



Putting a FACE to humanity.

Newsletter of the Foundation for African Children's Education
c/o Ghana Consul-General • #108 - 6741 Cariboo Road • Burnaby, BC, Canada • v3N 4A3 • 604.230.8659 • www.faceforafrica.com

158 Needy children helped

We just returned from Ghana on this our third year of sponsoring these deserving children to attend primary school. Three members of FACE: George and Bev Piprah from Coquitlam and Suzanne Eyers from Langley left Vancouver the first week of March 2009 bound for Accra, the capital of Ghana. Suzanne went directly to Ejura to work with children in that village.

The first two days in Accra were spent shopping, basically. We went to the heart of "Makola market" and purchased 160 each of backpacks, school shoes, exercise books, pens and pencils and English and Math textbooks. We also made a trip to the seamstress to pick up the school uniforms that had been ordered a month earlier. Back in the house these were spread out on the big front porch and into each backpack was stuffed two sets of uniforms, a pair of shoes, the textbooks and the pens and pencils.

We set off on the third day in our rented van filled with these school supplies. Three Ghana directors of FACE: Nana Opoku Wereko, Dr. Ebenezer Owusu and Joyce Opoku joined us so that made six of us on the weeklong road trip. Our first stop was in Agbozume, a village about 120 kilometres east of Accra. Eric Fiamordzi, our local contact met us and after a great cultural show by the children, we broke ourselves into three groups and met individually with the sponsored child and his or her parent. The next day we were in the central region, in Mankoadze where again our local contact Kofi Yankah helped us meet with the 16 sponsored children there. We stayed at a hotel in Cape Coast that evening and the next morning were off to Assin Anyinabirim where again our

local contact Ante Lucy, helped us to liaise with the children. We drove the fourth day to Ashanti region and did similar programs in Bodoma and Afoako. Suzanne Eyers' chosen village of Ejura also saw the largest group of children: 43 children sponsored. The last village on our program stop was Asokore in the Eastern region.

On this trip we were able to meet with all 158 of the sponsored children and their parents.

Some were in their second or third year of sponsorship. At each meeting, we encouraged these children to continue their education and strive for their life ambitions and then gave them the backpack full of the school supplies. As we did last year, we also gave the parents \$50 to help with school lunches.

The children brought their report cards with them to the meeting and we found out that many of them are doing very well in school. Although academic excellence is not our goal, it was nice to know that most of these children, given the chance, have gotten into the top 50% of their class.



Group photo with sponsored children and parents in Bodoma village.



(right) Sponsored children from Afoako village.



One life at a time

On one of the trips, as our bus drove from the village of Bodoma, there were a couple of children crying very hard to their mothers. Some of the mothers came to the ceremony with their younger children and having seen their older sister receive a backpack because they apparently did not get one, they burst into tears. With the picture of that scene in my mind, as we left the village, I started thinking and doubting myself as to whether we were making any difference.

Then I remembered the story of the man who was walking on the beach one day and saw all these shellfish that had been washed ashore and were dying. The story goes this man picked up one of the shellfish and threw it back into the ocean. Another guy following him said, "You are wasting your time. You cannot possibly throw all of them back into the ocean". The man replied, "But I saved this one!"

This story warmed up my heart. The need is so great in Africa. One group cannot possibly solve all the problems but through FACE, all we can do is save or help one life at a time!

George Piprah, Board Member and Honorary Consul General for Ghana to British Columbia



(above) FACE Board Members meet with sponsored children and parents.



(right) A sponsored child from Bodoma and his mother.

A report from Suzanne Eyers from Ejura, Ghana



Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world. *Nelson Mandela*

thanksgiving prayers, said by the Methodist Church minister. Then each child and his or her parent or guardian was called up one by one. It was such a happy day for us all. Many parents came up to repeat "God bless the sponsor" with firm handshakes and some with tears in their eyes.

Over and over, these poverty stricken people repeated "thank you", some groups singing for us and others putting on a play in gratitude.

It is with great pleasure that I had the opportunity to return to Ghana for my third year in a row. This was my second trip as a FACE Board Member and I am truly excited to report we have sponsored 43 children in the village of Ejura.

It was wonderful to see the happy faces of the children we sponsored last year. I was elated to hear accounts of previously assisted children demonstrating their appreciation by doing very well in their classes in school and this only adds to my motivation.

To be able to add 12 more deserving children to our roster this time around was even more gratifying. Those little faces are enough of a reminder of why I work with FACE.

This trip was short but full of purpose. On February 24, my Ghanaian assistant of last year, Douglas Botwe, eagerly greeted me and we immediately got to work. Prior to my arrival, Douglas tirelessly worked to compile a list of those children most in need of sponsorship. With careful scrutiny, we decided to spread our support to a variety of schools in the village and needless to say, the list was long.

The task of setting up each new sponsored child began: buying shoes, getting them fitted for their new uniforms, ordering and transporting school books into Ejura, and stocking their new individual backpacks with supplies such as pencils, erasers and notebooks.

Once the list was solidified we presented to those sponsored on March 13. The event was initiated with

With joining the FACE organization I am truly realizing my dream of assisting desperately deserving children in their right to obtain an education.

**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.



Acknowledgments

Focus on Africa, a registered charity made it possible for us to do this project. Our thanks to Joseph Frimpong, President of Focus on Africa, and his committee.

Sponsorship statistics provided by Focus on Africa

Number of individuals who sponsored 6 or more children	2
Number of individuals who sponsored 4 or 5 children	5
Number of individuals who sponsored 2 or 3 children	12
Number of individuals who sponsored 1 child	98
Total number of child sponsors	118
Percentage of sponsors from British Columbia	90%

Focus on Africa and FACE sincerely thank all the child sponsors.



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.
 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: Focus on Africa c/o Ghana Consul-General
#108 - 6741 Cariboo Road
Burnaby, BC, Canada V3N 4A3



**FOUNDATION for
AFRICAN
CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION**