



MindFreedom Ghana



House No F302/1, Richter Street, Kuku Hill, Osu-Accra, P.O. Box AC 610, Arts Centre, Accra-Ghana Tel/Fax: +233-302-774 261 Email: mindfreedomghana@yahoo.co.uk

December 18, 2013

TO ALL WELL-WISHERS & ADHERENTS
COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE OF
MINDFREEDOM GHANA

Dear Sir / Madam,

APPEAL FOR SUPPORT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR RENTING OF A NEW OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

We write to appeal for your support for a donation to enable our organization, MindFreedom Ghana raise an amount of ten thousand, seven hundred and fifty US Dollars (\$10,750) to be used in renting a new office accommodation in Accra, Ghana for the next three years.

It must be clarified that the money so raised will be paid in bulk to any new office accommodation owner we enter into contract with, for a period of three years. This reflects a monthly rent cost of approximately three hundred and fifty US Dollars (\$350). We must let you know that the payment of rent in bulk for stated periods is what is commonly practiced in Ghana.

It must be stated that we need a total amount of twelve thousand, five hundred US Dollars (\$12,500) for the purposes stated in the foregoing. As of now we have had an Australian lady, viz. Mrs. Naa Kwarle Addo (maiden name being Alice Reed) donated one thousand US Dollars (\$1,000) out of the amount needed. An anonymous Ghanaian donor has also given seven hundred and fifty US Dollars (\$750).

This appeal has been necessitated by an order in August 2013 by our Landlord to quit our current premises within a period of the next six months as he wants to take possession of the building which he said he would be converting into another structure for future commercial use. We were therefore required to vacate the premises by the end of October 2013.

Following the order, we have made representations to him to give us a longer period to vacate as our current finances are unable to pay for another office accommodation in the next six months. But this man would not budge an inch and has insisted that we move out as per his order.

We have not been able to move out of the office accommodation as of now because of financial constraints. Indeed our finances currently cannot afford hiring a new place as we had not in the least anticipated this sudden decision by the landlord.

Just last week, his lawyers brought us another letter giving us seven days to move out failing which they would resort to legal action to regain possession of the place. We have attached copies of the letters for your verification.

In the wake of the latest letter, we have approached the landlord and pleaded with him to give us up to the end of January 2014 to vacate the premises which he has reluctantly agreed to.

In the circumstances, we have to find means to obtain the aforementioned amount of money through appeals to some individuals in Ghana and abroad. The situation is dire as our inability to raise funds to rent another office will not only affect our work but largely those we work with and for i.e. persons with psychosocial disabilities.

Our office, apart from administrative work, serves various purposes which inter alia are for psychotherapy counselling services and meeting place for distressed persons as pertains to those with mental health problems and source of materials / information for research work on disabilities.

In addition to the foregoing, we have availed our office for the organization of different workshops on psychosocial disabilities and disabilities in general. These were on capacity building and advocacy during the period when our organization and partners were engaged in the push for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and enactment of a rights based mental health legislation in Ghana.

A number of personalities among who are Mr. David Oaks formerly of MindFreedom International, Ms. Celia Brown Board Chair of MindFreedom International, Ms. Tirza Liebowitz of Open Society Institute and Prof. Robert Dinerstein, of Washington College of Law have all visited our office a few years back for different reasons.

To give a brief of our organization's profile, here it is:

MindFreedom Ghana (MFGh), a non-profit organization, was formed in September 2004 with its broad area of operation being in mental health matters and psychosocial disabilities in Ghana. The sub-area includes ministering to persons with mental disorders who very often are neglected, discriminated, abused in many ways, stigmatized and socially excluded. It was registered statutorily to operate in Ghana in November 2005. The vision of MindFreedom Ghana is directed towards improving the mental health and social lives of persons with psychosocial disabilities in Ghana as well as promoting their human rights and dignity.

In its mission, MFGh seeks to foster and strengthen links with analogous minded organizations both locally and internationally to harmonize operations and explore diverse forms of cooperation as well as assistance towards persons with mental disabilities.

Our objectives are:

- to support and assist persons with mental disorders in their treatment regimen and further advocate for conditions that would not infringe on their human rights and dignity in their communities and institutions
- to seek to improve upon the social, economic and general conditions of persons with mental disorders and deal with the stigma they suffer
- to promote activities that would make persons with mental disabilities have a sense of acceptance and belonging in their families and communities
- to engage in education and awareness creation activities on mental health and persons with psychosocial disabilities

Activities of MFGh are centred on Advocacy, Awareness Raising, Prevention and Research. These have among others culminated and continue in the organization of symposia; newspaper publications; counselling sessions; community outreach activities such as drama sketches; talks; radio and TV discussions, street marches; production of information, education and

communication materials on mental and persons with psychosocial disabilities; played major advocacy roles culminating in Parliament in 2012 enacting a human rights based legislation on mental health care services in Ghana as well as the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, all in 2012; production of documentaries on human rights violations of persons with mental disabilities in prayer camps and fetish shrines.

Membership of MFGh is open to all who share in its vision and objectives. Currently the membership strength composed inter alia of persons with mental disorders and other interested persons stands at ninety-one. These are persons with varied backgrounds in law, psychology, marketing, trading, teaching, farming etc. Members meet once a month to report on their activities within their communities, take stock of what had been done and plan for future activities.

Our membership interact with families and persons who are identified as having mental problems in their communities and seek ways of supporting in their treatment regimen as well as courting love and proper care from their families.

Our organization has a seven member Board chaired by a woman, which includes the organization's Director and Executive Secretary. Responsible for drawing up general policy directions, the Board meets once in every quarter.

Day to day administration is headed by the Executive Secretary who works with a staff of three. Overall oversight responsibility of the organization is the Director.

We are yet to have a website of our own but you can Google: MindFreedom Ghana and get lots of information cum photos of our organization's past and current activities. Also you can follow us on: www.facebook.com/mindfreedom.ghana

Our past funders for projects implemented have been the World Health Organization, Comic Relief – UK through BasicNeeds Ghana, Disability Rights Fund (DRF), Open Society Institute, Local Governance & Decentralization Program under USAID, and currently in a partnership with Ghana Federation of the Disabled implementing a project with funding from DRF. It must be added that we have had funding and material support from some individuals in Ghana and abroad for our work in times past.

MFGh is affiliated to MindFreedom International and a member of the Pan African Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry.

It is our sincere expectation that you would be willing and ready to donate towards this worthy cause and possibly use your links and acquaintances to raise the requested amount for renting of a new office accommodation.

When you decide to respond propitiously to our appeal, we have provided our bank account details as below into which your donations should be channeled through:

- Bank Name: **Merchant Bank**
- Bank Account **Name: MindFreedom Ghana**
- Bank Account Number: **000020100250847**
- Bank Address: **P.O. Box GP401, Head Office Annex, North Ridge Branch, Accra, Ghana**
- Bank SWIFT BIC: **MBGHGHAC**

- Intermediary Bank Name & Address: **CITI Bank N.A, 111 Wall Street, New York, N.Y. 10043, USA**
- Intermediary Bank SWIFT BIC: **CITIUS33**

We shall promptly notify you as soon as any donation hits our bank account.

Thanking you in great anticipation of "Coming over to Macedonia" to help in these moments of distress in MindFreedom Ghana's life. Any amount donated will be profoundly appreciated.

We look forward to hearing back positively from you anytime soon.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Amegatcher (Mrs.)
Director

Cell: +233 277 421207



Dan A. Taylor
Executive Secretary