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**FOUNDATIONAL  
BIBLE TEACHINGS**  
ROMANS 5:3-4



**COMMUNITY SERVICE  
RESPONSIBILITY &  
ACCOUNTABILITY**



**INVESTING IN YOUTH  
PREPARATION FOR  
THE FUTURE**

# HOPE ACADEMY FUND UPDATE

*“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” Frederick Douglass*

## **A Note from the Chair**

We believe that to make lasting change, we must invest in building “strong” children. Children who will grow up to be pillars of their communities and the world. Children who will be stewards of their environment. Children who will be engaged citizens and servant leaders. Most of all, children who will be anchored by their faith in God. We know this is not easy, but we are encouraged by those of you who have chosen to join us in this difficult but exciting journey.

I am happy to report that our pilot program in the village of Abutia-Teti in the Volta Region of Ghana has been operating successfully for

over a year. During this time, we held two successful summer camps, a mini camp during the Christmas break, after school learning activities and community service projects. In addition, Hope Academy students participated in external enrichment activities sponsored by the Hope Academy Fund. We are blessed to have dedicated teachers and volunteers and engaged parents. Slowly we are building a community and learning from our experiences as we develop plans to take our program to other communities.

To quote Leo Buscaglia, *“Your Talent is God’s gift to you.*

*What you do with it is your gift back to God”* Please pray for the children and join us in sharing our gifts to create changemakers who will make positive impact in their community and the world. Thank you and God bless you.

Senyo Opong  
Founder

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# Our IMPACT

*Cumulative Investments Since Inception*

25 Volunteers	>\$4000 School Supplies	7 Laptop computers
35 Parents and community leaders engaged	<b>70</b> <b>Students</b>	3850+ Hours of academic instruction
46 Individual donations	1250+ Books donated	1080 Community service hours



Donations of books, computers, and games to enrich the educational experience for the students and equip the teachers with new tools.



Each student was able to select two books to take home for their reading pleasure. With gratefulness to key donors, the students were able to select from a broad range of fiction and non-fiction books.

# Ghana



The Abutia-Teti village is in the Ho region of Ghana, northeast of the capital city, Accra.



The "Year of Return, Ghana 2019" marks 400 years of the first enslaved African arriving in Jamestown Virginia. Between 1525 and 1866, 12.5 million Africans were shipped to the New World. Nearly 11 million survived the dreaded middle passage, disembarking in North America, the Caribbean and South America.



# imagine



## 2019 HOPE ACADEMY CAMP

This was the second year for the Hope Academy Camp in Abutia-Teti, Ghana and it was held from August 19-23, 2019. The camp theme was **PERSEVERANCE**— refusing to give up when life gets hard.

Fifty students (Grades 4 -9) were supported by over 20 volunteers (local teachers, and volunteers from Ghana and US). Donations of more than 600 books, various school supplies and games to support the camp activities were shipped in early summer. Like last year, t-shirts and meals (breakfast and lunch) were provided for the students and volunteers.



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EXPERIENCE AND  
ENCOURAGEMENT



# PARTNERSHIPS

**Vozbeth Kofi Azumah, Director of My Community Farm Project**, is a farmer with a vision. He is passionate about community development and empowering others to take action. He shared his background and encouraged the students to follow their dreams, even if their dreams are not conventional.



He stood behind his commitment and announced an educational scholarship for Hope Academy Students to open doors and give an extra push.

We are grateful for Mr. Azumah and his dedication to enrich the lives of the next generation.

To learn more about his inspiring story visit his website: [vozbeth.wixsite.com](http://vozbeth.wixsite.com)



For Read Aloud Ghana Day in February 2019, Hope Academy Fund partnered with **Literacy Ambassadors of Ghana**, formerly known as Read Ghana Foundation, to help Ghanaian students achieve positive outcomes in reading and writing.

A child who reads will become an adult who thinks.



## Perseverance: Refusing to give up when life gets hard.

(Romans 5:3-4)

## Positive Outcomes

### Our Motivation

Currently, students have no access to enrichment programs or extracurricular activities. They have little or no opportunity for additional intellectual and civic engagement activities beyond the classroom.

Hope Academy is established to address these gaps in order to help create the next generation of leaders and citizens. Hope Academy offers an opportunity for students to be exposed to our fast-changing world and equip them with foundational skills to thrive in the future.

### The Foundation: Bible Study

Belief in Jesus Christ, as Our Lord and Saviour is the foundation upon which this program was built. Knowing with full confidence that God loves us and His grace and mercy are sufficient to support

us through whatever we encounter in life. Our hope is in the Lord and with that hope, we can persevere. This truth and the encouragement it provides was discussed each morning during the Bible Study. Practical examples of doing things that are hard - such as writing with your non-dominant hand, made the message relevant. There were jigsaw puzzles and multiple piece kits to fabricate small toys that challenged the students. Patience and persistence were necessary in order to complete the toy kit and the puzzles. Each student was able to experience the satisfaction of accomplishment as a result of their perseverance.





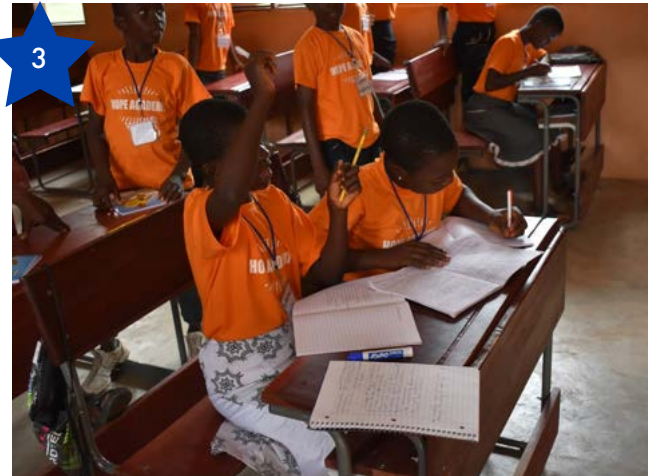
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## Academic Excellence

1. Math instructor teaching concepts. 2. Small group discussions. 3. Engaged students eager to share the answer. 4. Intensity of focus in a math counting game for Grade 2. 5. Practical view of math theory. 6. Hands-on-experimentation on acid-base chemistry and using scientific method to determine unknown solutions.



2



3



4



5



6



## New Experiments + New Knowledge + Fun

Hands-on experiential learning helps the students observe how the theoretical concepts can be applied. This enhances the overall learning experience and makes the teaching memorable. With this experience, the students learned and the teachers gained new tools to support their annual curriculum.

1. Measuring differences in distance traveled by race cars due to changes in friction. 2. Analyzing data using Excel on laptop. 3. Understanding circuits and connectors. 4. Finishers who completed fabrication of toys. 5. Visible indication of evolved gas from acid-base chemical reaction. 6. Simulating jet propulsion forces with different size balloons.





# Citizenship & Community Service - A good citizen takes responsibility, is accountable and shows respect for the environment in order

1. Class learning about citizenship and attitudes & responsibilities for nation building.
2. Respect for the environment begins with awareness of trash and taking action to clean the community.
3. The students set the example and other community members joined in during the community service clean up.
4. Community leaders and Carl Lathon discussing the promise Hope Academy brings to the village.
5. Parents meeting showed overwhelming support above the first year with many parents recognizing a noticeable improvement in their children's performance and attitudes.



# Awards & Recognition

for the students and the volunteers who demonstrated excellence throughout the Camp.



## Acknowledgements

The 2019 camp would not have been possible without the engagement and generosity of the numerous people who supported this effort.

Our teacher volunteers - **Mr. Jones Gakpa, Mr. Divine Adisu, Mr. Raphael Segbefia, Mr. Freeman Gohoho, Mad. Senam Avemegah, Mr. Alfred Adjovor, Mad. Rita Tsidzi, Mr. Jerry Ayrakwah, Mr. Dennis Dade, Mad. Blessing Gohoho, Mr. Raphael Segbefia, Mr. I-know Abotsi, Mr. Michael Mawunu, Mr. Julius Goka, Ms. Doris Awudi**

Program Coordinators - **Mr. Johnson Opong (Abutia) Mr. Worlanyo Dogbeten (Accra)**

US Volunteers & Coordinators - **The Opong Family (Senyo, Miriam, David Senam and Seli Grace), Dr. Portia Yarborough & Mr. Carl Lathon and Ms. Radiate Lathon**

Community leaders - **Mama Dunenyo** (Abutia Development

leader) **Togbega Abutia Kodzo Gidii V** (Paramount Chief of Abutia Traditional area) and **Togbe Okai**

**Debra** - organized a wonderful ceremony for Volunteers

**Doris Awudi** - donated phone cards as gifts for volunteers

**Seth Esahe** - arranged news coverage in the national papers, 'The Daily Graphic' and the Ghanaian Times

**Mr. Ben Asamoah** - picked up & delivered the materials shipped from the US to the village

**Mr. George Opong** - donated robotic kits for the camp

**Mr. Frank Qodesh** - printed T-shirts and gift mugs

**Mr. Kofi Opong & Mr. Joe Opong** - helped navigate through customs, immigration, and baggage claim

**Mr. Bosco Hama & Mr. Elorm Opong**- arranged transportation for US volunteers in Accra

**Ms. Joseline Selby** for their generosity, upfront support, loving-kindness and hospitality shown to US visitors in Accra

**Mr. Emmanuel Chance** - Proprietor of Chances Hotel in Ho- for his warm hospitality, comfortable accommodations

**The Ohene Family** - allowed use their home to host lunches for our volunteers

**Ms Awusi Opong and Teresa Torwoe** - cooked breakfast and lunch for students

**Rev. Buamah** - led opening and closing ceremonies and made church facilities available for our use

**Rev. Phillip Nkonu(rtd)** - participated and provided words of encouragement

**Hon. Elizabeth Ohene** - visited camp and donated books about Ghana

**Mr. Vozbeth Azumah** - Invited speaker who spoke to students about entrepreneurship, community building and Farming

**Parents** - for coming to camp to meet volunteers and see the their students at work

**The people of Abutia Teti**

**Individuals and organizations** who gave generously to this work through financial contributions and donations of books & supplies.

**Our friends at Willowdale Chapel and From the Heart Church Ministries** who encouraged us and prayed for God to lead and protect us



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Join us - volunteer, donate, partner, invest and imagine the great things we can do working together!