

Friends of Adaklu

Annual Report

2024

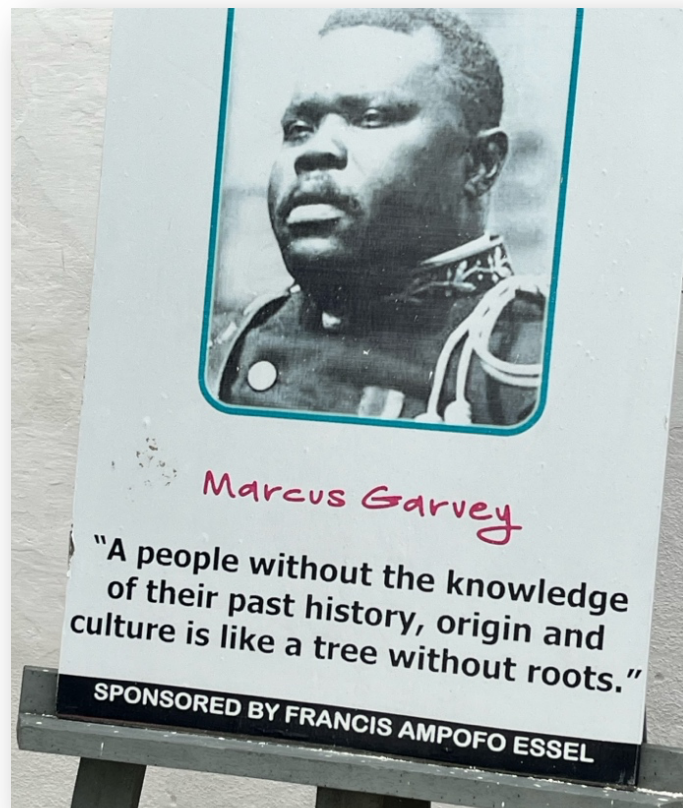


Written by Helga-Liz Haberfellner
Executive Director
February 4, 2025

Friends of Adaklu Annual Report ~ 2024

2024's Motivation

More and more I do not believe in charity. Charity is dehumanizing and humiliating; it points out people's failures and leaves its recipients dehumanized and belittled. It is one of the tools in the toolbox of the colonizers and Africans need to free themselves from being screwed by it. Billions of dollars have been poured into Africa and it is none the better for it, if anything it is even more dependent, turning to the Western world, and selling itself out, when it should be developing its own resources, both human and natural, and discovering its own solutions. This velvet-wrapped fist of colonization needs to stop and FOA, while small, is a successful agent of change showing the people of Ghana that they are fully capable of being independent and self-reliant.



Oh my goodness! Here we go again. Another year has flown by and it is time for me to write FOA's annual report. So much happened in 2024 that I feel as if I need to write a short novel.

FOA made huge strides in 2024, both in personal achievements as well as achievements in the communities where we strive to help people build successful, independent lives. My personal favourite is that we achieved one of my dreams and planted 300 trees across the Adaklu region. Something I hope we will be able to do every single year. If you're curious about what else we accomplished in 2024 read on.



You're never too young to plant a tree.

Education

Education Sponsorship Program

FOA's Education Program has been around long enough now to have a number of children be sponsored from kindergarten all the way through to their Sr. High School graduation. This is a serious accomplishment for these young people and a cause of pride for FOA. In 2024, we had 68 kids whose education was fully sponsored thanks to the ongoing generosity of their sponsors. We had 3 children in kindergarten, 5 children in lower primary school, 9 children in upper primary school, 28 children in junior high school and 23 children in senior high school. That's 68 lives that are being completely transformed by people these children have never met.

Our education sponsors stand at the pinnacle of humanity; they are continuously generous, asking only that our children be given the opportunity to succeed. It is an ineffable honour to have them sharing in our journey as we work with the people of Adaklu to build vibrant and resilient communities.

FOA Sponsored Student Attends Black Star International Film Festival

Freeman, a FOA sponsored student from Adaklu Dawanu, spent a week in Accra volunteering at the Black Star International Film Festival uncovering what it would take for him to achieve his dream of being an actor. Freeman attended acting workshops and met with a film director who encouraged him to improve his English language skills to make himself more marketable.

Freeman also visited the sea for the very first time and absolutely loved it. It is our hope to provide these life-enriching experiences to 1 or 2 students annually, so that they get a better idea of just what is required for them to achieve their dreams. We believe that nurturing their dreams and giving them a glimpse into the life they are striving for will inspire them to work hard and succeed. It will also open their eyes to what is required of them, and we hope that introducing them to professionals in their area of interest will lead to the role model and mentorship relationships that lead to success.



Freeman at the entrance to the Black Star International Film Festival.

Computer Learning

Adaklu is an ancient place where little has changed through the centuries, and while there is much worth preserving there is also much that needs letting go so that our communities can thrive where they live. I guess it is not surprising that our young people are aching to join the digital age, and although many of them still live in traditional homes with thatched roofs and mud walls they are acquiring computer skills through a curriculum developed by FOA.

FOA is home base for computer, training and coding classes in the Adaklu Region. The joy and excitement before each class is palpable as the students make their way into the Good Life Centre's boardroom. It is there that many of them touched a computer keyboard for the first time. What was especially amazing was that they had a real laptop right in front of them for their own use.



Kingsley teaching the computer class in FOA's Good Life Centre.

Kingsley Elorm Kwaku Leh (FOA's volunteer computer instructor) taught the 'Introduction to Computers' class - which involved learning about the computer's components and how they work to input and output digital information. He also had the students using the mouse and the touchpad, opening their eyes to the magic inherent in the digital world.

Mounir Shita (volunteer computer coding teacher) a.k.a Teacher Mo, taught FOA's computer coding class for the past year and his dedication to empowering his students is laud worthy and a big part of our their being ready and able to step into Ghana's future.

In 2024 FOA graduated 89 students from its first round of computer training and coding classes. The graduation ceremony was an exhibition of our students' computer prowess and many parents and community members came to see all 89 students receive their certificates of completion.

Computer training is a big step forward, not just for the kids but for the whole community. It is heartwarming to see our graduates' parents encouraging other parents to let their children attend these life changing courses. The courses also serve to advocate for gender equality, and we often have girls helping boys solve computer problems. This builds respect for the girls as well as the confidence necessary for them to build successful careers.

Bicycles, an Analog Assistant to Computer Education

Last February, Berkeley, California's Academy School raised enough funds FOA to purchase 30 bicycles (with helmets) for the young people participating in our computer training and coding classes. Before they had bikes, many of the computer students walked as far as 12 kms between the Good Life Centre and their homes to attend their classes.

Unlike the bikes, which are part of the Pedal to Excellence Program and are donated to individual students, these bikes belong to FOA's Computer Training Program and will remain FOA's property. They are kept in the Aduadi and Helehpe communities under the safeguard of the Chiefs. When students complete their computer training they will turn the bikes over to the incoming computer students, ensuring that everyone can make it to class on time.



Donation of School Supplies

In 2024 Stella, and the magic truck ventured far and wide across the Adaklu Region, making sure all the FOA sponsored students got their donated school supplies. Insuring that each student has the necessary, textbooks, notebooks, and other other school supplies, is a big job and involves several trips to Accra (often a 4-5 hour trip one way) to purchase what is necessary for the

students to be academically successful. Once the supplies are purchased, the job really begins because Stella needs to distribute them to FOA's 68 education sponsored students across the Adaklu Region – not an easy task.

Often her first stop was in Adaklu Dawanu, FOA's Beta village, where she presents every FOA sponsorship student with a backpack filled with brand-new school supplies. It is always a very happy event and often entails a ceremony attended by all the students' parents and many of the village elders. Stella usually takes advantage of the situation to encourage the students to take care of their donated school supplies, to work hard and to attend school regularly.



So happy for the gift of learning.

After School Program

FOA's After School Program was started because FOA realized that many of our sponsored students had significant learning gaps. What started out as supplementary math and language tutoring has matured into activities that indirectly teach problem solving, and critical and analytical thinking skills. Because Ghana's education system is based in rote learning most of Ghana's children have developed excellent memory skills but are weak in the skills required to puzzle out solutions. The rote learning system, which is a vestige of a communal culture, discourages the individual thought processes that are necessary for business and academic success in today's information-based economy. By participating in games, and in other fun activities that require problem solving skills, the FOA sponsored students learn that they have the

capacity to find solutions. Stella has them solving puzzles, searching for buried treasure, and playing card games that require strategic thinking. They also repair bicycles which means understanding how a bicycle works, why this one is not working and how to fix it.



Sussing out what's wrong with a bike needs thinking outside the box.

Other 2024 FOA sponsored after school activities were a a read-a-thon, as well as an open discussion where Stella encouraged students to talk about what they felt was holding them or the community back, be it their school, teachers, parents, or culture. Once the students voiced what was troubling them, Stella encouraged them to puzzle out solutions, thereby strengthening their sense of capacity and agency in the world. For so long these children have been told that they need to be obedient, stay inside the lines and cannot do things, and now FOA is welcoming their individual ideas and creativity and telling them that they can find solutions on their own. It's a hugely important message which ratifies their voices and lets them know that if they speak up they will be heard, and that they have the ability to solve their own problems.



Pen Pal Program

FOA's pen pal program is going strong with letters frequently winging their way back and forth across the Atlantic and the American continent to the Academy School in California and then back to our young letter writers in Adaklu. The goal of the program is the sharing of ideas, and to introduce children from extremely different parts of the world to other ways of being, seeing and understanding. It has been a wonderful and joyful process to see these relationships growing into true, caring friendships.



Letters and gifts from across the sea mean so very much.

Getting Inspired at Ho Technical University's Faculty of Arts

72 of Nunya Village's arts' facilitators had the opportunity to visit the Faculty of Arts and Design at Ho Technical University. The children visited facilities working in textiles, ceramics, painting, sculpture, and graphic design. They learned about the various processes that went into producing the finished objects on display.

The goal of the tour was to make Nunya Village's young arts' facilitators aware of the diverse career paths possible through the arts, thereby reinforcing their creativity and encouraging them towards self-employment. Nunya Village's underlying goal is to provide our young people with the skills they need to be successful entrepreneurs and change agents inside their communities.



Immersing yourself in the work of art can lead to a joyful and prosperous career.

Food Security

Best School Garden

Stella and the kids had a lot to crow about this year when Goefe DA JHS school (where she is vice principal) won the 2024 District Best School Garden award at the 40th National Farmers Day Celebration. The school's garden exemplified the theme of Building Climate - Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Food Security.

Winning this prestigious award was cause for celebration not just for the students but for the entire community, as well as for FOA who has been developing school and community gardens since its inception. Stella represented FOA at the celebration and said that she was grateful to FOA for empowering her with what was required to implement her school's organic vegetable garden program as a way of motivating students to pursue vegetable farming as a source of occupation to provide income for themselves, their families and community.

School gardens manifest FOA's multi-faceted approach at resolving problems in the community. They achieve food security, while educating young people in the sciences of agriculture, botany, soils, and the water cycle, as well as encouraging gender equality.



Well-deserved accolades for acquiring a life-saving skill set.

Health Care

Mimi Regional Health Centre (MRHC)

There's lots of wonderful news at the Mimi Regional Health Centre (MRHC).

First of all FOA wants to heartfully thank the Hon. Kwame Govern Agbodza, Member of Parliament for Adaklu Constituency, for donating a hospital bed, as well as other medical supplies to FOA's much beloved Health Centre saying that he wished to personally contribute to quality health care delivery in the Adaklu District. This is the first time a member of government has openly shown gratitude and support to the MRHC and is proof that FOA's initiatives aimed at building community, resilience and self-reliance are bearing fruit. To have a Member of Parliament recognise that they play a role in supporting FOA's efforts shows that we are achieving our long-term goals. Stella wrote that she was "happy the people in Adaklu ...were beginning to see the important role the Mimi Regional Health Centre plays in health care delivery."



The hospital bed generously donated to MRHC by the Hon. Kwame Govern Agbodza, Member of Parliament for Adaklu Constituency,

The second donation of a hospital bed was a gift from one of FOA's education sponsors, Shireen Whitmore. It was donated in memory of her mother, Lottie Belle Whitmore, who was a nurse. Lottie's photograph was added to our wall of champions in the Good Life Centre. The nursing

team at the MRHC was extremely pleased with the new bed, especially since it has side guard rails and since the head and foot ends can be raised separately, ensuring the comfort of the patient. It is by far the nicest hospital bed in the MRHC and we are deeply grateful to Shireen for such a generous donation.

It is also important to note that in one year the MRHC staff has increased from 11 to 21.....and (wait for it).....in the first 14 weeks of 2024 we had 11 births at the clinic which is astounding when you consider that in all of 2023 we had a total of 13.



The MRHC is growing into its own and the communities it serves have come to recognize the importance it can play in their well-being; more and more the surrounding communities are trusting, and relying on it.

Much of this escalation in trust and awareness is due to the generosity of the Give Right Foundation and Dr. Fred who brought us ultra sound training as well as equipment. For the women and men of Adaklu the magic of seeing their baby develop in-vitro means a better connection with their unborn child, potentially leading to a stronger parental connection and better child care once the child is born.

Give Right Foundation

Thanks to the Give Right Foundation FOA started 2024 with a cracking bang. Their ultrasound training team arrived early in January to train the Mimi Regional Health Centre staff in the use of the Butterfly Handheld Ultrasound System. FOA is GRF's official Ghanaian partner in this ultrasound training program, whose goal is to enable MRHC's staff to deliver enhanced quality medical care through an innovative ultrasound-training program.

GRF's visit marks FOA's first instructional event at the Mimi RHC and brings it closer to being the teaching and life-saving facility it was intended to be. Fredrick Heath, MS (MD/MBA) and a Co-Founder of the Give Right Foundation trained 5 Midwives, and 5 Nurses in the use of the ultrasound device. Their training was ably supported by Swallah Alhaji Suraka, a Consultant Sonographer and Assistant Lecturer at the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) in Ho. FOA and GRF also joined forces with Fountain Medical Services whose director Dr Wilson Agbavor, a Gynecologist Specialist at Ho Teaching Hospital, has most open-heartedly offered to provide free ultrasound interpretation as part of our collaboration.



Dr. Fred trains some of the MRHC's staff on the use of the Butterfly Ultrasound device. This life-saving device has significantly change how maternal medicine is practised in the Adaklu Region.

Much to the delight of our children Dr Fred also donated a drone to FOA, which meant that Paul Andrew spent much of his time in Adaklu teaching drone piloting.

The training received by the MRHC's staff built their capacity and gave them the skills they need to meet some of Adaklu's major health issues. Once the training was completed GRF donated a Butterfly Ultrasound device to the MRHC. As if to applaud GRF's generosity, and to bless the event, a perfect baby was born at the MRHC while the medical team was there.

The Adaklu communities of Golokope, Gbegbedevi, Dawanu, Tsrefe, Goefe, Agblefe and Alavanyo all took part in the Health Care Worker training. FOA also took this opportunity to solidify our partnerships with other health care stakeholders whose contributions cannot be underestimated: Fountain Medical Services, Adaklu District Chief Executive, Adaklu District Director of Health, Director of EP Health Services, and a Team of Doctors and Professors from UHAS.

All in all the FOA/GRF partnership was a resounding success. Initially 3 pregnant women were invited to participate in the training, but word got out and by the end of the two-day training session 10 pregnant women visited the MRHC to participate in the magic of seeing their foetus via ultrasound. 3 days after the GRF team left 7 more pregnant women came. These women were first time user of the Mimi RHC and some of them had walked up to 2 hour for the free ultrasound scan.

It is FOA's indomitable policy advisor, Robert Tornu, who made this invaluable partnership possible. It is the first of its kind in West Africa and certainly in Ghana – and in Robert's words, "it really puts the Mimi RHC on the world stage". Another first is that the MRHC is the only medical facility in West Africa to have a Butterfly Ultrasound device and the staff trained to use it. Three cheers for The Give Right Foundation! Three cheers for the team from the Irvine Medical School and three cheers for Robert who knows how to make dreams come true.



Economic Security

WIN Bakery

FOA's little bakery is now operating under the innovative auspices of Esenam who makes and sells cookies to the local community as well as to visitors to the Good Life Centre. Thanks and gratitude go out to Stella who helped Esenam discover her hidden baking talents much to the delight of everyone.



FOA entrepreneur, Esenam, is delighted to be the owner of her own business and the life changing opportunities it is bringing her and her daughter.

Her cookies are delicious and FOA is over-joyed to have her as our next-door neighbor.

Nunya Village

From a dream to a complete community in under two years, that's the story of Nunya Village. Funded by a private donation Nunya Village is hard at work ramping up for its opening. Its purpose is to preserve the local arts and crafts, as well as provide employment to local youth while bolstering the local economy. Tourists and visitors who come to Nunya Village will have a 100% Ghanaian experience. They can make cane, calabash, cloth, clay, and glass beads and then turn them into breath-taking, original style jewelry, all with the expert assistance of Nunya Village's specially trained arts' facilitators. They can also weave a basket, work in clay, weave Kente cloth, cook traditional Ghanaian food, make a drum, and take drumming lessons.

Nunya Village has already welcomed its first set of tourists, a team from JustWorks, who came to see how Nunya Village operates and to learn how to make local crafts assisted by FOA's specially trained arts facilitators. Our kids did an amazing job assisting the JustWorks folks in making authentic Ghanaian arts and crafts. Everyone had a super time. It was great to see all our young people instructing adults and earning their 1st incomes. Imagine their pride.



The JustWorks team making jewelry with FOA's arts' facilitators.
All beads are made at Nunya Village.

All this amazing work would never have happened without Nunya Village's outstanding workshop leaders who have stepped up to teach our young people. They are all volunteers, many of whom just showed up when they found out about what we were trying to do and came to offer up their help and expertise. Some of them were so impressed by our students' creativity, determination, commitment and desire to know more that they now drop in regularly to help our young arts' facilitators advance their skills. One of these is the super talented Ms. Gifty, who is a

professional teacher specializing in jewelry in the Visual Arts department at Mawuko Senior High School in Ho. And then there's Jonathan who is a master weaver of Kente cloth and who happily works alongside our young people, encouraging them and helping them unravel their problems.



Cynthia is a master artisan who has spent hours teaching our kids the art of making gorgeous clay pots and figures using traditional Ghanaian methods and materials.

She is a regular visitor at Nunya Village and is always ready to nurture our young people's creativity.

And people aren't the only amazing resource that we've discovered in the last year because we dug an 80 meter deep bore hole and were rewarded with gushing, pristine WATER! We are now the proud owners of a 10,000 litre Poly Tank. Everyone rejoiced as the water shot out of the ground - some of us laughed, cried (me), danced. As one of the men digging the bore hole said 'water means life'. It also means that Nunya Village's young people no longer have to fetch and carry making it easier to clean their tools and work with our clay.

2024 also brought electricity to Nunya Village, so our young entrepreneurs and artisans are no longer restricted to working solely by daylight.

Our deepest gratitude to the workmen who brought us light and who found our water and tapped into it, and, of course to Christian for believing in us and donating his own land so we could transform it into Nunya Village.



Riches abound at Nunya Village – we have water and electricity. Nothing can stop us now.

Global Giving

It took months but they did it. Stella and FOA's USA communications liaison, Christina Randazzo, got FOA on Global Giving's fund raising platform, making it possible for FOA to network, share information and raise funds for our many life-transforming programs.

Gaining approval to participate on Global Giving's platform is difficult but Stella and Christina were unfazed and persevered. Thanks to them all USA donations are now tax deductible if made through Global Giving's platform.



Thanks to Global Giving there are 2 brand new computers in the Good Life Centre, raising its happiness quotient by at least a factor of 10.

Outreach

As Ghana headed into the rainy season, Stella braved the bad roads to bring information and opportunities to the many communities tucked deep into the interior of Adaklu. She recently visited Gbekor Senior High School to let the staff and students know about the the life changing opportunity presented by Nunya Village, as well the Computer Lessons and Coding Program taking place at The Good Life Centre. All this came about because FOA's Program and Policy Advisor, Robert Tornu is always searching for new ways to empower Adaklu's students and communities and help them build satisfying, economically secure futures.



Whether she's in the magic truck or in her office, Stella is always looking for ways to implement FOA's programs, so they reach more people.

Climate Change Initiatives

Tree Planting

This year, it gives me great pleasure to remove something from my annual wish list. Planting trees has been on the top of my wish list for the last 10 years. But thanks to Robert's contacts and Stella's initiative that changed in 2024 when FOA acquired 300 seedlings from Ghana's Forestry Commission. The young mahogany, ofram, royal palm, militia, cashew, and cassia trees will soon be providing shade around Nunya Village, as well as along the major roadsides of Adaklu and in the villages that are home to FOA's students.



To ensure the survival of the precious seedlings' FOA's education sponsorship students, computer training students, penpal students, and the students working at Nunya Village were each given 3 young trees of their very own. It is their responsibility to nurture and protect the young trees.

Stella summed it up beautifully, "The goal of this initiative is to inculcate among our students, the importance of planting trees, and protecting and preserving our environment and ecosystem."

Strengthening Investments and Gender, Responsive Climate Adaptation (SIGRA)

FOA's Ghana Director, Stella Kudah, represented FOA at SIGRA's Project Launch on June 25th. SIGRA is a Government of Canada-funded initiative that aims to help selected regions meet "the climate adaptation needs of women, children, vulnerable groups and communities as they try to adapt to climate change." SIGRA relies on women-led civil society organizations (hello FOA and Stella) and community groups to act as intermediaries between government officials and those affected by climate challenges.

SIGRA aims to improve the resilience of Ghanaian citizens through increased investments in inclusive and gender-responsive climate adaptation initiatives. SIGRA will operate in Accra, in three districts of the Northern region, and two districts of the Volta region. Key focus areas of the project include: Strengthening climate adaptation planning, budgeting and governance systems in key institutions within the Ghanaian Public Administration; Financing local gender-responsive climate adaptation initiatives; Strengthening sub-national capacities for adaptation planning; and Partnership with national and local women-led CSOs to increase their capacity and influence on gender responsive climate adaptation.

From SIGRA website

FOA's participation in SIGRA is critical for our severely climate challenged communities. Being nestled deep in the sub-Saharan region of Africa, the people of Adaklu are on the frontlines of climate change and while we have much to learn we also have much to share and SIGRA was wise to choose the Adaklu Region as a project member.



Participants at SIGRA's Ghana Project Launch.

Badger

FOA got a mascot in 2024. Meet little Badger. He was abandoned by his mother and suffering from multiple infections when we found him and took him under our wing but look at him now. Adored and pampered he's a lucky boy who is living his best puppy life hanging out with the kids at Nunya Village. He is feeling much better after extensive medical care and lots of good food. He is now full of fun and curiosity.

While Badger may be small his inclusion in the FOA family is significant. The fact that his past resembles that of many of our children – mal-nutrition, illness, abandonment – is not lost on FOA's young people. His joyful, playful, affectionate approach to them, and to life opens their eyes to the fulfilment and richness that the world offers, and that can be found in hidden realms of inter-species relationships. Badger is being treated quite differently from most dogs in Ghana and the children see that treating an animal with kindness and care can bring many rewards. Badger makes them laugh and the joy he brings them carries lessons in kindness and empathy for other living beings; an important lesson that is hard to learn in a country where almost everyone is hungry, and existence is a daily hard scrabble. So, while Badger may be little and beyond sweet, he carries an important message about the wonders and joys to be found outside a human-centric worldview. Every little tail wag is a subliminal lesson that while the world is big and he is small, he has the power to open hearts and to demonstrate that love and joy can be found in surprising places. What a magical little dog.



Badger, winning hearts and spreading the news that kindness can reap big rewards as dogs are want to do.

Volunteers Going Beyond

Academy School

The Academy School has been a steadfast supporter of FOA. In 2024 their grade 7s held a Read-A-Thon and invited 7 FOA students to join them as they raised funds for the purchase of bicycles and computers for FOA's coding program.

Christina Randazzo

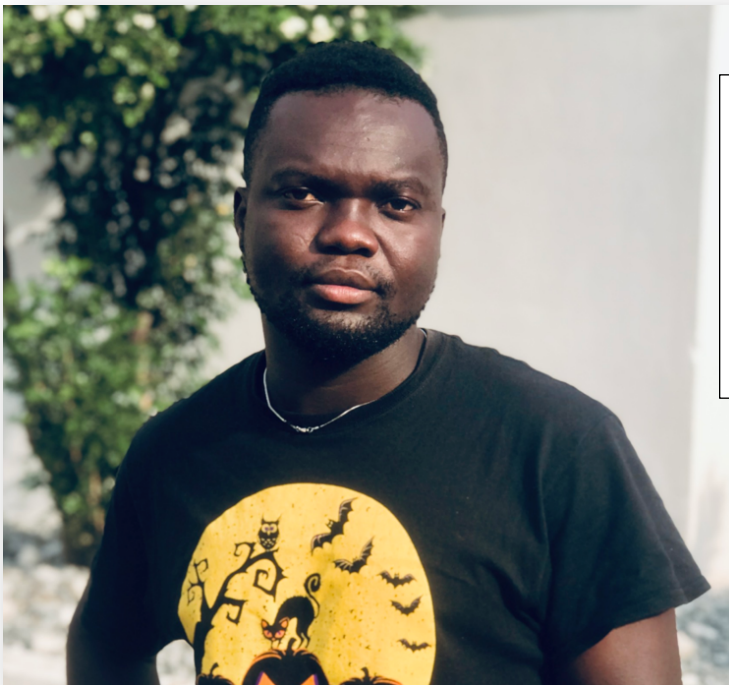
Christina is certainly well worth cheering about. Her continuing support and generosity are a huge part of FOA's successful computer training programs. She also set up, and watches over, the Go Fund Me for the Girls Who Code Program, which raised the funds to purchase 2 brand new computers and pay for computer instructor time, as well as Internet expenses and ice cream for all the Read-A-Thon students. FOA is also grateful for her donation of a new laptop and camera with tripod and for the poster celebrating the efforts of Mounir Shita, FOA's computer coding instructor.

Kingsley Elorm Kwaku Leh

Kingsley is FOA's volunteer extraordinaire. He has been volunteering with FOA for over a year and his shining presence and golden heart evoke smiles everywhere he goes. Not only does he teach our computer training and coding courses, but he is a volunteer at every FOA event, as well as steadfastly encouraging our students as they learn business skills and take on their arts and crafts training at Nunya Village.

Stella writes that "Kingsley's love for children is profound and unwavering. His patience shines through in every interaction, as he takes the time to listen and understand their needs, making them feel valued and heard. He finds joy in their curiosity, often engaging them in thoughtful conversations that spark their imagination and creativity. His passion for nurturing young minds is evident in his dedication to creating a positive environment where children can thrive. Whether it's through educational activities, storytelling, or simply playing, Kingsley invests his energy in ensuring that every child feels safe and he encourages them to explore the world around them.

As a dedicated educator, Kingsley makes a lasting impact in his community through teaching and volunteer work. Currently, he serves as an elementary teacher at Adaklu Dawanu Salvation Army Basic School...His commitment to education and community development inspires positive change."



Kingsley believes that each child is a gift, and he works hard to nurture each child's individuality and creativity, showing them through his actions and his caring that they matter to him. Needless to say, he is a great favourite with the children of Adaklu.

Mounir Shita

FOA owes a huge thank you to outstanding teacher Mounir Shita (aka Teacher Mo) who has voluntarily taught FOA's on-line computer coding class for the past year. His dedication to empowering our students is laud worthy.



Although Mounir does not live in Ghana that has not stopped him from teaching computer coding to Adaklu's young people. He has also been mentoring Kingsley making sure he has the skills necessary to teach coding.

Raphael Caron

FOA's dear friend and constant supporter, Raphael, not only sponsors a child's education, but has turned his birthday into an annual fundraiser; in lieu of getting birthday presents, he asks for donations for FOA. He even moved his birthday fete from a private venue to the local café so more people could attend.



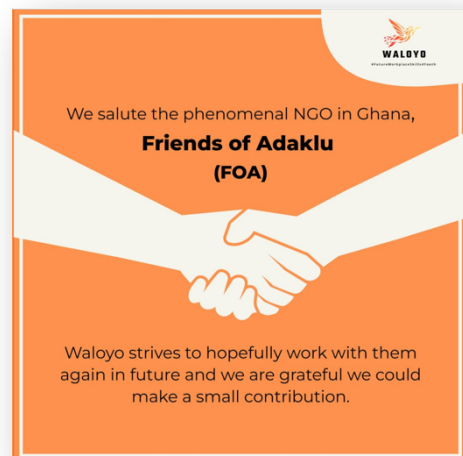
Although Rafael is the stable manager at a breeding facility for the worlds rarest donkeys, he devotes much of his spare time to raising funds and spreading the word about Friends of Adaklu.

Waloyo

FOA and Waloyo worked together to raise funds for the purchase of 4 desktops computers complete with monitors, webcams, headsets with microphones, and wireless cards for internet access to help our computer students make sure they get the most out of their Digital Skills Classes. We are enormously grateful to Waloyo for their on going support and their efforts to bring computer training to the people of Africa.



Thanks to Waloyo for raising funds for 4 brand new computers.



What people are saying....

[Ssengoba Stephen](#)

Wowow that's so amazing we thank God who use you people I see the great work yoor doing to bring a smile.

[Eyram Gbedemah](#)

The spirit of positively impacting on the future leaders today. Friends of Adaklu, you do all. We are proud of you.

FOA is touching lives in varied forms.....

[Eyram Gbedemah](#)

Sponsoring programs and projects of Friends of Adaklu is the best support one can give to humanity. This is because F. O. A. is there serving humanity in the areas of education, health and more.

[Elorm Wolf](#)

Friends of Adaklu, we stand as one
United in our hearts, until the day is done
We'll lift each other up, and never give up the fight
Friends of Adaklu, shining bright



Famous Agbesi Yabani

17 December 2024 · 🌐

God blessed you for wonderful work done in Ghana

[Nicole Johnston](#)

Oh my Goodness I love this Organization. You guys are selfless and your souls are beautifu

Hubert Agboklu

Building future leaders with local materials...kudos to friends of Adaklu.

**Let me say that Friends of Adaklu is gift to
Ghana, Volta Region and the people of
Adaklu.**

Famous Agbesi Yabani

God blessed you for wonderful work done in Ghana.



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 all cherish. We have chosen our spot in the world and will continue to work hard to help the people of Adaklu help themselves.

FOA Makes the NEWS

..... several times. It seems word is getting out.

Joy News TV Report on Ultrasound Pilot Training in Adaklu District

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbO5FnI0YEI>

Joy News TV Report on the Girls Who Code Program

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/Fwx7GWNWVh6SwPuZ/?mibextid=CTbP7E>

Give Right Foundation, Friends of Adaklu pilot handheld ultrasound device service in Adaklu District

https://www.myjoyonline.com/give-right-foundation-friends-of-adaklu-pilot-handheld-ultrasound-device-service-in-adaklu-district/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIQD8pleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHYJ0eq2zmbVH8CT9F97jEyL8qOOpiusc0-55EAISlryc2tzM5b9pxAtlog_aem_vPWgqWJlbDS8x75GIZYOBQ

Empowering Girls in ICT: Fawe Ghana Advocates for Gender Equality in the Tech Sector

https://www.myjoyonline.com/empowering-girls-in-ict-fawe-ghana-advocates-for-gender-equality-in-the-tech-sector/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIQFwtleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHRArEV879wVTe4uHlh-8r46OPxQYmKGAUUfDAteoQkdD6dBofM1sXfleRg_aem_aoRg4LGZ9IVU5aox8KN6ng

Girls Who Code Program

<https://tinyurl.com/FOA-Computer-Grads>

Friends of Adaklu graduates 89 Children in Computing

https://www.modernghana.com/news/1355316/friends-of-adaklu-graduates-89-children-in-computi.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawIS921leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHfeSeytiJyABEI74Req-RelkezYpF0A-wAt02VJqqv50do3QIUZZo4Qe1A_aem_eBh3al826E-MrVx8QWOE5Q

45 Kids in Adaklu get Bikes to “Pedal to Excellence”

https://www.modernghana.com/news/1357670/45-kids-in-adaklu-get-bicycles-to-pedal-to-excell.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawIS_D9leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHRAHXLSEzC-uXgECWPWLhi7uHSu6VMHC4Fk6TO4ITZIwzVpeRendq4S3Sg_aem_M0ZRGr-cjU1-CXrkOYNbJQ

Friends of Adaklu Takes Children on Educational Tour at Ho Technical University

https://www.modernghana.com/news/1368126/friends-of-adaklu-takes-children-on-educational.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawIS_rtleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHXtTwWPqDXw6XcqI EOP7BxcusEt5wrpwSIXSmZsPS622Uwkf1DZ3d-5sXQ_aem_9s5_wF69aPZK125ZPyWLXw



Things to Keep In Mind As We Head Into 2025

- ❑ We need to develop computer training for the young, industrious adults who are falling through the cracks because they do not have the support they need to help them succeed.
- ❑ Since Adaklu is located in one of world's most impoverished and challenged regions, climate change has an exaggerated impact shrinking natural resources and increasing people's struggle for survival. That's why our projects need to be bolder, long-term, environmentally friendly, and sustainable.
- ❑ Problem situations 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 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 – education, mentorship, leadership, and training. Natural leaders, they have tirelessly mentored, facilitated, and encouraged the community to work towards solutions.
- ❑ FOA may be small, but it is a significant and recognized Change Agent in Ghana. FOA has demonstrated tangible successes that have led to better lives in a better world and people have taken notice. As small as we are, we are a global example.
- ❑ 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 2025 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.

2025'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 ultrasound training 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 ambassador.
- Get more children sponsored.
- Create a foundation to fund FOA through the coming generations.
- Create a sponsorship program for graduated students and for young adults.
- Get more bikes for kids and health care workers.
- Finish Nunya Village and get on-line store going.
- Identify more partners.

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) Contribute towards our computer training programs and help us buy computers and software and pay for an Internet connection.

5) Contribute towards the further education of a graduated student.

6) Contribute towards buying equipment and supplies for the Mimi RHC.

7) Contribute towards the WIN Pastry Project and help us train more women and buy cooking supplies and utensils.

8) Contribute towards the SHE Liquid Soap Initiative and help train more women and buy dispensing bottles for our soap.

9) Sponsor a pioneering farmer.

10) Talk to people about what we are doing.

11) Work in the media? - you might want to do a story on what's going on in Adaklu.

12) Hold a fund-raising event.



1 of FOA's rules is 'leave no one behind'. It is currently popular to focus on girls, and justly so since they have borne the brunt in many patriarchal cultures, but we need to be careful not to let the pendulum swing too far in the other direction; leaving people behind breeds the resentment, jealousy and rage that are at the root of the social change we are working towards.

Young men have hopes and dreams that deserve fulfilling, too. If we are deaf to them then we are losing the productive potential of half a culture and are throwing away the opportunity to find ways to build purposeful, self-reliant, communities.

FOA's Tenets

- Invest in people not buildings.
- Leave no one behind.
- Only financially support communal or social enterprises.
- Projects need to be bio-friendly and sustainable.
- Focus on development outcomes.
- Stay away from politics.
- Stay focused.
- Stay small.
- Be patient.
- Practice skills exchange.
- Program participants must share what they have learned.
- Never impose solutions.
- Help people thrive where they live.
- Stay humble and listen to the people of Adaklu; they know their environment and its challenges better than we do.

2024 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		
Anonymous	April/May Trip	11,000.00
Anonymous	New Truck Tires	615.00
Anonymous	Baking equipment	74.00
Anonymous	Stella Kudah Admin	5000.00
Anonymous	Nunya Village	85,000.00
Anonymous	Aug/Sept trip	15,000.00
Academy School Read-a-Thon	Computer supplies and bicycles	5,596.12
Christina Randanzo	Laptop and camera/tripod	1,3111.13
Dena Mackay	Pocket Change	30.00
Paul and Helga.	Miscellaneous	1,500.00
Paul and Helga	Truck insurance and Maintenance	2,500.00
Donations - Subtotal		127,626.25
GRAND TOTAL		147,761.25



Thank You for bringing hope into the world and for keeping it alive through your continued sponsorship. The funds 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



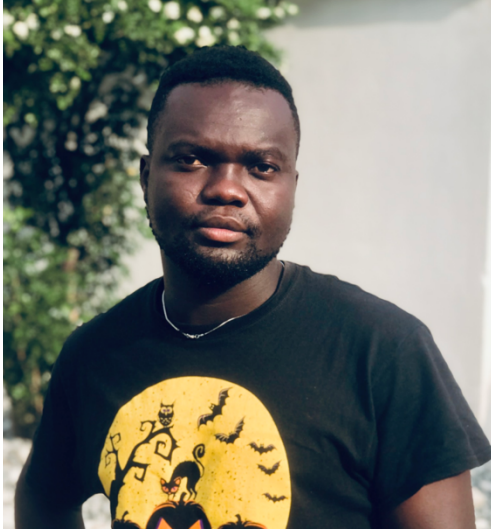
Stella Kudah
FOA- Ghana Director



Paul Andrew
Chief Financial Officer & Media
Officer



Helga-Liz Haberfellner
Founder & Executive Director



Kingsley Elorm Kwaku Leh
Tireless Volunteer



Christina Randazzo
USA Communications Liaison



Dr. Mimi Divinsky
FOA's Raison d'Etre