

Welcome to ATE's first newsletter! We're delighted to be able to share our successes with our community of supporters. Without you, none of these fantastic changes would be possible - Thank you!

AUGUST 2013

Karbo Primary School

ATE launched a free school meal program in this very poor community on 7th January 2013. 6 months into the feeding program and these children are healthier, happier and accessing education. Enrolment has increased yet again, to a wonderful 451 children, and attendance continues to improve. Provision of this daily hot meal provides motivation to come to school. Children walk long distances, often barefoot to get to school and receive their nutritious lunch.

Thanks to the fantastic fundraising by the ActivATE committee, ATE was thrilled to be able to purchase and install a water tank, which now provides safe drinking water to the entire school community.



Paulina smiles as she receives her free school meal

In Lawra, if you can't afford a school uniform, you are not able to attend school. With support from Ramsbury Primary School, ATE has provided 60 school uniforms for extremely vulnerable children. In addition, children were all given

school books and pencils, which ensure they can take notes in class, complete homework and study for exams.



Happy children receiving their new school books and pencils.

ATE was also able to register all

children with the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme, which gives all children access to health care. Parents have agreed with ATE to take children to the hospital whenever the need arises. Too many children in this area die from preventable illnesses. ATE is fighting to save the lives of these precious children who deserve a chance to live.

Small Business Development (SBD)

ATE has now aided the set up of 21 small businesses. Many of these businesses are running extremely well, making profit and becoming sustainable. Families are now able to educate their children, feed their families and buy health insurance. Fighting poverty through entrepreneurship is proving successful, with 80% of our businesses making a profit after 6 months.

During the June/July 2013 trip, Sarah ran an Evaluating Success workshop with all 17 of the businesses that were established in December 2012. During this time the participants shared ideas, successes and challenges as well as made plans to improve their businesses in the future. Ongoing

education and support is a key aspect of the ATE SBD program.

Four new businesses were established in July 2013. After a process of training and mentorship from ATE, soap making, basket weaving, egg selling and sewing machine repair businesses are now up and running. They have clear business plans and lots of enthusiasm. We are excited to

see how they are getting on during their August monitoring visit which will be held by ATE volunteers in Ghana.

SNAP (Special Needs Awareness Program)

Our SNAP program continues to go from strength to strength. ATE works with Peace Corps Ghana and The Mission Society to provide much needed care for the large community of children living with special needs. Through our work, stigma is reducing and lives are enhanced. Many children who were previously shunned by the community and hidden away by terrified parents, are now more respected and recognised. They also now have vital access education and healthcare.



Through her groundnut farming businesses, Betty is now able to educate her 2 children, and buy the life-saving HIV drugs she needs to stay alive.

3rd June 2013 was the much celebrated one year anniversary of SNAP. It was a beautiful time, with over 200 guests who were proud to be part of our special day. The Paramount Chief was in attendance. During his speech he said '*Children with disabilities are human beings; they have a right to live*'. This is a huge turn around in perception of these children in this traditional African setting – we are thrilled with the progress being made here, as we are with all of our projects.



'I used to cry during the night, and ask God why He gave me this child. Now I know she is special. I don't cry anymore.'

Fantastic Fundraising!

Thank you so much to everybody who has been working to raise money for ATE! We have been overwhelmed by the amount of generous people who have been running/cycling/climbing/hiking/raffling, etc to help us raise much needed funds to continue our projects. If you are interested in carrying out a fundraising event, please get in touch with Sarah at sarahg.ghana@gmail.com

DONATE!

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www.ateghana.org