



Putting a FACE to humanity.

Newsletter of the Foundation for African Children's Education, a division of FOCUS on Africa Society  
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## The Proof of the Pudding...



Fast forward five years. On this trip we went to Bodoma village and we met with all 30 children sponsored in this village. As we always do, we sit and have individual conversation with each child and parent or guardian. We ask them how they are doing in school and what they want to be when they grow up. In Ghana

In 2007 when we started with this organisation, we were inspired by the belief that the solution to poverty in the rural areas of Africa was through education. We also believed that it was best to start with the younger children and give them a chance to break the cycle of poverty they have found themselves in.

Let me share the story of Kwasi Bruce which was told to me by our village coordinator in Bodoma, Mr Kwasi Addae. Back in 2007, our village coordinator was walking in the village when he found a mother and a nine-month old boy lying in a gutter by the roadside. This was a very unusual scene so he took them out of the gutter and got the mother and son back to their house. He found out that the mother was mentally unstable and had lost her husband recently. The nine-month old was a lovely boy called Kwasi Bruce. A year later our coordinator selected Kwasi Bruce as one of the sponsored children in Bodoma and FACE started sponsoring him at the kindergarten (KG1) level. When we met Kwasi Bruce in 2008, I remember he was a lovely little boy with a smile that was contagious.



(top) FACE Volunteers with sponsored kids in Agbozume. (middle) Kwasi Bruce (bottom) Group picture after meeting kids in Assin Anyinabirim.

they still continue the British system of ranking the children from 1st to last in a class, based on their performance on the school annual test. Kwasi Bruce told us he was the second best student in their primary three class. What does he want to be when he grows up? A lawyer!

There are several success stories that we heard in other villages: Jessica Ntem in Mankoadze village was 1st in class and wants to be a doctor. Lydia Agyeiwaa

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## Ten Villages, Ten Days Later and 250 Children Sponsored



We just returned from this year's trip to Ghana March 1 to 18, 2012. Six volunteers from Vancouver, BC travelled to Ghana: George and Beverley Piprah, Suzanne Evers, Joseph Frimpong, John Alandi and Joshua Regnier. On this year's mission we were able to sponsor 250 children

in ten remote villages in Ghana. We were on the road for ten days, accompanied by our Ghana Directors: Joyce and Nana Wereko Ampim and Dr. Ebenezer Owusu, and travelled in two buses over 1200 kilometres from Accra through Cape Coast and through the Assin area to Kumasi and return through Asokore to Accra. There was a separate day trip to Agbozume and Suzanne to Ejura. It was an exhausting road trip but we all came back thinking it was all for a VERY good cause.



*Beverley, Joseph, John and George all busy having a chat with sponsored children and parent.*



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was 2nd in her class in Anyinabirim; she wants to be a teacher. Prince Boateng in Asokore village was 1st in his class; he wants to be a doctor. There are many others I cannot mention all here.

My beloved sponsors of these children: this is the proof of the pudding! Our donation to FACE to sponsor the children is starting to show results al-

ready. From the gutter in that village, this almost orphaned child, Kwasi Bruce, is dreaming of becoming a lawyer. Our mantra from the beginning has been let's teach them how to fish!

*George Piprah, FACE Board member and Honorary Consul General for Ghana in British Columbia*



## A Report by Suzanne Eyers from Ejura, Ghana



Suzanne with children sponsored in Ejura and their guardians.

**T**his year, I returned to Ejura, in the Ashanti Region of Ghana, West Africa for my fifth year. Every year I hope to be able to not only re-sponsor the current children but also to increase the number sponsored.

My goal with FACE, on my first visit to the village of Ejura in 2008, was to uncover the children most in need of sponsorship for a school education. With a great deal of research and personal meetings with the families, we started off helping 23 children. I dreamed of being able to sponsor 50 children by 2012 and I could not have been more thrilled to accomplish this.

To date, FACE has sponsored young students of all ages. In sum, one child finished Gr. 13; six children are now in "high school level" (including PolyTech courses in carpentry, plumbing, electrician and nursing;) four children are now preparing for their final Grade 9 level this June; 12 children in Grade 7 and 8; and 28 children sponsored in Grade 1 to Grade 6.

Every year as I return and am faced with the tragic and devastating stories of these young people, I am reminded how integral the individuals who sponsor these children are. It truly warms my heart at the realization that, thanks to our generous sponsors, more and more of these children in poverty, are able to obtain an education otherwise not available to them.



My goal has solely been to obtain as many sponsors for these children, to give them the education they so rightfully deserve. In my efforts this year, I have planned a fundraiser to reach this goal. If you are interested in attending or would like further info, please contact me by email at: [Suzanne\\_face@yahoo.ca](mailto:Suzanne_face@yahoo.ca)

*Suzanne Eyers, FACE Board member*

**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.



### Have you always wanted to go to Africa as a volunteer?

You have an opportunity to go with us on this project, next year, to Ghana as a volunteer. You will travel with us to seven villages so you will see a good section of the countryside. Volunteers pay for their airfare, etc. If you are interested in this life changing experience, call George at 604.230.8659.

### Number of children sponsored

In 2007 .....	50	In 2010 .....	180
In 2008 .....	120	In 2011 .....	240
In 2009 .....	158	In 2012 .....	250

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



“The FACE trip has been the most meaningful part of my time in Ghana. I learned things that would never have learned otherwise. I am so grateful to have been a part of it.”

*Joshua Regnier, SFU student and volunteer on 2012 Ghana mission trip*

Please read more about FACE by visiting  
**[www.faceforafrica.com](http://www.faceforafrica.com)**

Find us on Facebook  
**[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/FoundationforAfricanChildrenEducation)**  
**FoundationforAfricanChildrenEducation**

### 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.



**FOUNDATION for  
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### 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  
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 Burnaby, BC, Canada V3N 4A3