parliament (MP) for the Gomoa East District, heard about the bills that his constituents could not afford to pay, he decided to make a donation to Hope Christian Hospital to settle these bills, including those of patients still on admission for whom payment

was going to be a problem. Mr. Asemanyi is known to be interested in and supportive of health facilities. He facilitated numerous health interventions in other parts of the district when he was the MP for the area. Before the visit, Mr. Asemanyi was not aware that Village of Hope was celebrating 25 years of saving lives and serving humanity. Once he got to know this, he made a donation of 25,000 Ghanaian cedis in honor of the 25 years that Village of Hope has been in existence. This amount (about \$4,500) more than covered the outstanding patient bills, leaving extra funds to support any patients that may be in need. Mr. Asemanyi promised to continue to support Hope Christian Hospital, especially because there is no government-funded hospital in the Gomoa East District, making our hospital the only one available to residents in the community. [1](#)



Staff of Hope Christian Hospital meet Mr. Kojo Asemanyi and his entourage.



Mr. Kojo Asemanyi presents a check to Fred Aasre.

AEROBICS & CLEAN-UP

The hospital organizes regular weekly aerobic workout sessions for the entire Village of Hope family every Saturday morning as a way of encouraging the entire Village of Hope to be health-conscious. For the first time, in order to extend health awareness to the rest of the community, the aerobic workout session was moved to the streets of Fetteh. On campus, the workout sessions usually start at 5.30 AM but on April 24, the team began the session at 6.30 AM. For two hours, the group worked out to local tracks. Unfortunately, the community members only watched but did not join in the

activities; nevertheless, the team soldiered on and hoped that the townsfolk would be encouraged to take their health seriously.

A healthy body can only thrive in a healthy environment and the staff of the hospital made this point clear by setting aside a day to clean areas in Fetteh and Senya Bereku. The activities started in Fetteh where the team of 30, comprising hospital staff and other Village of Hope staff cleaned gutters and streets around the market and police station. After work at Fetteh, the team moved to the next area, Senya Bereku, and cleaned the dirtiest areas in that community's marketplace as well. [1](#)

The following are shots from the aerobics and clean-up organized by Hope Christian Hospital:







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VISION OF HOPE - 2020: TOWARDS OPERATIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY

I. HOPE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE (ORPHANAGE)

Renovation of first 5 Children's Homes/Cottages

	\$
1. George & Mary Chisholm House	10,000
2. Douglas & Margaret Boateng House	10,000
3. Traverse City Church of Christ House	10,000
4. Prestoncrest Church of Christ House A	10,000
5. Prestoncrest Church of Christ House B	10,000

Sub-Total **50,000**

II. CHURCH OF CHRIST SCHOOL (PRE-K THROUGH 9TH GRADE)

	\$
1. Renovation of Primary and Junior High School Buildings	12,000
2. Furniture for Classrooms	8,000

Sub-Total **20,000**

GRAND TOTAL: \$70,000.00

