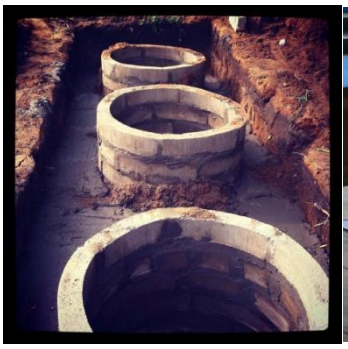
You Can Africa
Spring 2016 Newsletter

- Outreach continues and fund raising for a clinic has started
- Strategic decisions and direction
- Meet Mansa and Alex






Outreach from Village by Village's new base in Abenta village continues

Since September 2015 there has been an outreach base in operation in the rural village of Abenta, Ghana. It has enabled teacher training, sanitation projects and girls empowerment to be undertaken in both Abenta itself and the surrounding villages. Abenta has seen its football pitch improved and the formation of a girl's team - this helps with teamwork skills and feeling part of something to be proud of. The 'Clean Hands Saves Lives' programme of toilet provision in schools and accompanying education to children, their parents and community leaders continues. Thanks to volunteers Liz and Martin, who are teachers in the UK and have just spent six months in the village, a teacher training programme has been developed. In Abenta itself, between November and January the children's ability to identify English sounds (the local language is Twi) has increased from 52% to 83%. Many more of our updates are on our Facebook page - like us and follow us.



Strategic Decision

You Can Africa has worked with Village by Village for two years now - this relationship has evolved well and the two are aligned in many ways. This successful integration has led to the decision for You Can Africa to work under the umbrella of Village by Village. Importantly, this will relieve administrative burden and lead to cost efficiencies as well as freeing up my time for spreading the word and fund raising. This process is underway and will be finalised in the coming months. The brand 'You Can Africa' will be kept so there will be a seamless transition.

Strategic Direction



Our mission is to reduce needless suffering of children in poverty. The 'how' remains essential and as our logo implies, it's very much about 'teach a man to fish'. Education and health are critical ingredients to achieve the mission, so these will be the focus of our projects. I was amazed by how adding simple toilets and hand washing facilities to a school increased attendance. Thus imagine, by spreading the efforts wide, literally 'village by village', the incredible impact we are going to make! The outreach is thus both exciting, inspiring and life changing. We expect to help build a school or a clinic annually to support this outreach.

If I can give you the vision of a coloured drop of dye impacting some water - one drop can make everything so colourful - please join in, become a drop and make ripples with us!

contact: dave.rutherford@youcanafrica.org OR 07540295282
like & follow: https://www.facebook.com/youcanafrica

'You Can' Help

Are you a supporter who wants to help and are able to donate something monthly. It makes a tremendous difference as it allows us to plan, and much of what we have contributed towards is thanks to this. You can give what you like; a suggestion is £15-20/month, the equivalent of a couple of coffees a week. When you consider for example that £2 employs a construction worker for a day, whatever amount you give really can go far.





Lakpah Village - Health Clinic fund raising latest

Listening to the local communities has identified the need for a health clinic in a village called Lakpah. Of a £27,000 budget, £9,000 was left to fund raise, which You Can Africa is going to sort - however, we need fund raisers! I took on a personal four month health challenge to get us started and managed to raise £2,753 (a massive thanks to all that supported me, especially John and Jane), cost of a coffee donations have provided £650, and Croydon High for Girls have contributed £667 (thanks girls!). Clara is organising a run in May - can you think of something? £4,070 down, £4,930 to go!

This is going to be such a great addition to the community and I know from my own experience, after witnessing a needless death on a volunteering trip in Uganda, this clinic *will* save lives - I'm inspired to think that a life saved in the future may in turn contribute to making the lives of others better.



Meet 10 year old Mansa

She is in Basic 2 (that's Year 2 in the UK) in Abenta. Her mum died and she doesn't know her dad, so lives with her 60 year old Grandma. Grandmothers here are commonly in this situation and to my mind are very determined, robust and incredible. They are very poor and find it hard to pay the food fee, but they manage - it is fortunate that the local community is encouraged to send their children to school, now that there is a new one in the village.

A chance to achieve dreams for Alex

On my way to check out the local water hole early one morning I saw a familiar face – Alex, a guy that I heard about in September 2014. I was delighted to bump in to him by chance! With him having many brothers and sisters (15), 'money wasn't always so good' as he described it. I remember that he wanted to be a lawyer, so I asked him about it. In short, he has seen things he hasn't liked and his strong sense of justice has driven the career aspiration. His eyes were excited when he talked about the new school in his village, as it meant a better future, a chance to achieve dreams, for many children in the future.





School poster swap continues

The Ghana end has led on topics for the return posters to UK schools, Croydon High for Girls and St. Roberts Southwell in Horsham: 'things I like' and 'what I want to be in the future'. A brilliant two-way street education programme.

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
- ✓ Like & follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/youcanafrica
- ✓ Share this newsletter
- ✓ Volunteer or offer your skills
- ✓ YCA Charity Number: 1159558
- ✓ VbyV Charity Number: 1116952

contact: dave.rutherford@youcanafrica.org OR 07540295282
like & follow: https://www.facebook.com/youcanafrica