



# Nyarkoa Foundation

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P.O Box 80993, Fairbanks, Ak 99708

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Welcome to the sixth 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 projects through the Rural Education and Development Programme (REDEP) a non-profit, non-government organization in Ghana that shares its 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 because that idea represents our views and objectives.

It's hard to believe, but the Nyarkoa Foundation was chartered on January 31, 2007, and has been in existence for nearing 7 years.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, and the assistance of REDEP we have been able to continue and expand our work in Ghana

Our first project was the installation of a running water system into a health

clinic. It was completed in Spring, 2008, and our first newsletter included the picture of Victoria Ewurafua Yawson, the midwife at the clinic showing water running in the showers for the first time.



## First Water From The Shower

In Spring, 2013, we did the same type of project for a second, larger health clinic that serves more people and also has a maternity ward. As in the first clinic, plumbing had been installed in the buildings when they were built, but water service was always uncertain, so water had to be hauled in buckets from a well on the grounds. We installed a submersible electric pump at the bottom of the well and built a tower to hold a

water tank. The pump fills the tank and the water then flows by gravity into the



**The New Tower**

clinic buildings. A water point was also added to help local people who were getting water from a nearby stream.



**Outside Water Point**

As can be imagined, the addition of running water was particularly well received by the staff in the maternity ward.



**Running water in the maternity ward**

### **Where We Stand**

With the completion of this clinic project, the Foundation has provided reliable running water to three large user communities; two health clinics and a high school. That is in addition to the 15 rural farming villages where we have presented educational programs, repaired or replaced faulty hand pumps and initiated a saving program that we hope will lead to the communities maintaining their own pumps.

Some of the communities have adopted that approach, but others still resist the idea of paying for water even though the money collected is dedicated to keeping

a reliable source of clean water in their community. However, there is hope that we can help change that attitude with a new program that we introduced recently.

### **The Next Step**

The program we introduced has been used elsewhere with some success at keeping hand pumps operating. We think it will make our work in education and pump repair in the rural villages more sustainable. The program is based on teaching women from the villages how to maintain their village pumps.

Our program is a cooperative effort between the Foundation, REDEP (our partner NGO in Ghana), and the company we contract with for pump repairs and replacement. They have experience in educational projects such as ours, and provided the instruction.

The project began in early October, 2013, when two women from each of 14 of the villages we have worked in were brought to a central location for a 3-day workshop on the maintenance and repair of the pumps in their villages. The people in their communities selected the women who attended.

Part of the workshop was also devoted to instruction about the health benefits of using clean water from a deep well as opposed to surface water,

Programs of this type are aimed at women in the villages, because they are responsible for the family water supply and have the incentive to maintain a continuous, convenient source of good water. In addition, while men often leave their home villages to look for work,

women seldom do that. As a result, the women will usually be available to keep the pump areas clean, do minor maintenance and call for technical help when needed. We also hope that having women responsible for the pumps will help create a sense of ownership by other women in the community, and through them to the men as well. That is required for long-term sustainability of their water supply.

On the first day of the program, the instruction was done indoors, and involved teaching the names of the pump parts and the principles of how pumps work. Even the babies took part.



### **Classroom Instruction**

Then the participants received hands-on instruction in nearby communities that had different types of pumps. The women were then able to work on the same types of pumps they will be taking care of in their home villages. That was a special feature of this workshop.

Another special feature of our program is that REDEP will be available to provide support in the form of help and advice to the pump caretakers as needed. REDEP will also have tool kits and spare parts on hand. That type of sustained back-up has not been part of earlier programs of this type.



These pictures show the women working on a broken pump during the workshop. They were interested and enthusiastic about the project and were looking forward to applying what they had learned when they return to their communities.



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

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