



## Thank You

Your membership and continued support of AS4AK is greatly appreciated.

Over the past financial year the AS4AK Board has supported the BASICS Centre in Ghana with donations of \$51,542.00

## BASICS update

There has been some very exciting progress over the past year with the purchase of a suitable block of land where a new centre will be built. Old buildings have been demolished, the land cleared and plans drawn up for a larger modern more suitable purpose built centre

Part of this work will be done with hands-on assistance from a number of Australian companies who have businesses and offices in Ghana.

The new centre will give autonomy to the 'BASICS' Safe Haven Centre and allow it to move forward with greater confidence while providing for an increased number of children and the many activities the children enjoy.

Your ongoing support will ensure this important project reaches fruition as quickly as possible. Substantial sums of money will be needed to build the centre and with the world wide financial crisis there have been flow on effects for the staff and students at the BASICS Safe Haven Centre.

Many of the long term American supporters have changed the level and focus of their annual pledges and although this will be a temporary situation it has placed extraordinary pressure on the 16 staff members who work tirelessly to maintain the many valuable services they provide the children.

With running costs of \$180K to \$200K a year it is imperative BASICS Australian supporters continue to commit financial support to the centre.

## Daniel Sackey

### Talks about his visit to BASICS in Accra Ghana

In August this year I visited BASICS in Accra Ghana to see the outstanding work that Pat Wilkins the BASICS Founder is doing with disadvantaged kids.

I surprised Pat and the kids as I wanted to see what they do on a day to day basis. I lived in Accra for most of my life however it was a challenge to find the house because it was in a suburb I did not know.

Pat and Allotey made me very welcome and introduced me to the children and volunteers. The children range in age from 6 years to fifteen years and mix and work well as a group. Lunch had just finished and one group were cleaning the dishes while others were playing scrabble. The third group were stretching in preparation for a basketball game.

I spoke to the group encouraging them to seize this opportunity to turn their lives around with the resources available to them and later in life they will be able to help others who face similar challenges.

The smiles on the children's faces showed how much they appreciated this calm haven and for the staff the rewards are seeing the children happy and the many positive changes in them. In most cases these young people have wandered in from the streets and local beaches looking for security and opportunities. Their lives are changed by the many programs offered and the support and encouragement they receive.

**I have experienced firsthand the ongoing challenges BASICS faces and would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to continue to donate and support this amazing place. You will be giving many very disadvantaged children the chance of a better life.**



Daniel with the children at BASICS Safe Haven

## Dorinda Hafner

### Ghana in 2010

**Dorinda Hafner** is planning to take a group to Ghana in 2010 to visit the BASICS Safe Haven in Accra. Dorinda will be Tour Leader for what promises to be the trip of a life time.

If you are interested in joining the group and would like to be kept updated about this exciting venture please email your name and details to [rhnash@adam.com.au](mailto:rhnash@adam.com.au)

## Tax Deductibility

The Board has applied for tax deductibility status for all donations and expect this to ensue either later this year or early in 2010.

## How you can help AS4AK

You can assist AS4AK to raise the funds needed to guarantee the completion of the new building in several very easy ways .

- Encourage a friend or family member to become a financial member of AS4AK.
- Offer AS4AK Membership as a Christmas or birthday present
- Attend one of our fundraising events.
- Suggest AS4AK as a meaningful fundraising project at your child's school.
- Join the newly formed fundraising committee and help coordinate 4 fundraising events a year.

**We welcome any assistance or suggestions you can give.**



Pat Wilkins Director of BASICS Safe Haven