

face to FACE



Putting a FACE to humanity.

Newsletter of the Foundation for African Children's Education
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Second year of programme a big success

The second year of the sponsorship program through FACE was a huge success with a total of 142 deserving children sponsored to receive primary school education. On March 10, 2008 George Piprah and a group of seven volunteers, most of them from Friendship Baptist Church in Coquitlam, BC, arrived in Accra, Ghana, West Africa to launch the second FACE sponsorship season. It was the first time in Africa for all the volunteers so you can imagine the apprehension upon arrival. There was only a day of rest and, despite the jet lag, the team was on the road on the second day after arrival.

The first village the volunteers visited was Ejura, about 45 kilometres north of Kumasi. Susan Eyer-son from Langley, BC, who had been in this town earlier, supervised the selection of the children to ensure they qualified under our criteria. In total 32 children were sponsored in this village. At the ceremony to present the sponsorship kits to the chil-

dren, the headmasters of three of the schools and some local politicians were in attendance.

The next day, three of our Ghana Directors (Nana Opoku Wereko, Eric Owusu and Joyce Wereko Ampim) joined the team and traveled 230 kilometres east of Accra to the village of Agbozume in the Volta region, only five miles from the Aflao border town. The team received quite a reception there! As a surprise, the local school cultural dance group greeted the team with the Eve Cultural dance and singing.

The team met with the 15 selected children and their parents. Many of the local teachers expressed their appreciation for the sponsorship given to these needy children. The local FACE coordinator there was Eric Fiamordzi, a local magistrate and a well-respected citizen of the town. Mr. Fiamordzi had carefully selected the children based

on FACE's need criteria. Through interviews with the children and their parents, it was evident that they were truly in difficult financial situations.

The following day took the team to Mankoadze in the central region where we met with 15 sponsored children and their parents on the grounds of the local school. In attendance was the Nkonsoo (progress) chief of the village, Mr. Yankson and some of the local dignitaries.

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After Mankoadze the team proceeded to Cape Coast and toured the famous Elmina Castle before relaxing at a local hotel in Cape Coast. Bright and early the next morning, the team visited Kakum National Park about 25 kilometres away. By noon we drove on to Assin Anyinabirim, also in the central region, where they with a similar number of children and their parents.

In the late afternoon, the team continued on to Kumasi, the capital of the Ashanti region; it was a journey of about 150 kilometres. We stayed for four nights and used Kumasi as a base from where Bodoma and Afoako were visited over a three day period. While in Kumasi, some time was taken to visit the famous Manhyia Palace of Ashanti Chief.

In all these six villages, the programme was conducted in a similar manner: the team talked generally to the children, parents, and local dignitaries about the importance of education and how FACE believes that the best way for these not-so-fortunate kids to break out of the cycle of poverty was through education.

Personal testimonies were given to the children by George Piprah, (Hon. Consul-General for Ghana in BC), Joyce Wereko Ampim, head of Human Resources at SSNIT in Accra, Nana Opoku Wereko, Manager of Ecobank in Accra and Eric Owusu, Professor of Botany at University of Ghana, Legon. The message to the children in these testimonies was that all the mentioned people were once little Ghanaian children growing up in a similar village but, through education, these people were able to break the cycle and become useful members of society. In short, the message to the children was “if we can do it through similar circumstances, so can you”. In each gathering, the team broke into three groups and conducted a private counselling session with the child and parent where the criteria for continued support through sponsors and FACE was emphasized.



(above) Volunteer Suzanne Evers presents a school supply kit to a primary student. (right) Volunteers Amanda Masih and Jeff Stone meet with a parent and child.



It was a joyous meeting with the children although it was difficult to say no to some needy children in each village who showed up to plead their case for inclusion.

All our volunteers returned home with a sense of satisfaction that together we are making a small difference in the lives of these kids, that although the need is greater, together we are making a big difference in the life of the children. Tanis Blomly, one of the volunteers remarked, “It is like the proverbial saving of one shellfish among the hundreds on the beach; together we are making a difference one child at a time!”

A few words from volunteers who went to Ghana



In 2007, I had the pleasure of volunteering in a village in Ghana, Africa. It was immediately easy to fall in love with the friendly and peaceful Ghanaian people. I had the opportunity to meet and work alongside many locals during those two months and as a result I was immersed in their poverty stricken lives and became painfully aware of their subsequent horrendous daily needs. I returned to Canada driven to find a way to provide the basic right to education and thus pave a brighter future for these eager and smiling children. Joining forces with the FACE organization assisted me to realize that my dream was a real possibility. Having acquired 32 sponsors for desperately deserving children in Ejura, Ghana, I returned to the village in early 2008, and was met with emotional hugs and thankful tears from both adults and children alike...This is just the beginning... *Suzanne Eyers, Langley, BC*



Having the opportunity to volunteer with FACE has given me wonderful lifetime memories. The experience was incredible. Being able to serve as an "ambassador" for our sponsors was truly an honour. Witnessing first-hand the need for sponsorship and the difference it makes in the lives of not only the children sponsored but the entire village was life transforming! The tireless work that FACE is doing to help these children cycle out of poverty gives them hope in their futures! Education is the key to a life without poverty and a life with hope! *Tanis Blomly, Maple Ridge, BC*

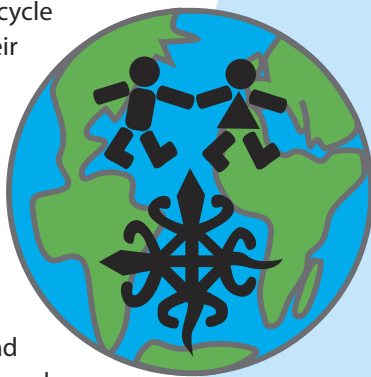


When we came to the first village I was humbled by their poor living conditions and amazed by their love and fascination for us. Many of the kids had on dirty old school uniforms and a lot of them had no shoes. These kids need our support. The kids who are chosen are the ones who are most needy in the area. It amazes me to think that George Piprah, the founder of FACE, was also subject to these conditions. It was only through his education that he was able to

get out of the village and make a decent living and it is a joy to see what is happening through FACE. FACE is giving back to the villages and giving hope for a future to these warm-hearted kids. *Jeff Stone, Coquitlam, BC*



What a treat! I had as much fun interacting with the kids. It was a real blessing to go to Africa and work with FACE on this project. The people do not have much but they are very grateful with the little they have. It has made it abundantly clear to me how privileged and blessed we are to be living in North America. *Marcia Lopez, Toronto, ON*



**FOUNDATION for
AFRICAN
CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION**

Our mission

- To work to break the cycle of poverty through primary education.
- Focus on primary school children in the rural areas of Africa.
- Focus on getting 100% of sponsors' donations to children through the use of volunteers and direct action.

Criteria for selection of sponsored children

- Must be attending primary school.
- Must live in a rural area of Africa.
- Parents must be known in the community as having experienced financial difficulties.

What your donation does for the child

- We personally deliver to the child and his or her parent a kit containing essential school supplies: 2 sets of school uniforms, a pair of sandals, 2 dozen exercise books, pens, pencils, and a dictionary all in a nice backpack. To help with providing lunches we also give \$50 to the parent.

Criteria for on-going support of a child

- Child must stay in school. The monitoring committee in the village must certify this.
- Money must be used for the intended purpose.
- The child must continue to do well in school.

Thank you

FACE would like to thank the following people who have already sponsored children:

Six children

Roy & Joan Stevenson

Four children

Brad Allen; Terzis Stratos

Three children

Darrell & Claire Filafilo; Agnes Hilderbrandt; Chris Lewis; NAFL – Jeff & Roy; Sam & Soran Nakai

Two children

Roy Bainbridge; Sally Bantog; Mel & Donna Crocker; Doreen Howard; Eileen & Neil Jevning; Wan Jung; Ro & Lyndsay Lal; Nicole Morin; Dave Pell; Kevin & Loretta Quin; Catherine Smith; Michael Stadther; Daryle & Hope Taylor; John & Leslie Timms; Michaela Vally; Ronald Welwood; Sherril Wodynski

One child

Jennifer Arsenaault; Isabella Beane; Wayne Burwash; Margaret Cambell; Lonnie Choi; Marilyn Choi; Orval & Sandra Cosby; Alissa Cusano; Ernest Daddey; Vince & Myrna Dangerfield; Frank Deluca; Duncan Developments; Atvinder Dhak; Donna L Douglas; Sandra Ellis; Derek Eteson; Doug & Hazel

Fernandez; Lela Field; Anna Gallusci; Wayne & Betty Gunther; Stella Henan-Carigan; Amanda Hill; Margaret Jevning; Sherali Jinah; Margaret Johnson; Michael Kerrigan; Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Killeen; Andrew Parla Kovich; Robin Lafreniere; Davindra Lal; Ray Loewen; Modelyn Lovelace-Dodoo; Mr. & Mrs. K Lloyd; Bud MacDonald; Janice MacBurney; Joyce Mackenzie; Byron Maine; Jasbir & Susan Mand; Pasquale & Maria Martino; Paul McMurray; Major Francis Milledge; Nila Mones; Mr. & Mrs. Tom Morin; Pearl Morioka; Etta Muir; Wendy & Pat Nevison; Rubi Nichol; Russell Ongaro; Mr. & Mrs. John Philip; Ross & Sylvia Phillips; Kal Rai; Mr. & Mrs. W Richards; AJ Riley; Herman & Judy Schut; Gerry & Melissa Scott; Catherine Sheffield; Harvey Simpson; Shafique Somani; Mrs. BL Strath; Ted Shukin; Stephanie Tuason; Camello Virella; Steve Warner; Lilian Watson; Carole Edwards & I Whitlock; Don & Dianne Wolfe; Darlene Young; Devina Zalesky



We now have a website.
Please read more about FACE
by visiting
www.faceforafrica.com

Donation form

Yes, I want to make a difference in the life of a primary school student in Africa.

I will sponsor (check one):

- One (1) child to go to school. Donation is \$150 annually (\$10/month).
 Two (2) children to go to school. Donation is \$300 annually.

Your donation today can give a child a future!

You will receive a tax deductible receipt for your donation. You will also receive a picture of the child, their name and, if possible, a letter from the child.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal code: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone : _____

My first cheque for \$ _____ is included.

Please make cheque payable to: Focus on Africa
and mail to: FACE c/o Ghana Consul-General
#108 - 6741 Cariboo Road
Burnaby, BC, Canada V3N 4A3



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