

CREATE / TEACH / CONSULT

LEARN GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FIRST HAND [LEARN MORE >](#)

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MANAGEMENT  BABSON

TORCH

student newspaper of roosevelt university • chicago - schauburg

 Search

- Sections
- Torched
- Social circle

Torch > Sections > News

Bringing enlightenment to Ghana



Study abroad student raises funds to help build new school in Africa

By Paul Mulvihill

Contributing reporter

Published: Monday, November 15, 2010

Updated: Monday, November 15, 2010 21:11

 email 1  print

Roosevelt University student Renee Farwell is manifesting her dedication to the enlightenment of the human spirit by helping build a school for orphans in Kissamah Village, Ghana.

Farwell went to Ghana last fall to study at the University of Ghana, where she met Kwame, who worked at the university. He invited her to his village, where he taught orphans. On the porch of his shack, she became involved with teaching the children some basics such as English, reading and counting.

"We are not just teaching the alphabet," said Farwell. "We teach the children how to sustain themselves and how to not be dependent on others."

Farwell and Kwame began teaching five groups of children four days a week. As the word began to spread, the number of children kept growing and growing until there were more than 50 wide-eyed pupils, ages five to 17, squeezing onto the porch.

There is public education in Ghana, but many cannot afford to pay for uniforms, books or paper, so they are unable to attend. Farwell became so engaged that she extended her study abroad stay from a single semester to a year in order to get the project off the ground.

"If I had left, I would have been letting down a lot of kids," Farwell said. "My life would have gone on, but I would not have been ok leaving them."

In January, she incorporated the organization Mawuvio's Outreach Programme in Ghana. In March, she enlisted volunteers through the Student

Youth Travel Organization to teach at the village while she came back to Roosevelt this fall to finish her degree. As a result, volunteers have come from Germany, Holland and parts of the United States to teach on the tiny porch of the little village.

Farwell will be returning to Ghana over the winter break in December to the children with whom she has kept in weekly contact since her departure. She is returning to Roosevelt to finish her coursework and is set to graduate in April with a degree in sociology.

Farwell already has raised \$11,000 for the project which has bought two acres of land for the school and the building's foundation, which is now in the ground.

"I didn't set out to do anything like this," Farwell said. "I know it's big but it somehow doesn't seem that way to me."

Farwell is trying to raise \$50,000 for a school building that will include separate boys' and girls' dormitories, classrooms, and space for volunteers.

Once completed, the school will be home to 80 children and be able to teach a total of 200 young Ghanaians.

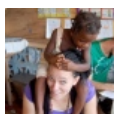
Farwell will discuss her study abroad experience and current work building the school during a fundraiser at 3 p.m. on Nov. 17 in AUD 320. She will present a slideshow and hold a silent auction in an effort to raise awareness and funds for the Mawuvio's Outreach Programme school and orphanage in Ghana.



Photo courtesy of Renee Farwell
Student Renee Farwell helps orphans in Ghana.



Photo by Renee Farwell
The school Farwell is looking to build will be able to teach 200 Ghana youths



Bringing enlightenment to Ghana

Study abroad student raises funds to help build new school in Africa
Roosevelt University student Renee Farwell is manifesting her dedication to the enlightenment of the human spirit by helping build a school for orphans in Kissamah Village, Ghana. Farwell went to Ghana last fall to study at the University of Ghana, where she met Kwame, who worked at the university. Full story