

face to FACE



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

We Made a Lot of Children Happy



Sponsored children and parents in Agbozume village.

We left Vancouver on February 23, 2010, in the middle of the winter Olympics. Arriving in Accra, Ghana on the 24th, we met with the Ghana Advisory Board members to plan the road trip and all the things that were needed.

After exchanging our money into the local cedis, we went straight to Makola Market, the biggest open market in Ghana. The market is packed with vendors each working from a little table, some wearing large straw hats to shade them from the 35° C temperature and high humidity. After three days of bargaining we had about 180 pairs of children's shoes, the same number of backpacks, exercise books, pens, pencils, rulers, and textbooks on English and integrated science for primary one to five. In each of the villages we were visiting, we would purchase two sets school uniforms per child as prearranged with a local seamstress.

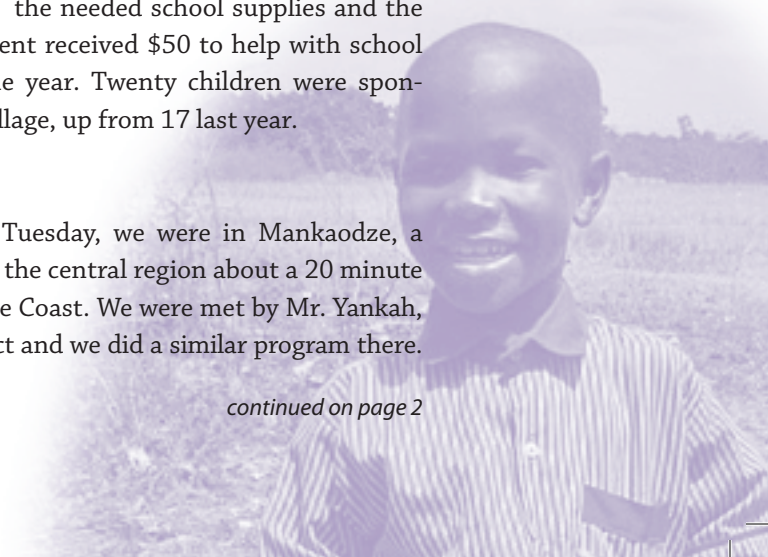
On March 1, we left Accra for Agbozume (a coastal village close to Aflao in the Volta Region of Ghana) in two rented vans, one full of the school supplies. The children welcomed us with a local cultural

dance. Our contact there, Mr. Adjafie Noble, introduced us to the children and parents assembled and we gave our motivational talk on the value of education and hard work at school. Dr. Ebenezer Owusu, a local FACE director and a botany professor at the University of Ghana, Legon, and myself, George Piprah, used our backgrounds as illustrations of how far they could go from that tiny village if they worked hard at school. This talk was followed by one-on-one meetings with the child and the parent. Then the child was given a backpack full of all the needed school supplies and the parent received \$50 to help with school lunches for the year. Twenty children were sponsored in this village, up from 17 last year.

Mankoadze

The next day, Tuesday, we were in Mankoadze, a small village in the central region about a 20 minute drive from Cape Coast. We were met by Mr. Yankah, our local contact and we did a similar program there.

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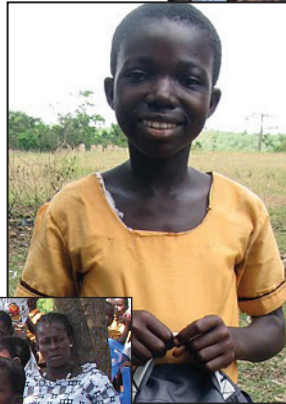


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By the end of the day we had met and sponsored 19 children, up from 16 in the previous year.

We spent the night at a hotel in Cape Coast and fortunately were able to catch some of the highlights from the Vancouver Winter Olympics in our room.

The next morning we set off to Assin Anyinabirim also in the central region. Our contact here was Ante Lucy, a retired woman who worked for several years as an employee of University of British Columbia. We met with 22 children and their parents. It was wonderful to see the smiles on the faces of these



children and I could not help but tell myself that the sacrifice of time and money was all worth it! We drove two hours from this village and arrived in Kumasi, the second largest city in Ghana and about 220 kilometres from the capital Accra. We checked into a hotel close to downtown Kumasi, from where we would operate for four nights visiting three villages.

Bodoma

We drove to Bodoma near Bekwai on Thursday morning, a 20 kilometer drive from Kumasi. The road was not paved and had potholes everywhere, except for the last 5 kilometers. The locals were very

happy to see us and we did our usual program there.

On Friday we traveled two hours north of Kumasi to Ejura. We drove past several villages and observed local school children rehearsing their marches for the independence celebration of Ghana, which was taking place the next day. We were in Ejura to support the work being done there by Suzanne Evers, who has devoted her time to this village and volunteered for FACE for the 4th consecutive year. We had one of the best programs here. Read about Suzanne's story on page 3.

The last three villages were Afoako, Nyameani in the Ashanti region and Asokore near Koforidua in the Eastern region.

At most of these meetings, the children brought their report cards to show us. We are happy to report that most of our sponsored children are doing well in school with the majority in the top 50th percentile of their class. It was heart warming to see the smiles on the faces of these children when they received their backpacks.

Together with you, the sponsor, we are making a small difference on this vast African continent, one child at a time, in our quest to help break the cycle of poverty in the third world through education.

We returned to Accra after a week on the road to find out that Canada had won gold in ice hockey at the Olympics. It was nice to watch the highlights of the hockey game and also to unwind and watch the smiles of the kids on our cameras.

Thank you again to the child sponsors!
George Piprah, Board Member and Honorary Consul General for Ghana to British Columbia

A report by Suzanne Eyers from Ejura, Ghana

I returned to the village of Ejura, in the Ashanti Region of Ghana, for the fourth year. There are many needs of the people with three-quarters of the village being poverty stricken and children not having the opportunity for education as they are unable to pay the fees for school.



program this year, after both parents were recently killed in a car crash. They are sponsored for grade 1 and 2, respectively. Their aunt expressed her deepest gratitude for this opportunity, that she herself could not have otherwise provided them.

In sum, for yet another year, I return home feeling wonderful that we have been able to change

the lives of a total 44 children as a direct result of the donations of the sponsors.

In deep gratitude,
Suzanne Eyers

The opportunities we take for granted are the very things that drive me, year after year, to return to Ghana to proudly help just a select few be afforded these chances.

I hope to continue returning every year to follow-up on these children and in the hopes to include more in the program. The list of names, and those needing assistance, is endless.

Although I could go on and on about my personal time and experiences in Ghana, nothing means more than the children that we have sponsored. It is with great pleasure that I share with you just a few examples of what your generous assistance has been able to accomplish:

The very first boy that we sponsored over four years ago, in Ejura, and the very reason this venture was set into action, is now completing his second year of high school (grade 11). He was at the beginning of grade 9 level of education, when I first met him. He is majoring in physics and his dream of becoming an engineer is no longer just a dream, rather it is becoming a much closer possibility.

A new little boy and girl were accepted into the



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.

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 this year, 2010	180
% increase in 2010 in number sponsored from 1 st year.....	250%

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.



FOUNDATION for AFRICAN CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

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