

PRESERVING A MARITIME LEGACY

Restoring the Original St Nicholas Foundation Building

From Seafarers to Schoolchildren: Continuing
a Legacy that Began at Tema Anchorage



St Nicholas
Preparatory School
Tema New Town, Ghana



A Legacy Born from the Sea



The origins of St Nicholas School are inseparable from the maritime community that helped create it.

The vision began with Captain Panagiotis N. Tsakos, who believed that every vessel arriving at Tema should find not only safe harbour, but also a place of support, dignity and hope through the work of the St Nicholas Charity Foundation, named in honour of Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of seafarers.

The initiative reflected the long-standing connection between Greece and Ghana, strengthened through Captain Panagiotis N. Tsakos' role as Honorary Consul of Ghana in Greece. What began as a church initiative evolved into something even greater.

Following a visit to Ghana, Maria Tsakos was deeply moved by the realities faced by local children and supported the transformation of the site into a place of learning, opportunity and hope.

The first building on the campus, completed through the generosity of shipowners, maritime families, seafarers, diaspora communities and friends of the Foundation, became the starting point of the St Nicholas educational journey.

Crew members contributed from their wages. Maritime companies offered support. Volunteers travelled long distances to help build a future for children they had never met.

The result was far more than a building.

It became a living expression of Hellenism, philanthropy and the enduring values of the maritime community.

Over the years, the school became widely known within the Greek and maritime communities as **"the Greek School in Ghana"**, reflecting not only the remarkable support it received from Greek shipping families, charitable foundations, businesses, community organisations and the Greek State, but also its role in fostering an appreciation of the Greek language, Orthodox tradition and the enduring values of Hellenism alongside the education it provides.

Support has come from many quarters, including the Tsakos family, the Maria Tsakos Foundation, the Efthymiadis family, Mytilineos Group, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece and countless individuals whose generosity helped transform lives through education.

Today, after serving **more than 300 children**, that same building stands in need of restoration so that its mission can continue for future generations.

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Built through the generosity of maritime families, seafarers, shipowners, diaspora communities and friends of St Nicholas.





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The Challenge

- Coastal environment
- Structural deterioration
- Independent engineering assessment
- Kindergarten classrooms currently affected
- Toilet block also affected
- Building withdrawn from use for safety reasons

■ Today, 50 kindergarten children are unable to use the classrooms originally built for them.



Why Restoration Is Needed



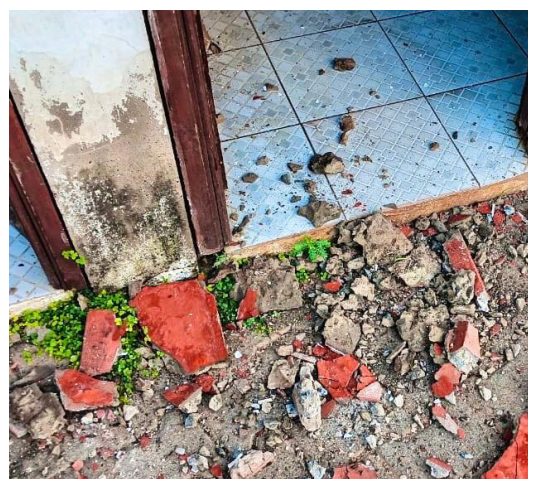
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Following years of exposure to the harsh coastal environment and proximity to the sea, the building has suffered significant structural deterioration.

An independent structural integrity survey carried out by qualified engineers identified the need for extensive remedial works, including structural reinforcement, repairs to damaged masonry, damp-proofing and restoration of weakened elements.

The adjoining toilet and washroom facilities, used by both the school and church community, also require significant refurbishment.

As a result, two kindergarten classrooms serving approximately fifty children are currently affected, limiting the school's ability to use facilities that were originally created for exactly this purpose.



Project Budget

Project Component	GBP	USD*	EUR*	GHS*
Building Restoration	30,000	35,100	40,200	608,000
Toilet & Washroom Block Restoration	13,000	15,200	17,400	263,000
Professional Fees, Contingency & Project Completion	6,450	7,550	8,650	131,000
Total Project Funding Target	49,450	57,850	66,250	1,002,000

**Approximate equivalents based on current exchange rates. Actual values may vary.*

Project Funding Target: £50,000

Approximately GHS 1,000,000 | €58,000 | US\$66,000

The project funding target reflects the estimated construction costs together with professional oversight and a prudent contingency to accommodate unforeseen structural issues and ensure the successful completion of the restoration.

Estimated Project Duration: 2–3 months following commencement of works.

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Why Restore Rather than Rebuild?

Independent engineering assessment has confirmed that the existing building can be safely restored and returned to full use.

Constructing a comparable new facility would require an estimated budget of approximately **£130,000** and would take between **8 and 12 months** before becoming operational.

Restoration represents the most responsible and cost-effective solution, allowing the Foundation to preserve an important part of its heritage while returning essential classrooms to use much sooner and at significantly lower cost.



The Solution

What will your support achieve?

Main Building Restoration

- structural reinforcement
- damp treatment
- masonry repairs
- concrete jacketing
- internal and external restoration

Washroom & Toilet Block Restoration

- roof replacement
- repair works
- sanitation improvements



The building can be restored and safely returned to use through the recommended programme of remedial works.

The restoration project also preserves the opportunity to develop the first floor in the future as accommodation for volunteers and visiting groups and/or as a community health clinic, further extending the Foundation's service to both the school and the wider community.



The Restoration Project

The proposed works include:

Main Building

- Demolition and replacement of damaged masonry sections
- Structural reinforcement of key load-bearing elements
- Retrofitting and concrete jacketing works
- Damp-proofing and building treatment
- Excavation and strengthening works where required
- Formwork installation and structural repairs
- Internal and external plastering and finishing works
- Protective coatings and external wall restoration

Toilet and Washroom Block

- Roof replacement
- Demolition of damaged sections
- Plastering and rendering
- Carpentry repairs
- Steel reinforcement works
- Fence wall repairs and restoration

All works will be carried out under the supervision of the structural engineering team responsible for the building assessment and recommendations.



Why This Matters to the Maritime Community

This is not simply a building restoration project.

It is the preservation of:

- A lasting expression of maritime philanthropy
- A symbol of the long-standing friendship between Greece and Ghana
- A legacy created through the generosity of shipowners, seafarers and maritime families
- A place visited and supported by crews, shipping companies and international partners for more than fifteen years

- The first school building of St Nicholas Preparatory School
- The educational starting point for more than 300 children
- A practical demonstration of Hellenism in action through education, compassion and service

By restoring this building, we are protecting an important part of the Foundation's history while ensuring it can continue serving children and the wider community for many years to come.

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"The Original Foundation Building represents the generosity of the maritime community and the belief that education can change lives. Restoring it is not simply a construction project. It is the continuation of a promise made many years ago."

Deborah Eleazar, Trustee



A Call to the Maritime Community



The total funding required to complete the restoration project is **GHS 1,000,000 (approximately £50,000)**, including professional oversight, contingency and provision for unforeseen construction requirements.

For more than fifteen years, this building has stood as a testament to what can be achieved when people come together with a shared sense of responsibility and compassion. Originally created to serve the church community and visiting seafarers, it later became the first home of St Nicholas Preparatory School, where more than 300 children have since begun their educational journey.

It was built through the generosity of shipowners, maritime families, crew members, the Tsakos family, the Greek diaspora and friends of St Nicholas.

Today, we once again turn to the maritime community to help write the next chapter of this story.

Your support will help restore the Original St Nicholas Foundation Building, preserving an important part of its history while ensuring that vulnerable children continue to benefit from education, care and opportunity. It will also help preserve a unique centre of Greek culture, Orthodox tradition and educational opportunity in West Africa.

We welcome support through:

- Corporate sponsorship and CSR programmes
- Fleet and vessel fundraising initiatives
- Individual donations from maritime professionals
- Classroom and facility naming opportunities
- Long-term partnership commitments

Every contribution, whether from a single vessel, a shipping company or an individual supporter, helps preserve a legacy that began with the maritime community and continues to change lives today.

Together, we can ensure that the light first envisioned at Tema Anchorage continues to shine for future generations, carrying forward a legacy of education, compassion and maritime philanthropy.



Honouring Those Who Built the Foundation

More than thirty benefactors from Greece, Ghana, the United Kingdom and the maritime community came together to create the Original Foundation Building.

Their generosity laid the foundations for a school that has since provided education, care and opportunity to more than 300 children.

By restoring this building today, we honour their vision and ensure that the legacy they entrusted to us continues to serve future generations.

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Further technical information is available to prospective supporters upon request. Supporting technical documentation, including the structural assessment, engineering recommendations and detailed cost estimates, is available upon request.

How to Donate

Your support will help restore the Original St Nicholas Foundation Building and preserve an important part of the school's history for future generations.

When making your donation, please include the

Payment Reference: Original Building Restoration

Thank you for helping preserve a legacy that continues to transform lives through education.

UK ACCOUNTS

STERLING ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT NAME: ST NICHOLAS FOUNDATION
BANK: NATWEST
ACCOUNT NO: 68619324
SORT CODE: 51-50-14
BIC: NWBK GB 2L
IBAN: GB58 NWBK 5150 1468 6193 24

STERLING ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT NAME: ST NICHOLAS FOUNDATION
BANK: RBS
ACCOUNT NO: 50821814
ACCOUNT NAME: RE ST NICHOLAS
FOUNDATION
SORT CODE: 16-0101
BIC: RBS02 GB 2L
IBAN: GB78RBOS1601 0150 8218 14

EURO ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT NAME: ST NICHOLAS FOUNDATION
BANK: NATWEST
ACCOUNT NO: 550/00/70050406
NXNGHMGG-EURO00
IBAN: GB49NWBK60721170050406
IBAN BIC: NWBKGB2L

USD ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT NAME: ST NICHOLAS FOUNDATION
BANK: RBS
ACCOUNT NO: TSSHST-USDC
ACCOUNT NAME: RE ST NICHOLAS FUND
IBAN: GB75RB0516630000370278
IBAN BIC: RBOSGB2L



St. Nicholas
Preparatory School

Tema Ghana

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