



The

Gateway

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DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE!

Sharks are not man eating monsters!

Projects Abroad
GLOBAL SHARK CAMPAIGN



1. Without sharks, entire marine eco-systems will collapse.

2. Humans kill 75-100 million sharks each year. 138 per minute.

3. 33% of all species face extinction.

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One of the boys volunteered to demonstrate to his friends the proper way of washing hands after the medical volunteers had taught them the proper hand washing.

The newest Projects Abroad Ghana region, Winneba, has embarked on successful medical outreaches in the month of November. They visited some communities as well as schools in and round Winneba.

One of such schools was the Don Bosco girls and boys school. The volunteers with the help of the headmistress and teachers gathered the pupils and demonstrated proper hand washing. Some of the boys volunteered to re-demonstrate to their friends the proper ways to wash hands with soap and water.

The volunteers including a retired doctor treated the children who had ringworms, wounds, cuts and other skin infections with the appropriate medications. In all, they treated over 200 boys and girls in the school. The headmistress and teachers underwent blood pressure and sugar levels tests and ascertain their status and they were advised accordingly.

Helene Hansen, a nurse from Denmark, had already spent two months on the Winneba medical project doing outreaches. Her main work was at a local hospital in Winneba where she checks for vital signs of patients; gives medicines; inserts cannula tubes into patients; assists in surgeries; and helps at the labour ward by cleaning newborn babies. She also helps at the casualty ward by cleaning and dressing wounds.

For future volunteers coming to Ghana, this is the advice she has for them: "Don't expect anything. Just be in it. Don't be afraid for being here. You can always be with the people because they are always open. "I love that I make people smile," she remarked.



Helene Hansen attending to a child during the medical outreach

Hand washing Facts

- Over 1.5 million children under five die each year as a result of diarrhoea. It is the second most common cause of child deaths worldwide.
- Handwashing with soap at critical times - including before eating or preparing food and after using the toilet - can reduce diarrhoea rates by more than 40 per cent.

Source: UNICEF

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Accra medical team visits a school within the biggest slum in Ghana – Old Fadama. The school has benefited from regular medical outreaches and from the selfless effort of our medical volunteers. Most of the children live in the slum under very harsh conditions which expose them to several health risks including skin infections. The volunteers treat their wounds, cuts and ringworms.

Care and Teaching **A decade of partnership with Projects Abroad yields enormous benefits for Adom Day Care Center.**

For volunteers who have worked with the teachers and the children at Adom Day Care Center in The Hills, you may never forget Auntie Tina (Justina Karikari), the proprietress of Day Care Center. The Center takes care of children from the ages of 6 months to 5 years while their parents are at work. The teachers take care of the children as if they were their mothers. They clean them, feed them and change their napkins.

The Adom Day Care has been working with Projects Abroad for 10 years and volunteers have been instrumental in sustaining the center over the years.

“When volunteers come to Adom Day Care, they work hand in hand with the teachers. They help the teachers to look after the children; change their napkins; wash their dishes; feed them; cloth them; and teach them whatever they need to know,” Justina described.

“Aside from caring, the volunteers participate in activities such as skills development, language activities, number work, games and so on,” she continued.

The presence of the volunteers is extremely beneficial to the Day Care Center and as Justina explains; “When volunteers are here, sometimes we tell them about what we need, sometimes they also see it. Some volunteers came for a couple of months and they helped us with chairs and mats and others helped us with outdoor playing equipment.”

In the time that they needed some classroom space, Projects Abroad built a two unit classroom block for the Center to accommodate the children. “We will need more volunteers for them to keep helping the school as they’ve been doing. We’ll be happy to have more volunteers,” she appealed.



Justina Karikari – Proprietress of Adom Day Care Center



A volunteer playing with kids from the Adom Day Care Center



Rev. Cephas Afotey – Founder of New Life Orphanage

Your mother picks you up from bed. She tickles you. Your father throws you up in the air; shows you how to ride a bicycle; and takes you out to the beach. You are bonded with your parents. Your sadness means their grief and their joy, your joy.

This is the average childhood for many people. Some enjoy their childhood because of the special care, attention and affection their parents give them. Others, unfortunately, miss out on this important and fun part of their lives simply because their parents died; or they were abandoned to their own fate.

Kind hearted individuals cannot let this reality hit too hard on the faces of the orphans. They step in to provide that care and attention that would have eluded these orphans or abandoned children. But the challenge is enormous especially when the children are not two, four or five but forty-five. Such is the New Life Orphanage which is run by Rev. Cephas Mensah Afotey. The

Orphanage tries to create a homely atmosphere for the 45 children who live on-site, and also offers outreach care for children in the surrounding villages. Since 2005, Projects Abroad have been working with the orphanage by sending volunteers there to assist in care work. “The volunteers from Projects Abroad who come here did care work, painting, and creative art. Some also helped in the area of education by helping in the school. They teach Math, English, Science and ICT. Others also help with soccer and other sporting activities,” Rev. Afotey described.

According to Rev. Afotey, the volunteers help the children in many ways. “Usually, the children find it difficult to get closer to people but the volunteer’s showed them love and draw them closer and they made them feel that they are part of society. They took them to places – the beach, the shopping mall, Accra Sports Stadium and other places. The volunteers have made a big impact in the lives of these children and we are so grateful to them.”

The volunteers do not only assist the orphanage with their time and energy but with finances and logistics. They have supported them with money to build the school for the orphanage. “Sometimes they go back home; they raise funds; and they send it back.

“Projects Abroad has made an impact on the orphanage because without them, we do not have access to the volunteers,” Rev. Afotey remarked. “We need more volunteers for both the Home and the School we run because we do not have organizations that is supporting us to pay the salaries of our staff.”

Projects Abroad believes that this is a worthwhile project for volunteers who want to support underprivileged children in order to support their right to dream big irrespective of their social status.



Volunteers cleaning and disinfecting the children’s shoes, beds, clothes, mattresses etc. during a dirty day activity.



Volunteers donating funds for the flooring of two classrooms of the school under the Orphanage

Cape Coast Volunteers visit special needs students



It is easy to learn and play with other children and feel “reasonably” emotional especially if you are a “normal” child. But for these children, life brought them a different set of abilities that can only be developed if special attention is given to their special needs. A team of volunteers visited the Aboom Methodist special needs school and spent quality time with the children. They did arts & crafts with the students in order to develop their art senses.

Quick Read

Culture of greeting

Greetings are taken very seriously in Ghana. When entering somebody's home or office, you may be considered rude if you do not say hello and shake hands with everyone who is present. When approaching a person on the street, perhaps to ask for time or directions, you should begin with a polite “good morning, how are you”? Simply walking up to someone and saying: “excuse me, what is the time?” will be seen as rather blunt.

Remember when you greet a Ghanaian you should not use your left hand. This is also true when giving and receiving items and eating. The left hand is reserved for the toilet.



In July, the Kumasi Children's Home school approached Projects Abroad to assist them with exercise books and other learning materials which will help facilitate learning of the orphans at the Home. Projects Abroad responded to their call by providing 100 exercise books and two boxes of pen and 10 packets of pencils and this donation was done at the school premises. The Assistant Headmistress was there to receive it. She thanked Projects Abroad and promised that the books, pens and pencils will be put to good use.

Host Family

Meet Rev. Emmanuel Ayeh-Fianko in the Hills

Host families are an integral part of the cultural exchange process of Projects Abroad volunteers. They become the first point of contact for local food preparation, dressing and the general culture of the people.

One of such host father is Rev. Emmanuel Ayeh-Fianko who lives in Kwamoso in The Akuapem Hills in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Since 2003, Rev. Emmanuel and his family have hosted an estimated 500 volunteers including 2 Week Specials volunteers.

For him, “it’s good to relate to people from other countries and cultures.” “We are happy that we learn from them and their culture and they too learn from us. I have not traveled outside Ghana but from what I learn from them, it gives me a clear picture about their countries,” Rev. Emmanuel remarked.

Sometimes, the volunteers help in cleaning the house. When there is no water, “the volunteers have to draw water from the well outside the house. Even if you don’t ask them, they themselves will take the bucket and follow you to fetch the water. Sometimes, the female volunteers come to the kitchen to help with the cooking.”

Rev. Emmanuel is not free from name tagging from the community people. “Anytime you walk with a volunteer then they call you “*Obruni papa! Obruni papa!* (white people’s father),” he laughed.

What interesting experiences have you had with your host mother or father? Do share with us – email:

infomanager-ghana@projects-abroad.org



Rev. Emmanuel Ayeh-Fianko has been hosting Projects Abroad volunteers since 2003



A volunteer in Rev. Ayeh Fianko’s residence in Kwamoso in The Hills

Volunteer with us!

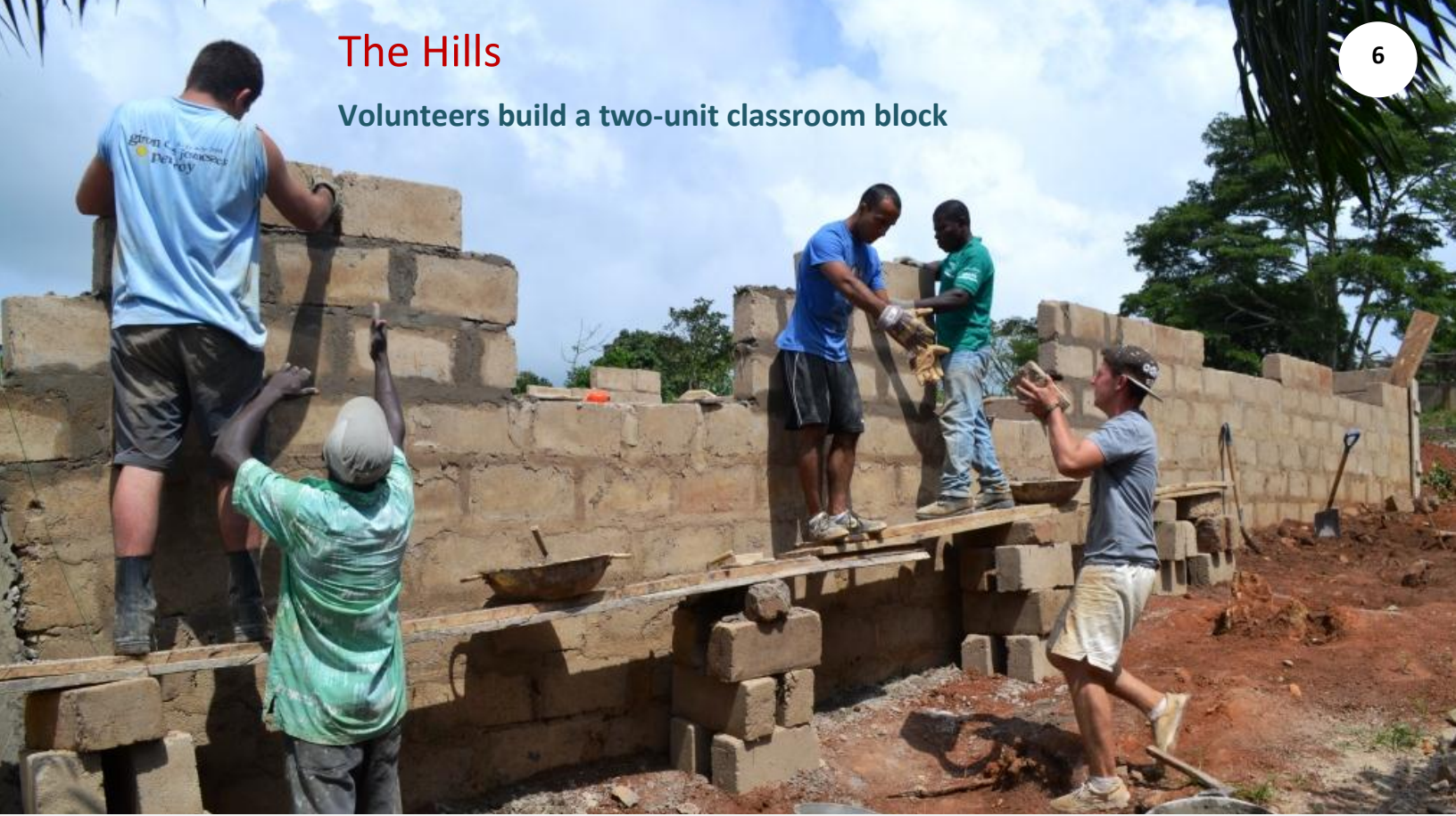
Ghana is an exciting and popular place to spend some time on a volunteer project or work experience placement.

Projects Abroad has many projects available to volunteer in Ghana, based in Accra, Cape Coast, Koforidua, Kumasi and the Akuapem Hills.

Volunteers in Ghana work on a wide range of projects including Teaching, Care, Community – including Building and IT Projects, Medical & Healthcare Projects – including Medicine, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Midwifery and Dentistry, plus Journalism, Veterinary Medicine, Sports, and Human Rights.

The Hills

Volunteers build a two-unit classroom block



The building volunteers in November worked on the construction site at the Queen Esther Preparatory School in Mampong Akuapem. The building is a two unit classroom block that is entirely financed by Projects Abroad's support from volunteers.

Every day of the week, the volunteers mix cement and sand to make mortar; the mould blocks, dig foundations, lay blocks, plaster and paint depending on the stage of the construction process. They get a lot of responsibility at the site.

Jack Worthington is one of the building volunteers. His experience on the building project will be useful for his future plans and career. "I want to do something in building and this is a good experience for me," he said.

Rubin Brenner believes that the more volunteers they have the more they can do the work. "There is a big demand for the kids to get classrooms to learn in," he remarked. He is convinced that Projects Abroad is making some difference in these needy communities by giving the children schools that is built better.



Projects Abroad GLOBAL SHARK CAMPAIGN

Join the campaign!

Click image above to visit and LIKE
the Facebook Page

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the website

Projects Abroad Global Shark Campaign



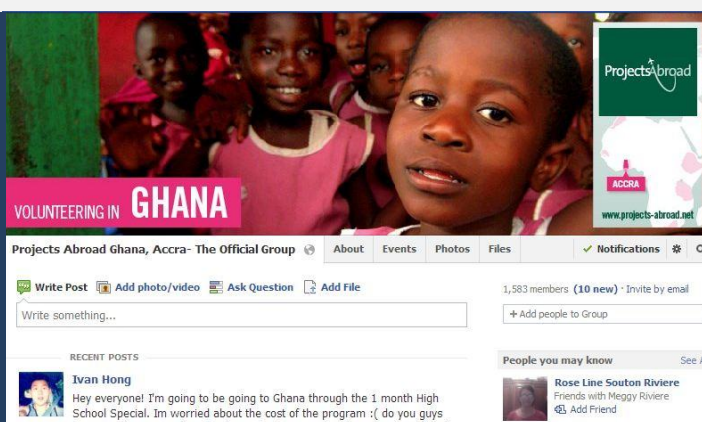
www.projects-abroad.co.uk/sharks
ProjectsAbroadGlobalSharkCampaign

Click on the video to watch!



Social Media

Our social media platforms remains a powerful tool that connects volunteers, friends and family of Projects Abroad though status updates, tweets, pictures, blogs and videos. Our Facebook groups were as active as always in providing information on volunteer experiences and that informs the expectations of volunteers who are coming to Ghana and prospective volunteers as well. Our different Facebook groups – [The Hills](#), [Koforidua](#), [Accra](#), [Cape Coast](#), [Kumasi](#) and the [Projects Abroad Human Rights Office](#) were active throughout the month of November.



An opportunity to relive

For many of our volunteers, our social media platforms provide the opportunity to continuously relive the valuable moments they once had in Ghana and it becomes their space for expressing the heartwarming satisfaction they gained from volunteering to affect the lives of people in need.

Visit us:

