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SPRING 2017

THE SPIRIT OF LA'ANGUM



2016 graduates wear new school uniforms

TOGETHER WE CAN

The three villages served by the school, given the task of naming it, chose 'The La'Angum Learning Centre.' The word 'la'angum' means "many hands make light work" or "together we can achieve." Parents and community elders knew that the school was the product of many people working together, contributing what they could - founder Alice Iddi-Gubbels, who dreamed that children in her homeland could have access to quality, child-centered education that allowed them to learn first in their native tongue; the initial Oklahoma City Board of Directors who created the legal framework, did first fundraising, and achieved PAMBE Ghana's non-profit status in the U.S. and Ghana; local government officials; the locals in Ghana who donated the land and provided labor and logistical support to create the first structures; the village elders who created a system to select the students; and volunteers, friends and donors like you, who, knowing they would never visit the school, contributed time, talent, and funds to make the school a reality.

La'Angum Learning Centre was named partly in acknowledgement of the many hands who had worked together to create the fledgling school, but also in faith, now borne out, that the commitment of so many would flourish and grow to create a complete school that would support and nourish students from pre-school through sixth grade, and beyond.

The prescience and faith of Ghanaians who named the school has been confirmed and rewarded. If you receive this newsletter, then you are in some way, part of the 'La'Angum' community. This issue is dedicated to you. Thank you, on behalf of the Board, the teachers, communities, and most importantly, the children.

Supporter Spotlight: Nancy Majors



Nancy and Bill Majors

If you were fortunate to see Burkina Faso's Eric Kabore, aka Kaberic, perform at Full Circle Bookstore in 2014, you likely saw the enthusiastic participation of PAMBE Ghana supporters Nancy and Bill Majors in Kaberic's exuberant drumming and dance party.

Nancy devoted three years in the mid-1970's teaching math at a girls' high school in Cape Coast, Ghana, through the Peace Corps. Years later, drawn to shop at PAMBE Ghana's inaugural Global Market,

Nancy and Bill met PAMBE Ghana founder and Executive Director Alice Iddi-Gubbels, who happened to be at the Market that day. "We had a great conversation, and were moved by her passion and energy," said Nancy, and "we've been supporters ever since." While initially sparked by Nancy's Peace Corps connection to Ghana, Nancy and Bill's continued support of PAMBE Ghana is fueled by the encouraging and satisfying tangible "results of the hard work and dedication of Alice and so many others."



Circa 1975: Nancy Majors (second from left, green shirt), joins others at the July 4th American Embassy party in Ghana, with the new ambassador to Ghana, Shirley Temple Black who was appropriately dressed in red, white, and blue.

Global Market Recap

The best holiday shopping in Oklahoma City is at PAMBE Ghana's Global Market. Linda Temple (market coordinator), Sara Braden (store manager), and our dedicated volunteers made the 2016 season the most successful yet, and the funds generated by shoppers contribute an ever more significant portion of the PAMBE Ghana annual budget. Net proceeds for the 2016 holiday exceeded \$16,000!

We could not be more grateful for Chesapeake Energy's generous contribution of the space that has housed the market for the last three years. Big news: the building sold and we have lost the space. A team of volunteers, including Casady Upper School and Classen SAS students, packed up the store contents and moved it to a storage building, where it awaits a new home. PAMBE Ghana is looking for a landlord who can offer a suitable replacement space that will, with luck, have the same great terms that Chesapeake gave us: zero rent. Do you own retail property that might fit the bill? Or know someone who does? Let us know! Email info@pambeghana.org.

In the meantime, Linda Temple and her team of buyers have been scouting the most interesting fair trade sources for items to replenish market shelves.

- **WATCH** for an announcement as to the Global Market's new location for the 2017 holiday Global Market.
- **SUPPORT** La'Angum Learning Centre through the Global Market at the **PASEO ARTS FESTIVAL, Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-29, 2017**. Once again the market will be housed in a lovely air conditioned space courtesy of our friends at Rainbow Fleet. Take a break from the weather and check out new merchandise at the Global Market.

What a Difference a Year Makes!

La'Angum Learning Centre is located on a dry, rocky plot and has no running water or water well. Little by little, PAMBE Ghana built a water collection and containment system. Gutters line school buildings and catch water during the rainy season. The gutters discharge into large tanks. This system worked well until early 2016, when we learned there was no water left – all six concrete tanks were completely dry. A quick inspection revealed that the primary storage tanks were badly degraded and leaking. The precious water had drained, unseen, into the ground. What to do? Unbudgeted repairs would be expensive, and the rainy season approached. Without a close supply of water to support refreshment and hygiene, students and teachers would need to devote time and energy hauling water by bucket from distant sources. And, if the rainy season passed without a repaired containment system to store the water, the water deficit would continue into 2017.



Damaged Tanks

Again, our friends came to the rescue. Donations 'poured' in, large and small. Many of you lined up to 'put your fingers in the dike' -- water puns 'flowed freely' as with gratitude, the Board watched the contributions 'stream in' until the construction could begin.

Funding included two generous donations from Hope H2O Foundation led by Travis Brown of Oklahoma City. These funds supported drilling of a borehole in 2015 and the concrete water tank repairs in 2016.



Repairs in Progress

Repairs in process

Repair and new construction was completed in time for the 2016 rainy season. Success! Initial spot checks in Spring 2016 showed that the tanks were holding water, but the real proof came when follow up was done in January 2017. Of the three large water tanks, one

was empty but another completely full, and the last partially so. The repairs held, and we hope will last ten years.

Still, even with this great news, water remains a resource that needs to be used with economy. Alice implemented a number of measures designed to ensure that what water lasts until the late Spring rains. These include hauling water with the Motor King for use in the kitchen, so that the rain water collections may be used for drinking and cleaning the classrooms. Thank you to all our water resource donors!!



Refreshment



January 2017: Checking water tank

Student Art Gallery

These creative works by L'Angum Learning Centre students would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors.



In Memoriam



Paul Milburn

February 10, 1931-November 25, 2016

With heavy hearts, Alice and the PAMBE Ghana Board and the staff and students of La'Angum Learning Centre in November 2016 said farewell to early supporter and dear friend, philanthropist Paul Milburn. Paul was exceedingly generous. Yet ever mindful of the industry and principles that led to his business successes, he required that funds be managed with good stewardship. Paul imposed a 'matching fund' stipulation on all grants provided PAMBE Ghana. The pledged Milburn funds were never available until they were matched, dollar-for-dollar, by contributions from new supporters, or funds from past supporters who increased their donation. While prudent, this requirement also was in tune with the Spirit of La'Angum, in that it encouraged and fostered a growing community of vibrant support.

Prior to founding Paul Milburn Acreages, Paul taught vocational distributive education and general business in New Mexico and Oklahoma, obtaining a Master's in Vocational Education from Oklahoma State University. Together with his wife, former teacher Ann Milburn, he supported construction of substantial portions of the La'Angum Learning Centre campus in Northern Ghana. Their belief in the power of education has worked profound and positive change in the lives of hundreds of children and their families. Paul was a great man, and will be greatly missed. PAMBE Ghana and La'Angum Learning Centre are grateful for his leadership, support, friendship, and vision.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Alice Iddi-Gubbels, reviewing La'Angum Learning Centre construction plans with long-time supporters Paul and Ann Milburn. **In Memoriam: Paul Milburn, page 4.**

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- Lending Library launch
- Supporters rescue water system
- Global Market looks for new location

IMPORTANT DATES

Global Market at Paseo Arts Festival

May 27 - 29.

DETAILS INSIDE