



Updates on the Ponkrom Community School Project

Beginning with a small donation in 2013, Nkwa Foundation began the construction of a new classroom building for the Ponkrom Village School. This project expands the local primary school to a first level junior high school, now a 7 room school teaching children grades 1-8, with the help of donations to Nkwa and our volunteers



Sixth grade students in one of the classrooms built by Nkwa Foundation

Director Ramzy Okyere stands in the empty plot for our next classroom



We are ecstatic about the progress we have made with the school, however, without a classroom for grade level 9, those students must take a 10 mile round trip journey to “local” Eguafo junior high school, by foot! Nkwa hopes to complete the school’s junior high school, so that students may have the opportunity to finish their studies in their community before selecting a senior high school outside of the village. Looking forward, we want to continue the work we have done for the school by providing proper roofs for the 3 classrooms we have built, and construct one remaining classroom.

We look forward to the contributions our visitors, to come, will make to this project and hope to garner more support from Nkwa’s international community. We’re excited to continue building up education in the Ponkrom Community, the grassroots way.



Awaiting Leaders of the Free World



Leaders of the Free World Fellows with their Co-Directors in Cape Coast, in 2016

Leaders of the Free World (LFW) is an organization that aims to provide leadership and international travel opportunities to young Black men age 18-24. Based in Springfield, MA, LFW was co-founded by Ruby Maddox and Lavar Thomas to bring a small group of Black men, from different parts of the United States, to Ghana for 2 weeks. During their months of preparation for the trip the young men develop their consciousness as leaders and global citizens and their diverse activities in Ghana will allow them to apply those developments to global contexts. This will be LFW's second trip to Ghana, and we will have the honor of exchanging with them when they arrive in Cape Coast.

In the closing days of July Nkwa will welcome Leaders of the Free World, to Cape Coast. During their time with us the group will engage in lectures by University of Cape Coast professors, our project at the Ponkrom Community School, community health outreaches, and visits to Cape Coast's historic sites. We are happy to collaborate with this organization that engages young men in the African diaspora, and excited to curate their programming as they visit Cape Coast.



Akwaaba to Nkwa's New Additions

Nkwa's principal site has changed locations! We maintain our headquarters and lodge house in Cape Coast, now with more space to accommodate our volunteers, interns, and visitors.

The new house has a large meeting room, a traditional open Ghanaian Kitchen, 5 rooms and one large room that will serve as a dormitory for groups who visit the organization. The accommodations are equipped with WiFi and have the homestay-feel many are looking for in their trip to Ghana. Having some cooking lessons in the house or relaxing in the great room, listening the sounds of this community, we are sure our visitors will feel right at home.



The new Nkwa head quarters



Our large sitting room

Friday June 29th, we welcomed our newest intern, Nyasha Franklin, to the Nkwa Foundation team! Nyasha is a student from Harlem, NY, USA, studying Anthropology and Africana Studies at Mount Holyoke College. Nyasha has growing interest in urban farming and gardening and the functions of community based organizations which led her to Nkwa this summer. During her time with us, she will run our social media profiles, complete grant searches and applications for our projects, and work directly with our developing Tilapia Farm project. We are happy to host her this summer, as we move forward with Nkwa Foundations' projects and goals.



Investing in Women in the Breman Community

This summer, Nkwa will begin a new community based project in the Breman community of that centers women. We begin constructing the Nkwa Tilapia Farm this summer, that will operate as a cooperative that gives participants shares in the farm. For a cycle of 4 months, 8 women will tend to and sell tilapia from the farm in local markets. The proceeds of these sales will be shared among the participants, and used to feed children in Ponkrom Community's growing primary school.



Our director with Breman Community leaders



Women of the Breman Community Organic Farm

This project aims to create long term financial empowerment that is indeed sustainable, and we believe it has the ability to financially empower a series of women in the Breman community. Nkwa believes that a woman with the right resources can provide for upwards of 50 people! We envision this project will create a real community-wide impact. This 3-phase project will incorporate 8 women as shareholders in the Tilapia farm and help them transition into individual or joint business owners. As a cycle of women ends their 4 months as shareholders in the cooperative, we will incorporate 8 new women into the Nkwa Tilapia Farm to provide this opportunity to more women.

We are excited to begin this project in collaboration with the Breman community and Operation Groundswell, a Canadian organization that has funded the initial stages of this project. Stay tuned for updates!