



PAMBE GHANA

Partnership for Mother Tongue-based Bilingual Education in Ghana

www.pambeghana.org

Hello Dear Friends!

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since I last sat down to write to you. And what a strange year it has been! The year began quite smoothly at La'Angum Learning Centre (LLC) under the leadership of our new Program Director, Baba Bukari. But, like you and the rest of the world, our students and staff were confronted with the challenge of Covid-19.



Fortunately, Ghana, and especially our region, were spared the high infection rates and mortality that you in the U.S., Canada, and Europe have had to endure. This is partly due to different social structures here, but also because of early and decisive action by our President, Nana Akufo-Addo. The southern part of the country was locked down in March and April, the country's one international airport was closed, and all of the schools were shut down. The schools have remained closed ever since, and the President's plan is to begin the new school year in January 2021, God willing.

But how would we continue to teach our children remotely when most homes have no electricity or internet? First, we kept our teachers on their regular salaries, which gave LLC stability this year and for post-Covid times. Together, our teachers have explored alternative study arrangements, including bringing learning directly to the students at home in their villages. At the same time this has afforded us the opportunity to upgrade staff teaching skills and computer competency through in-service training and online courses. Thanks to the Paul Milburn Gift Fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, each teacher has had online training subsidized, with one new laptop in each class and improved internet access in school.



Also thanks to this Fund, work has continued on the Teachers' Dormitory being built by the Parents' Association. This dormitory will be ready for use next school year. Another project was begun this year, a two-room school house for pre-school and first grade in Bantambaari, a village seven km from La'Angum School. This is to enable children too young to walk to LLC to begin school in their own



community. The labor is being provided by the people of the village and materials are funded by our Canadian friends, Rainbow of Hope for Children.



After working half-time this year in an advisory capacity, I was finally able to retire at the end of August! LLC is now fully in the capable hands of Baba Bukari, who has been with PAMBE Ghana since 2009. Baba recently completed his MBA, on top of his education degrees. The Board has worked closely with Baba over the years and we are all confident this transition will ensure strong leadership for the children and the school community. To mark my retirement, the Parents Association hosted a retirement celebration for me at LLC on October 24. It was a colorful day; local chiefs and dignitaries visited, we had speeches, food and, of course, dancing. It was truly a great honor. I will remain actively involved as Executive Director Emeritus and full Board member.

A significant victim of Covid-19 this year has been PAMBE Ghana's Global Market, which provides almost a quarter of our annual budget. Our Board decided this summer that it would be too risky to have our usual brick-and-mortar seasonal Fair Trade store. So the Global Market has gone online! You may still purchase your favorite Fair Trade holiday gifts at www.pambeghana.org. While this start-up will not fully make up the Market's lost income this year, it is our hope that it will gain in strength and viability over time.

Friends, I know that your mailboxes are full this time of year with letters asking for donations. I ask that you remember the children PAMBE Ghana serves in this season of giving, as we prepare to re-start our school year in January 2021. Remember, your gift will be matched by the Paul Milburn Gift Fund, doubling its impact.

On behalf of all the children PAMBE Ghana education program serves, I thank you most sincerely.

Alice Iddi-Gubbels



A New Tax Deduction For You!

Yes, you can get a new tax deduction for making a contribution to a charity. You can make a contribution up \$300 and still write it off - without itemizing deductions. You can still take your standard deduction AND get a \$300 deduction under the CARES ACT for COVID relief.

Even better, retirees can make a contribution directly out of your IRA for any amount (up to \$100,000) without paying any taxes on it.

Yes, you can do both! You could donate \$1,000 from your IRA (70.5 and older) and \$300 (no age limits) from your checking account and get the tax savings from both.