



Bringing sustainability to Ghana, one village at a time.

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a 501(C)(3) organization

### Go Green!

Adopt One Village would like to begin offering our newsletters via email as a way to cut our costs and go green. Please sign up for our online newsletter by filling out the form on our website at [www.adoptonevillage.org](http://www.adoptonevillage.org)

## Here are some of the things that together we've accomplished this year!

- AOV has committed to sponsoring 20 students to continue their education. That is broken down to: 3 university students, 10 current students in Secondary School, and 7 students who are preparing to begin Secondary School. Of these students, 10 are fully funded and 10 still need sponsors.
- We completed the building and set up of The Life Clinic in the village of Yaw Tenkorang. During our trip in July, it was inspected and received official recognition from the government of Ghana as a Medical Clinic. We staffed this clinic during our last trip and saw over 120 patients.



Katie and Kwasi

- The Clinic discovered two young babies with Malaria and one with anemia and saw them treated at the local hospital.
- We have given bicycles to the top three students with perfect attendance in every grade (1st – 9th) in the village.
- We have established a program called AOV Ambassadors which includes the top students from grades 4, 5 and 6. These students have committed to taking extra English classes and serve as tutors to other students. In January, when we go back, these students will receive new backpacks and school supplies.
- The Kindergarten and Pre-K buildings have been painted and cleaned.
- New art materials were delivered to the Pre-K and K
- A reference library was established for the Primary School which includes JR. encyclopedias, Science encyclopedias and reference materials on Mammals, Land Forms and Weather.

## Buzz Lightyear and Bananas...

by Katie Minden

About a week into my first trip to Ghana I met a young boy, Kwasi, and his cousin, Kwojo. They were about three years old. Kwasi and I connected instantly. He followed me around as I worked and would hold my hand whenever he got the chance. As I talked to some of the teenagers of the village, I began to hear bits and pieces of Kwasi's story. Both of the boys' parents

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- All 203 students received handpicked clothing and shoes.
- Clothing was distributed to all adults.
- Brand new blackboards were installed in all classrooms from Pre-K to 9th grade.
- A well expert met us in the village and determined the repairs needed for a well that was previously thought to be beyond repair. We have purchased all that is needed for the repair and we will repair the well on our trip in January 2013. This means we are within a few months of clean drinking water for the village!
- We visited and gave clothing, toys and candy to a local orphanage.

## Buzz Lightyear and Bananas...continued from page 1

had died and their grandmother, who was too old to really work, was now raising them, but she did her best to provide for Kwasi and Kwojo.

One day in the village, we handed out clothes to all of the children in the school. I took the two boys aside and made sure that both of them got new clothes and shoes that fit. I knew that these simple clothes donated by loving people back in the US would be the only clothes that they would have; a green shirt fit for a small child, you could tell it had been worn already by the stains down the front of it that would never go away, a pair of denim shorts that fit perfectly around the waist but fell below his knees, and a pair of Buzz Lightyear velcro sandals to protect his already worn feet that had never known shoes.

The next day my new friend Zule came up to me and said that Kwasi's grandmother was looking for me. She began to explain what the grandmother had told her. She had seen me watching over Kwasi during the week making sure that he had new clothes and she wanted to thank me. Zule brought me over to her and the woman began to cry. In her broken English she tried her best to thank me for everything I had done for Kwasi and Kwojo. She handed me a bunch of bananas as a sign of her gratitude.

By American standards, it didn't seem like much, but that woman gave me all that she had to thank me. I was overwhelmed by her generosity. I had gone there to help these beautiful people by building a school, but it was these small acts of love and kindness that had changed lives.

This woman and this moment have stayed with me since and will never leave me. Humbling does not come close to describe this experience. It has changed my life forever and my outlook on what happens around me. I have learned now, that often times it is the small things that really make a difference – those moments of kind words or loving actions that change lives and hearts – a hand to hold or a bunch of bananas.

Katie, age 17, is currently a senior in high school.  
This summer was her second trip to Ghana.



India enjoying some time together with new friends in front of The Life Clinic, a gift from TLCC and AOV.



Gifts of clothes, toys and candy packed for each child at the orphanage.