



VOLTA REVIVAL FOUNDATION

Volta Revival Foundation Student Sponsorship program



Trafficked 2 School

***Freedom for child survivors of fishing and
domestic slavery in Ghana, Africa***

What is the Trafficked 2 School Student Sponsorship Program?



Through our student sponsorship program, the Volta Revival Foundation partners with donors and sponsors to provide life-changing opportunities to child survivors of fishing and domestic slavery in and around Ada, Ghana, West Africa. Sponsored students are enrolled in the highest performing school in the district with not only excellent academic instruction, but also music lessons, extra tutorials, art courses, and one-on-one mentorship. Additionally, we provide health care, hygiene kits, two meals a day, food help, clothing and shoes, family support, all books and school supplies, transportation for students living far from the school, living stipends when necessary and much more. We believe that due to the traumatic life experience of being enslaved our children need therapy and the ability to express themselves freely in order to heal. Our team is qualified to help our students with their trauma as we have a psychologist, and child development specialist, as well as multiple mothers on staff to provide them with the support they need. The program is coupled with our community and school monitoring program to keep data on child disappearances in the district, and our intervention program to bring and keep children out of the fishing industry.



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Being a Sponsor



As a Trafficked 2 School sponsor you will have the privilege of seeing how your small contribution and relationship with your student can flourish into a life long and life changing journey for both your family and your student! Throughout this journey VRF promises to send you quarterly student welfare reports which include your students grades, family and health status, a recent picture, and a handwritten letter from your student. You always have the opportunity to engage your student more through letters, video calls, and personalized gifts!

Additionally, as an organization with a fully staffed volunteer house in Ada, Ghana you are welcome to come and meet your student in person! Our students love hearing from their sponsors, and the cultural exchange is rich and beautiful!

Volta Revival Foundation is currently equipped with a staff of seven professionals, and we provide all of the above services to our students and sponsors based on the generous donations of our supporters and most importantly from the sponsors contributions. For a \$45 monthly contribution we provide everything to your student, in addition to all our love and continued support for the student throughout their life. We expect our students to go on into university, training schools and other programs and to come back as the next generation ready to change their communities for the better, and to end they cycle of poverty and slavery!



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Long Term Goals One Child at a Time: Breaking the Cycle of Child Trafficking in the Fishing Industry



As a grass-roots community support organization, Volta Revival Foundation is highly concerned with the long-term sustainability of our projects. That's why we have created our student sponsorship program because we believe that if you want to change a horrible cycle then you provide education and opportunity to the children.

Child slavery trafficking is very common in our area where the income is low and the people are traditional fishermen and traders. Many parents from very rural fishing villages in Ada are targeted by fishermen with

boats who work north on the Volta lake mostly in and around communities in Akosombo and Yeji. The fishermen may be relatives, friends or acquaintances of the parents, and they promise many things to the, often impoverished, parents such as education for their child, good food and accommodation, as well as payments made to the parents for the work of the child. The parents often believe the opportunities being offered by the fishermen are much better than what they can offer their own child, and therefore they lease the child out as a laborer who is not allowed to leave until their contract (usually 5-15 years) is served. This is how a child becomes the slave of a fisherman. Once the child is in the fisherman's custody, the child will not be sent to school, instead they will be made to work 15-18 hours a day, be punished and abused often and for minor mistakes, be fed little, sleep in dirty quarters with many other children in the same position, and be forced to engage in dangerous work such as diving deep into lake Volta to untangle nets, and set traps. Other



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tasks the child will be engaged in is net mending, fish scaling, boat maintenance, carrying heavy loads of fish and other items, wielding dangerous equipment, working all hours of the day and night, being used as fishing bait, and rowing the boat.

Additionally, young girls are brought into this industry as domestic and sexual servants for the boy slaves and the fishermen. The girls will engage in fish selling, cleaning, cooking, net mending, and many other chores. The girls are also often raped, and used as child brides to the fishermen, or as sexual motivation for the

boys in slavery so that they will not run away. Therefore, both boys and girls as young as 2 years old are implicated in this form of child trafficking.



Our Story

The Volta Revival Foundation was created by love.

Love of the people. Love of mama Africa. Love of justice and kindness.

And love for each other.

Volta Revival Foundation was manifested by the imaginations of two dreamers: Monique Vandembroucke and Merstack Akhie who met in Ada Foah Ghana in the summer of 2016 and together established VRF that December.

Since that fateful day VRF has grown exponentially and many have come along side, caught up in our philosophy and vision including our projects manager Julius, our volunteer coordinator Era, our secretary Isaac, our chef Philipa, and our volunteer house



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manager Aggie, along with hundreds of Ghanaian volunteers and many international volunteers.



In the three years we have been operational VRF has touched the lives of thousands, and directly impacted over 3,000 people with direct, and in some cases life-saving aid. Some of our accomplishments include: sponsoring the education of 19 children including 13 child survivors of slavery, donated 50 bicycles to students living very far from their schools, campaigned and successfully kept two multinational corporations from displacing an island community without just resettlement, provided pure water to one island school and wind powered electricity to another, provided sanitation, health care, and electronics to a children's home to ensure proper management; aided another local NGO in the establishment of one of the highest performing schools in the district, provided a resettlement clinic with equipment and needed medicines, ran over 15 youth sports camps, supported the Ada arts community with an arts revival competition, and we are currently creating monitoring and intervention programs to work towards ending the trafficking of children in Ada into fishing slavery on the Volta lake and river, as well as seeking funding for a tree planting project in the district to decrease erosion and the worst forms of climate change on our Ramsar protected coastal area. The Volta Revival Foundation is now stronger than ever, and getting better every day, and we want you to be a part of it, because if there's anything we know, its that together we make a difference!

Volta Revival Foundation is established both in USA and in Ghana. The Volta Revival Foundation is headed by a board of directors based in Bend Oregon, and is regularly audited in order to ensure transparency and financial honesty.



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About Ada, Ghana



Ada Ghana is situated between the Volta river and the Gulf of Guinea, near the Volta river estuary where the ocean and river meet. The Ada East and West districts are the most rural districts in the Greater Accra Region; Ada Foah is the district capital. The districts have not yet caught up with the rapid urbanization of surrounding areas though it has a good transport system and is about 2 hours away from the Accra airport. Coconut trees can be found along the coast as well as many species including hundreds of types of birds. The entire district is a Ramsar site and Biosphere reserve. The population of Ada is approximately 140,000 living in hundreds of communities. The main economic activities include salt mining, oyster mining,



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fishing, farming, livestock rearing and trading. There is widespread poverty in the district: sanitation, and access to clean food and water are major factors, as well as low quality education. Regardless of these facts, the resilience of Adano (Ada people) is evident, and despite every challenge being placed in their way, many are creating a comfortable life for themselves, or are able to hold on and survive from day to day.

The estuary of the Volta river is comprised of seven main islands with Twenty-Two communities living on the islands. The indigenes of the land are called Adas from various clans and There is a paramount Chief who is the overlord of the Ada State. The people of Ada speak the Ada dialect (Ada- Dangbe) of the Ga-Adangbe languages. The people of Ada are heterogeneous in terms of religion, and there are Christians, Moslems and Traditionalists. The major festival of the people of Ada is Asafotufiami which is celebrated in August every year and attracts tens of thousands of people from all over the world to witness it.



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Become A Sponsor Today!

Being a sponsor is a \$45 monthly commitment (with \$30 options available for those unable to make the cost but still wish to be sponsors) and provides one student with the life changing prospects which education and proper care provide!

To become a sponsor today, please look through the current student profiles below Please reply to the email address **VOLTAREVIVAL@GMAIL.COM** with the following information:

Name:

Address:

Phone contact:

Student you wish to sponsor:

Also, if you would like to, please take a moment to introduce yourself to your student by writing a short introduction to you, and you are also welcomed to attach a photo. We will print it out and deliver it to your student. Remember that your student lives in a very different context and may need some things explained which are not common for them.

From our team at the Volta Revival Foundation, we would like to express our genuine gratitude for your generous monthly contribution to the future of one of these bright young students.



Testimonials from Survivors and Students in need of sponsorship



NAME: JONATHAN AGBOKA

AGE: 16 \ GRADE: 5th

I'm currently staying at Angornya with my mother but my father died some years ago.

“When I was very young about 7 years my mother took me to Akosombo and she left me with my uncle and I served him as a fishing boy (slave) for seven years. I never had the opportunity to attend school all these years, I wasn't fed well, and I was not permitted to leave. I was later brought back to Ada. Throughout my time working for my uncle he never beat me but I didn't like the idea of staying and working for somebody whiles my age mates were in school. My mother is the one now taking care of me from the little she gets from the mats that she sells, but I often miss school because my fees are not paid.”



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NAME: VAJEH JENNIFER

AGE: 12 \ Grade: 4th

“I was once taken to my mothers friend who made me work in the fish market and in her hotel to clean the place, She did send me to school but I had to be absent for many days to help with the fish harvest and other chores and therefore I advanced only very slowly. Most of the people who visited her criticized her for having me work in the hotel business at this age. The criticisms got her depressed and one day told me to come back to Ada to help my mom since she is sick. As at now, I’m currently staying with my parents who are into fishing and selling. My education is not going well since my parents are unable to afford most of the academic costs”.



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NAME: ERIC DOE

AGE: 17 / GRADE: 4th

He is now living with his grandfather and mother in Gorm, Ada. His mother sells mango and his grandfather molds blocks.

“I was five years when my father took me to his friend at Kpando for fishing in the Volta region. Throughout my stay with him, I never went to school. I spent about seven years working with my father’s friend and he would not let me go. I only had the opportunity to leave when I told him I wanted to attend my grandmother’s funeral at Ada. When I came to my mom, she never bothered to send me to school but it was rather my grandfather who took the initiative to send me to school. Some of the abuses I went through included serious beatings whenever I complain of tiredness and poor nutrition”.



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NAME: AHETO CHRISTIANA

AGE: 13 \ GRADE: 5th

“I’m currently staying with my parents at Gbovinya. My father fishes and my mother weaves mat. I was taken when I was very young to an overbank island in the Ada district to stay with my mother’s friend who never sent me to school. I was made to serve her for a long time. Whiles with her, I would do all the house work and also help sell food.

My parents felt they could not take care of me so she told them that if i serve her the she would educate. However, she never did till my parents came for me to attend school at Gorm. My parents are now struggling to cater for my educational needs and because of this sometimes I am forced to absent myself from school”.



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NAME: ENOCH HLOKA

AGE: 17 / GRADE: 7TH JUNIOR HIGH

Enoch was in fourth grade and when he was taken by his uncle to be a fishing boy on the Volta lake just after the death of his father. He worked as forced labor for the uncle for four years. He pleaded every day in vain to go back to school until he could no longer take it and he finally run away from his uncle to stay with his grandma. Then Enoch was admitted into third grade in 2016. The next year he was promoted to fourth grade, finished two terms and was promoted to fifth grade in the same year. He is now in seventh grade and is one of the best three students in his class. The little money he gets from nightly fishing and work he does on people's farm is what he uses to feed himself and purchasing his school materials. He said he would have enough time to learn if the people will truly sponsor him. He would be grateful to have your sponsorship.



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NAME: DUGBATEY ISAAC SAPPOR

AGE: 8 / GRADE: THRID GRADE

Dugbatey- or Dug as we also call him- lost his father some years ago. After the death he was forced to work as a fishing boy before being taken back to Ada by his only sister who is now caring for him in addition to being a junior high school student. His mother has been battling a stroke since the death of his father and is therefore unable to care for him or his sister or provide any kind of income for her children. The small rice which he eats from the kitchen of the "school feeding program" is what Dug depends on to sustain himself, and whatever else his sister can provide them. Yet despite, all these challenges, he still comes to school everyday and dreams of becoming a professor. However, his dreams seem to be slowly dying off as he is realizing the severity of his situation. He told us that his father promised an angel would come to rescue him, and he believes that angel is coming as his sponsor. Sappor's dream of becoming a teacher is slowly dying off per his current situation he find himself in and would be so grateful for your support. He confided in us that you are the angel his told him about after the death of his father.



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Our Policies

How VRF Operates Sponsorship

The Volta Revival Foundation works closely with the *Bobby and Bridget Sherman Children's Foundation* and the district education department, as well as the headmaster and teachers of our school. For every sponsored student, the parent /guardian must fill out a consent form and must be debriefed on the program and any incumbent expectations. It is made clear to all participants that the sponsor can, for any reason, discontinue their donations, resulting in loss of sponsorship. All students who lose sponsorship for this reason will be added back onto the website to find another sponsor.

A student will lose sponsorship if the following occurs: the student is missing from school with no explanation for more than two weeks, or if the student has not completed their homework/exams for more than one month. If a student is struggling with the coursework, the Volta Revival Foundation will set up homework tutorials and lessons for the student as is required.

How funds are distributed

The Sponsor makes automatic payments of \$45 every month through PayPal which is deposited into the Volta Revival Foundation bank account. Approximately \$2 of each monthly donation will be used for the PayPal fee and the international withdrawal fee. All the funds from the sponsorship are used to support the student through: needed school supplies, clothes, school fees, books, instruments, tutorials, counseling, transportation, medical examinations and appointments, meals and groceries, family aid (lighting systems, water purification ect.), family visitations, monitoring, monthly cash stipend (in certain cases), and any other needs which may arise which are essential to the success of your student.

All items bought for the student are recorded by the Volta Revival. Keeping receipts and understanding how our support funding is used is a top priority, which is why we only work with partners we know and trust. The Volta Revival Foundation is a registered organization in Ghana and is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity under U.S. law. Our annual report is sent to all sponsors in February for the prior year. A third-party auditor also produces a report annually.



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Statement of Non-Discrimination

The Volta Revival Foundation awards sponsorship to students based on need and merit. The Volta Revival Foundation does not discriminate between students based on religion, sexuality, gender, ethnic affiliation, skin color, national origin, citizenship, difference in ability, or any other category protected by law. In addition, the Volta Revival Foundation prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports discrimination or who participates in any investigation of such reports. This policy covers all scholarship award actions, including distribution of applications, selection process and continuance of scholarship funding.



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