

# **AMITOFO CARE CENTRES (ACC)**

Established by the Amitofo Charity Organization, Aimitofo Care Centres (ACC) are both orphanages and AIDS care centres. Amitofo Care Centres are guided by the principles of Buddhism. There are currently three Amitofo Care Centres operating in Africa with another one under construction in Mozambique and two more in the process of land negotiations.

## **Our vision:**

To establish Amitofo Care Centres in every country in Africa and provide care, education and a nurturing environment for African orphans.

## **Our objective:**

- To educate and nurture
- To foster physical, mental and spiritual growth
- To create job opportunities and develop skills within local communities
- To build and staff facilities that aid in achieving the above objectives

The Amitofo Care Centre was founded by Venerable Master Hui Li. He volunteered to come to Africa in 1992. Upon his arrival in Africa, he spent ten years building the largest Buddhist temple in the southern hemisphere, the Nan Hua Temple in Bronkhorstspuit, South Africa. During this time, Master Hui Li travelled extensively throughout Africa, and his vision for the Amitofo Care Centre developed and matured. The first Amitofo Care Centre was established in 2002 in Malawi. Since then, ACCs have been established in Lesotho and Swaziland with construction underway in Mozambique. The Amitofo Charity Organization is also currently in negotiations with Botswana, Namibia and South Africa regarding the establishment of additional centres.



**Swaziland ACC**

The primary goal of the Amitofo Care Centre is to provide a nurturing environment for the orphans and a place to learn and prepare for their adult lives. Amitofo Care Centres not only ensure that orphan's basic needs are met but also provide an education while embracing both local African and Chinese cultures, including Buddhist philosophies. The ACC encourages cultural and religious freedom and aids the orphans in understanding themselves and others, promoting mutual respect and harmony in society.

One of the many highlights that has arisen since the inception of the ACC, are the cultural exchange trips. Each morning at every ACC, orphans participate in meditation and martial arts practice. These exercises are beneficial to their mental and physical health and also allow them to learn more about eastern culture and philosophy. Some of the orphans have taken martial arts practice very seriously and during the past five years, they have had the opportunity to travel to various countries in Asia to participate in martial arts performances. On their travels they get to experience Eastern culture as well as share their own African heritage.



The ACC encourages the orphans to maintain a connection with their local community and assists the orphans in learning about their own cultural heritage. At some of the centres the children attend local schools in the vicinity and travel to and from the school each day accompanied by their caregivers.

The Amitofo Care Centre encourages the orphans to complete basic studies and offers them an opportunity to further themselves through career guidance and higher learning support. Those who show interest in practical skills are encouraged to further their studies at vocational colleges or technical institutes. Career opportunities are created for those who wish to contribute to the ACC through the Amitofo Care Centre network. Funding is sourced for those who wish to pursue tertiary education, at both local and international universities. To date, 11 high school graduates have received scholarships to universities in China, Taiwan and Singapore with numerous donors volunteering to support the orphans with accommodation/transportation.



ACC currently operates in the following African countries with the goal of sustainably expanding to all the countries in Africa:

- South Africa – Headquarters in Johannesburg, administrative offices. Site for ACC has been acquired, currently awaiting transfer of ownership. Groundbreaking take place in March 2015.
- Malawi – Established in 2002, currently accommodating 453 orphans onsite and serving an outreach community of 7000 children
- Lesotho – Established in 2008, currently accommodating 238 orphans onsite and serving an outreach community of 308 children. additional construction taking place to increase capacity to 250 orphans
- Swaziland – Established in 2009, currently accommodating 143 orphans onsite and serving an outreach community of 350 children. additional construction taking place to increase capacity to 500
- Namibia – Currently just finish 1st construction, will a doption 70-80 Kids in MAY 2016.
- Zimbabwe – Construction is currently suspended due to political interference
- Mozambique – Currently under construction
- Bloemfontein SA– grand breaking on the 10 MAR 2015.
- **Brief Overview:**

	Malawi	Lesotho	Swaziland	Namibia	Mozambique
<b>Land Dimension</b>	34.8 ha	19 ha	43 ha	170ha (est.)	25 ha (est.)
<b>Funds Invested</b>	USD 23million (since 2002)	USD 13 million (since 2008)	USD 15 million (since 2009)	USD 12 million (since 2014)	USD 4million- (since 2013)
<b>Orphans Current / Capacity</b>	453 / 500	238 / 250	143 / 500	0/500	250 (est.)
<b>Local Employees</b>	97	58*	39*	-15	-
<b>Volunteers</b>	20	16	14	-12-	

- \* Excluding temporary workers

All of the centres in the above-mentioned countries are located on land donated by the heads of state of the respective countries. Amitofo Care Centres are administrated and managed by the Amitofo Charity Association (ACA), which is an administrative unit that is responsible for developing, facilitating, and supervising the various working units and projects. Following the donation of sites, the ACA is responsible for developing each site, building each centre according to specific needs of the site and surrounding area.



The majority of the funding for the construction and administration of the Amitofo Care Centres come from donations, primarily from individuals and organizations in Asian countries. The Amitofo Charity Association has fund raising chapters of the ACC in Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and China (Hong Kong and Shanghai).

Each Amitofo Care Centre has the following facilities on site:

- School and Library
- Sports and recreation facilities (indoor and outdoor)
- Medical clinic
- Study and meditation centre
- Gym
- Dormitories for orphans and staff
- Kitchen and dining hall.

