



Annual YP Newsletter



July 2014

The Yonso Project 2013-2014 *Moving Forward Together*



Great Leap Forward for *The Yonso Project*

The Yonso Project has stridden forward with determination this year, with many of its initiatives finding unprecedented growth and success. With our bamboo bicycle program blossoming into its own company, the exciting news of a past scholarship beneficiary going into medical school and the microfinance program expanding, this year has been a great step forward for us.

Our success would not have been possible without the important support of our donors. As we continue to look forward to another great year of impacting the surrounding rural communities in Ghana, we ask that you continue to support us in our endeavors to make a greater impact – to support women in their businesses, youth in finding employment, and gifted children in pursuing educational opportunities they deserve to have.

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EDUCATION

Bernard's Medical School Dream

"I studied as hard as I could so as not to fail my sponsors."

Bernard Sarpong, a YP scholarship beneficiary from Yonso, applied for a scholarship when his family could no longer afford the school fees and other expenses such as books and uniform when he was 15 years old and just going onto Junior High School. Now, three years later, he is graduating from high school as one of the top scorers. With the scholarship, he was able to let go of his worries of trying to get enough money for school textbooks, and focus whole-heartedly on his studies. Bernard worked hard as a way to express his gratitude to his sponsors who made continuing his education possible.

"It wasn't all that easy, but I had some mentors...most of the time I study by teaching (other younger students)," he said.

With excellent exam results, his vision for the future is to help other people, since he has been helped by others. The medical profession is highly respected in Ghana; "you cannot become a medical doctor by chance." However, with the opportunity to continue his education, Bernard now hopes that he is nearer to his vision of becoming a doctor and giving back to the community.

Scholars Pass with Flying Colors

The young scholars who are the beneficiaries of Yonso Project scholarships have made us very proud this year, obtaining excellent academic results across the board. Our three top-scoring students are: Bernard Sarpong (7As and 1B), Clement Adjei (6As and 2Bs), Kwakwa Addo Stephen (5As and 3Bs). All eight scholars who sat for the West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examination passed, and all are eligible to attend university. We celebrate their successes, and wish them all the best in the future.

Eighth Library Established!



This year we celebrate the opening of the 8th library established by The Yonso Project in rural communities in Ghana – the Tano Odumase Community Library. This library is made possible by the generous donations of the Chen Yet Sen Family Foundation, and we sincerely believe that the increased access to these resources will provide youth in the area with more learning opportunities. Thank you again to the Chen Yet Sen Family Foundation for your valuable support!

New Scholarship Fund

Bolstered by the success rate of past scholarships, we are currently in the process of launching a brand new scholarship fund this year to support the education of a greater number of young scholars with great potential whose families are unable to finance their education. This fund will provide a sustainable way to provide such scholarships, and we hope that we will be able to reach more youth and provide valuable education opportunities up to the tertiary level. To ensure that the fund is properly managed and best utilized, we have appointed a Board of Trustees to oversee the finances of the fund, which includes:

Mr Oduro Yeboah, Headmaster of Bekwai Seventh Day Adventist High School; Mr Osei Asseibey, retired accountant; Mr Kwabena Danso, Executive Director of The Yonso Project; Ms Barbara Antwi – Senior community health nurse at Kumasi; Mr Agyei Agyeman Ernest – The Yonso Project Scholarship Alumni Member.

We are currently seeking donations to finance the USD 15,000 seed money for the fund. We sincerely thank all our past donors for making these scholarships and success of the scholars possible. If you are interested in contributing to the scholarship fund, please donate online on our website. Again, we thank you for your support!



SEEKING INVESTMENT

Boomers is currently seeking investment to further expand its operations, hoping to also produce other bamboo products in the long run.

As a socially minded operation, Boomers will continue to employ jobless youths in rural Ghana as it continues to expand, and your investment will help Boomers make a stronger impact on these rural communities.

If you are interested in investing into a growing social enterprise, please visit Boomers' new website at www.boomers.com.

New Phase for

Bamboo Bicycles Program

We are happy to announce that due to the increase in demand for its products, The Yonso Project's bamboo bicycle production branch has grown to become an independent company -- Boomers International.

Boomers International, as a social enterprise subsidiary of The Yonso Project, continues to hold the social mission of employing jobless rural youth at heart, hoping to provide increased employment opportunities in rural communities through its operations. Part of its profits will also be invested back into The Yonso Project to support its various initiatives.

This year, we celebrate several milestones in Boomers' growth – it has secured a new distributing contract with Foresta Bikes, a distributor based in the Netherlands, and is in the process of negotiating other distributing contracts in Taiwan and beyond. Boomers bamboo bicycles will soon be sold in various countries in Asia and Europe. Keep an eye out for Boomers bamboo bicycles coming soon to a distributor near you!

MICROFINANCE

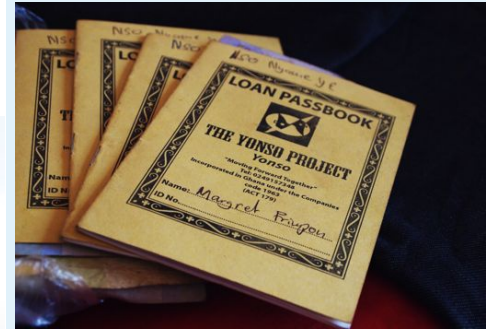


Meet Juliet Kyerewaa, *Hairdressing Salon Owner*

From setting up a hairdressing business in her own house to owning a stall smartly painted in blue, Juliet Kyerewaa's hairdressing salon has expanded greatly since taking out her first loan from The Yonso Project's microfinance program six years ago.

The loans have enabled Juliet, a mother of three, to open up this stall, and her business has seen more customers since moving to this present location. With more capital, Juliet was also able to buy hairdressing supplies, for example shampoo and curlers, in bulk, cutting down on her operating costs and allowing her to enjoy more profit.

Juliet has optimistic plans for the future, hoping to further expand her hairdressing business, repaint the stall and be able to buy everything she needs in bulk with the capital she now has.



Seeking Socially Conscious Investors!

This year, we are launching a private investment program as an avenue for investors to make a powerful impact.

What?

A structured investment program where investors can loan a certain amount to the microfinance program, and collect interest.

Why?

In 2009, we received our first \$5,000 investment from a private investor, which has since supported the microloans of many women entrepreneurs, and we hope to replicate this impact.

How?

Please refer to the investor packet available on our website. We are looking forward to your investment and expanding into more communities!

The Yonso Project is Here To Stay



The Yonso Project has found a new home, nestled comfortably in one of the communities we work closely with – Apaah. With its close proximity to Yonso and other rural communities we work in, this new location helps The Yonso Project foster even closer ties with the community and better serve those in need. With the bigger office space, The Yonso Project is also able to expand its operating capacity, for example being able to employ more youths in the bamboo bicycle workshop, and providing the opportunity for Sonanze Kwame Yeboah, a past YP scholarship beneficiary (pictured below), to intern at the office this summer.

Meet the Team

at the heart of The Yonso Project, who strive to empower communities:

Mr Kwabena Danso,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr Aboagye Dacosta,
PROJECT MANAGER

Ms Selina Boateng,
MICROFINANCE OFFICER

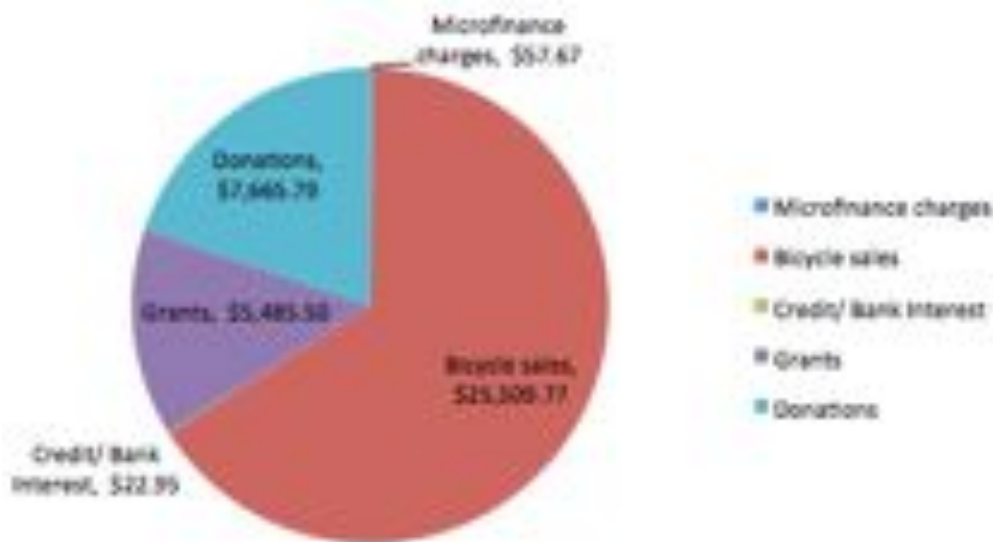
Mr Agyei Agyeman Ernest,
EDUCATION PROGRAM OFFICER



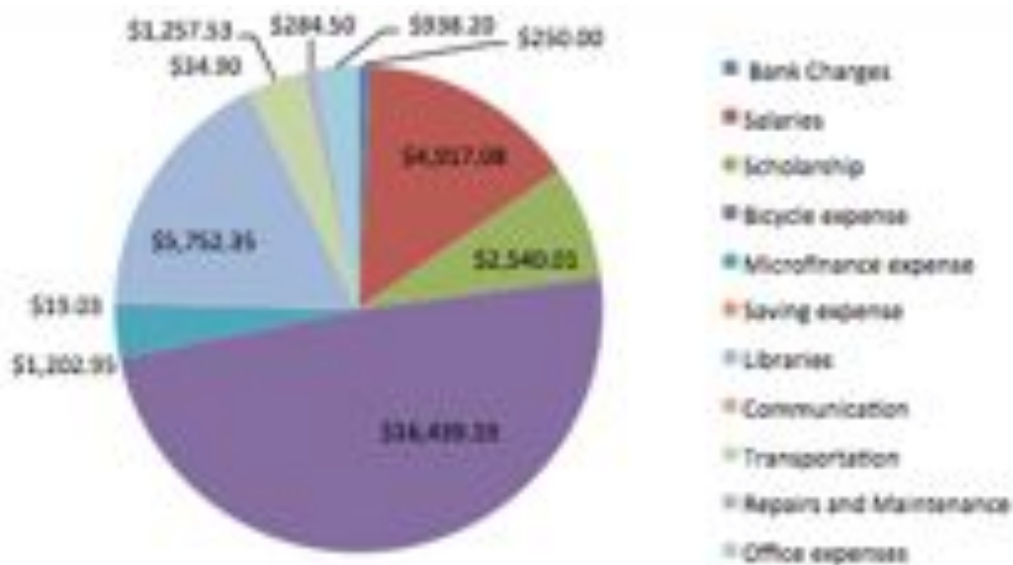
(left to right) Aboagye, Kwabena, Selina, Sonanze, Ernest

2013-2014 Fiscal Year Financials

Revenue (USD\$38,741.67)



Expenses (USD\$33,635.75)



About The Yonso Project

THE YONSO PROJECT is an NGO founded in 2007 in rural Ghana that works to break the cycle of poverty by improving access to 3 essential Es: *Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship.*



We currently run programs in education, microfinance and job generation as sustainable ways out of poverty. The Yonso Project is 100% volunteer operated in the US, and **every cent of funding and donations collected reaches Ghana** to uphold the goals of our organization.

Please consider sponsoring a child, buying our high quality, sustainably reared bamboo products or donating to support our activities.



The Yonso Project Annual Newsletter

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