



# Newsletter

March 2018



## Fourth Annual Yo Ghana! Celebration 2:00 p.m. May 19 at IRCO in NE Portland

We'll again be at our brother's house: the Immigration and Refugee Community Organization at 10301 NE Glisan Street, Saturday, May 19, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy Ghanaian food from the Black Star Grill—recognized as one of the top 10 food carts in Portland!—and music and dance from the Obo Addy Legacy Project, pictured to the right at our 2015 Celebration. Some of our 2,000 students will be sharing their work.

Tickets are discounted if purchased ahead of time at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). Contact [yoghana.org@gmail.com](mailto:yoghana.org@gmail.com) for details, or if you or your family need reduced-cost or free tickets. As before, we invite event sponsors at the \$100, \$250, \$500, and \$1,000 levels.



## Life Challenges

We ask our 2,000 students to write each other about a challenge that they or someone they interviewed overcame. Here are some samples. Some of the schools are also exchanging photographs.

I was so happy when I read your letter! I also like singing, dancing, and basketball. I sadly don't know how to fish but I'd love to try and fish. It may take a long time but I'd still do it. I would also love to visit your village!

The person I interviewed was my Mom, her name is Estela. She was actually born somewhere else called "El Salvador." She came to the U.S. when she was 19, and stayed with her mom in a state called "California." A few months later she had her first child named Jocelyn. One year later she moved to Portland and met my father names William. A couple of years later they got married and had another child (me), then they moved to a house on a hill. It sadly caught on fire. . . everybody got out safely, then we moved to my Grandma's house for a year years, then we moved into a house that is owned by my grandpa. We might be moving again though, who knows. My mom has been through a lot but I know she is happy that she is with her family.

Deborah, St. Andrew Nativity School

I was so happy to receive your letter. . . . It looks as if you and I have similar stories.

Since I was born, I have not had a happy day in my life. This is because my father is not alive. There are certain things I believe only a father can do for his child, but since my father is dead, I do not enjoy those things. Well, what can I do about it? I just stay with my grandmother as I school. My mother is alive but she is sick. I am 21 years and I have still not completed Junior High School. I had to stay home for so many years just farming and selling. Because of this, I find it difficult learning in school now. Anyway, I have not given up on schooling yet.

Felica, Ave Posmonu School



The tippy tap is a simple device to promote hand washing. The tippy tap is hands free. This means that the main water source stays germ free and keeps you healthy.

We have the tippy tap on the school compound and in the community. The tippy is constructed with materials from the community. So we do not use money to buy the materials.

The tippy tap saves lives because if you come back from the latrine you can wash your hands. It is easy to build. Even children can make it.

Vorsah Wise, Metsrikasa School

## Life Stories



I will like to say a few things about our Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pits (KVIP). It is a place of convenience (washroom) for the students in the school.

Even though the blocks are weak, we still take care of it. We wash it every morning before learning starts.

Lekete Evans, Metsrikasa School

I most admire my parents because they have taught me that everything you get feels better when you work for it. My parents came from Mexico and did not have the easiest childhood. My Mom only went to school til she was 10 and my Dad only went to still til he was 13. In Mexico you have to pay to have an education and their families were not able to afford it any more, so they had to start working instead to help support their families. They have been through a lot but managed to always keep it together. When they moved here they came with my oldest brother in mind to have a better life for their family because they wanted the best. These are reasons why I admire them, because they have taught me to never take things for granted and to always strive to do my best.

Fatima, Heritage High School

I am extremely very grateful for replying back to the letter I wrote you. You are a very kind and lovely friend, I hope you are doing well as I am also doing here in Ghana. . . .

Emily, I know it is sad to lose a loved one, but God giveth and taketh. He knows what he is doing, and we cannot question him. So I am very sorry for your loss.

Since my Father died my Mom did not get married again. She is alone with my kid brother, but I live with my uncle who has eight children, that is six girls and two boys. But the oldest daughter passed on so I know how it feels to lose a loved one. So let's concentrate on our studies and our future. . . .

In Ghana there is always peace and unity during elections because both the former and the incoming president know the authority of the nation and so must abide by it.

The problem facing Ghana is all about choosing chiefs. There is always conflict. . . .

Emily, in the letter you earlier said people talk about your image. Do not mind what people say.

Assibi Awani Gifty, Savelugu Senior High School

# Other News

## **Meet Our New Treasurer: Kwasi Agyapong**

Yo Ghana! is delighted to announce that Kwasi Agyapong recently joined our Board of Directors as Treasurer. Kwasi brings a wealth of experience to the job. He attended Yale University and holds Masters in Business Administration (MBA) degree in Finance and Marketing Strategy from University of Connecticut and BA in Political Science from University of Ghana.

He is a Business Strategist with over twenty years' experience in Market Analysis and Financial Management. Kwasi has worked extensively with Fortune 500 companies in several capacities in the United States and Africa. During these periods, he managed important corporate initiatives focused on growing revenues, streamlining costs and making operations more efficient. Born in Ghana and educated in the U.S., Kwasi is currently the Market Analysis and Demand Planning Manager for Intel Corporation. Attendees at last year's celebration will recall that he is also a talented dancer.



## **Thank You, Komi!**

The Yo Ghana! board will miss our good friend and brother, Komi Kalevor, who stepped down from the Treasurer position after two years of strong service. We shall miss his good humor as well as his dedication, insights, speaking ability, and sound judgement. Komi embodies the best of Ghana and the U.S., and we are grateful for his service, past and future!

Yo Ghana! facilitates letter and other exchanges between schools in Ghana and the Pacific Northwest so that our students may educate and inspire each other. We also offer 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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