

EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

Insight Trip to Ghana

OCTOBER 21 – 28, 2011

PUT ON YOUR WALKING SHOES each morning to see firsthand how Opportunity International and The IDP Foundation's innovative approach to educational finance is helping to break the cycle of poverty in the next generation. Meet with leaders of the foundation, which partners with Opportunity to boost the development of very poor private schools for disadvantaged children in rural and urban areas throughout Ghana. Learn about our dreams for building a sustainable, holistic, educational model that can be supported through microfinance loans and replicated throughout the developing world.

FALL IN LOVE with the children of Ghana as you participate in service projects at an IDP Rising School in Kumasi and a school in Accra. Discover the critical role these schools play in children's futures.

VISIT OUR THRIVING BANK in Accra and participate in Trust Group meetings where you'll hear stories of our clients' struggles and successes and see development in action. Near the end of your stay, travel to Cape Coast to see Ghana's historical and cultural highlights, including the unforgettable Elmina Castle and Slave Fort.

THROUGH YOUR EXPERIENCES, you'll envision a world in which all God's children have access to the quality education they need to secure higher paying jobs, build strong families and help in the economic development of their countries. You'll leave Ghana with amazing memories, new friends and a renewed sense of how you personally can help make that world a reality.

Joyce Opoku (far right) dreamed of starting an early childhood facility that would help provide children living in poverty with a good foundation for first grade. In 2005, the Lucky Child Daycare Center opened with seven pupils in her father's concrete block house in a poor suburb of Kumasi, Ghana.

Then in 2009, the center was invited to become part of the IDP Rising Schools Program. As the school proprietor, Joyce received 16 weeks of training in business management and accounting skills, and took out a six-month loan of 2,000 cedis (\$1,300) to tile the floors, install sliding windows and paint the school. Now that she has repaid the loan, she is requesting a second loan to buy a permanent piece of land so her school can be registered with the Ghana Education Service.

With help from the IDP Rising Schools program, Joyce is better able to manage the school's finances and is helping 150 children embark on the path to a better future.



Itinerary

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21: Depart the U.S. in the evening.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22: Arrive in Accra in the evening. You will be met by Novotel Hotel's shuttle service and taken to your hotel. Have dinner on your own and get a good night's rest.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23: After breakfast, attend church service with Opportunity staff in Accra, sleep in or enjoy a city tour before departing after lunch for your flight to Kumasi. Upon your arrival, local Opportunity staff will shuttle you to the Golden Tulip Hotel. Attend an early evening orientation and poolside dinner before catching a good night's sleep.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24: After breakfast, meet with leaders from IDP Rising Schools and get an overview of the program. Spend the day with Irene Pritzker and her team visiting local IDP schools. Share conversation and dinner at the Golden Tulip to discuss the day's events.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25: Participate in a service project with students and staff at an IDP school. Have dinner with Ghanaian Government officials involved in education.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26: In the early morning, fly to Accra, where you will meet Opportunity staff and leaders at our main branch. Get an overview of Opportunity's plan to reach more Ghanaians living in poverty, and visit with Trust Groups and clients.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27: Visit Opportunity-funded schools and do a service project with staff and students. Debrief with your fellow travelers over dinner with our Opportunity Ghana CEO.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28: Relax or take a city tour in Accra during the day. Or take a day trip to Elmina Castle, see the Slave Fort on the Cape Coast, or spend the day on the beach. Freshen up for a farewell dinner with your traveling companions before heading to the airport to catch your departure home. Fly out in the evening with lasting memories and a renewed vision for how you can help end global poverty.

Spotlight on Ghana

LOCATION: Western Africa bordering the Gulf of Guinea, between Cote D'Ivoire and Togo

CLIMATE: Tropical, warm and dry along southeast coast

TERRAIN: Mostly low plains

POPULATION: 23,350,927

LANGUAGE: English and African languages, including Akan, Moshi-Dagomba, Ewe and Ga

GDP PER CAPITA: \$1,400

OUR PRIMARY FOCUS IS YOUR SAFETY AND COMFORT

In our 10 years of conducting Insight Trips, we have always provided a safe and rewarding visit for our participants. Every trip is carefully planned in conjunction with local Opportunity staff and hospitality experts to ensure your safety and comfort. We will also offer you a guidebook that includes everything you need to know about traveling in that particular country.

Registration

HERE IS HOW TO REGISTER FOR YOUR INSIGHT TRIP:

- 1) Contact your regional director or Janet Borth in Opportunity's international education department, at jborth@opportunity.org or 630-242-4125. Registration deadline is September 1, 2011. (Early registration discount of \$150 per person applies if registered by July 15, 2011)
- 2) Go to Opportunity.org/insight Complete the registration form and submit payment to secure your place.

SUMMARY OF COSTS:

\$2,650 payment to Opportunity

Includes all hotel and tax (based on per person, double occupancy) meals, beverages, all local transportation, in-country airfare and transfers, translator services, emergency evacuation insurance, and partner and staff costs.

\$1,850 estimated airfare (from Chicago)

Airfare to be booked and paid for by the traveler.

\$4,500 total cost estimate

**Hotel incidentals, shots, passports, visas, souvenirs and optional sightseeing not included.*

- 3) Make travel arrangements once all of the trip participants have registered. We strongly discourage booking before you hear from us. If you require booking assistance, contact Opportunity's preferred travel partner, Travel Inc., at 877-548-2995.
- 4) Prepare for departure. Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after your intended departure date. Visit www.vp2go.com for assistance in attaining a passport. Consult your doctor for any necessary immunizations and vaccines. For a traveler's health clinic near you, go to www.cdc.gov/travel.

To learn more, visit opportunity.org

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