



# Thank U

**Libraries &  
Eco-Learning  
Centres**



2017 Report

**Helps Kids Farm, Read & Learn ICT**

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# Introduction to Thank U Libraries

We are a UK registered Charity that seeks to transform the lives of children in under-resourced communities in Africa. Hunger is the biggest deterrent to the children's education. And so, using recyclable resources, we designed a unique sustainable Eco-Learning system, that aims to end poverty through literacy, digital skills & farming.

We establish in their schools (to share with their local community) the Eco-Learning Centre, which comprise of 3 facilities;

**1. A 3,000-book library** with good reading materials & educational toys.

**2. Computer Lab** with e-learning digital portal to teach kids 21st Century skills. The digital portal is designed to create opportunities that will enable poor children who can't afford to go to School, to access free education in the Computer Lab.

## **3. Sustainable Vertical Organic Farm.**

We typically establish the farm in a local School, to serve the local community and other neighbouring Schools, to ensure at least one hot meal a day, for every pupil.

### FUNDING FOR OUR PROJECT:

Our idea pulls people together to donate a little bit of money, so that we all make a huge contribution to tackling poverty through digital skills, literacy and farming with very little effort. Individuals also sponsor one of the 3 components, to be named in their honour, as their legacy.

We are confident that the best way to achieve our goal of helping children to lift themselves out of poverty, is to give them the chance to get an education and avoid starvation, by creating a library, a farm and a computer lab on the same site.





# 2017 Thank U Libraries Project, 1

## **Helen Lyons Memorial Thank U Library**

**Ending Poverty Through Literacy, Digital Skills & Farming.**



## Why Helen Lyons?

Helen Lyons, an Australian nurse, who lived in London for 40 years, went back to Australia for good in 2009. She was an extraordinary person who suffered poor health, yet was a woman of great faith and a generous benefactor. She bore her pain with great fortitude, showing more interest in others, than in herself.

## Proposal to establish A children's Library in Helen's Memory

Helen Lyons, was a devout Christian, and good friend of Sally Baffour, Founder CEO of Thank U. In gratitude for her generous support of Thank U Charitable activities over 10yrs, the Trustees agreed to establish a library in her memory when she died in March 2016. It would be located at the Calvary Methodist Junior School, in Accra, Ghana, in keeping with her strong faith.

## Helen Lyons Memorial Thank U Library

Jane Lyons, daughter of John Lyons (Helen's twin brother) rolled up her sleeves and got behind the project, collecting 1,000 wonderful Australian books for a wide range of children. School head, Mrs Boham, was thrilled about books from Australia, saying it would broaden the children's knowledge about other places in the world.

*Helen's family Got Behind the Project*



# Preparation Work



Lyons family ship 1,000 books to Ghana from Australia for the new library.



Toys, educational games, Barbie dolls DVDs, a whole range of books, good reading material and learning tools to aid children's literacy were collected in London, and shipped direct-ly to Calvary Methodist School in Ghana. We especially Thank 3yr old Isaiah for his toys.

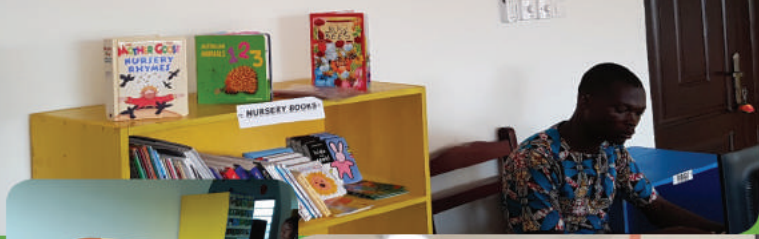


Textbooks were donated by Fulham Cross Secondary School, Southgate High School & Sacred Heart High School, Hammersmith. A range of excellent recyclable reading material and toys were either purchased or donated by Thank U & supporters, notably Amma Fosuah Poku, for her 200 books.

Helen Lyons Memorial  
Thank U Library



*The more you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.*



**Thank U Non-Profit included recycled resources etc.**

## Shipment Arrives at the School

In London, Thank U collected 4,000 books in total and added 2,000 of them to the books from Australia for the:



### 1st Library

The Helen Lyons Memorial Thank U library at Calvary Methodist School in Adjiringanor. With the rest of the 2000 books, we set up 2 more smaller libraries of 1,000 books each, in 2 other areas:

### 2nd Library

was in a junior School in Seduase, North of Accra.

**3rd Library** - was for a Cluster of 4 Catholic Schools in Koforidua, Capital of the Eastern Region of Ghana.



1- Children help to offload shipment of books

.....

2- Jubilant kids jump for joy as the books arrive at the School from the shipper.

.....

3- So excited were they, that some couldn't wait to start reading, even before the books could be sent to their new School Library... The measure of their joy. Bliss!





4- The proud Librarian in his new Library.

5- Quiet Reading area of the Library.

6- The little children can now learn to read.

7- A joy-filled library full of good reading material.

8- Nursery Children's Corner at the Library.



9 - Digital e-learning Resource Area.

**After the New Library**

**Before the New Library**



**Images of the original  
Library Room**



**Pics of the new HLM Thank  
U Library**

# John Lyons Thank U Farm



Being a farming family, Helen's Lyons' twin brother got rather excited about the farming wing, that we were proposing. He threw his weight behind it and sponsored the farm so that hunger will no longer be a deterrent to the children's education at Calvary Methodist School.

As a fitting acknowledgement to John for sponsoring the Thank U Vertical Farm at the Calvary Methodist Prep. School, it was named in his honour as, The John Lyons Thank U Farm. With our individual unique irrigation system, the farm is not dependent on weather conditions. Hence, it speeds up harvest-ing time to between a 4 to 6 week peri-od, depending on the type of crop.

## Why a farm in the school?



.... But a hungry  
Child cannot learn

We observed that many of the children went to School hungry and this was an issue for us. How can any child learn on an empty stomach? We need the children to use the facilities we establish, if we are to achieve our aim of helping them lift themselves out of poverty.

### **We had to find a solution to Hunger!**

Aware that a feeding programme will be expensive and unsustainable, we decided to set up a farm for the School as a more effective option. This as an organic farm will now ensure that every child gets to eat at least one warm nourishing meal a day, to enable them to learn.



## John Lyons Thank U Farm

While the government of Ghana has now introduced free education to all Schools, our scheme will cater for those who fall in the gap. This will be parents whose poverty level means that feeding their children is too challenging for them to

prioritize education, even if it is free. Our Vertical farming system enables more crops to be grown in very limited space with easy maintenance. This farm will now enable the School children to get their practical lessons for their Agricultural Class as they tend the farm, plus they will learn to become agricultural entrepreneurs.



1- Australian High Commissioner, HE Andrew Barnes is given a tour round the vertical farm

2- Our 20ft x 15ft (300sq ft) Vertical farm grows as many as 570 individual crops which is equiv. to 1,800 sq ft of traditional farm size..

3- John Lyons with the School children, who are admiring the farm they are so excited about.

# Thomas & Louise Lyons Computer Lab



## Preparation for Computer Lab

An important component of our **Thank U Eco-Learning Centre** system is the provision of a fully equipped state of the art Computer Lab. Where children can learn IT skills to help them make a real contribution to the digital driven 21st Century.



Specially designed Computer desks with secure storage space for laptops was purchased from our source in London, in addition to 40 swivel computer chairs on castors with adjustable heights, to suit any child and adult .



*All the relevant cables, wiring, and computers parts were also shipped with all the digital equipment to the School and assembled by School tech team.*

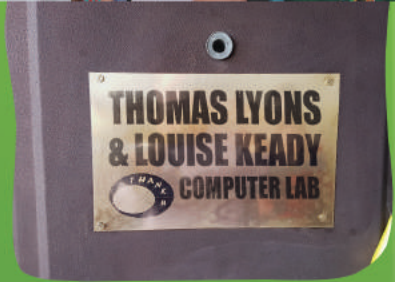
We run a crowdfunding campaign called #CoffeeForKofi asking people to forego a couple of coffees in a day and donate the money they save for our computers. It was based on the story of a street child who was found against all the odds and sent to the School. He turned out to be so gifted, he was moved up 4 classes in a year, evidencing that if you give children a chance to prove themselves, amazing things can be achieved.



## Establishing the Computer Lab and Tech Hub at the School

An important component of our Thank U Eco-Learning Centre is the provision of a fully equipped state of the art Computer Lab. Where children can learn IT skills to help them make a real contribution to the digital driven 21st Century. With the help of many donors and especially, Helen's sister Louise and brother Thomas, we were able to provide the School with 40 computers;

- 24 for their Computer Lab,
- 6 in their library for the new e-learning digital system that will offer free education to adults and children who are unable to afford to go to School.
- The rest of the Computers are being used by the teachers.



1- Local Chief, Nii Obaayoo, cutting the ribbon to launch the School Computer Lab.

2- Sally Baffour looking as IT teacher teaches pupil, Kojo, how to use the computer mouse.

3- Cultural Dance of jubilant School children.

4- Even the Local chief Nii Obaayoo, tries his hand at the newly installed computers.

## Before the New Library



Old computers, defunct and unusable.

## After the New Library



New state of the art Computers



# Launch of Thank U Eco-Learning Centre

On Friday, 29th September 2017, Helen Lyons Memorial Library was launched at the Calvary Methodist Junior School in a Suburb of Accra, called Adjiringanor.



The Invitation for the Launch



## Special Trip by Lyons Family from Australia to Ghana for the Launch

Launch of Thank U  
Eco-Learning Centre



Four members of Helen's family, John, her twin brother, his wife Gwen, their daughter Jane and her husband, Matthew, all flew in from Australia to Ghana for the launch of the Library in Helen's memory.



The Australian High Commissioner to Ghana, HE Mr Andrew Barnes, was the Guest of Honour. He was proud of the partnership with Australians that helped to make this library a reality for Calvary Methodist School. At the total cost of \$53,500, we completed all the 3 facilities of this Eco- Learning Centre project. **'The Launch was a very successful event and a great time was had by all.'** - by Rev. Boham.



*Rev Arko Boham, Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Church was the host of the main Launch of the Helen Lyons Memorial Library.*



*Very Rev. Bishop of the Methodist Church was the Chair of the Launch.*



*Sally Baffour, Founder CEO of Thank U.*

## What a Proud Day the Launch was, for the School and the kids & Staff.



*John Lyons' moving Speech about his sister.*



*Poem: 'Gifts of the Magi' by 10yr old Diana.*



*Joyful School Children drumming & singing.*



*Jubilant School children enjoy the Launch.*



*Cultural dancing by ecstatic School Kids and 7-yr old Kojo who inspired our fundraising campaign, says a special 'Thank U' Poem.*

## Calvary Methodist Thanksgiving Service

On Sunday 1st October 2017, the 7-member Thank U delegation, were invited by the Church Authorities to Calvary Methodist Church in Accra, to join them for a Thanksgiving Service. Thank U team were thanked profusely with lovely gifts by the entire 1,000 member Congregation, for the donation of the Library, the Computer Lab and farm facility made to their School.



Our 'Thank U Plaque' board, destined for the Wall of Gratitude in The School was temporarily brought into the Church for viewing by the congregation (of all the 5 church services that were held in that Church that Sunday). All the supporters and donors listed on the plaque were given a special Blessing by Methodist Superintendent, Rev Arko Boham and the congregation.



## Acknowledgement for Calvary Methodist Sch.

### Thank U for All Your Support

We at Thank U take this opportunity to Thank U all, especially the Lyons family of Australia, for your generous support and most especially for your prayers which led to the successful completion of the Calvary Methodist School ELC Project. And to those who made donations, we'd like to make you aware of the extraordinary value your funds enabled us to achieve in the 3 Schools. Thanks also to the Australian High Commissioner for gracing the launch with his presence.

### Thank U Wall of Gratitude



### Acknowledgements

Special thanks to everyone whose direct or indirect contribution helped to make this Thank U Eco-Learning Centre facility - Library, Computer Lab and farm, a reality.

With a wonderful memorial library established in Helen Lyons' name, we are assured that even in death, Helen continues to transform the lives of many thousands of children for years to come, through the

### **Helen Lyons Memorial Thank U Library.**

May Helen continue to rest peacefully in the gentle arms of our Lord. RIP, Helen. From all of us at **Thank U**.



# Thank U Eco-Learning Centre Project 2

## **Carol Ogoe Hammond** **Thank U Library**

**Ending Poverty Through Literacy, Digital Skills & Farming.**



**Being established, at Seduase Junior School in Ghana.**

## Introduction to COH TU Library

Carol Ogoe Hammond is a retired early years educator who is passionate about the education of children.

## Carol's First Thank U Library

Whilst still teaching, Carol contacted Thank U Charity and requested a library in her name.



As her hobby is collecting children's books, she has an extensive Library of books and wanted to donate some of it to the library in her name.



Carol's Father hails from Ghana and so it was her desire for the library to be established anywhere in Ghana. With the support of the team, Carol as a major donor, sponsored the books



and the library project and in June 2012, **the 1st Carol Hammond Thank U Library** was established at St Peter's Catholic School in Dunkwa-On-Offin, in Central Region of Ghana.

The Library is heavily patronised by pupils from the neighbouring Schools as it is the first School Library in the town.

## Carol's New & 2nd Thank U Library

Carol approached us for a 2nd Thank U Library in her name with her father's as the middle name. It's being established at Seduse Junior School, which has 500 students from ages 5 to 18 yrs. old.

## Phase 1 Presentation



*Thank U CEO presenting Phase 1 books*

For this 2nd Thank U library, Carol like before, has donated quite a sizeable number of books in addition to the extra books that Thank U Charity added from the spill over from the Helen Lyons Memorial Library. This enabled the start on Phase 1 of this new Thank U library.



*The Tiny 5 years olds performed poetry of gratitude to the Thank U team for the books.*

### Presenting books for Phase 1

In September 2017 Carol went with the team to Ghana to present the first batch of books to the school which had already built the most beautiful shelving system to prepare for the library books. All School pupils are assembled for the arrival of the 500 books that Thank U Team were presenting for Phase 1 of the Library project.

### Phase 2 to be completed in 2018

The Thank U team are back in London to fundraise to support Carol with 2500 more books for the library. We are also looking for major donors to sponsor the Computer Lab and Farm, to complete this 3-facility Eco-Learning Centre project.. This will achieve our goal of helping 500 school pupils to lift themselves out of poverty through Literacy.



*The older pupils performed graceful cultural dances in gratitude to Thank U*

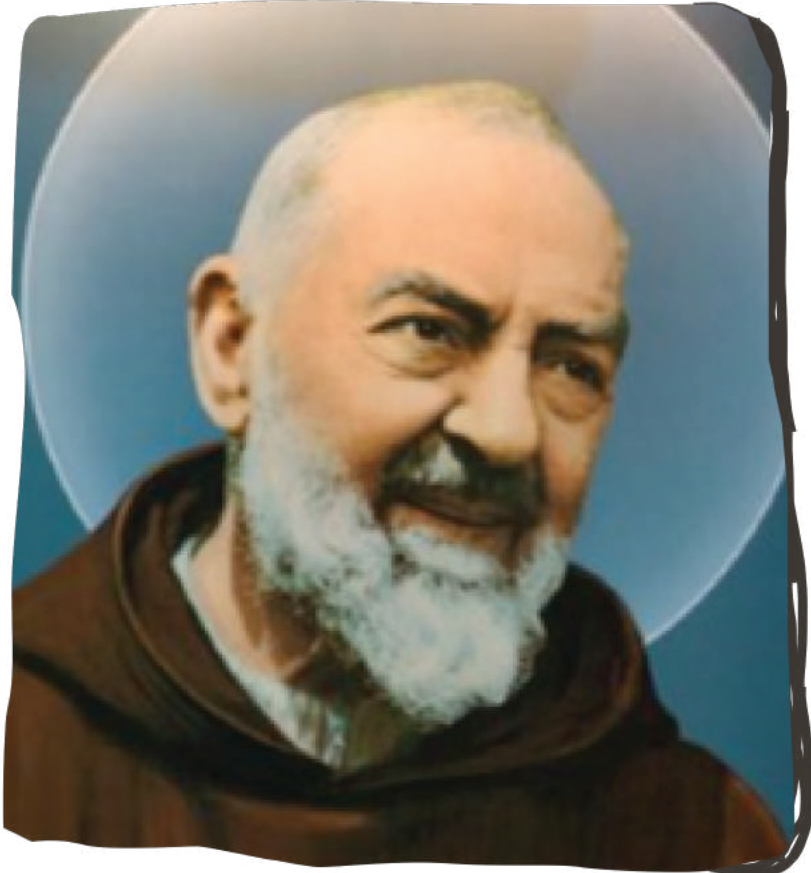




# **Thank U Eco-Learning Centre Project 3**

## **Saint Padre Pio Memorial Thank U Library**

**Ending Poverty Through Literacy, Digital Skills & Farming.**



**Being established, for 4 Catholic Schools in Koforidua, Ghana.**

## Introduction SPPM TU Library

Msgr. Bobby Benson founder of The Matthew Ch25 Centre, in Koforidua which supports people living with HIV/Aids, had requested a Thank U Library for his beneficiaries, sometime ago.

We offered them the 1000 books left over from the Helen Lyons Memorial Library. He responded that a cluster of 4 Catholic Schools with a total population of 1,800 students that operate on the same site in Koforidua, needed it more.



Archbishop Palmer-Buckle of the Catholic Diocese of Accra, offered his SUV and driver to transport the Thank U team and boxes of books, out of town to the 4 Schools in the neighbouring Koforidua Diocese, for the presentation. Many students representing all the 4 Schools were assembled for the book presentation for Phase 1 of the Library project.

They did not have any library facilities and their computers were all defunct.

A suggestion by Tiziana Larocca, one of our supporters, to name the library in memory of Saint Padre Pio was well re-ceived. She donated a framed photo of Saint Padre Pio and some memorabilia. The 4 Schools sharing the facilities are:

**St Agnes School,  
Eva Maria School,  
St. John Bosco School  
Rev Fr Lemmens School**



## Phase 1 Presentation

Thank U team were welcomed by Msgr. Bobby Benson, the School Chaplain, Priests, Nuns and Staff of all 4 Schools.



For the Phase 1 of this project, Thank U Charity presented about 1,000 books, a few educational materials and toys.

Thank U CEO Sally introduced The Thank U team and mission, telling the Children the extraordinary story about the miraculous Saint, Padre Pio and the reason why the Library was being named in his memory. The children were mesmerized. Thank U Charity promised the School one central Library of a total of 8,000 books, a computer Lab and farm.



## Phase 2 to be completed in 2018

The Thank U team are now back in London to fundraise to acquire the rest of the 7,000 books for the library. We are also looking for major donors to sponsor the Computer Lab and Farm component, to complete this 3-facility Eco-Learning Centre project.. This will achieve our goal of helping 1,800 school pupils lift themselves out of poverty through Literacy.



## About Thank U

**Thank U** is a registered charitable organization committed to **Spreading Literacy to Alleviate Poverty** in Young People.

Our sustainable Thank U Eco-Learning Centre projects aims to end poverty through Literacy, Digital Skills & Farming to motivate children in under-resourced communities to lift themselves out of poverty. We hope that the possibilities that reading exposes children's minds to, will inspire the children to dream beyond their geographic limitations, to achieve their full potential and thrive.

We will establish a library, a computer lab or farm in your name, to help transform children's lives. We will work with you closely every step of the way, to establish a life-changing legacy in your name, for posterity. Yours and every donors' name will be listed in the Book of Acknowledgement displayed at the School. Contact Us when you are ready for yours.

Visit us at Web: [www.ThankUCharity.org](http://www.ThankUCharity.org)

Email me at: [library@thankucharity.org](mailto:library@thankucharity.org)

[sally.baffour@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.baffour@btinternet.com)

Tel: +44 741 551 7521 (whatsapp)

FB: [www.facebook.com/ThankULibraries](https://www.facebook.com/ThankULibraries)

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### Thank U

----- A Thank U Project -----

**Thank U**, Baroness Ros Howells OBE, Rudolph Walker OBE

Trustees: Debra Blackwood (Chair), Dr Ugochi Amajuoyi (Vice Chair), Enoch Annobil, Arata Baffour, Tanika Yearwood, Chloe Wood, Sally Baffour (Founder & CEO)

Thank U Charity, Dawes Road Hub, 20 Dawes Road, London SW6 7EN

**Thank U Charity No. 1179853**