

### Creative and Educational Workshops

For the second time now...and we believe it is going to be an annual event...the workshops held at the Centre were a great success !!!

Madelon Mijster and her son Jurriaan ran a workshop about setting up an Internet Business. The children couldn't have been in better hands with Gaby Rappange and her son Max when it comes to what it takes to work in the Advertising business. A better understanding of the importance of Hygiene can save lives!! How do germs spread? Or what happens when you drink dirty water?

The Hygiene workshop given by Monique Cornelisse and her daughter Claire was very educational. Over 80 children joined the LEGO workshop. We were fortunate to have Job (Monique's son) Hetty, Gery and Paula (Volunteers) and Frank Ago (Alumni Student) to help the children.

Did you know that building with LEGO fosters spatial reasoning and awareness of proportions and patterns? As a child builds his or her mind is reasoning about what pieces will work best, how they should be arranged and how big or small the creation should be. It was all wonderful. Thank you to everyone who made this possible, who donated goods and funds!



Workshop Advertising



Workshop Lego

**Thank you Madelon, Jurriaan, Gaby, Max, Monique, Job and Claire for your time and energy.**



Workshop setting up an Internet Business



Workshop Hygiene

### Takoradi Educational Resource Centre

We were very happy to have **Gery Verlinden, our volunteer** from Holland with us at the Takoradi Centre for 8 months. Together we were able to develop and implement some very important educational programs and activities, such as the Reading Club, colour coding the Library, and developing language activities for each colour level.

Not to forget many of the fun and creative activities that are always held on Saturday's. We would like to share a few with you in this newsletter.

### Takoradi Statistics

New registrations Library	: 310
Renewed memberships Library	: 111
New registrations Computer	: 128
Total Books Borrowed	: 766

Wonderful news ...Computer registrations have picked-up!!



### Story writing activity

Enjoy one of the wonderful stories the children have written;

#### The Greedy Dog

By: Sandra Edumadze, Abigal Quansah, Cecilia Coleman, Muniratu Nuhu, Joel Martey, Prince Ofori and Belinda Essel.

One day, a dog stole a meat from a butcher. Then, he walked down the road to the river. He saw another dog in the river with a meat but it was his own shadow. He was very thirsty, but he didn't want to leave the meat and drink the water. So he kept standing there. He thought the dog in the river was real, so he tried to take the other meat from the dog. He jumped into the river but suddenly and unfortunately he lost his meat. He stood by the river and saw that the other dog had also lost his own. Then he saw that because of his greediness, he lost his meat. So he learned his lesson and stopped being greedy. ....**Moral of the story: Greed is not good.**



More activities at the centre.....their favourite activity is making jigsaw puzzles



**Impact of our work**

Helping children to develop skills for a better future is our mission and our passion! How our work impacts the life and progress of the children is sometimes hard to measure. Recently however we asked a number of teachers what the major differences are between children in their class that visit the Education Centre and those who don't....and other questions. We would like to share some of their comments with you.

**Question:** How do you feel these student's school performance compares to students who do not visit the Centre?

Those who come perform better than those who don't come. in terms of reading, but also when it comes to math, those who read are able to understand the problems as well

**Question:** What other changes have you seen in these students ?

They are active in class. They encourage others to attend and join them. There is competition among those who come to the Centre, they want to finish a book between one another.

They have built up their confidence in the classroom. They know new words and are able to use them in their daily expressions. Reading ability has improved as well. Also, the library has helped them to remain silent in the class when they are supposed to (which we are very grateful for)

**Question:** What particular skills have you noticed ?

Reading skills; they now have interest in reading. Their speaking skills-fluency in English have increased. They have acquired learning-individual learning: something to rely on when they are not doing anything-instead of always playing. Have also gained leadership skills. They organize groups, and lead them; teach other children

**Question:** How has the time spent at the Takoradi Educational Resource Centre affected his or her performance at school?

It is helping them in that they are improving when it comes to English speaking and in general knowledge. They are able to give ideas, which you wouldn't expect them to give

**Question:** What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of these particular students?

Their reading skills are very good, their level of thinking is high.

What I expected to see I'm seeing: I'm happy about it. I want to see them improving more. When the children improve, it makes me happy. Because not all the people are having teachers in the house who assist them. The only way we can help them is recommend the library.



## Adult Literacy group

It was a pleasure to see the Adult Literacy group at work and be able to have a pleasant conversation with them **in english** about life and their progress. Their confidence is amazing compared to when they started the course a year ago and for some, who participated in the first course, the change is incredible. They are working hard towards their graduation at the end of this year. We look forward to a festive celebration of their achievements.



## Volunteers corner

When Gery left To Be Worldwide to take up a new adventure in Indonesia we were fortunate that Paula was able to join us at such short notice. Paula has been with our organization since March. We wanted you to hear from her.

Hello!

My name is Paula and I'm from the US. I've spent the past 16 months in Ghana, studying at the University and working with various NGO's. I recently joined the ToBe Worldwide team and have taken up where Gery, our previous teacher left off at the beginning of this year. My work revolves around helping the children who attend the library to develop their reading skills, as well as their creativity.

One of my main projects is the Reading Club, which Gery started. We work with two groups of students and a teacher from two of the local schools to give them specific attention. These children are selected due to the difficulty they experience with reading. We assess their level of reading and place them in groups. We also supplement the work with fun activities and games to help the children stay engaged and realize that reading can actually be fun. (The proof comes when the children come up at the end and tell me how much fun they have! And in the way that they will stay long after their class is finished just to work extra!) We strive to focus on understanding not only the words, but the pictures that go with them so they can see the story is interesting. The program is very effective in teaching the children so they remember and understand.



*Picture taken by Cephas 10 years old during the digital photography course*

I have also been working with our Saturday activities with the children. As always, the children love jigsaw puzzles most (we had a turnout of 103 children on one particular Saturday!), but they have also really enjoyed activities such as drawing, quiz, spelling bee, and story writing. The level of creativity and skill in the children's stories was very impressive and we hope to make a book of these stories soon. I have also been visiting with local teachers to see how the Library can better help those in attendance and how we can improve our attendance rates. Overall, we have been very busy and having lots of fun!!!



**To Be Worldwide Alumni**

Meet Frank Ago, one of our former students who has completed his Secondary School and who is waiting for his exam result in order to go to university. In the mean time he has applied to work at the centre. This is his reason for applying:

Why I applied for the job?...In order to give back what I got from the center back to the center, cause I remember there was a time I wasn't able to read and write and now am more then able to read and write.



*Frank Ago helping the children build LEGO*

Perviously it was nearly impossible to get in touch with our former students as most of them left the area to continue their education regionally, (at boarding schools). However more and more students have access to the internet through their smart-phone's. We have been tracing former students and have had the pleasure of welcoming a few of them back to the Centre to spontaneously help our presents students during activities on Saturdays.

We have set up a Facebook page to help us get in touch and communicate with our Alumni. Our main objective at the moment is to reach as many Alumni as possible, organize a get together at the end of the year in which we will have group discussions to find out how best we can help them in the future and how they feel they can contribute to helping the present students at the Centre.

We are very lucky to have Dorine Wesseling, who has offered her assistance as a volunteer to help make this program a success. Dorine has many years of experience in running a charitable organization she set up. Her organization "Do Care" was responsible for providing support for HIV education in African countries.



*Dorine Wesseling*

We are presently looking into way to improving communications with a core group of Alumni. We wish to follow this group closely, follow their progress in life in order to see how their time at our Centre has helped them achieve their goals. One of the possibilities we are considering is providing a group of 25 Alumni with a tablet to use to communicate with us, fill out questionnaires but which we can also use to provide them with important information, apps,

**OUTLOOK** Next 6 months 2014

- Digital Photography Course
- New Educational Programs
- New Volunteer Cerise Tete to join the team
- First Alumni Meeting

*Cape Coast Statistics*

New registrations Library	: 86
New registrations Computer	: 26
Total Books Borrowed	: 1835

*Though less new registrations than in Takoradi, More books are read by the children that are already members of the Library*