



## 2016 Annual Report

Last year, 2016, was a year of deepening for Yo Ghana! and our more than fifty schools.

In early July we had our first Sharing Our Stories Conference, hosted by our Vice President, Dr. Ananga, and the University of Education, Winneba. Our students explored fields such as poetry. Teachers discussed topics such as discipline without caning. Administrators shared ideas on such topics as how to work with PTAs. A few months later one of the university students who did so much to organize the conference, Miss Berthy Kpiebaya, began serving as our first National Service Worker. Miss Berthy deftly coordinates our Ghana letters and has already visited many of our schools. President Dr. David del Mar presented the research that he and Dr. Eric have been conducting on how letter writing has affected our students at the Ghana Studies Association Conference in Cape Coast.



Mr. Brew showed his peers how to teach language skills through music and movement.

We have enjoyed a surge of young volunteers in the Pacific Northwest. Jo Anna, Theresa Nguyen, and Noah Kurzenhauser are coordinating letters. Noah also facilitates a pilot Skype program, and Ibrahim Ibrahim is doing the same for a project involving photography and cultural identity. Sarah Florig, a McNair Scholar at Portland State University, is deepening our evaluation and research program. Dr. David, who is young at heart, did oral-history workshops or classes with students in Ghana and Portland. Our first student showcase featured students reading from their poems and oral histories and gave us the opportunity to award certificates to some of our best writers.

We now have more than fifty schools. Many serve students considered at risk, such as several Teach for Ghana schools and SUN programs sponsored by Campfire Columbia and Africa House. We awarded grants to seven of our Ghana schools to supplement their student-support or building projects. We welcomed two new board members in 2016: Aaron Jones, who has extensive experience in public relations, and Dorcas Mensah, a graduate student in African Development at Edinburgh University.



Ms. Berthy at UniPra School, Winneba.

In 2017 look for our third annual celebration in Portland in late May and our second annual conference in Winneba in early July. Our fund raising this year will focus not only on the conference and grants for our Ghana schools, but also for what we hope will become an annual publication, *Transformations*, of our student's best letters, poems, letters, and photographs.

# Our Financials: Stretching Your Donations

## Income:

- Annual Celebration Sponsors/Donations, \$9,615
- Other Event Income, \$2,267
- Other Individual Donations, \$4,944
- Corporate Matches, \$2,739
- School Donations, \$43
- (Donation-Handling fees -\$227)
- **Total: \$19,381**
- Plus expenses and goods donated: **\$14,465**

## Expenses

- Grants for Schools, \$7,598
- Winneba Conference, \$3,928
- Annual Celebration, \$2,890
- Awards for students, \$767
- Ghana Coordinators, \$1,096
- Equipment/Supplies to facilitate exchanges, \$1,449
- Printing/Mailing, \$1,620
- Government Fees, \$10
- **Total: \$19,358**

**Balance to Begin Year: \$7,627**

**Balance to End Year: \$7,655**

## How Do We Do So Much with So Little?

- The National Centre for Research into Basic Education, University of Education, Winneba, has dedicated an outstanding National Service worker, Miss Berthy, to us.
- Our teachers and coordinators are keeping letters from some 2,500 students flowing back and forth without asking for a dime or a pesewa.
- The University of Education, Winneba, donated the use of their splendid Conference Centre to us, which cut the cost of that event by over 50 percent. Faculty and students donated many hours of time to run the conference.
- We award grants to Ghana schools that have already initiated school-improvement projects. For example, our presence helped to motivate the teachers and community members of Dambai Demonstration School to provide 80% of the cost of a new classroom block: materials for the foundation, floor, and roof, as well as all the labor. Our \$1,000 grant paid for most of the cement for the walls. Now their junior high school students are no longer studying under trees.



Lilly Glass Akoto at our Second Annual Celebration, held in honor of her late husband.



Anani School parents such as Madam Joyce matched our \$1,000 grant with over \$1,000 in donated goods and services.

# Yo Ghana! In Action



Meklit of St. Andrew Nativity School read her oral history at our Student Showcase at St. Andrew.



Dominic Fordwour was among six 2016 Yo Ghana! Star recipients. Dominic has found several fine Ghana schools for us.



Lucy Dawu, Ghana Coordinator of External Affairs, spoke to thousands of students during our June trip. Here she is at Nipaba Brew School.



Daniel Fenyi taught very popular poetry sessions at the Winneba Conference.



Alexis of Neil Armstrong Middle School received an award for her fine letter.



Former Headmaster Essan Weah has visited most of our PNW schools, including Paul Fowler's classes at Neil Armstrong Middle School.



Co-Founder/Secretary Elizabeth Fosler-Jones gave and got a lot of love on her second trip to Ghana.

# 2016 Donors

## **Black Stars** (\$1,000 and over)

Lilly Glass Akoto  
Wendy and David del Mar  
Matthew Essieh (E.A.I. Information Systems)  
Elizabeth Fosler-Jones  
Intel  
University of Education, Winneba

## **Gold Stars** (\$500--\$999)

Stephanie and Mike Badnin  
Erik Donkoh  
Steven and Tacey Jones  
Britt Kuether  
Portland International Church  
Thompson & Bogran PC

## **Silver Stars** (\$250--\$499)

Africa House  
Kofi Agorsah  
Eric Ananga  
Andrew Bomber  
Brenda and Ben Fowler  
Aaron Jones  
Yves Labissiere  
Kaiser Foundation  
National Centre for Research into Basic  
Education, Univ. of Education, Winneba  
Jon and Lois Peterson

## **Bronze Stars** (\$100--\$249)

Ibrahim Abubaker  
Kwasi Agyampong and Elsie  
Kevin Booher  
Christian Brown

## **Bronze Stars**, continued

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Yo Ghana! has been approved as a 501(c)3 charity by the IRS. Your contributions are tax deductible.

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