



Nyarkoa Foundation

Spring, 2008

P.O Box 80993, Fairbanks, Ak, 99708

Number 1

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Nyarkoa Foundation, a non-profit corporation whose mission is to assist in the development of rural Ghana through projects that improve the lives of the rural poor. The Foundation works by funding programs through local organizations that share those objectives.

The symbol that appears in the banner above is called an "Adinkra" symbol. It is one of many ideographs (pictures that represent ideas) that are used by the Akan, the dominant ethnic group in Ghana in their art as well as everyday items. Its name in the Akan language means "chain" or "link of a chain." It symbolizes unity, brotherhood, and a sense of responsibility and cooperation between people. We have adopted this symbol as the logo of the Nyarkoa Foundation. We think that idea represents our views and objectives.

WATER FLOWS AT THE ENYAN ABAASA HEALTH CLINIC FOR THE FIRST TIME.

We're very pleased to announce that, thanks to the generosity of our donors, the work by REDEP, our partner in Ghana, and Josie Sam, the Nyarkoa Foundation's representative in Ghana, the health clinic at the village of Enyan Abaasa now has a working water system.

Here's Victoria Ewurafua Yawson, the midwife at the clinic showing that the water is running in one of the showers in the maternity ward. The clinic was the last of the four clinics that serve the approximately 100,000 people in the Ajumako Enyan Abaasa District to get an on-site water supply. This will improve the cleanliness of the clinic and the health of the people of the district.



The clinic was constructed in 1972, including the plumbing. However, there has never been a water source to supply it. The clinic has always relied on collecting rainwater or purchasing water in small quantities for its needs. Recently, a well 300 feet deep was drilled for the clinic as part of a government program. A hand pump was

to be installed later but it would have left the water to be carried by hand several hundred feet to the clinic.



For this project, we installed an electric pump that sends the water to a large tank on a tower. From there it flows into the plumbing in the clinic buildings, and to smaller tanks that supply the living quarters of the staff their families.

There was a three day power failure at the clinic since the work was completed, but the tanks held enough water that the clinic never ran out. The system also worked perfectly after the power was restored, and refilled the tanks.



On April 11, 2008, a ceremony took place at the clinic to dedicate the project and it was covered by the most popular news TV outlet in Ghana. The story appeared on nationwide television much to the delight of many of our friends who told us about seeing it.

Local dignitaries and officials spoke at the ceremony and expressed their sincere gratitude to the Foundation and its donors.

REDEP -- OUR PARTNER

For the Foundation to accomplish its goals it needs a reliable local partner. Our partner is a non-governmental organization (NGO) called 'The Rural Education and Development Programme' (REDEP). All of



the members of the board have deep ties to the Ajumako Enyan Essiam District and are committed to improving the lives of the people there. It was founded by its

Executive Director, James Addo (pictured), and other board members, Joseph Asmah and Bob Ebo-Cudjoe in 2001. Since then, REDEP has started programs in the schools and the community to educate people about the dangers of HIV/AIDS, as well as the need for environmental improvement, conservation, and community sanitation. They have accomplished much with limited resources by attracting and training a group of committed volunteers, and by organizing students into clubs that participate in clean-up exercises and plant trees to rehabilitate

degraded lands and improve public spaces.

REDEP managed the project at the clinic, and will have the same part in our next project.

Every rural district needs to find people like these. They are leaders as well as being committed to improving their communities. However, there are not as many as are needed, and the people of this area are fortunate to have REDEP.

JOSIE SAM, THE FOUNDATIONS REPRESENTATIVE IN GHANA

The current representative of the Nyarkoa Foundation in Ghana is Josie Sam. That's appropriate because the name of the Foundation is actually part



of her name. We wanted a name with letters from the words Alaska, New York and Ghana, since that's where we live and work. Nyarkoa fits that nicely.

Josie has college degrees in History and English and has worked with NGO's that deal with microfinance, gender issues, and rural development

During the project at the clinic, Josie kept track of progress and made several unannounced visits to check on the work. She will do the same for part of our next project, but will likely have to pass the job to someone else, because she plans to start graduate school in the U.S. However, she has assured us that she will find a suitable replacement.

THE NEXT PROJECT – PUMP REPAIR

Most of the water supply for the small rural villages in the Ajumako Enyan Essiam District should come from shallow wells equipped with hand pumps. Many villages in the District have no well, but even those that do face difficulties because only about 25 or 30% of the 80 hand pumps in wells in the District are working. That is typical of rural areas in many developing countries. Hand pumps regularly break down, and there are neither the parts, the knowledge, nor the money to fix them.

When pumps break, most people return to using unsafe water from streams or ponds. Then they face major health risks from parasites and water-borne diseases such as dysentery and cholera. Children are particularly vulnerable and many die in the first 5 years of their lives from those causes.

In this project, the Foundation will pay to repair broken pumps in 4 villages, at a cost of about \$500 to \$1,000 each. Before the repairs are made we will help the villagers to organize so they can manage access to the water and decide how people will pay for it. The money will go into a separate account for each village, and be saved to repair or replace the pump in the future. REDEP will manage the project, set up the accounts and keep track of the payments.

If a pump breaks down before the villagers have saved enough money to repair it, the Foundation will pay the entire repair cost, provided that the villagers have made regular payments to the account. That is necessary if the project is to be sustainable, because the

accounts must be allowed to grow until they are large enough to pay for future repairs or replacements. Eventually there will be enough money collected to replace the role of the Foundation. That could take as little as one year, but should not take more than three years.

The Foundation will also work with REDEP to develop the administrative structure that will let additional villages into the program after the Foundation has moved on to other projects.

The water in the picture below is the source for a small village. It's a slow moving stream but the villagers think that the water is drinkable if they let it clear after a vehicle goes through it. The pump in their well, which broke down in 2002, will be one of the first to be repaired



The cluster of houses in the background of the picture below is the village whose well supplied water for the school these children attend. However, the pump broke down a few years ago, and since then, the children have taken turns carrying water to the school from a nearby stream. This is another pump that will be repaired or replaced as soon as possible.



If you would like to help the Nyarkoa Foundation with its mission of helping to improve the lives of people in rural villages in Ghana you can write a tax-deductible check to the Nyarkoa Foundation and mail it to either:

Lewis Shapiro, President
Nyarkoa Foundation
P.O. Box 80993
Fairbanks, AK 99708

or

Barry Shapiro, Treasurer
Nyarkoa Foundation
333 East 43rd Street #505
New York, NY 10017

Thank you! Please be sure to enclose your address and you will receive a receipt by mail.

The Nyarkoa Foundation is a (501) c (3) not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Alaska. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed under the Internal Revenue Income Tax Code.