



KickStart GHANA

Progress Through Sport and Education

Project feedback

Name: Mama Viak

Organisation: Mama Viak's Children's Home and Preparatory School

Position within organisation: Headmistress and proprietor

1. What does your organisation do? What is its mission?

I established this organisation to help orphans and other needy children to realise their dreams. I did not have the opportunity to go to school when I was younger, even when my parents were alive. Then other people supported me with my education. This inspired me to help others and this is why I have established the school.

2. How have you involved KickStart Ghana volunteers in your activities?

One is teaching; the volunteers have done educational and sporting games over the summer for the past three years. They have made the school a lively place!

3. What difference have the KickStart Ghana volunteers made to your organisation? What impact have they had?

They have increased the reputation of the school. They have made the school lively place to be and the attendance has increased from 50 children in 2009 to 150 in 2011. We are very happy with this increase.

The volunteers have also inspired the teachers that we employ. They work hard when they see what the volunteers have done.

There has also been an improvement in the children's learning. The exam results of the children has improved over the past three years.

4. Have you received any donations from KickStart Ghana? Is so, what have these been for? What have they achieved?

Mattresses:

Previously the children were sleeping on mats on the floor. This meant they were vulnerable to pneumonia due to the coldness of the cement floor. The mattresses provided by KickStart Ghana has stopped the children being vulnerable to this, they no longer get pneumonia. Because the children get proper sleep they now find it much easier to concentrate when they are at school.

Plastic chairs:

The children were using kitchen stools to sit on, these were uncomfortable. They can now relax using the plastic chairs provided, this helps with their learning.

Benches and tables:

They make learning easier. The back rest means that their posture is better and they are in a position to learn.

Food:

The food has brought life to the house and to the children. They have peace of mind to help them learn when their hunger is satisfied. The food that KickStart Ghana provides also helps other local children who are in need of it.

Polytank:

Previously the tap would shut off as I might be unable to pay the bill. I would have to take the children to search for water. Sometimes this could be from wells where the water may be stagnant. There could be bacteria and worms in the water which would result in the children falling ill very often.

Now, with the polytank in place, we don't have to go out and look for water. We have hygienic water in the house and the children are much healthier.

5. Feedback from Mama Viak about the 2011 volunteers

The volunteers always give me a lot of respect. They are also very hardworking when it comes to teaching the children. They come with organised lesson plans and teaching materials which helps with their sessions. They do a great job and the children love it when they bring candy!

Childrens perspective

Name: Victoria

Age: 13

Siblings: Eugene, 6 and Eugenia 6.

Duration at Mama Viaks: Three years living there

“One of my favourite things to do is colour and draw. I also really like the games we play when the volunteers are at Mama Viaks, especially the parachute ones! Since the volunteers have been coming my English has improved a lot, English is my favourite subject now. When I get older I would like to be a doctor as I always feel sad when I see that people are sick. Life is much better now that the water tank is here, when the water is shut off we can still fetch it from the tank.”

Name: Junior

Age: 7

I really like football and when we are reading with the volunteers. I like learning from them when they come. They have taught me many things including reading and writing.

Name: Kingsley

Age: 10

When the volunteers are here I like it when we play football or do reading. I like the reading as I want to be a bank manager when I am older, I also like maths. The volunteers have been very helpful to my education. They have helped me read and write, it has got a lot better.