You Can Africa
Autumn 2016 Newsletter

- Effective educaton: solar light and ipad initiatives
- Volunteer opportunities and experiences
- Cost of a Coffee donations really help to kick start things





Effective Education in Motion

Our base in rural Ghana is in a village called Abenta. It's where we built a new school in 2014. It's been a great place to launch some of our core projects (see below) and monitor & evaluate previous ideas and generate new ones. In late 2015 we funded the piloting of a homework project. This involved five students who we assessed at the outset (what their teachers, parents and themselves regarded with respect to behaviours towards homework and results) and measured at the end of the pilot programme. These children had no electricity at home and may have been using kerosene light, which is a fire risk, produces toxic fumes and strains the eyes. Instead, solar lights were provided that provide safer and better illumination. A 30-60% improvement was observed in bahaviours and results. We are now launching it across a wider group of children across three terms - a starting point will be recorded so we'll have four data inputs to assess, which can then help evaluate success and room for improvement. As part of the programme, we incentivise parents who can use the solar lamps for other things once the homework is done - spot checks will be undertaken to check up on this. It was nice to see Mansa was one of the five in the pilot (the girl in pink above); I got to meet her on my last trip and look forward to seeing her again in early 2017. You may recall she was the girl being looked after by her grandmother as her mother had passed away and didn't know her father. This project may be a small relative cost to administrate, however it could have a massive effect on her and others' education. Thanks to Cost of a Coffee donations and Berrywhite Foundation for this round of funding.







Cost of a Coffee Donations Really Make an Impact

A few individuals donate money monthly - typically this ranges between £10-£30. Compiled together it does an incredible amount. Money raised last year helped get some toilets and hand washing facilities built recently in Oboase Wawase - these not only improve health of children in class but are like a honeypot and attract children to attend school more regularly (somewhere clean to go and do your business!). The fund raising efforts for the creche and nursery classrooms in Obom will be partly funded from these Cost of a Coffee of donations. However, we need more to make it happen - can you help contribute?

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Volunteer in Ghana?
Both an experience of a lifetime and a huge benefit to the communities that you'll touch - we'd love to host you at our rural base. From construction to teaching and assisting with our programmes or undertaking more specific skills, there is an experience to meet most aspirations. Ghana has some great places to visit if you want to mix volunteering with traditional tourism. Get in touch...








Teaching Approach and Rural Setting - The Problem
The educational system in rural settings is not always captivating for the children. It is frustrating for the teachers who realise children are not retaining the lesson's information - that frustration can result in some form of punishment or telling off when answers are not correct, discouraging the pupils from future participation, exasberating the situation. Furthermore, children have limited access to modern technology meaning their future prospects are reduced to a narrow selection of career possibilities.



The Complementary Educational Solution - The ipad Project...
ipads have numerous educational applications that have proved to be a motivation factor to school attendance. An initiative spawned from volunteers bringing their personal ipads on their trips stimulated this idea. After school classes that are run by volunteers are both interactive and stimulating than normal lessons, and so complement the overall educational experience. A few second hand ipads are in place and benefits will include: i) a more positive approach to getting things wrong (*as the legendary basketball player Michael Jordon once said: "I've just failed more times than anyone else"*), as there is usually a reward for eventually getting to the right answer, ii) teaching responsibility (ipads are fragile and breaking it would spoil future opportunities for them and others), iii) getting on a closer par to western education and access to technology, iv) improve academic achievement. Feel free to send us your second hand ipads!

How you can help us:
- ✓ Donate directly at: www.charitycheckout.co.uk/1116952/youcanafrica
- ✓ Set up a fund raising page at: http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/villagebyvillage
- ✓ Share this newsletter
- ✓ Volunteer or offer your skills

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