

Friends of Adaklu

Annual Report

2025



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Executive Director
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Ricky Gervais

“I believe the greatest privilege in this world is to use your freedom of speech for those who have no voice.”



Warren Buffet

"When you help someone in any of thousands of ways, you help the world. Kindness is costless but also priceless."



Derrick Adams

“The most successful aspect of repression or colonialism is when the culture who is being oppressed can no longer think creatively...because they’re so busy and set on survival...[t]hey don’t have time to imagine themselves in any other space but the space they are in and the fact that these people who are enslaved have the audacity to imagine... and... create something that was all theirs...blows my mind.”

Friends of Adaklu Annual Report ~ 2025

Foreward Thinking Forewords

Here I am again at the reflection point where I have to cast our sights back across the last year, and what a year it was. Mega challenges, mounting responsibilities and amazing new people. 2025 is likely to be a legacy year for FOA. It is the year where we made our boldest moves and our greatest impacts. It is the year where we became a major player and where we stood proud and successful in our efforts towards helping the people of Adaklu build successful lives.

Having moved to a culture where I don't completely fit in has given me a small sense of what it means to be marginalised. That said, I will always have the privilege of being white. Even poor white people have the privilege of being white. They are not faced with the inherent, insidious, subliminal stigmatization that comes with dark skin and that colonized cultures have to deal with on a daily basis. No one tells me that my ideas are worthless. No one told my parents that, even though they were immigrants. No one puts down my mother tongue's culture, history, traditions and values, but if I were a child growing up in Ghana, these would all be my struggles and I would face them bravely, and with a smile.

Until Ghanaians learn their own value they will remain their own oppressors. They have learnt the lessons of their colonizers so well that the oppressors can go home; the Ghanaians will continue their colonization all on their own.....and this has got to stop. What's really sad is that if a white person admires African art or culture then suddenly it has value to the Africans. They can only see their value when it is reflected back to them through the eyes of someone white. This is extremely dangerous and lies at the heart of why many Africans, with the billions of dollars that have been poured into their continent, are still struggling with poverty, illness and self-identity. But I take heart because rebirths are possible. After Europe's dark ages came Leonardo Divinci and the renaissance. I feel that Africa is on the verge of its own renaissance and will soon have its own Leonardos like Ibrahim Mahama who will lead the continent out of the white ages.

So, perhaps it is part of FOA's mission to give Ghanaians back their sense of value through our admiration of their textiles, their pottery, their art, their music, their jewelry, their sculptures, et cetera. This reawakening of personal value is one of the foundational stones of Nunya Village. More on that later, but for now let's cast our memories back across 2025 which opened with a bang on two counts, NORAD – SOS Children's Villages, and Starlink.

2025's Blockbuster News was, of course, our partnership with NORAD – SOS Children's Villages

FOA's being selected to partner with NORAD caught us between cheers of joy and gasps of fear. How could little FOA live up to the expectations of one of the world's largest NGOs "...dedicated to improving the lives of children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it." Just like FOA, SOS-Children's Villages and NORAD work with partners, donors, communities, children, young people and families. Their values were 100% in line with ours, so in reality it was a match made in heaven. What was so daunting was the size of the project and of the expectations. And then there was the paperwork. FOA is an action-oriented NGO; we see a problem, we figure out how to fix it, and then we go to work and get it done. Also, historically, Ghanaians are raised in an oral tradition, so they're not big on paperwork either. But if we wanted to help 500 families over the coming 5 years Stella was going to have to get used to doing spreadsheets, financial statements, and reports. FOA's steadfast friend and account, Mr. Narh Agbo, stepped up to the plate and soon enough we all stopped hyper-ventilating and got down to doing what we're good at; getting things done.

NORAD's goal is to provide caregivers with the skill sets they need to be good parents, so that their children "grow up with the bonds they need to develop and become their strongest selves. [They] speak up for each child's rights and advocate for change so all children can grow up in a supportive environment." (<https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org>)



Our job, at FOA, was to implement NORAD's program. That meant finding and hiring facilitators who would venture out into Adaklu's myriad, tucked away, villages and talk to parents about their childcare challenges – everything from extreme poverty, to purposeless

teenage boys. Solutions and resources were plentiful, but implementation often proved difficult because tradition is a hard thing to put down so you can see yourself clear to a new understanding and way of doing things.

For the last 13 years FOA has worked to ensure that every child is heard and grows up in a safe, nurturing and supportive family environment and now with our partnership with SOS Children's Villages in Ghana, we have the capacity to do that in a much bigger and better way than we had ever dreamed. Now, we can support caregivers with the knowledge and tools they need to provide stable, engaged care. This partnership also made it possible for FOA to begin to establish the protective social infrastructure that leads to the understanding that children have rights and deserve respect and that they should live in an environment where they are heard, valued, loved and empowered.



Taking care of those who take care of Adaklu's young people sums up FOA's project with NORAD and SOS Children's Villages. For many of these caregivers it is the first time anyone asked them how they were doing and offered them the assistance they need to help their families thrive.

“Protecting children starts with empowering caregivers. When empowered, they give children the love and security they deserve. Protecting children starts with empowering caregivers. When empowered, they give children the love and security they deserve.”



FOA's engagement with SOS-Children's Villages and NORAD aims to ensure that the support families and communities receive contributes meaningfully to improving household stability, strengthening care for children, and promoting self-reliance. Collectively, we are building stronger and responsible families and safer environments where every child grows in love and care.

With all that said, FOA finalized its 5-year partnership with SOS Children's Villages, cementing our commitment of speaking up for the rights of Adaklu's children and advocating for change so that all our children can grow up safely in loving, respectful families.

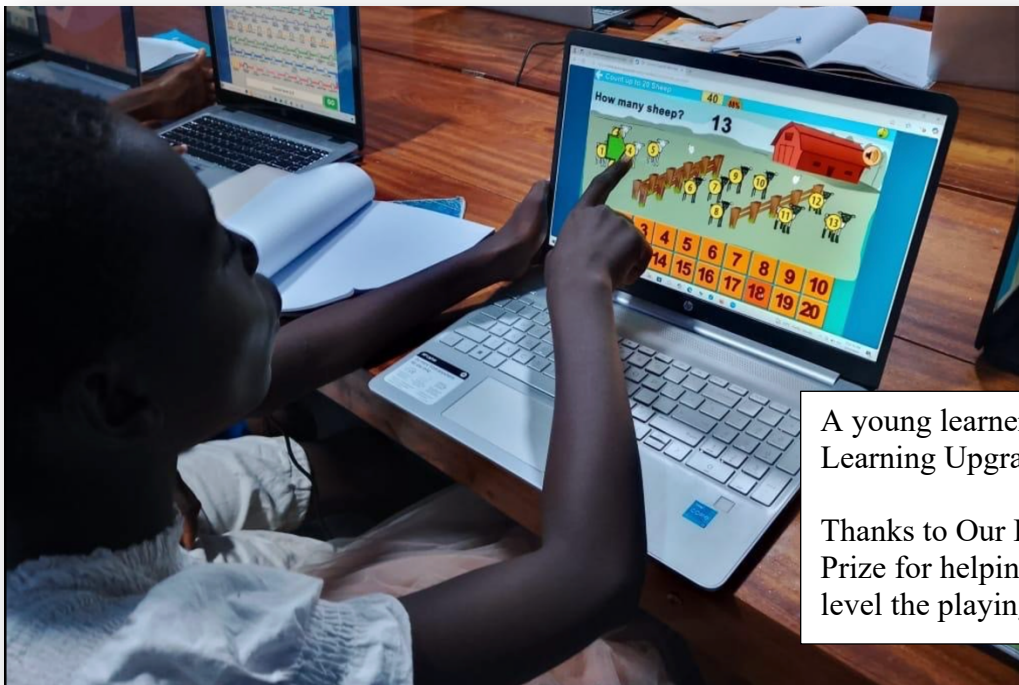
It also needs to be said that FOA is so deeply honoured to have been chosen by SOS Children's Villages as one of their Ghana partners, and I am so deeply grateful to the implementation team and to Stella, Robert and our dear friend Mr. Narh Agbo, who is serving as the project's financial officer, so we can get to work helping people transform their lives.

Starlink

Welcome to the Volta Region's Akporkofe Basic School where visitors can now witness the ancient, traditional art of Kente cloth weaving while surfing the high speed Internet thanks to FOA's partnership with Our Future Prize (<https://www.ourfutureprize.org/>). In 2025 135 schools and libraries in the Volta region received free high speed Starlink Internet devices as well as 1 year of free data. Learning Upgrade, an online learning platform that offers fun based lessons in Math, English and Digital Skills, is also part of the package. Currently students in grades 3 to 10 are enrolled in the Learning Upgrade which will be available in all Starlink recipient schools.

One of the best things about FOA's partnership with Our Future Prize is that everyone in the community can benefit so it is a gift that reaches far beyond the classroom and helps our young people attain the same level of education as students from wealthier urban areas.

Our Future Prize's gift of reliable connectivity helps communities bridge the digital divide and ensures that every child, no matter how disadvantaged, gets access to the opportunities inherent in the internet. Their goal is to make art and education available to underserved learners around the world. FOA's computer training curriculum will make sure that our students become Internet savvy and literate, and that they are proficient in basic software applications.



A young learner using Learning Upgrade.

Thanks to Our Future Prize for helping FOA level the playing field.

EDUCATION

Thoughts on Education Paraphrased from the wonderful Anna Blake

“Education is a science experiment. What happens if you never correct a child but only praise them? What happens if the only word they know is yes? ... Each time the child asks, I stop to acknowledge her. Absurdly, I do manage to finish my work in good time even with the dawdling. If anything, my work quality improved. The child soon got bored with me and was off. That minute of distraction didn't ruin my precious concentration. Letting go of the hurry, I took time to praise the child, and it trickled down to me...

Who would we have been if someone only said yes to us? When do the old voices fade away? How long does it take to rebuild a cold foundation into a soft landing?”

Computer Training ~ More than Meets the Eye

FOA is keen to bring our learners and communities into the Internet age but having been a student, and long-time friend of Dr. Marshall McLuhan, I am aware that when we introduce computers we are bringing in more than just ways of accessing and processing data. I know that the medium is the message and that inherent in the very machinations of the machine lie powers and influences that effect neurobiology and are both intellectually and physiologically life altering. Just as video cameras are calibrated on white skin, so too computers can't help but capture and reflect the values and culture of their makers and this means we need to be careful that the on-line world doesn't become another form of colonization. In our desire to give young Ghanaians the digital tools they need to be successful in the international marketplace we have to strive not to impose non-Ghanaian values on the young Ghanaians in our classrooms. The consumer-focused first world and Africans do not share the same values, nor the same way of seeing and being in the world. In America, everything is based on the economy and is measured by the work you do and the things you possess so, predictably, that is the direction their educational values push towards. Ideally, what we are striving for are algorithms built by Africans that reflect African values; in Ghana values are different, community comes foremost, so we have to make sure our computer students are aware of the dangers while we encourage them to find unique ways to use these technologies in a manner that reinforces what success and happiness means in their lives.

We also have to be sure our young computer learners understand the downside of the internet and can protect themselves against online predation. That's why media and digital literacy are key to any digital skillset, especially in regions of the world like Adaklu where people have not grown up with computers and are easily sucked in by the addictive power of the internet and might quickly fall prey to those ready to exploit them. Keeping our kids safe while teaching them computer skills is one of FOA's objectives.



The brilliant Christabel is proof that FOA's computer classes are achieving their goals; she was selected to participate in the renowned, and highly selective, Girls Who Code Summer Program. Christabel, who attends Goefe DA Junior High School, wasn't the only gifted student in FOA's digital learning stream; Enyonam and Isabel also put their skills to use building websites for their families' businesses.



Percious is another is another FOA sponsored student who has now earned her ICT certificate. Isn't it wonderful when our kids become role models?

FOA also sends thanks to our good friends at Waloyo who raised funds for 4 fully equipped Desktop Computers. Their generosity will ensure our computer students get the most out of their digital skills classes.

Pedal To Excellence Bicycle Program

Isabella and Enyonam are sporting big smiles these days thanks to FOA volunteer and USA liaison, Christina Randazzo. Each girl was the happy recipient a bicycle and helmet that Christina offered them as a reward for their outstanding efforts in completing their computer courses.

Isabella and Enyonam were super happy to get their bikes. Their parents were also grateful and extended thanks to FOA and to Christina. Seeing the determination of Isabella and Enyonam pay off inspired the other students to study hard in the hopes of being a bike beneficiary in the future.



The bicycles were donated in the presence of all the students to encourage them to take their computer studies seriously and to spur others to participate in all FOA's programs, projects and activities.

Another FOA volunteer, Raphael Caron, held his annual karaoke birthday party and raised enough funds to purchase 4 bicycles. These bicycles are still awaiting their recipients

Donation of School Supplies

As she does every year, Stella ventured into the farthest reaches of Adaklu to donate school supplies to FOA's education sponsored students. She said that "all the students and teachers...were very grateful to FOA. Those witnessing FOA's school supplies donation for the first time...were shocked to see such a generous act from us."

Supporting young people's education and helping them achieve their dreams takes the Adaklu communities a long way down the road to making Ghana self-reliant and giving them the future they so deserve, so when the magic truck shows up with its truck bed full of school supplies the children's joy is palpable. For them these are not just textbooks, notebooks and pencils, but transformative objects that can lead to jobs, save girls from childhood marriage, and stave off hunger.

Now, it needs to be acknowledged that school fees went up considerably last year partially due to Ghana's unstable economy and partially because of the dismantling of USAID. This increase in school fees meant that FOA lost several sponsors who simply could not afford to continue their education sponsorship. Knowing that without these funds these young people would be unable to continue their education and were doomed to slip back into poverty, FOA stepped up and found the funds to keep them in school.



It's always a good day when Stella shows up with brand new school supplies. For many of our sponsored children this is the first time they have something brand new that is solely theirs.

Art Lessons

When Adaklu's schools reopened in May there was a creative buzz in the air; FOA had brought free Video on Demand art lessons to the Volta Region. We had partnered with Young Art (<https://www.youngartlessons.com/our-mission-2/>) to introduce our children to novel ways of thinking about design and technology.

Young Art's 'Learning Library Everywhere' gave our students the chance to create their own designs while discovering the works of the art world's greatest masters. Sculpture, painting, sketching, digital art, - inspiring our burgeoning artists to explore their own talents.

After School Program

So many wonderful things have come out of Adaklu Dawanu, our beloved Beta Village: our farms, our student sponsorship program, our school and community gardens, our bicycle program, our reading program, just to mention a few.

Another program initiated in Dawanu is FOA's After School program. It's specially designed to help students fill leaning gaps by having fun with math and language skills. It provides a safe, engaging and fun learning environment to encourage our students to improve their social, emotional, physical, cultural and academic skills.

Pen Pal Program

The Pen Pal Program is in its 5th year and has been highly successful in building friendships as well as English language skills. It connects the children of Adaklu with children at Berkley, California's The Academy School. Letters wing their way across the sea several times a year and are received with joy and anticipation.



And off these letters go on their long journey to the USA where eager friends await them.

Dawanu Library and Research Centre Gets A make Over

The users of Adaklu Dawanu's library and research centre felt it was time for a change so over the summer they got to work with paint brushes and masking tape and transformed its drab interior into a cascade of colourful shelves and cheerfully painted walls. Dawanu's students were super surprised when they returned in September and discovered their joyful, rainbow reading room and research centre, bursting with energy and creativity.



The first coat goes on the shelves.

African Library Project

Stella and the kids took delivery of a huge number of books donated by the African Library Project. There were so many that FOA was able to fill the stacks at 9 of Adaklu's schools.

The African Library Project connects schools in Africa with book donors in the USA. It believes that opportunities for learning come out of nurturing spaces, like Dawanu's library and research centre, and it seeks to fill those spaces with fun, educational materials.

Mimi Regional Health Centre (MRHC)

Our biggest news at the Mimi RHC is that our wonderful friend and clinic director, Mary Akuamoah has retired. She ran the Mimi RHC from its opening days in 2016. Her wisdom, compassion, managerial skills and nursing expertise were key in the Mimi RHC's success and acceptance into the Adaklu communities. She was convinced that the Mimi Clinic would be of great benefit to the villagers and supported our efforts to bring health care to the communities. She was also instrumental in the Mimi Clinic being upgraded into the Mimi Regional Health Centre, a mighty big step up for the clinic and for FOA.



Retired Mimi RHC director, Mary Akuamoah and FOA founder and CEO, Helga-Liz Haberfellner, at the Mimi RHC.

Economic Security

WIN Bakery

Ever since Esenam, who knew absolutely nothing about baking and is a single mom, took up the operation of the WIN Bakery it has become one of the community's hottest spots. Her cookies, cakes and chips fly out of their containers, and with Esenam now having access to volunteer Shireen Whitmore's oatmeal cookie recipe things have really

taken off. Esenam, and her daughter, Enyonam, have taken on every challenge of running a business and are succeeding to the point where they have moved into better accommodations. They are evidence of FOA's strategy of moving slowly and helping one person at a time lift themselves out of poverty. Perhaps the WIN Bakery will be FOA's first franchise.



Esenam, volunteer Shireen Whitmore, and Enyonam show off their iced cupcakes and birthday cake.

Nunya Village

While Nunya Village is an actual place located in Adaklu Tsrefe, it's also a dream, a desire, a vision, and a metaphor for turning despair into achievement and helplessness into power, self-reliance and opportunity.

When FOA built Nunya Village we thought we were creating a place that would preserve culture and teach job skills but we ended up creating a sanctuary for healing, creativity, and self-discovery in one of the most impoverished, impossible places on earth.

The easiest way to describe Nunya Village is to say that it is an arts incubator. It is my hope that one day there may be a number of Nunya Villages scattered across Ghana, all working to protect Ghana's local cultures and arts by engaging young people in the magic of creative self-discovery. Of course, there's more going on at Nunya Village than pottery making and drumming; our young entrepreneurs are also learning business skills, and the computer skills necessary for them to promote themselves in today's marketplace. They are learning how to cost out the materials they will need to make their artefacts. They are learning that the time they take to make something has a financial value, the offshoot of which is that they have value. They are learning to handle money and to keep accounts, so that one day when they set out on their own, they will have the skill set necessary to succeed in running their own business.

Nunya Village decided to celebrate its first year by participating in the Volta Regional Art Fair held in Ho. Our kids were super proud to show off their creations and did a fine job of selling their artworks and demonstrating their skills. Our stand attracted a lot of attention, and we even had the honour of the Volta regional minister, the Honourable James Gunu, stopping by to check out the bead work. Needless to say, he was impressed.



Volta regional minister, the Honourable James Gunu, greets Stella at the Volta Regional Art Fair in Ho.

While developing artisanal and business skills is at the forefront of what happens at Nunya Village, its foundational goal was the discovery of personal identity and creativity. FOA wanted Adaklu's young people to have a safe space where they could engage with adults who thought they were wonderful and who encouraged them to find their voices both within their societies and through their art. We wanted to know that they were unique, capable and seen. We want them to be leaders because Ghana desperately needs leaders who have strong voices and the courage to use them. That's why at Nunya Village our young entrepreneurs are the facilitators. When tourists show up it is the children who are the master craftsman that direct their arts and crafts adventure. Young people leading the way (with support and encouragement from Stella, Robert and our many volunteers) is what Nunya Village is all about. FOA's budding artisans don't just learn life-transforming skills but also discover their voices, their ideas and their opinions. Strong voices make for a bright future for Ghana.

As Edward Senya wrote about Nunya Village:

"...In the peaceful village of Adaklu Tsrefe, something extraordinary is happening. Yes, something extraordinary. Welcome to Nunya Village, a powerful Ewe name which means "Wisdom". But it is more than a name. It is a heartbeat. A sanctuary. A calling. This is where a generation of young dreamers, student entrepreneurs, artists, and visionaries gather not in search of escape, but in search of roots."



Jewelry making in progress at Nunya Village – it's a communal operation.

Getting FOA's Message Out

The Adaklu region is enormous. It is 4,000 square kilometers with a population of close to 41,000 people scattered through 107 villages, some as small as a dozen inhabitants. That's approximately 10 people per square kilometre so to get to them Stella and Robert have to do A LOT of travelling. That's why among the many laudatory adjectives that we use to describe Stella and Robert we probably need to add 'very tired'.

FOA is determined to expand its reach and this year's partnerships with Our Future Prize (Starlink) and NORAD/SOS-Children's Villages has greatly increased our need to reach into Adaklu's farthest recesses, so that means lots of visits to far flung communities to let them know about our activities and programs and to help them find ways to participate so that we can help them help themselves.

Sometimes Stella and Robert's days are so full that the only time they have to meet with communities is after nightfall. They listen as the villagers share their concerns and hopes. They facilitate discussions and help communities figure out how they can work with FOA to maximize their resources. Of course, part of the discussion is that the community must participate in helping itself. FOA is not a charity; we are a helping hand. This approach ensures the success of FOA's programs since the communities participate in the work, so the success, and its accompanying pride, belongs to them.



Robert assesses the water situation in Adaklu Dawanu

Volunteers Going Beyond

Attracted by Nunya Village, 2025 saw volunteers come from around the world to help, inspire and spread FOA's message.

Hanna and Ingrid, 2 talented arts' students came all the way from Norway to help our young arts facilitators design and paint the vibrant murals that now adorn Nunya Village's front wall. These beautiful and fun murals feature the enticing activities that visitors can participate in at Nunya Village. They are a form of advertising as unique as Nunya Village and have garnered much attention and admiration from passersby, many of whom frequently stop to photograph them.

When Hanna and Ingrid got out their paints and brushes our kids' creativity really got going and they found the courage to stretch their creative wings and explore their drawing and painting talents. To thank Hanna and Ingrid our young artisans shared Adaklu's traditional crafts and culture with them, teaching them bead making and Kente cloth weaving. Thanks to Hanna and Ingrid's generosity (they bought all the necessary paints and brushes) and flair Nunya Village's entrance is now a showstopper and an impossible spot to miss.



One of the panels that adorns Nunya Village's front wall created with the help of Norwegian volunteers Hanna and Ingrid.

Phoebe Calolot is another volunteer who came to share her expertise with Adaklu's young people. Phoebe is a social media strategist from Italy who joined FOA to lead a month-long computer class. Phoebe's visit made a big impression on our students, and her generosity benefitted 40 students from 4 Adaklu communities. She also taught students to create presentations about Nunya Village using Canva's graphic design platform. To express their gratitude the students taught Phoebe how to make the arts and crafts Nunya Village is becoming renowned for.



Phoebe and her fun-loving computer class show off their Canva creations.

Shireen Whitmore and Bill Houston also came to Adaklu to share their skills. Shireen is a baker extraordinaire and Bill is an ardent geologist. Besides arriving with a specially prepared recipe book that took on the many limitations of baking in Adaklu, Shireen spent many afternoons teaching Esenam (she is the proprietor of FOA's WIN Bakery) how to make peanut butter, and oatmeal cookies, as well as iced cup-cakes cakes. Esenam has had such success with what she learned from Shireen that she has been able to move to better accommodations.

Shireen also spent a lot of time with the younger children teaching them clapping games which they repeated endlessly and when she had time, she entranced them with her story reading skills. The children were as captivated by her as she was by them.



Shireen and a small cohort of her happy admirers.

Bill brought many gifts - geological samples, magnifying glasses and books and by simply picking up a pebble he taught the kids about the wonders under their feet. He hiked up Mount Adaklu with a group of eager, budding geologists and got them wondering about why there's a solitary, huge mountain jutting out of the ground in their community. His fun, hands-on approach got everyone looking at their world in a new way, and that's the best gift of all.



There was also a more serious side to Bill's visit to Adaklu because he met with the local geological society in the hopes of creating a link between Ghanaian geologists and Canadian geologists that might blossom into an exchange program. The Ghanaian geologists were so enthusiastic about this that they arrived at Nunya Village with a truck full of rock and mineral samples. Everyone was fascinated

It looks like Ghana rocks.

Academy School

The people of Adaklu Dawanu need clean, potable water and The Academy School in Berkley, California is rising to the challenge. They are selling Nunya Village jewelry and Ghana-made backpacks, holding a walkathon, and seeking private donations. Thanks to them, the people of Adaklu Dawanu will soon have a mechanized borehole.

We are so very grateful to the Academy School for their extraordinary efforts on FOA's behalf. They are really going all out to make a big and continuous change in the lives of people they do not even know. This is true philanthropy.



Some of Berkley, California's The Academy School's team of fundraisers.



This poster celebrates the private donors who have so generously contributed to the funding of Adaklu Dawanu's mechanized borehole.

Christina Randazzo is FOA's USA liaison and a tireless supporter and fund raiser. She organizes and manages FOA's Global Giving pages and works with The Academy School to organize fund raising events. She was also instrumental in initiating the Pen Pal Program.

Kingsley Elorm Kwaku Leh is everywhere. Whenever FOA has an event Kingsley is there making sure things are running smoothly. He is adored by FOA's students because he is a kind and engaging teacher who sees every child for who they are. He is enormously patient and always has a kind and understanding word.

Adelaide Tornu is a great believer in education and volunteers at Dawanu Basic School. She inspires the students with her thoughtful, and intelligent approach to learning. She is very curious and encourages the students to see the wonder around

them. I guess it is no surprise that being Robert Tornu's (FOA's policy and programming director and the director of Nunya Village) daughter she is driven to help and encourages the children to stand up for themselves. She says that "every moment spent teaching, guiding, and interacting with students ...[feels] like a step towards building a more hopeful tomorrow. Let's keep investing in education and young people."

Andrea Tornu believes in education and in reading. She is a passionate advocate for rural development projects especially those that strengthen education, women's empowerment, and community. She is dedicated to building sustainable projects and opportunities, especially those that advocate for women and girls. She is likely inspired by the profound dedication of her father, Robert Tornu (FOA's policy and programming director and the director of Nunya Village), to improving the lives of those who struggle to thrive and like him, she is determined to help those who are underprivileged find their voices.

Raphael Caron sponsors an annual karaoke event whose proceeds go to funding FOA's projects, programs and activities. This year he raised enough money for the purchase of 4 bicycles. He also encourages his friends to hand over the contents of their coin jars, which amounted to over 100 Euros for FOA – almost enough to purchase another refurbished bicycle.



Raphael lives in France and works to save the Baudets du Poitou, the world's largest, oldest and rarest breed of donkey. He is a staunch supporter of FOA and single-handedly organizes events to raise funds to benefit Adaklu's children.

What people are saying....



Khofi Newdon · [Follow](#)

· 23 January 2025 · 🌐



Hi, am so glad to have friends of Adaklu in my home town, it makes the town become more popular and it is so amazing thanks.

Sylvia Morrison

I love this for you **Helga Liz Habermellner** ❤️ You continue to dream a bigger dream for this community.

I'm very happy for these students who now have access and the schools that will also benefit. This is a game changer on so many levels.

Big props to **Stella** and my friend **Robert Tornu** who never sleeps because he's always strategizing behind the scenes.

Congratulations to you all 🎉🎉🎉

Tony BLaq

Nunya village from Adaklu in volta is a must-visit destination for anyone interested in Ghanaian culture!

Mac-Peter Quarquo Dumatonu

Mad Stella and Friends of Adaklu (FOA), Ayekoo!

Onyx Birch

Lifting the bars high... enhancing skills and protecting the girlchild for brighter future

Raphael Caron

Une équipe de choc

Charles Agbesi

Yes, Stella is leaving no stone unturned to getting things done, you truly "Friends of Adaklu"

Kudos Stella and the entire team 👍

Sylvia Morrison

Helga Liz Haberfellner I can imagine the feeling in your heart ❤️. Thank you for your consistency and commitment in working with communities in Adaklu. Not all superheroes wear capes ❤️🔥🌻 Thank you ❤️🙏

Roberta Donkor

Well done Helga and the team, Dawanu community will be so grateful for clean water in their area

Bari Fischer

So proud of all that you are doing!



FOA In the NEWS

Here are a few of the publications that have mentioned the Starlink project:

1. Akatsi Deaf School: Starlink Internet Elevates Student Learning
<https://disabilitynewsgb.com/starlink-internet.../>
2. Every child must have access to educational infrastructure – Volta Regional Minister
<https://www.modernghana.com/.../every-child-must-have...>
3. Starlink, Our Future Prize connect 30 schools to internet in Volta
<https://www.modernghana.com/.../starlink-our-future-prize...>
4. Starlink Internet boosts digital education in Jasikan
<https://www.modernghana.com/.../starlink-internet-boosts...>
5. Jasikan Assembly, Friends of Adaklu champion digital learning with starlink rollout
<https://asaaseradio.com/jasikan-assembly-friends-of.../>
6. Dzogadze Assembly Member appeals for school feeding support for SDA Basic School
<https://www.modernghana.com/.../dzogadze-assembly-member...>
7. Starlink Partners, connects 30 Volta schools to high-speed internet
<https://gna.org.gh/.../starlink-partners-connects-30.../>
8. Girls in ICT: No. Student from Adaklu Goefe DA JHS to participate in Girls Who Code Programme
https://www.modernghana.com/news/1412276/girls-in-ict-no-student-from-adaklu-goefe-da.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawQ3URxleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETBtZjBwdjhBR2NKb0c0ZDBQc3J0YwZhchBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDQ5MgABHtSH1omi3ZeXZzJn2muf3qBGB24x4KAXNqycdOsjQjZ76P8WleKKJ1zBKGE5_aem_WAEguwwegLf0ovw8MIT0rw

Things to Keep In Mind As We Head Into 2026

- We need to push for media literacy in our computer classes
- Our projects need to be bolder, long-term, environmentally friendly, and sustainable.
- Problems are opportunities for growth and business solutions.
- Grassroots activity influences political will, so we need to influence, inspire, and amplify.
- We need to be aware of equality, inclusivity, and fairness – so no one gets left behind; leaving people behind is dangerous; it breeds resentment, jealousy and rage.
- We need to keep forming partnerships with like-minded partners.
- We need to plant more trees.
- We need to strengthen Robert and Stella's voices and impact in Adaklu – through education, mentorship, leadership, and training.
- FOA may be small, but it is a significant and recognized change agent and global example of what is possible.
- Investing in people is more important than investing in buildings.
- Each FOA recipient is a potential ambassador and facilitator.
- The world does not welcome refugees or immigrants, so we need to help people build happy, fulfilled lives where they live.

FOA's 2026 Wish List

Every year I create a wish list that's based on where we have been, what we've learned, and where we want to go on our continuing journey with the people of Adaklu. It's a sort of 'next steps' and helps me stay focused on, and prioritize, our endeavours for the coming year.

2026's Wish List:

- Expand Mimi RHC's role in the community as a health care provider and training centre.
- Purchase items on Mimi RHC's wish list and improve efficacy and capacity.
- Help the Give Right Foundation continue its training programs at the Mimi RHC.
- Expand our effectiveness by getting communities to help each other and share information.
- Figure out something to do with the biowaste from our farms.
- Increase Robert and Stella's power in the community as FOA ambassadors.
- Get more children sponsored.
- Make Nunya Village self-sustaining.
- Create a sponsorship program for graduated students and for young adults.
- Create a computer training program for young adults.
- Get more bikes for kids and health care workers.
- Finish Nunya Village and get on-line store going.
- Identify more partners.



I know that I can speak for all four of us, when I say that it is an enormous privilege and honour to be working with the people of Adaklu to help them overcome the obstacles that are in the way of their achieving economic security, communal well-being, food security, and sustainable, successful futures for their children. The trust of the Adaklu communities is something we cherish. We have chosen our spot in the world and will continue to work hard to help the people of Adaklu help themselves.

Want to Help us Help?

If you're inspired by all that is going on, then here's how to help:

- 1) Sponsor a child's education. Your sponsorship pays for all books, notebooks, backpacks, pencils, pens erasers, rulers, After-School Program, etc. We ask that each sponsor do their best to sponsor their child until they graduate from High School. The annual fees are listed on our website: www.friendsofadaklu.com
- 2) Buy a bike for a child or health care worker.
- 3) Contribute towards the farms, and community and school gardens, to buy seeds, fencing, gardening tools and other supplies.

- 4) Support FOA's computer training program. If you have an outdated computer, we can probably use it.
- 5) Contribute towards the further education of a graduated High School student.
- 6) Contribute towards buying equipment and supplies for the Mimi RHC.
- 7) Sponsor a pioneering farmer or buy farm supplies.
- 8) Talk to people about what we are doing.
- 9) Work in the media? - you might want to do a story on what's going on in Adaklu.
- 10) Hold a fund-raising event.



The Academy School's fundraising efforts on behalf of Adaklu Dawnu will soon bring a mechanized bore hole to a community where children fill their days carrying water.

FOA's Tenets

1. Invest in people not buildings.
2. Leave no one behind.
3. Only financially support communal or social enterprises.
4. Projects need to be bio-friendly and sustainable.
5. Focus on development outcomes.
6. Stay away from politics and religion.
7. Stay focused.
8. Stay small.
9. Be patient; we are doing the work of generations.
10. Practice skills exchange.
11. Program beneficiaries must share what they have learned.
12. Never impose solutions.
13. Stay humble and listen to the people of Adaklu; they know their environment and its challenges better than we do.
14. Help people thrive where they live.



2025 Financial Statement

All funds in Canadian dollars

Education Sponsors	Amount
Adaklu Education Program – K 1&2 \$220 X 3	660.00
Adaklu Education Program – Grades 1- 3 \$235 X 5	1175.00
Adaklu Education Program - Grades 4-6 \$280 X 9	2520.00
Adaklu Education Program – Jr. High School \$350 X 28	6580.00
Adaklu Education Program – Sr. High School \$400 X 23	9,200.00
Adaklu Education Program - Subtotal	20,135.00
Donations	
Helga and Paul August Trip	15,000.00
Helga and Paul Baking equipment	118.00
Anonymous Stella Kudah Admin	8,000.00
Anonymous Robert Tornu Admin	8,000.00
Raphael Caron Pocket Change	66.97
Paul and Helga. Miscellaneous	1,500.00
Paul and Helga Truck Insurance & Maintenance	2,500.00
Helga for Admin	1,122.58
Raphael's Bicycle Fundraiser	650.00
Norma and Daniel Plowman for Bicycles	259.17
Gene and Lisa for Bicycles	99.57
Paul and Helga – 2 computers	600.00
Helen Kopec	31.88
Eleanore Anougba	159.41
Monique Cuignier – 2 computers	600.00
Raphael Caron for Bicycles	66.96
Helga for failed student sponsorships	6,250
Helga and Paul 8 iPhones/4 tablets/3 laptops - NORAD	6,365.93
Helga and Paul shipping iPhones/tablets/laptops	2559.71
Donations – Subtotal	38,950.18
GRAND TOTAL	59,085.18



Thank You for bringing hope into the world and for keeping it alive through your continued sponsorship. The funds and support you have given to the people of Adaklu have transformed their lives from ones of exhaustion and despair to self-reliance, pride and accomplishment. You are their champions, and they cherish the opportunities your donations have brought them. They will work unimaginably hard to maintain your faith in them and will never let you down.

We, at FOA, promise to keep working with Adaklu's communities to help them build rich, sustainable, fulfilling futures. With you by our side we will get there.

We are the Friends of Adaklu



Robert Tornu

Policy Advisor & Director of
Programming, Director of Nunya
Village



Stella Kudah

FOA- Ghana Director &
Director NORAD Project



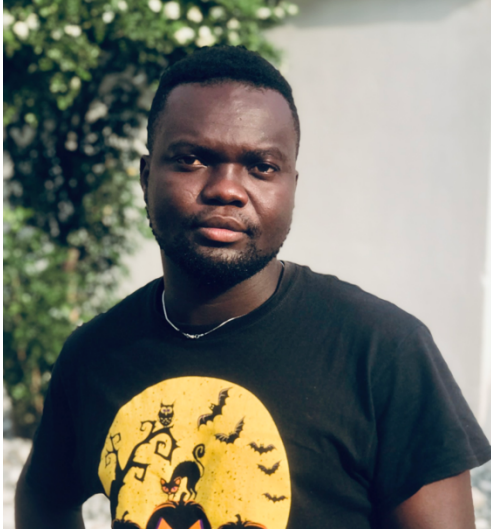
Paul Andrew

CFO & Media Director



Helga-Liz Haberfellner

Founder & Executive Director



Kingsley Elorm Kwaku Leh
Tireless Volunteer



Christina Randazzo
USA Liaison



FOA's Raison d'Etre
and Guiding Light

Dr. Mimi Divinsky