

Volta Revival Foundation

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Foah, Ghana



VOLTA REVIVAL FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2017

Working with communities along the Volta river and Lake and those effected by the Volta dams to realize human rights, economic independence and education opportunity in rural Ghana.

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MESSAGE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear board members and advisers,

The Volta Revival Foundation has just completed its first year of operation, and the road ahead is filled with promise. In 2017 we were able to get certified in Ghana, and began the process to being fully recognized in the USA. We were able to launch our social media pages and website getting more and more visitors each day, and we have begun to develop multiple projects. Although finding funding remains a top priority, our projects have not been delayed due to lack of funds and we are going into 2018 with stronger social networks and partnerships, and a renewed dedication.

We want to thank our board of directors and advisors for helping us establish the Volta Revival Foundation in 2017, and look forward to working together towards the realization of human rights, economic independence and educational opportunity in communities effected by Ghana's dams, and living next to the Volta river and lake.

OUR METHOD

The Volta Revival Foundation has clarified its method stating: Our priority as the Volta Revival Foundation is to facilitate the implementation of community led projects which are sustainable and contribute to positive growth and development in that community or area. We were founded based on the communicated desire for support from local communities effected by the Volta dams and living next to the Volta river and lake, and we operate - first and foremost - as a community support organization. This means that all of our projects will be carried out only if the leadership and people of the community have communicated that they would like for the Volta Revival Foundation to work with them to realize a particular project. Once we have accepted, we will seek community participation throughout the entire creation and implementation of the project. Our goal for any given project is to eventually hand it over entirely to the community. Our model is to support the community with the educational materials and workshops needed to sustain the project, then we will monitor and support the project for the first five years or less (unless determined otherwise by the community) then give the project in all it capacities (economic, environmental, social) to the community. We will also take the monitoring time to research the efficiency, and sustainability of the project along with collecting community perspectives on the project over time. All of our project will pertain to issues of education, health and sanitation, economic independence, and human rights aimed at giving the community more resources and more power to determine their future.

MESSAGE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHERE WE ARE WORKING

The Volta Revival Foundation has begun working with communities, focusing its initial energy on implementing projects in the estuary island community of Kewunor. We chose this community based on accessibility and need, and have been making great strides towards project implementation.

Our goal in 2018 is to expand our services to two other partner towns including Adjena and Natriku. Both communities are resettlement towns due to the Volta Dam and both are located in Ghana's Eastern region. The projects we will prioritize in these communities will depend on the urgent needs of the community, but we anticipate the expansion of our student sponsorship and school support programs to the towns, and projects surrounding health and sanitation, economic development, sustainability, and basic human rights.

OUR PROJECTS

Throughout the course of 2017 the Volta Revival Foundation has begun working on multiple projects at the Ada estuary with the neighbor communities of Kewunor and Azizanya. The student sponsorship program has just been launched, which connects students and sponsors so that students can continue going to school and are able to achieve their dreams. For the sponsor this program is a \$30 a month commitment which provides school supplies, uniforms, breakfast and lunch, exam fees, health supplies and other necessary items to the student so that they can focus on their education. Approximately \$25 will be available for the needs of the student every month, the remaining \$5 will be used for paypal fees, international fees, and staff reimbursement. The students will never be handed cash, instead they will receive the support in the form of needed items such as food, books, clothes etc., anything the student needs beyond these things will be expressed to the headmaster who will contact the Volta Revival Foundation to authorize the purchase, only necessary items needed for health, and education will be approved. All funds meant for the student which have been unspent at the end of each month will be put into the school development fund which will benefit all students through the purchase of books, desks, whiteboards, and lunch supplies. This project is a partnership between the Volta Revival Foundation and the schools we work in, in Kewunor and Azizanya, the school is the Kewunor Primary and Junior high school, the headmaster and two trusted teachers from this school will be charged with dispensing needed items, the school

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must have receipts and records for all daily expenditures for the student and all deposits into the school development fund at the end of each month. The Volta Revival Foundation will act as an additional accountability system by meeting with the headmaster and teachers weekly and reviewing all expenses. For more information please visit our updated website: <https://www.voltarevival.org/sponsor-a-student>.

Due to the land dispute over the Ada estuary, the Volta Revival Foundation has gotten involved in the issue by acting as a community advocate and helping to raise funds for the legal fees. The community of Kewunor has been at risk of being illegally seized by Trassaco and Hilton since 2013, these companies plan to build a multi-million dollar resort and private residences in place of the communities of Kewunor and Azizany. The companies have never come to speak with these communities directly and instead have acted very hostile, coming into the community with armed security and building structures without showing proper permits. Because of our strong stance on human rights and specifically the right to self-determination, the Volta Revival Foundation believes the community has the right to decide how the land is developed. For this reason and to safe guard the education of over 600 students who attend the school, we have been asked to support the community in their fundraising efforts and international advocacy. While the Volta Revival Foundation is involved in this issue, by no means do we take a stance except to support the community in what they want. We have done this through social media campaigns and handing out informational brochures. For more information about this project please visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/kewunor-> .

In October 2017 we partnered with the Play and Learn Foundation to put on an educational and sports event for the children in Kewunor. The Play and Learn foundation also donated football uniforms, shoes, and balls for the school teams. The event was comprised of an interactive speech with the children, and different activity stations including book reading, coloring, writing letters, volleyball, and of course football. The day concluded with a snack and water for the children. Overall the program went very well, and encouraged the children in the community to stay in school, and follow their passions.

While working with the communities of Kewunor and Azizanya it has come to our attention that there are no toilets in the town, forcing many people to use the beach and river-side as their toilet. This poses a sanitation problem which jeopardizes the health of the people and of the water. However, traditional flush toilets in a town with no septic system does not offer a great solution either. Based on our research concerning toilet plans the Volta Revival Foundation is creating a proposal and costs list to build 12 double vault composing toilets in

MESSAGE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kewunor and Azizanya. Six of the toilets would be located next to the primary and junior high school, another six toilets will be located next to the foot bridge connecting the island Kewunor to Azizanya.

To gain the expertise needed to build the toilets we have partnered with Meet Me There Eco Resort and Dream Big Ghana who have successfully built 8j6 toilets in a community across the estuary called Dzita, greatly improving the sanitation conditions there. To learn these skills we will select one exceptional young person from the community who wants practical training to go and stay at Meet Me There for one month while they learn the full process of building a double-vault composting toilet. Once trained, the person will oversee the construction of the toilets, and will monitor and upkeep the toilets. We will use coconut peat as the cover material needed for the toilets because coconut is the most accessible resource for such a material, the coconut peat will be made by the person who services the toilets. This person will be given a small salary from the community fund every month until the first batch of compost, after that, the toilets worker will be paid from the sales of the manure.

Eventually, we would like to provide the community with a coconut husk grinder so that it can more easily make the compost cover material, and they can sell the ground coconut to farmers as a nutrient rich fertilizer.

We expect to be submit the proposal to the Ghana sanitation agency (CWSA), the UN WASH project, and other potential partner organizations. We are positive about finding funding, and hope that this project can become fully sustainable and able to employ multiple community members.

FINANACIAL INFORMATION

The Volta Revival Foundation has registered its first business account, meaning we are open for donations and our student sponsorship payment service is set up! Most business-related costs were paid for from the sales of small objects such as bracelets and key chains from Ghana, or they were paid for by the directors and some board members.

In 2018 we look forward to building our financial capacity through fund raising, sales, grants, and partnerships.

MESSAGE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LOOKING AHEAD

As co-directors Mershack and I are proud of what we have all created together, and have a great hope that the future will give us greater opportunity and stronger partnerships. In the next year we are focusing our energy on building the student sponsorship project so that at least 30 students have sponsorship for one year. We also want to ensure the composting toilets become a reality in the community, and that the project is fully sustainable one year from the finish date of their construction. We will continue to advocate for the community of Kewunor so that their development is in their control. We will also focus on reaching out to other organizations, and work on partnering for educational workshops, day programs, and donations.

By the end of the year it is our goal to be a fully tax-exempt organization under US federal law, we hope that by achieving this certification we will be able to work with a wider range of organizations and be allowed to receive donations of physical materials shipped from the US such as: school supplies, medical equipment, computers, etc.

Thank you to everyone supporting us as the Volta Revival Foundation takes larger strides towards project implementation. The next years will be full of learning, and we hope that in the process we can work with communities to create lasting and positive development.

Monique Vandenbroucke & Mershack Kabu Aklie
Founders and Co-Directors
Volta Revival Foundation
January 14, 2018

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial Summary

Below are the major expenses of the Volta Revival Foundation in the 2017 fiscal year:

Purpose	Amount
Lawyer consultation fee (Chris Hatfield from Dickson Hatfield LLC)	\$100
Cards and print-outs	\$70
Web Server (Wix)	\$100
Registration in Ghana	\$300
Registration with Office of Social Welfare	\$200

Below are the Major earnings of the Volta Revival Foundation in the 2017 Fiscal year:

Purpose	Amount
Small Sales	\$70
Donations	\$250

SUMMARY

ACCOUNTS

The Volta Revival Foundation now has a bank account with Mid Oregon Credit Union which is connected to our paypal account where we accept donations. The link to donate is live on our website, and the subscription button for the student sponsorship program is live.

FUNDRAISING

We are now looking into future fundraising projects to sustain our daily operation costs, we have considered renting a stall in the summer Bend weekly music event *Munch & Music* where we would spread awareness of our projects, and sell clothing, cosmetic products, and trinkets from Ghana.

We are also considering hosting a music and arts event in the summer, the proceeds of which would go to the Volta Revival Foundation. There would also be an intermission where we (the directors and board members) would talk about our philosophy and projects.

This is an open invitation to our board members and advisors to imagine and brainstorm opportunities to raise funds. Our estimate for one year of maintenance costs which would cover: office rent, in country transportation, signs, posters and printing; website and domain; and the 501(c)3 tax exemption filing fee.

COMPANY INFORMATION

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