



Newsletter

February 2016



May 14 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Yo Ghana!/IRCO Celebration Honoring Brando Akoto

We are delighted that the Immigration and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) is co-sponsoring our annual celebration this year, which will be in honor of the late Mr. Brando Akoto. IRCO empowers children, youth, families and elders from around the world to build new lives and become self-sufficient in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

The event will be May 14 from 3:00 to 5:00 at IRCO's big hall at 10301 NE Glisan Street, Portland, OR 97220. Per Brando's wishes, the cost will be low, and there will be lots of delicious West African food. Enjoy the Obo Addy Legacy Group's dazzling drumming and dancing skills, learn how to play Ampe, meet people of all ages from across the world, learn what students and teachers are learning from their friends in Ghana, and hear from this year's six Yo Ghana! stars.

Details on how to reserve a spot will be posted soon on our website. We expect to fill all 250 seats, so be sure to reserve early! (yoghana.org@gmail.com)

July 1-2 First Yo Ghana! Conference at the University of Education, Winneba

Yo Ghana! board member Dr. Eric Ananga is hard at work planning our very first conference in Ghana for our eighteen schools there. Dr. Ananga, a leading researcher and consultant in Ghana education, says that the conference "will be the first of its kind" in Ghana, as it will give teachers a "platform to share their good works with each other." It will also "announce the great things Yo Ghana! is doing in schools around the country." The conference will be at the University of Education, Winneba, where Eric is a Lecturer.

Yo Ghana! will be providing room and board and partial travel expenses to some eighty participants.



Dr. Ananga at Don Bosco School

Grants: ECG Basic School, Tamale

Yo Ghana! offers modest grants to Ghana schools. We believe that: 1) Those of us with relatively high levels of wealth and other resources can share them with people and institutions that are less advantaged. 2) Development often does more harm than good because it can damage, but not substitute for, local initiative. 3) Therefore grants should supplement and reward local initiatives.

Bearing all of this in mind, we are delighted to report on one of our ten projects from last year, the donation of \$450 to supplement the tuition-support program of Tamale's Evangelical Church of Ghana (ECG). This school combines high standards, dedicated teachers, and some of the lowest fees of any private school in Tamale, but many bright students need some help to attend.

We work through ECG's scholarship committee that investigates student need and requires recipients of sufficient age to do volunteer work in return for the support they receive.



Brando Akoto at ECG School in 2015



ECG students assisted by Yo Ghana!

We are very grateful for the sponsorship you have granted to my family and I stand here saying a big thank you for the great work you have done. I and my family appreciate what you have done for us.

Mayami Abraham

Collaborations: The Mission Society at Anani School



Mary Kay Jackson: "Anani is a beacon of hope."

Anani Memorial International School has exchanged letters with U.S. schools for more than four years. Located in Ghana's largest slum, it offers an outstanding education for roughly \$100 a year. As even that amount is too much for many families to pay, Anani often struggles to meet its many other obligations.

The school has long suffered from a lack of water, and last year its latrines at last filled up. This created both a health risk and a major inconvenience. Fixing the problem required money the school did not have.

In September board members David Peterson del Mar and Elizabeth Fosler-Jones

were talking in Ghana with Mary Kay Jackson of The Mission Society about the school, and she asked to visit it. Impressed by the quality of the school and very experienced with development projects, she arranged with Headmaster Kofi Anane to run a water line to the school and to employ local labor to empty and replace the latrines. The school purchased a reservoir to store water. A crisis was averted, and the school now has much improved sanitation. It was, for us, a wonderful lesson in bringing people doing great things together.

Follow Mary Kay Johnson's work here:

<https://www.facebook.com/marykay.jackson>

To Yo Ghana!:

The children are happy they can easily visit the washroom without any inconveniences.
Thank you so much for all your support and effort.

Me, my daughter, staff, and all the students of Anani Memorial School say we thank you for your Great Support,
.Ayekoooooo....

From Headmaster Kofi Anane



Working on the new latrines

Introducing:

Essan Weah

Mr. Essan Weah is one of our most active and valuable volunteers. A former Ghana teacher and headmaster, he has visited many Oregon schools and last September took time away from his family in Ghana to spend a day at L & A Academy. Though he is studying to become a nurse, he still has excellent rapport with students in both places.

Essan enjoys “talking with the kids” in both places. He believes that these students “have a bright future if we as adults take the time to help them to a deeper understanding of each other irrespective of their geographic location, age, or skin color.”



Lucy Ampate Sarpong

Yo Ghana! is fortunate to have Madam Lucy Ampate Sarpong as our Ghana Coordinator. Lucy has for many years assisted Dr. Michael Williams of the Aya Centre for Intercultural Awareness and Development. She has an accounting background and is extraordinarily organized, talented, and determined.

“Yo Ghana! is making a great influence in the lives of students,” Lucy says. She cites not only the grants to schools that help to complete classrooms and “scholarships to intelligent but needy children,” but also pushing students to improve their writing and helping them to “acquire knowledge about cultures, lifestyles, and even religions they don’t know about.”

Lucy married in February, 2016 and is studying economics.



Yo Ghana! facilitates letter and other exchanges between schools in Ghana and the Pacific Northwest and offers modest grants to projects initiated by Ghana Schools.

Yo Ghana! is a 501(c)3 public charity recognized by the IRS.

Your contributions are tax deductible.

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