

Mawuvio's Outreach May 2011

2 MOP Students Missing for 1 Week



Pictured: Gabriel Oko, 10 (left) and Sherrif Kwaku, 11 (right) 2 MOP students who were living in the night market for a week.

11 year old Sheriff Kwaku and 10 year old Gabriel Oko were reported missing by Kwaku's grandmother in mid April. After two days of not seeing the boys the grandmother came to the MOP office in search of the boys. Headmaster Eric Kwame Agoe confirmed that the boys had not been in attendance for the past three days.

MOP Volunteers studying at the University of Ghana spotted Kwaku and Oko a few days later at a market close to the International Student's Hostel. Kwaku and Oko told the volunteers that they had been sent to the market to do a few chores and then they would return to Kissemah. The boys did not return to Kissemah until days later when the volunteers saw them again and brought them back to Kissemah themselves.

"I talked to the boys and they say that they went to the night market to do odd chores for people. They were washing clothes and carrying parcels for people to earn money for themselves" said the boys'

headmaster Eric Kwame Agoe.

It is not uncommon for MOP students to travel the 5 miles to the night market especially when they know some of the volunteers teaching them live near there. "We try to teach the kids that it is education that will make them grow to be successful adults" commented Agoe, "but they also are hungry and are doing things like this just to get money to be buying food."

Fortunately this month a six-month long free lunch program will be implemented by Briana Thomas who arrives in Ghana April 29 relieving MOP students of the daily hunger they face.



The night market where Kwaku and Oko stayed for over a week

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MOP Safety Watch

April 27th after the close of class, Eric Kwame Agoe went to visit students Daniel and Margret where they stay. Upon arriving, Agoe saw Mr. Steven (step-father to the two children) beating Margret repeatedly with a belt. "I tried so hard to get the man to stop hitting her but he continued to cane her over and over again until I finally was able to take the cane away from the man" Agoe said. According to Agoe, Mr. Steven was beating Margret for not having sold enough corn for the day and attending classes at MOP instead. "This man has crazed before" Daniel Mayor said about his stepfather. "I just pray for that MOP can move to Aiykuma as soon as possible to create a safe environment for all the children. No one deserves to be treated like many of our children are treated by the persons who are supposed to care for them," Agoe stated. MOP hopes to move in by September 2011



President Clinton giving an opening speech at CGIU 2011

Former US President Bill Clinton holds an annual conference for young people dedicating to making and creating change in the global world. This year, MOP co-founder attended the conference, held at the University of San Diego, California on behalf of MOP.

News from Aiykuma:

Saturday April 2 MOP headmaster Eric Kwame Agoe led a group of volunteers to the Aiykuma building site where they worked putting nine trips of sand into the buildings foundation filling the back two classrooms and part of the boys dormitory.

"It went really well" Agoe said after the work day. "We got a lot of work done in one day". It was the first time MOP led a group of volunteer workers to the building site. The nine workers were all foreign students who had previously visited Mawuvio's School in Kissemah Village and volunteered as teachers and wanted to help MOP save money they usually spend on labor.

Mawuvio's Outreach Awarded at Annual Clinton Global Initiative Conference

MOP received an outstanding award for the work they have done in the fields of education & poverty alleviation. Farwell accepted the award from NFL player Nnamdi Asomugha who does similar philanthropic work in Nigeria.

Over 1,000 college aged students attended the conference from all 50 states as well as from 90 countries. "It was an amazing experience" said Farwell. "I met so many amazing people many of which I see MOP working with in the future".

Special guests at the conference were Bill Clinton, Mandy Moore, Sean Penn, Drew Barrymore and many more.

"Seeing famous people was cool, but the most opportunities for MOP came from meeting with and talking to many other likeminded students" Farwell commented.



Renee Farwell (left) accepts an outstanding commitment award from Raiders cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha (right) at the 4th annual Clinton Global Initiative Conference



Above: Building foundation is filled with sand. At the end of April only 5 trips are needed

Funds Raised

In an effort to jumpstart MOP funding, Renee Farwell challenged MOP supporters to raise \$100 from their friends and family members using the Chip In application in which people can electronically chip in whatever amount they want. Safy Any raised \$107 in only 2 days from her supporters in the bay area and Heather Newell, Amanda Ronne, Taylor Brown and Mary Evans are also working hard to raise a goal of \$100 as well.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

May:

1 Free Lunch Programme is implemented

14-15 Lyons Craft Fair Table

Mid ISEP advisor visits

31 Grinnell Social Justice Grant Determinations

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MOP Bracelets in Hollywood?

At the 4th Annual Clinton Global Initiative Conference in San Diego, co-founder Renee Farwell received the rare opportunity of passing along part of MOP to both former President Bill Clinton and actress Drew Barrymore, bracelets handmade by MOP students and staff.

Farwell used a split second interaction with both Clinton and Barrymore to pass along a MOP contact card and bracelet. "It was surreal" Farwell shared. "to think a former president and one of my favorite actresses has an MOP bracelet. It's crazy"

While Farwell says she would be surprised to



be contacted by either individual it is no longer in outside the realm of possibility.

To purchase a bracelet, Please visit:

<http://www.etsy.com/shop/Mawuvios>

Cook Organizes POPS Concert

April 18th, high school students, their family members and staff of Northeast community school district gathered for the spring POPS concert. The POPS concert had not been held the last few years and with the approval of the high school principal, Riley Cook organized the once annual concert as a fundraiser for the MOP building project.

The concert featured several high school students including Cook himself performing many songs vocally as well as instrumentally.

Donations were collected at the door and Barb Farwell sold MOP handmade jewelry to concert attendees. Over \$400 was raised and a lot of fun was had. MOP continues to receive enormous support from the Northeast Community School District as they have received numerous donations both in kind as well as monetary from the students, staff and others in the district.

Student Spotlight

Name: **Kofi Samson**
Age: **10**
Class: **Primary 1**
Best Game: **Football**
Best Food: **chicken**



What do you want to be when you grow up? **Doctor**

Name: **Akos Vinsenci**
Age: **8**
Class: **KG1**
Best Game **Ampe**
Best Food: **rice**



What do you want to be when you grow up?
Teacher