



BLUE SKIES

Foundation Focus

The Blue Skies Foundation Newsletter. 2011 Quarter 4



All 2011 projects now completed

The Blue Skies Foundation Board has officially opened the remaining four projects in Ghana. The projects were opened in October during the Foundation's second Board meeting of 2011. Simon Moore, Head of Fresh Produce at Waitrose, also attended the ceremonies during his first visit to Blue Skies in Ghana. The projects included a new school building for a mango farming community in the East of Ghana, a new kitchen for a kindergarten recently rehabilitated by the Foundation, a training centre for a clinic and a new multi-use sports facility for staff and the local community of Blue Skies.



Above: Mary Vizoso from Waitrose (centre) with Ruth Adjei (right) and Foundation Manager Alistair Djimatey (left) officially opening the new school at Abortia. Bottom: (left) Simon Derrick with Ruth Adjei opening the kitchen at Sekykrom Kindergarten and (right) the new training centre at Nswam old Hospital.

KVIP project helps village fight cholera



A Foundation project to construct a latrine for a village in Ghana has had a profound impact on the community only a year after the project was completed. According to the Ghana Health Service directorate the KVIP has drastically improved health in the area and, most importantly, reduced the annual cholera outbreak of the community to zero. This is a significant outcome for a relatively low budget project.

An elder and a farmer in the community said "apart from solving the problem of constant cholera outbreak, the facility has reduced the shame of the indigenous people; now we can welcome friends anytime and we will not be ashamed when day breaks and one has to attend to nature's call"

Mr. Sackey of the Ghana Health Service directorate at the Akwapim Municipal said that the reduction in cholera is a victory and needs to be commended.



Abortia School project opened

A project to construct a new six classroom school building for a village in the East of Ghana is now complete

The objective of this project was to construct a six classroom school building and toilet block for a cluster of villages in one of the mango growing areas of Ghana. The village of Abortia adjoins JT Mango farm, a supplier of Blue Skies, and has a population of 500 residents including 120 children who attend the local primary school. Previously all 120 pupils had to attend classes in temporary 'sheds' or under trees, therefore during adverse weather conditions the school was forced to close. The provision of a new school building would therefore serve to provide the village as well as surrounding communities with a decent facility within which children can safely and comfortably learn.

Work on the new school began in April 2011 by a local contractor. The project involved constructing a six classroom block, head teacher's office and a six-seater KVIP block (compost toilet). Furniture for the school will be provided by the District Assembly. The school was eventually completed in time for its official opening in October the same year.

The head master of the Mr. Gilbert Kpogli, has said that the provision of the new school is a "great relief since previously no teachers wanted to come to the school because of the nature of the building. Now the student population is shooting up, new teachers are accepting posts at the school and I am hoping to have all the classrooms filled by the next academic year". A class two pupil said, "I am happy the school is not closing when raining anymore and we stay in school till we close". A teacher who has just been posted to the school, indicated that the environment is great for academic work and she is looking forward to a "wonderful time in the community".



Above: The completed structure is shown (top). The photo at the bottom left shows the structure as it was during the last edition of Foundation Focus. Bottom right shows one of the classrooms where pupils currently have to learn.

Sekykrom kitchen is completed



A new kitchen extension for a kindergarten which was recently renovated by the Foundation has now been completed.

The kitchen for Sekykrom Kindergarten (pictured above) will enable food to be prepared for the children in a clean and safe environment. The project was officially opened in October 2011 and is now in use by the teachers and children. It is hoped that the kindergarten will be added to the national school feeding program next year.

The kitchen was funded in partnership with the Foundation for Community Inspiration, which is a supporter of the Blue Skies Foundation.

Waitrose give blankets for Ghana and SA

The Waitrose Foundation has donated two boxes of blankets to the Blue Skies Foundation. The blankets are being shipped to both Ghana and South Africa and will be given to local nurseries and orphanages. More information will be provided in the next edition of Foundation Focus.

New sports facility opens in Ghana

A project to construct a sports facility for the Blue Skies factory in Ghana has been completed

The objective of this project was to provide a sports facility for the staff of Blue Skies Ghana and the local community. Blue Skies are keen advocates of sport and run a keep fit club which is recognised by the Ghana National Sports Council and is a registered member of the Greater Accra Keep-Fit Clubs Association. The club was setup by staff to bring together people from different departments to engage in various sporting activities such as volley-ball, hand ball and aerobics. Previously the keep-fit club did not have a dedicated facility in which it could carry out activities other than on a spare patch of land within the factory site.

This project therefore involved constructing a multi purpose games area (or 'MUGA'), which would be used by Blue Skies staff and over seven surrounding communities; and host a number of sporting activities including basket ball, volley ball, bend ball and handball. It is hoped that this will encourage a healthy and active human resource to help with community development, and assist in bringing communities together through sport.

Construction work begun in August 2011 and the facility was finally completed in October and named the 'Daniel Safo Sports Facility' after the person who had kindly donated the land upon which the MUGA is located.

Since its completion, the MUGA has become a centre for sporting activities, particularly as there is no other similar facility in the entire municipality. It has also helped to increase the membership of the Blue Skies Keep Fit Club, which uses the facility more than twice a week. Perpetual Ofasi, General Manager of the Blue Skies Juice Company, who is also the leader of the Keep Fit Club, said that since the facility was opened interest in keep fit activities among staff had increased by over 50%.



Above: The completed multi use games area is pictured being used by the Blue Skies keep-fit club during the opening ceremony in October.

YR3 projects receive the green light



Five projects have been approved by the Foundation Board for 2012. These include a new conference centre for the Mango growers association of Ghana, the construction of two public toilet facilities for communities located near to the Blue Skies factory in Ghana, and the renovation of two toilet facilities for two schools in South Africa. Work on these projects is due to begin in 2012. The Board are pictured above with the Foundation Council following their meeting.

More books donated for Foundation



In October four boxes containing books, clothes and teddy bears were sent from the UK to schools in Ghana. The books were donated by Harlestone Primary School, the clothes were donated by a Mum whose child attends the school, and the teddy bears were donated by a friend of Susan who works in the UK office. These items have been donated to Akraman School and could not have come at any better time especially as the school has just opened a new Kindergarten block which was built for them by the Government of Ghana as a result of the Foundation's support for the Primary School.