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PAMBE Ghana is a registered
501(c)(3) organization

PAMBE GHANA

Partnership for Mother Tongue-based Bilingual Education in Ghana

SPRING 2021

Looking Back – Moving Forward

Returning to the Classroom

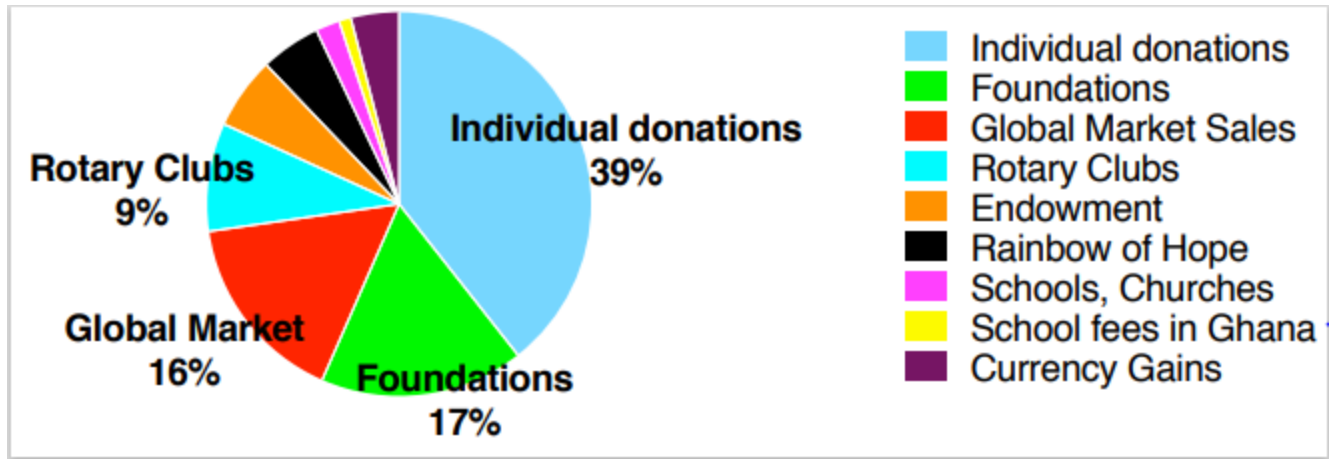


Ghanaian children are now allowed to return to school in person. La'Angum Learning Center's teachers and staff welcome the challenge of reorienting students who have been absent from the classroom for a long year. Most homes do not have reading or other formal learning materials, so teachers will start out reintroducing the environment and reviewing lessons. Teachers have been acquiring new skills, and look forward to using them.

Fair Trade Market Transforms Again

You may have heard the saying, associated with child centered educational models, that teachers need to meet students 'where they are.' We thank all of you who met US were WE were in Fall 2020 – when PAMBE Ghana's Global Market made the unplanned jump to a virtual shop. Take a look at this pie chart of revenue sources to see the crucial role the market has in funding La'Angum Learning Center.

The online market was a success due to the hard work and gusto of market team leaders Sara Braden, Linda Temple, and Patti Tepper-Rasmussen, and office space donated by Leslie Batchelor and Oklahoma City's Center for Economic Development Law.



Stop by the Global Market at the OKC **PASEO Arts Festival** Labor Day Weekend 2021 to shop new fair trade inventory and support PAMBE Ghana's important educational projects. We hope to announce a brick and mortar location for the Fall 2021 market at www.pambeghana.org. All proceeds support La'Angum Learning Center and educational projects in rural northern Ghana.

How is PAMBE Ghana related to La'Angum Learning Center?

PAMBE Ghana is an Oklahoma non-profit organization founded in 2007 by Alice Azumi Iddi-Gubbels and like-minded friends to establish and support educational projects in underserved northern Ghana. The first educational project was establishing a Montessori-based child-centered school in Bomboazio. The inaugural class of preschoolers began learning in an open-air gazebo built on land donated by village members excited to have a local school, which they named 'La'Angum' – part of the local phrase 'la'angum ka toom' roughly translated as 'working together we can get things accomplished.'

The **La'Angum Learning Center** has grown alongside its first students. Those shy preschoolers have graduated from their community school and are now juniors in high school, and La'Angum Learning Center's campus today includes eight classrooms with students from preschool through sixth grade, an office, a solar powered computer lab, a lending library, a water catchment and containment system, a Water Hygiene Sanitation [WASH] project, and a 6-room teacher's quarters. The school is community owned, and PAMBE Ghana continues to raise funds to support La'Angum Learning Center and other educational projects.

Later in this issue, read about an exciting new educational project in Bantambaari village sponsored by Canada's Rainbow of Hope for Children, and supported by PAMBE Ghana.

CLEAN & GREEN!



PAMBE Ghana has achieved significant progress toward its goals of increasing health and sanitation and reducing deforestation around the La'Angum campus. In partnership with the **Rotary Clubs** of **Wainwright**, Alberta, **Revelstoke**, British Columbia (Canada) and **Tamale** (Ghana), PAMBE Ghana received a \$49,000 CAN grant from **Rotary International** to fund significant water and sanitation work at La'Angum Learning Center. Now mostly completed, the project includes:

- 4-cubicle toilet building for girls and female adults
- Remodel of the existing pit latrine for boys and male adults
- Biogas digester to digest human and other waste materials
- System to capture & use the resulting biogas in cooking school lunches
- Rainwater harvesting system for collection, storage, and distribution
- Solar-powered grey water recycling system for flushing the toilet
- Solar energy system for pumping and lighting the facilities



The international teams supporting these transformative projects manifest the concept of *la'angum*.



Recent construction of a 6-room stucco building to serve as teacher's quarters will allow La'Angum teachers who commute long distances to stay on campus when needed. Funding is by **The Paul Milburn Gift Fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation**, with significant labor provided by volunteer community members.

PAMBE Ghana has received the 2020 Guidestar Gold Seal of Transparency in recognition of our commitment to providing donors and potential funders current governance and financial information, to facilitate decisions based on facts.



Go to www.guidestar.org to learn details of our governance and finances.

A Look Back.

A challenging year led to creative communication strategies. In lieu of the Oklahoma-based gatherings PAMBE Ghana has relied upon for more than a decade to communicate progress and needs with volunteers, friends and past and potential donors, founder Alice Azumi Iddi-Gubbels and other Board members met with past supporters via the Zoom video platform. An unforeseen benefit of video meetings was that donors and friends from multiple continents were able to get to know each other and hear about PAMBE Ghana's successes, challenges and future plans. **While the Ghanaian government determined children could not attend school in person,** La'Angum Learning Center's teachers took advantage of their absence to gain computer literacy and other skills, and visited students in their home environments. The leadership team in Ghana took advantage of the opportunity to strengthen their new roles. Significant capital projects moved forward to improve the La'Angum campus. **When the Global Market could not open, depriving PAMBE Ghana of a crucial revenue source,** the market team photographed and wrote descriptions for hundreds of market items, learning new skills to create an online shop and maintain the market's presence as a beloved Oklahoma City holiday institution.

Side by side with our friends around the world, PAMBE Ghana found ways to keep moving forward to promote educational projects and support La'Angum Learning Center's students, teachers, staff, and community. Will you help us continue this progress?

- If you are eligible for and have decided to donate all or a part of your U.S. economic stimulus funds, please consider PAMBE Ghana.
- If you are 70.5 or older and have an IRA, you may be able to get a tax benefit by making a charitable donation directly from your IRA (through your investment adviser). The full amount should go to an eligible charity such as PAMBE Ghana, with no taxes withheld. You can donate from your IRA any time during the year – no need to wait until December.
- If you are a Canadian resident, you can direct charitable donations to Rainbow of Hope for Children, noting that you would like to benefit PAMBE Ghana.

Contact your own legal or financial advisor for advice.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Donations will help PAMBE Ghana meet the 2020-2021 matching grant of The Paul Milburn Gift Fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

Dignitaries from far and wide joined the local community recently to honor PAMBE Ghana's founder Alice Azumi Iddi-Gubbels on her retirement as Executive Director, and celebrated her continuing support as a Board Member. It was a memorable day of dancing, feasting and gifts!



Mr. Baba Bukari, who worked hand in hand with Alice for many years in managing PAMBE Ghana's finances and operations in Ghana, succeeds her as Program Director.

Bantambaari Preschool Project

Years ago, a student's illustrated story showed how, during the rainy season, the stream between the Bantambaari community and La'Angum Learning Center became too swollen and filled with large fish to be forgeable by younger children, preventing them from attending school.* Last year, PAMBE Ghana's partner Rainbow of Hope for Children provided seed funds to build a preschool in Bantambaari so that its youngest children may begin their education. Parents are providing building assistance, and PAMBE Ghana is assisting with educational materials and support.



Children cross the stream to reach La'Angum Learning Center from Bantambaari

Alice participates in the preschool groundbreaking ceremony



Parents help build the Bantambaari preschool



The Ghanaian Education Service (GES) has pledged to provide teachers for the Bantambaari preschool once construction is complete. The strong GES and local community support for the new school demonstrates the impact La'Angum Learning Center has had on the educational environment in this underserved region.

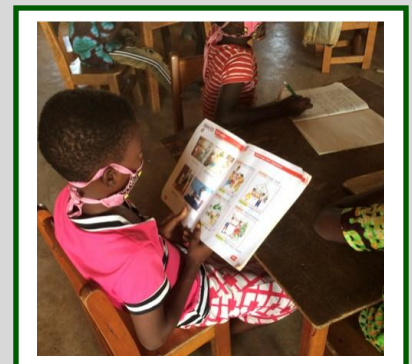
[*to see this charming drawing, please visit www.pambeghana.org]



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:



Children return to the classroom!

A new teacher's quarters eases the burden of travel to school.

Alice Azumi Iddi-Gubbels is honored by the local school community.

Sanitation projects help transform village life.