

## REPORT OF THE CAPE COAST INTERNATIONAL CHILDRENS ARTS AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL 2015

### ***INTRODUCTION***

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2015 about 500 children participated in the Cape Coast International Children's festival at the St. Monica Girls School in Cape Coast, Central region of Ghana. The festival brought together children especially the vulnerable in communities in Cape Coast to come together to be involved in a hands on art, theatre, music and dance workshops. It provided a platform for the children to discover their own interests in these fields and to give children the chance to perform in those fields. This year's festival was under the theme: **'Culture for Development'**. *Menyiwadawodos'* choice was driven first by Principle 5 under Article 2: Guiding Principles of the UN Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the principle of complementarity of economic and cultural aspects of development, which states: 'Since culture is one of the mainsprings of development, the cultural aspects of development are as important as the economic developments which individuals and people have the fundamental human right to participate and enjoy'.

### ***OBJECTIVE***

Our main objectives for bringing these children together included:

- teaching culture as an aspect of self- and environmental awareness
- culture and arts as a medium of learning about oneself and the society
- self-esteem and expression through arts
- participation in the society through cultural programs
- cultural education as an integral component of general education
- a kick-off for our after school programs in cultural lessons
- finding and supporting the creativity talents in drumming, dancing, singing, drawing and painting and acting
- marketing and funding the NGO in the region
- supporting schools in areas of capacity building and with volunteer coaches and materials
- creating awareness of abilities and talents of the children
- Build the bridge to the communal district offices such as Ghana Education Service, Social welfare office etc. to access schools and other children with the NGO's program
- bringing people of the community together

## ***OVERVIEW***

The event started at about 9am with an opening of the organizers. Event t-shirts were given out to participants and volunteers.

The **first part** of the festival was for workshops on arts and cultural performances. All the children participants were registered and grouped into two groups. The Painting and drawing class and the Cultural (dancing, drumming, singing and acting) class.

### *The Painting and drawing class*

We had about 200 participants for this class. Our topic was the Environment we live in. The facilitator for the class was Mawuli Kwesi Aboagye, Director of *Menyiwadawodo*. We tried to refer to art describing the natural world, art that celebrates personal engagement with the natural world ("art in nature"), and to the practices which directly affect our environment ("ecological art" or "eco-art") through educating the participants about the natural world, or intervening in and restoring the natural world. Crayons, water colors, (color-) pencils were provided for children to draw and paint their environment.

### *The Cultural class*

We had about 250 participants participating in the dancing, drumming and singing class. A team led by Frank Kobina Prah from the Twerampon Traditionals engaged them in a two hour training sessions on various traditional and contemporary dancing, drumming and music sessions.

The second segment was the variety show where the participants entertained the community with their skills and talents in music, dance and drumming and acting. There were poetry and piano playing display by the children.

## ***OBSERVATION***

The festival served as an opportunity for the children to come out and express their emotions, feelings and ideas through their cultural performances. Since most schools do not have enough time and financial resources to organize these cultural programs on regular basis, it was an opportunity for the children to show what they got. Our slogan, more than education, through sports, health, art and creativity is an integrated social work approach as an avenue that would encourage the communities to contribute to the development of the youth especially children. There is a need to create a more conducive atmosphere to encourage children to participate in community development and decision making.

## ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

The festival has really created a lot of awareness to schools, public and media of the skills and talents these children living in these deprived communities possess.

There is still more for improvement in building a sustainable organizing team to manage the organization of further festivals. The lack of communication and allocating of tasks should be pre defined from the start.

We also need to do follow up activities in communities and schools where participants came from. These follow up activities would be low budget programs (we would offer snacks instead of full days meals) and using open spaces in these communities.

There is the need to still continue to look for more partners and sponsors to help make the festival sustainable.

## ***PARTNERS***

Bingo! Projektförderung

Succeed in Ghana e.V

Ghana Education Service, KEEA

Twerampon Traditionals, Cape Coast

Imeh Don Foundation, Cape Coast

AFRICED, Ghana

St. Monica's Girl School, Cape Coast

## ***ORGANISATION TEAM***

Mawuli Kwesi Aboagye (Menyiwa da wo do)

Francis Acquah-Annan (Menyiwa da wo do)

Frank Kobina Prah (Twerampon Traditionals)

Imeh IB Imeh (Pounds) (Imeh Don Foundation)

Steven Stone (GES)

Michael Akorli (GES)

Staff of St. Monica's Girls School, Cape Coast

**EXPENDITURE FOR EVENT:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Unit Price</b>	<b>Amount GH¢</b>
• Allowances organization staff			400
• Rent of Venue	1day	100	100
• PA System	1 day	200	200
• Canopies	1 day		100
• 300 Chairs	1 day		200
• Paints and brushes			500
• Card paper			100
• Banners	2	200	400
• Event T-shirts	300 pcs	15	4500
• Refreshment for participants	500	10	5000
• Transportation of logistics and volunteers			400
• Media			350
• Administration			200
• Communication			50
• Live band			200
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>12,700</b>

**DATE: 30<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2015**

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