You Can Africa
Summer 2016 Newsletter

- Introducing the village of Obom
- Forget brexit, hiluxit!
- The power of solar is making an impact with school results





Strategic Direction in Motion!

So, hopefully you recall that You Can Africa is joining Village by Village. This will help with efficiencies and enable me (YCA Founder, Dave Rutherford), to focus on fund raising and marketing. I'm glad to tell you that the transition has been smooth. The You Can Africa brand will remain and we'll report on the awesome work being done on the ground and have some of our own dedicated fund raising projects to help out with.









Obom Village School

We trundled into a village in late 2015 and found a village that had the secret ingredient: 'hope'. During a reconnaissance, we looked at the school, state of the village housing and water resources. We spoke to the teachers and met the village chief. About 100 years ago the village had some help from some Germans (see picture of bell above) and since then there have been isolated individuals from the village who have tried to build up the community. This is exactly the type of scenario that we are there to help with: providing a leg up or a kick start to a community that has the desire, however may not have had the real opportunity (the required skills, set up and finances) to prosper. The plan is to provide a creche, kindergarten and school blocks, which will be done in phases. Construction of the first phase will be in late 2016 and into 2017 (idea: come out to volunteer and help to build it?). You Can Africa are going to be fund raising for the creche/kindergarten, which is great as starting with better quality at the base entry level can really make an impact for a child's life. We need the pound to settle down (brexit!) however are working with an initial fund raising target of £20k, of which we have £10.5k raised. Using a famous line: your mission should you chose to accept it... is to help us raise for the remainder - that shouldn't be 'mission impossible', should it? Recent funders to thank include: Amec Foster Wheeler (£2500 of match funding), Ecologia, Movers & Shakers, St.Roberts Southwell Catholic Primary school, Barry, Clara & Runners and regular Cost of a Coffee donations.

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

Replacement Vehicle Needed - Forget brexit, help us hiluxit!



Village by Village's two 20 year old vehicles are beginning to cause a lot of maintenance issues - we hope that the duct tape holds them together! So, the plan is to get one replacement. Ideally we'd get a second hand vehicle from a reputable supplier (difficulty to get that certainty in Africa), however we are looking at new models too. A working vehicle is absolutately essential as we go 'village by village' to serve the communities that we reach out into. Our target is £15k (second hand) to £25k (new). We're looking for donations and fund raisers to help - please get in touch.



10k Run - Fund Raisers - Thanks to Clara, Mariela, Bia, Esther and Adriana for raising almost £500!



Homework Solar Project - Following the success of a pilot project (school results increased between 30-60%), we're launching it wider and for longer in Abenta. Previously it was either dont do it (too dark and no light) or do it under the dim light of kerosene lamps, which were a fire risk and let off toxic fumes. Want to donate towards the launch? We're looking for £1000.

'You Can' Help



We get a lot done via our regular supporters and are looking to grow this current group. 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. Just follow the 'charity checkout' link below.



Clinic Provision Update

Village by Village's plans were to build a clinic in Otwetiri in 2016 and Lakpah in 2017, subject to adequate fund raising. The Otwetiri Clinic has been funded and is going from concept to construction - look out for progress photos on facebook and in our next newsletter. Due to the urgent need in Lakpah, the Ghanain Health Service has decided to fund construction this year, which is great news for the people of Lakpah. It also means that we can use the money we had raised to date to fund the construction of school blocks in Obom (articale above). These clinics are literally life saving entities that help to combat the day-to-day challenges that living in poverty in rural areas brings.



Meet Vivian - Vivian is as confident and self composed that you'd want any young person to be. She is head pupil at a school in a community that has been a recipient of a Village by Village 'Clean Hands Saved Lives' project. As usual, she said that "this had both increased school attendance (*better health and simply the attractiveness of somewhere to go to the toilet & wash hands*) and also spread the importance of sanitation into their homes: the school children remind younger siblings and parents to make it a habit". A village like Odom has this sort of progress and result to look forward to.

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