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To Whom It May Concern:

 My name is Ufuoma Michelle Ziregbe and I am currently the Vice-President of the University of Cincinnati’s African Students Association, (UCASA), an organization that works to foster a positive image of Africa and her many countries, at the University of Cincinnati. University of Cincinnati’s African Student Association promotes: inter-cultural unity and helps bring together people from all ethnic backgrounds by hosting meetings, programs and events that all support and educate people about Africa.

 On March 16-24th UC’s African Students Association will be traveling to Cape Coast, Ghana for the first time! Some of our goals for UCASA this year are to encourage volunteer and study abroad opportunities in African countries, while promoting educational, social, and cultural awareness. This trip to Ghana will serve as a means to accomplish our goals for the year. We will be working with a non-governmental organization known as “Pro World”. This NGO has been partnering with universities, organizations, and private groups to create programs that relate to each organization’s interests and skills for over a decade. While in Ghana, we will:

* Dedicate a large part of our time to assist the teachers at the school
* Help students on a one-on-one basis or in small groups with their homework or daily lessons
* Volunteer in pre-kindergarten classes
* Provide supplies for the students
	+ Text books (either student or teacher's editions)
	+ Educational handouts (at least 40 copies of each worksheet)
	+ Children's books
	+ Protractors (at least 50)
	+ Calculators (at least 50)
	+ Markers, crayons, oil pastels, construction paper and art supplies are appreciated and helpful when coming up with new activities.

**To receive more information** <http://www.proworldvolunteers.org> > custom groups> Ghana> education > School for Low-Income Children

I am writing on behalf of my organization to ask for a kind donation, which would assist us in making a difference in the lives of children from low-income families.

**UCASA has Five Giving Levels:**

**Level 1: $50**

**Level 2: $100**

**Level 3: $150**

**Level 4: $250**

**Level 5: $300 and above**

We would truly appreciate your prayers and thoughts as we begin to plan for this trip. Thank you in advance for

 pledging your support to the people of Cape Coast! Please visit the website above for more information about the

 program. For information on how to donate please contact: ucasatoghana@gmail.com or my contact information

 listed below. Thank you for your consideration and taking the time out to read this letter.

Regards,

Ufuoma Michelle Ziregbe

The UC African Student Association- Vice-President

University of Cincinnati

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**To receive more information about volunteers visit** <http://www.proworldvolunteers.org> > custom groups> Ghana> education > School for Low-Income Children

**Who is ProWorld?**

ProWorld is an organization that offers intern, volunteer and study abroad experiences for individuals and families looking to make a difference abroad while gaining the cross-cultural skills and knowledge to succeed as global citizens. ProWorld began in Peru in 1998 and has since expanded to fourteen countries in three continents. They are proud of the work their volunteers have done over the past decade and continue to push forward to make the world a better place. Their mission below encapsulates who they are and what they look for in participants.

**Mission:  *"To empower communities, promote social and economic development, conserve the environment and cultivate educated, compassionate global citizens."***

**To receive more information** <http://www.proworldvolunteers.org>

**Why are we going?**

Recently Ghana’s literacy rate has been on the decline; although it still hovers at around 50%.  This international youth-oriented NGO takes a proactive approach in their attempts to eradicate illiteracy.  Many studies show that by empowering students through educational promotion and the preservation and development of culture; poverty levels and community sustainability is drastically reduced.  Education is the first step, but the creation of employment opportunities and the aspiration to succeed are just as vital.  By equipping the youth with an education, vocational skills and simple encouragement; they are exponentially closer to a life of independence and empowerment.

UCASA wants to be a part of this mission to promote education and work towards the advancement of children in Ghana and in Africa. By traveling to Ghana, we will be able to witness our impact firsthand instead of depending on reports from a representative. We will be able to give service to the nation and also learn about the Ghanaian culture, so that when we return to the United States, we will be able to use this first-hand experience to educate our peers about volunteer and study abroad opportunities.

**Breakdown for cost per Student**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Program Fees:University of Cincinnatti (Ghana) |  |  |  |  |
| Local Transportation | $100 | **Excursions** | $277 |  |
| Accommodation | $104 | **Miscellaneous** | $128 |  |
| Onsite Support & Project Expenses | $270 | **Administrative Support & Marketing** | $595 |  |
| Language/Culture Class | $26 | **Total Program Total Fee** | $1,500 |  |
| Flight Related:  |  |  |  |  |
| Base Fare |  | $870 |
| Approximate Taxes \*Please note that taxes are subject to change until paid in full. |  | $732.90 |
| Air Total |  | $1602.90 |
| ISIC/ITIC/IYIC  |  | $25.00 |
| Shipping is additional |  | This item is recommended. |
| Insurance  |  | $79 |
| Based on passengers 35 and under |  | This item is recommended. |
| Total per person |  | $1706.90 |
|  |  |  |
| Visa  |  |  $80 |
| Total for per person: |  | **3286.90** |

**What our program fees include:**

* Airport pick-up, Airport Drop-off (or Drop-off Stipend)
* Language Classes: 4-8 Hours of Language Classes/week
* Excursions: 2 weekend Excursions
* Orientation: Comprehensive overview upon arrival
* Homestays/Accommodations
* Meals: 3 meals/day
* Project: 20-30 hours per week
* Transportation or Transportation Stipend to and from project
* Staff support
* 24-hour Emergency Staff support
* Use of ProWorld office – Internet access
* Clean drinking water

**What will we do when there?**

* Assist teachers for the rest of our stay.
* Help students one-on-one or in small groups with their homework or the lessons of the day.
* Teaching a class session on our own
* Volunteer in pre-kindergarten classes lending a hand in providing attention to the many students, playing games, giving hugs, and singing songs.

**Free time will include:**

* Tour slave trade sites:  Assin Manso, Cape Coast Castle, and Elmina Castle
* Canopy Walk in Kakum National Park
* ProWorld Impact programs in nearby villages
* Drumming and dancing lessons
* A visit to the local forts and markets in Cape Coast
* Batik tie-dye classes
* Relaxation on nearby beaches

**What is the overall goal of the project?**

This NGO’s mission is to eradicate ill-literacy and empower the communities of Cape Coast through the education of their youth.  Unfortunately, with no government funding, nominal tuition fees and only a few private donations they are struggling to actualize their long-term plan.  Buying property and building a permanent school complete with a secondary school would greatly contribute to their mission.  For now, they are working with an overcrowded school that lacks electricity or running water.  In spite of these conditions this school offers some of the only hope these children have at leading a life outside the restrictions of poverty.

**Program: A school for low-income children** was founded to supplement the efforts of the government to mitigate poverty. They are engaged in a number of educational and economic activities gearing towards community development. These include; Construction of classroom blocks, Teaching & learning, and sensitization programs on pertinent issues affecting the youth and the society at large. The school has the following objectives:

1. Creation of employment opportunity for the youth, hence reducing unemployment and rural urban migration.

2. Seeking appropriate funds to ensure that children from economically deprived homes receive adequate nutrition, primary healthcare and at least secondary education.

4. Training the youth especially young women in acquisition of appropriate knowledge in vocational skills and cushioning them with micro credit loans to make them become independent.

5. Building of capacity for women and the rural folks through “susu”, micro credit loan and adult literacy program scheme.

6. Organizing youth forum and workshops for sensitization programs on effective teaching methodology and pertinent issues affecting the society such as: Teenage Pregnancy, inferiority complex (lack of realization of self-importance), Broken Homes, streetism, Pick-pocketing, Drug Abuse, Ignorance, etc.

In achieving these objectives by means of realizing its vision and mission, the organization has established a basic school. Started in 2006 with 9 children, the school now has the population of over 900 with a staff of 48.