



Cheerful Hearts Foundation
(Contributing towards Global Development)

CHEERFUL HEARTS FOUNDATION CHILD LABOUR PROJECT REPORT

(MARCH - MAY 2012)

The Cheerful Hearts Foundation team has been working tirelessly to rescue more child laborers from the Gomoa Nyanyano community and Gomoa Fete. Within the last 2 months, the team has rescued additional fifteen (15) children from child labor from the above named fishing communities making a total of thirty (30) rescued children on this project. Out of the additional fifteen children rescued, six (6) were from Gomoa Nyanyano community whilst the remaining nine (9) children were rescued from the new community called Gomoa Fete in the Awutu Senya District of Ghana.



Some members of the Cheerful Hearts Foundation interviewing some child laborers

In the months of March and April 2012, the team visited the Nyanyano fishing shore to meet and interact with children who are working with the fishermen. Through the various visits to the shore and several interactions with the children and fishermen working on the shore, the rescue team has identified some children that are involved in child labour voluntarily and just refused to attend school though their parents are willing to send them to school. These groups of children consider fishing as their livelihood and do not want anything to do with education. The rescue team however, organized counseling sessions for these children and talked to them about the benefits of education in the near how they can even benefit as educated fishermen should they choose fishing as their profession. Some prominent people in the community were used as examples and role models to these children to motivate them into choosing the course of education. Some of these children realized a huge need to go to school after being counseled. According to our records in this project, they have been the only children who tried to visit the community project coordinator severally to find out when they can start school. Cheerful Hearts is planning an educational tour for these children and all rescued children to some selected places in the capital city. The purpose of this is to give them some exposure and make them realize what education can help them achieve in future.



Some of the recently rescued child laborers after being interviewed at the fishing shore

Some members of Cheerful Hearts Foundation also arranged a day visit to meet the families of the rescue children to discuss with them our intension to support their children's education and also to find out possible family situations which caused these children to work on the fishing shore. The team realized that most of these children have single parents being mothers and as a result of poverty, the children have no option than to work with the fishermen to make ends meet.



Cheerful Hearts team members visit some of the families of the rescued children at Nyanyano

Alice who is one of the rescued females showed very keen interest to go to school when given the support to attend school since her mother has not been able to support her education. She is now in school and she is thankful to Cheerful Hearts Foundation and our sponsors for giving her a hope into her future.



Alice before her rescue



Alice now in school after her rescue

In the month of April and May, the rescue team was very active working in the Gomoa Fete village to rescue children who are being exploited by the fishermen. Fortunately, the team had support from the Chief Fishermen and the entire fishermen group in the community to assist us in our efforts to rescue these children from the shore. Currently, one fishermen from the Fete village called Laryie, has accepted to volunteer as a project coordinator of the Fete village who has been assisting the team greatly in our efforts to rescue the above 9 children at the village. This has given the team a lot of success in our efforts to rescue these children from child labour.

In the First week of May, 2012, Cheerful Hearts Foundation was fortunate to host one of the donors who contributed to this project through Global Giving from London. On the 5th of May 2012, the rescue team and the donor had the opportunity to visit the Fete Village to hold a meeting with the rescued children and their parents and also to see how the project is going. This meeting gave an opportunity to find out more reasons why children are being exploited by the fishermen and possible solutions to help end this problem. The team realized that, financial support (micro-finance) for the single mothers of these children to help them start small businesses can be a great tool assisting to make a living and be able to support their children's education continually in future.



Meeting with the single mothers of the rescued children at Gomoa Fete

Currently, all the 30 rescued children are in school and the foundation has paid their school fees for the third term 2011/2012 academic year which ends in August 2012.



Samuel, Evans and Benjamin before rescue

Samuel, Evans and Benjamin after rescue (now in school)

The Foundation is still working hard to find out opportunities to raise more funds to reach our funding goal on Global Giving to enable us rescue up to 100 children from child labour by December 2012.

The foundation is putting together a documentary on this project on a CD and all donors who are interested in receiving copies of this video can send their address to our email info@cheerfulheartsfoundation.org with subject "child labour video doc".

Also, we are appealing to all donors, friends and loved ones to forward or share this page to friends, families, and co-workers etc to see if there are more people who might be interested in supporting this project reach its funding goal.

Watch out for the next update on this project soon.

We greatly appreciate your support for Cheerful Hearts Foundation and the rescued Child laborers.

Many thanks!

Cheerful Hearts Foundation rescue team