



GHANA TOGETHER

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November 2018

Dear friends,

2018 has been a good year! It is amazing to us what can be accomplished when Ghanaians and Americans join efforts! On behalf of Ghana Together and our Western Heritage Home colleagues we say THANK YOU to all our “investors”--- financial, in-kind, and hard-work---both in the US and in Ghana.

2018 Highlights:

--Congratulated six graduating Western Heritage Home Scholars: one from nursing college, four from senior high, and one from junior high.

--Supported 86 students in one way or another. In May 2018, Ghana Together’s Maryanne Ward and WHH leadership visited every school where we are supporting students and met with school headmasters/mistresses, faculty, and students.

--Delivered 969 more children’s books to the Axim Public Library. Thanks to all for donating, packing, shipping, picking up at the Tema port, delivering to Axim, carrying the boxes up the stairs to the library rooms, unpacking, logging in and making book cards, adding to the collection, loading onto the mobile library! You’re **ALL** the best!

-- In May, Regional Library Director Mercy Ackah, Ghana Together’s Maryanne Ward, and Western Heritage Home Operations Manager Evans Arloo visited all fifteen schools receiving tricycle-powered mobile library service. At the end of the Jan-April term, 779 Axim-area students had paid the small fee and were registered library card holders. The children had checked out a total of 8,622 books. Thank you, Axim Municipal Assembly and parents, for funding the fuel for the tricycle. And we also provided safety helmets for the tricycle drivers.

--Updated forty-five of the Library’s One Laptop Per Child computers. Installed a new printer in the Library’s Adult Computer area. Helped pay the electrical bill and got service going on a more regular basis.

--Visited science classes at the Axim Girls Senior High. Learned that the two Internet-In-a-Boxes, containing all of Wikipedia and some 1000+ science & math videos are being used by students (thanks Unleash Kids!). This is a totally new learning situation for students and teachers---it’s taking time to integrate into the day-to-day instructional process. We installed a new printer/photocopier and brought *Science News & PBS’s Africa’s Great Civilizations* on DVD.

--Visited the urine diversification dehydration toilets at three schools. All the headmistresses said they would choose the UDDT type over the older-style toilets. The school with primary students is having more difficulty training the youngest students, but all in all, this is a successful prototype. Thank you Engineers Without Borders!

--Visited Esiana and Asanta Nursing Schools and found the Wikimed devices---Internet-in-a-Box technology with medical content---are working. They are gradually becoming accustomed to integrating this new resource into their instructional process. Thank you Dr. Heilman and WikiMed Foundation. Based on the interviews we did at Asanta, we are working to get an online service called *Nursing Reference Center Plus* available via the school’s new internet service. Thank you, Skagit Valley College librarians and nursing faculty, for introducing us to this resource.

That’s about it for 2018!

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So... What's Up for 2019?

Our aim is to help our Ghanaian colleagues accomplish what they want to accomplish if, after mutual discussion, it seems reasonable, possible, and do-able given our mutual resources and expertise. By working closely together, using Whatsapp, CamScanner, email, text messages, good old voice!---amazing communication tools---we can stay in very close touch and really get things done! Our shared goals mostly have to do with supporting education.

We will be supporting at least 73 students during the 2018-2019 school year:

- 2 in Asanta Nursing/Midwifery School
- 2 in Takoradi Technical University
- 11 in Community Development Vocational/Technical Institute
- 1 at Cape Coast National College Senior High for the Blind
- 40 in Christ the King/Apewosika Village School (Levels 4-6)
- 15 in Maako Primary School
- 2 at Manye Academy

And, we will support education in as many ways as possible as funding permits. We are kind of fanatic about education!

We will continue to help the Axim Public Library bring lifelong learning to the community, especially via mobile library services to 17 schools. We can help by providing children's books, because so few are available for purchase there. We'll continue to support the One Laptop Per Child computers, Internet-in-a-Box, and adult computer and library services. And we'll help in their own local efforts to provide reliable electricity to the library rooms.

We love to introduce new ideas & prototypes, such as the urine diversification dehydration toilets, science/math resources, or information resources such as Internet-in-a-Box, WikiMed, or other resources for nurses' training.

Maybe we could sponsor another school UDDT toilet...or equipment for a true professional midwifery lab at Asanta Nursing School...or an assembly hall for the nearly 500 students now attending Axim Girls Senior High...or maybe YOU have an idea you'd like to discuss with us---bring it on!

And, to dream REALLY big, we would LOVE to build a new purpose-built public library in Axim! Enough of the crowded upstairs of the Community Center with its leaky roof! Enough of the steep stairs that few of the senior folks can easily climb to use the computers or find books, and which make it so difficult for carrying heavy boxes of books up and down to the mobile library! Enough of dumsor (on and off) electricity! Enough of books on piles because the shelves are totally full! The Municipal Assembly has set aside land right in the downtown near schools, homes, and market area. Enough already! The library services are thriving. What is lacking is a facility to support this growing community resource.

So, we ask for your financial support for our 2019 efforts. We again assure you that we use 100% of your donations toward our projects. We on the Ghana Together Board handle all administrative costs ourselves, including all travel expenses (including to Ghana), office expenses, mailing, wire/bank charges, communication, etc. We are a US non-profit 501c3, registered in the State of Washington. Our Federal ID is EIN 26-2182965. Your donations are tax-deductible.

If you are in Ghana, you can deposit funds into the Western Heritage Home account at Ghana Commercial Bank.

In the US or elsewhere, you can contribute either with a check payable to Ghana Together via US mail, or by using the PayPal link on our website at <http://ghanatogether.org/HTML/Donations.html>.

With our sincere thanks...

Ghana Together Directors: Jerome Chandler, Diana Franco Ward, Nathan Ward, Louise Wilkinson, Maryanne Ward, Rich Ward, and our associates of Western Heritage Home, especially James Kainyiah, Evans Arloo, and Mercy Ackah