

Creating Connections for Global Engagement: Featured Story



Soon after Renee Farwell (left) of Roosevelt University, USA, arrived at the University of Ghana for her ISEP-Exchange program, she was invited to the village of Kissemah to meet the children that a university staff member taught on the porch of his modest home. Renee quickly volunteered to join his teaching efforts, and even after she returned home, her extraordinary work has continued, leading her to spearhead an initiative to build a school for orphans and poor children in Kissemah. So far, she has raised nearly \$12,000; incorporated her school organization, Mawuvio's Outreach Programme, in Ghana; purchased two acres of land for the school, which will be home for 80 students and teach up to 200 students; and moved forward with the building's foundation, now in the ground. She also enlisted volunteers through the Student Youth Travel Organization (SYTO) to take her place as teachers in Ghana. To date, SYTO volunteers have come from Holland, Germany, and the United States. "If we had \$50,000, we could finish the building in about a month," Renee notes. She plans to visit Ghana over the winter break and then to move there next summer to teach and lead the new school. "I call every week and talk to the kids," she says. "It's encouraging that they're really beginning to make progress in learning how to read."

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