



Putting a FACE to humanity.

Newsletter of the Foundation for African Children's Education, a division of FOCUS on Africa Society
c/o Ghana Consul-General • #108 - 6741 Cariboo Road • Burnaby, BC, Canada • V3N 4A3 • 604.230.8659 • www.faceforafrica.com

Record Number of Children were Sponsored on this Trip: 240!

Five FACE volunteers travelled from Vancouver, Canada to Ghana, on the west coast of Africa, the first week of March 2011. This was our fifth annual mission to continue the work that we started in the spring of 2007 to help break the cycle of poverty in Africa through helping to educate children in the most disadvantaged rural areas of Africa.

Upon arriving in Ghana we were joined by three local board members: Nana Wereko-Ampim, Joyce Opoku and Dr. Ebenezer Owusu. On our second day we went to Makola market and purchased backpacks, textbooks, shoes and all the pens and pencils we needed. As this was our fifth time there, we have established some preferred vendors in the market.

Together we drove to seven villages in different regions of Ghana: Agbozume in Volta, Mankoadze and Assin Anyinabirim in Central, Afoako, Bodoma and Manso Abore in Ashanti and Asokore in Eastern region. Our local board members were also able to deliver the sponsorship materials to three other villages.

In each village, we met one-on-one with the sponsored child and his /her parent or guardian and had encouraging conversations about life and education with each child. We gave them a backpack filled with school essentials: two sets of school uniforms, textbooks for English, math and science, a pair of shoes, six exercise books, pens and pencils. As usual we also gave to the guardian \$40 to help with the child's school lunch.

When we returned to Accra after the exhausting eight days on the road, our local board member,



(top) Sponsored children with parents and teachers at Agbozume, Volta region.
(bottom) Parents, teachers and our travelling team at Assin Anyinabirim.

Nana Wereko-Ampim remarked, "It seems like we are only scratching the surface but we are definitely helping to change the lives of these vulnerable children one at a time."

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

FACE Reaches Northern Ghana

FACE board members presenting the sponsorship material to Dr. Apaak (left in picture) in Accra.



The northern part of Ghana has some of the poorest communities. The proximity to the Sahara Desert causes temperatures to be scorchingly hot. The economy there is mainly raising of cattle and growing grains and yams with the per capita income of about \$300 (less than half the national average).

We are happy to report that FACE was able to impact the lives of 15 children in a remote village in the north called Doringa in the Sandema district of Upper East. Dr Clement Apaak, a recent graduate of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, Canada, now a professor at the University of Ghana, delivered the sponsorship materials on behalf of FACE. We hope to expand our programme in the north next year in line with our goal of trying to reach the most disadvantaged regions.

(left) One of the two vans we travelled with was full of our materials. (right) Joyce, Bev, Dr. Owusu, and Joseph arranging our materials before our presentation at Bodoma.



And They Came Bearing Gifts



The women of Bodoma with gifts on their heads to present to us.

Many people have asked us what the economy of these villages is like. They are mainly subsistence farmers. They grow food crops mainly to feed themselves and a little extra to sell. As a sign of their appreciation, the villagers of Bodoma brought us gifts of what they grow: yam, plantain, cassava, avocado, pineapples and papaya.

A report by Suzanne Eyers from Ejura, Ghana



(left) Forty-seven sponsored students from Ejura, Ghana.
(right) Suzanne and Misbaw



do this! Through his experience, we can see the possible futures of our sponsored children.

And I know Misbaw and many other young sponsored children will eventually help their own village... and take our FACE example.

Misbaw will NOT forget what FACE has done for him.

*Suzanne Eyers, FACE
volunteer*

It is with great pleasure that I write this summary of my latest trip to Ejura, Ghana. This year, I have returned home having truly been able to see the positive results of all of the sponsor's donations towards the care and education of the children.

There are 47 sponsored in Ejura village this year: 31 in primary grades (K to Gr. 6); 9 in intermediate (Gr. 7 to 9); 3 in senior secondary (Gr. 10 to 12); and 4 in technical training. As sponsors, we can all be proud of these children striving for a complete education and a brighter future.

There is one particular boy's journey I would like to highlight: Misbaw is a young boy who approached me when I was in Africa in 2007. He was begging me to assist him with his education. It was this boy alone that drove me to become so intrinsically involved in FACE. His sponsors have been so pleased to watch him now completing his Grade 12 education with an A+ average. He has also been given the honour of becoming a "Pre-fect" (a mentor of his boarding house). The next step is for him to obtain a scholarship into a university...

This young boy who instigated my passion for FACE, will now enter into his future with a university education and a paid working future!!

Misbaw is an example of the exact reason why we



**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 \$40 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.

Sponsorship statistics provided by Focus on Africa

Number of children sponsored in the first year, 2007	50
Number of children sponsored in the second year, 2008	120
Number of children sponsored in the third year, 2009	158
Number of children sponsored the fourth year, 2010	180
Number of children sponsored this year, 2011	240
Focus on Africa and FACE sincerely thank all the child sponsors.	



A German FACE volunteer helping in Mankoadze village.

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.



**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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