

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Ghana



It's all done! Now the children have the opportunity to continue junior high school in their own community thanks to Project Abroad volunteers and staff on the building project

ProjectsAbroad

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Highlights of the month

The Hills: Two important building projects were completed

Two separate buildings were completed in November – a two-unit classroom and a two-room teachers' bungalow.

The two-room teachers' bungalow is in the Akokoa village – a community in which Projects Abroad is very active. The teachers' bungalow is for teachers of the Wonderful Love School which is funded by Projects Abroad. It was important to keep the teachers in this remote village by providing free accommodation for them. Thanks to the building volunteers for doing amazing and worthwhile work.



The other building project has been handed over to the school at Mampong Nkwanta– a school that didn't have classrooms for junior high school students. Other volunteers joined the building volunteers to paint the building. Congrats to all the building volunteers who worked on this project; it is a job well done!



Volunteers painting the two-unit classroom block they built for the school on a dedicated Dirty Day.

Koforidua: Updates on our microfinance project

Our microfinance intern Camille Dalmais from France and project coordinator Kizito Gyamfi organized a training workshop in the Skill and Vocational department of the Ghana School of the Deaf.

They, together with a local expert in soap-making trained the students on liquid soap making. This was to teach the students the financial advantages of the manufacturing business and giving them more options in the business world after school.

In a related development, the chicks at the Salom village poultry project – another Microfinance Project supported by Projects Abroad – are growing fast and hopefully, they will mature and be sold around the Christmas



and New Year festivities.

The project coordinator and Camille have started disbursing small loans to the women of the village in order to grow their businesses.

Volunteers educate rural community on Ebola

Ebola is in West Africa. Fact, not exactly, so far only three West African countries have had disturbing figures of Ebola disease – Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Nigeria has had no new infections; Senegal succeeded in capping the disease while Mali had two confirmed cases as of end of November.

Aside from these countries, all nine other West African countries including Ghana has not recorded any cases of Ebola and the Western media generalization of Ebola in West Africa has caused fear for people wishing to travel to these beautiful places.

However, some volunteers rather chose to put the fears behind them and travel to Ghana to help stem Ebola through the Projects Abroad Public Health Project in Kumasi, one of two of the biggest and busiest cities in Ghana. They embarked on a public health education and awareness program in some communities near Lake Bosomtwi – a crater created by a meteorite and Ghana's only natural lake.

They provided information and education to children and other community members on safety practices and good hygiene to prevent Ebola and cholera. The volunteers taught the children of a school in the same village how to make a hand washer with local items – a move that seeks to encourage proper hand washing among the children.



Donations

Kumasi



Two Volunteers in Kumasi made donations of hospital items to the Nkawie Government Hospital today. They gave the hospital a laryngoscope, orthoscope, nebulizer, ward screen, suction machine and pulse oximeter. The volunteers are Britt van de Hurk and Fokje Zijlstra who are both from The Netherlands. Britt worked at the hospital for eight weeks while Fokje, a Public Health volunteer worked at the same hospital for the period of two weeks.

A good deed knows no boundaries; many thanks to them for this amazing gesture which will go on to save lives.

Volunteer Story: Bianca Pais

Bianca Pais, an eighteen year old student from Mumbai, India, travelled over 8,000 kilometres to Ghana in West Africa. As a young girl, she had always had plans of traveling and possibly volunteering on a project that brings change.

Projects Abroad in Ghana offers volunteer opportunities for young people who want to make a difference in a developing country. Bianca's home country India is a developing country, but she felt the need to eliminate any kind of boundaries to pursue a good deed while at the same time experiencing a different country.

Bianca worked in Ghana's biggest hospital – the Korle Bu Teaching hospital in Accra – as a medical assistant at the Fevers Unit. "In the hospital, I assist the doctors and nurses on their daily rounds. I'm able to sit and watch counselling sessions for people diagnosed with HIV. I work in the children's HIV and AIDS clinic where I interact with the children and help counsel them. I get to work in the pharmacy and look at the different drugs for people on antiretroviral HIV and AIDS treatment, as well," she describes.



Besides from working in the hospital, Bianca goes to a school or community outreach once a week. On the outreaches, she works closely with the Projects Abroad medical coordinator who is a professional nurse.

"I go on medical outreaches and dress open wounds for the children: dress the wounds, clean them and put bandages on them. I've also been doing testing of blood groups and also explaining how blood transfusions work," she adds.

Volunteer Story: Bianca Pais *continued*.

The medical project is a sustained initiative that Projects Abroad has been doing over the past years with the support of volunteers. The visits to the communities and schools enable children and adults to know simple and important health tips and information about themselves. For Bianca, having conversations with Ghanaians is one important positive difference she thinks her presence is making while volunteering her time in the country.

“One main impact I think I’m making is sharing my culture and having a nice exchange. I also believe the medical outreaches are very useful especially if you have a child with high fever or malaria. We are able to test him and get him malaria drugs,” she says.

As a young woman, Bianca is thankful for the many things she has learnt while volunteering in Accra. “I learnt a lot about how I can cope with working in a different culture and environment where I am supposed to be responsible for the way I behave and the way I work. Talking to many people gives me stories and gives me things to think about and enriches my personality.”

Ghana’s proverbial hospitality did not elude Bianca during her entire six weeks she spent volunteering. “I love the Ghanaian culture. I feel very much at home. The people are so friendly and they really care about you.” For Bianca, every interaction she has had at the hospital, restaurants and in the public buses are snippets of the story.

Note from the Editor

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There is always a brighter and positive side of life. It is up to you to face it or walk to the other side. We need to live with a perfect understanding that happiness is not the absence of sorrow, pain and disappointment. It is our willingness to accept the things we can’t change and also embrace a positive lifestyle. Ghana is a beautiful contrast and anyone who visits will definitely get to appreciate life in a fuller sense. But in order to enjoy Ghana more, flow with the culture but make sure you pick up the lessons. It can only make you richer.

Please feel free to contact the Communications Officer if you have any questions, concerns or comments:
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Thanks for reading!