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Renee Farwell

ISEP-Exchange alumna

Home university: Roosevelt University, U.S.

Host university: University of Ghana

Mawuvio's Outreach Programme

There are more than 1 million orphans living in Ghana and many of them have no opportunity to attend school: approximately 33 percent of young Ghanaian children do not attend primary school. Renee Farwell witnessed this firsthand during her ISEP exchange experience in Ghana. Soon after arriving on her ISEP exchange program at the University of Ghana in 2009, 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 during her time abroad and has continued her extraordinary work since returning to the States, spearheading an initiative to build a school for orphans and poor children in Kissemah as part a Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) Commitment to Action.



Renee and Eric Kwame Agoe, a village leader in Kissemah, recently co-founded Mawuvio's Outreach Programme in Ghana, raising money to provide free education to local orphans. To date their efforts have raised nearly \$12,000 towards the development of new teaching facilities and Renee has enlisted volunteers through the Student Youth Travel Organization to serve as teachers in Ghana.

As part of her 2011 CGI U commitment, she will continue overseeing the construction of a building in Kissemah where orphans can live and go to school. The new facility will house 50 boys and 50 girls, and will include 6 classrooms. Renee and Eric will continue to recruit and pay teachers, as well as provide food, clothing, and other supplies to the orphans through their local partner organizations in Ghana.

Renee's efforts were recently hailed as a feature commitment at the Clinton Global Initiative University Meeting at the University of California, San Diego in April 2011:

(http://www.cgju.org/multimedia/press_center/2011_press_releases/040211_CGIU_UCSD.asp).