



GHEI Summer Serve and Learn projects for 2012 are described below. The programs begin June 4th and run until August 13th. For each session, volunteers spend sixteen days with GHEI, however, volunteers often travel before or after the session on their own.

[Session I – Girls’ Empowerment](#)

[Session II – Ghana Read and Play: A Celebration of Childhood Literacy](#)

[Session III – Kickin’ It In Ghana: Developing Teambuilding Skills and Community Participation in Youth Achievement](#)

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For additional information please visit our [website](#) or contact us at volunteer@ghei.org.

Session I – Girls’ Empowerment

June 4th - 20th, 2012

**Dates listed are the dates in which participants should arrive and depart Accra, Ghana if they are traveling with the group. On these arrival and departure dates, there will be GHEI staff to meet or drop off volunteers at the airport.*

Project Description

Volunteers will work with local staff to develop girls’ leadership and life skills and teach them about health issues relevant to young women. This intensive 2-week session with local middle-school aged girls will give them the opportunity to think about their futures and themselves in a new and broader context. Volunteers will meet with the girls daily for the majority of their time in the local community and will be in charge of coordinating a Girls’ Empowerment Camp.

This will be a deeply rewarding learning experience for the volunteers as well as the girls,



as both will be actively reflecting on what they are learning about each other and about issues that affect women globally. The volunteers also gain experience in teaching and mentoring the girls over the course of the session.

Background

Empowering and educating girls are essential elements in the fight against poverty. Educating and empowering one girl has an effect on her family and community; if she is given the opportunity to pursue her education, she is more likely to earn a better income and have fewer, healthier children when she decides the time is right. Without encouragement to pursue higher education and their dreams, young girls are often the first to stay at home and help with the immediate needs of the family versus investing in future opportunities. As girls enter pre-adolescence and adolescence, they develop new relationships with their peers, family members and adults. Strong communication skills and the ability to make good decisions, combined with accurate knowledge, can help ensure that girls have happy and healthy relationships and futures.

GHEI has been coordinating girls' empowerment camps in Humjibre since 2006 and has found that the young girls, in particular, thrive on and benefit from these experiences. Many of the girls have gone on to articulate their goals, apply for scholarships, and find a new sense of pride in themselves and what they can do for their community and immediate family. As an organization, GHEI strives to empower females year-round by targeting girls in all of our education programs.

Qualifications

Applicants from all backgrounds and majors are encouraged to apply.

Time Commitment

Volunteers will be expected to dedicate approximately three hours each week for the month preceding departure to research the topic and gather resources for an informal presentation of potential activities upon arrival in Humjibre. Volunteers will circulate and discuss ideas prior to departure, but the planning will also be the focus of the first few



days in Humjibre. Volunteers also participate in conference calls prior to departure.

Session II – Ghana Read and Play: A Celebration of Childhood Literacy
June 22nd - July 8th

**Dates listed are the dates in which participants should arrive and depart Accra, Ghana if they are traveling with the group. On these arrival and departure dates, there will be GHEI staff to meet or drop off volunteers at the airport.*

Project Description

Volunteers will design and run a two-week celebration of literacy using GHEI's yearly Read-A-Thon as a platform. Throughout the Read-A-Thon, volunteers will work one-on-one and with groups of children to teach the proper ways to handle books, and will help to develop the children's love for learning by exploring different themes of literature. Volunteers will also design and implement a literacy outreach for the local schools to encourage students to handle books properly and respectfully. It is important for volunteers to be able to share their own love of reading with all different levels of readers – from those that just enjoy the pictures to more proficient ones. This session will reward by giving volunteers a chance to experience the youth of Humjibre bountiful enthusiasm to learn as well as their joyous sense of fun!

The Read-A-Thon will culminate in a quiz competition and awards ceremony to honor the top readers in front of their families and the community. The volunteers play an integral part in planning and executing this exciting and highly anticipated event!

Background

Early exposure to rich language experiences and high quality instruction play a fundamental role in ensuring a child's later success. Children who experience early success in school are far more likely to graduate from high school, pursue higher



education and attain quality employment.

GHEI runs a variety of education programs for the children in Humjibre including a library, an early childhood literacy program and a youth education program. GHEI's library provides a focal point for the community to learn and explore the world of books. Our early childhood literacy program aims to instill an early love of learning for our kids age 5-10, while our youth education program (YEP) serves to supplement the learning of the top students in Junior High School (JHS).

Beyond events like the Read-A-Thon, GHEI and Humjibre are proud of their free library that is open to all. The first library was opened in 2005, but it moved to its permanent location in 2007 in order to accommodate more books and patrons. In 2009, GHEI greatly expanded its catalogue with a donation of 3,000 new books from Books for Africa. With books from the African Writers Series donated to us from Book for Africa we started a Reading Club in the spring of 2011. Once the Reading Club completed its first book GHEI held a Quiz Competition to test the students' knowledge and comprehension of the book. Due to its success, GHEI will incorporate the Quiz Competition into the annual Read-a-Thon in 2012.

In the summer of 2009, many volunteers spent a portion of their time with the early literacy program, and both the children and volunteers found the experience fun and exceedingly rewarding. This led to the first summer Serve and Learn group that focused on literacy in 2010. These volunteers were a part of GHEI's fourth and largest Read-A-Thon with approximately 400 active participants from kindergarten to middle school. In the summer of 2011 the participants increased to over 470, we hope to build on this success and further enhance the learning experience for the children.

Qualifications

Applicants from all backgrounds and majors are encouraged to apply. Previous experience working with young children is beneficial, but not required.



Time Commitment

Volunteers will be expected to dedicate three hours each week for the month preceding departure to gather resources and organize activities. There will also be conference calls prior to departure, which all volunteers are required to participate in.

Session III – Kickin’ It In Ghana: Developing Teambuilding Skills and Community Participation in Youth Achievement

July 10th – July 26th, 2012

**Dates listed are the dates in which participants should arrive and depart Accra, Ghana if they are traveling with the group. On these arrival and departure dates, there will be GHEI staff to meet or drop off volunteers at the airport.*

Project Description

Volunteers will work with local youth football (soccer) teams to improve teambuilding skills and good sportsmanship by running a football camp during which they will conduct various teambuilding exercises and engage in purposeful play. After the volunteers and participants have completed the camp, the session will close with the second annual GHEI Community Football Tournament. The football tournament is an event that is highly anticipated in the community and many people in Humjibre will attend as spectators. The chief, elders, and other VIPs may also attend to give their support to the youth in the community. As well being fun and exciting, the tournament will give the camp participants a chance to apply and demonstrate the important lessons on fair play that were cultivated in the camp.

Volunteers will also work to build the capacity of GHEI’s local staff by designing and leading one-on-one trainings to improve computer skills. These sessions will vary in topic and skill level depending on each staff member’s needs, and will provide the



volunteers with a unique opportunity to build cross-cultural relationships in a unique context.

Background

Football is a passion for Ghanaians and has many benefits for the country, including contributing to a sense of unity that has allowed Ghana to remain peaceful. Although concepts of team building are present in Ghana, they are not always emphasized. Poor sportsmanship is a problem that many teams struggle with and that hinders them from building on their strengths and becoming stronger players and a stronger team. A greater understanding of team building can help youth on the football field and in their communities. The end of this session will conclude with a two-day football tournament. A tournament is a great event for community building, especially when students, teachers, and community members come to cheer on the young people.

Capacity building is a part of GHEI's core values. It refers to building the skills and abilities of individuals, communities or organizations so that they can adapt and thrive. Knowledge of computers and technology is a critical element in the skill set needed to run a successful nongovernmental organization (NGO). GHEI strives for local staff to manage and lead the direction of our programs, but prior to working with GHEI, many of our staff had never used a computer. Now all staff members are able to use Microsoft Word, Excel, and Gmail at varying levels that are constantly improving. As each staff member is at a different level, individualized training is necessary and valuable.

This session involves building skills in GHEI staff for their ongoing work in the community, while also working with GHEI staff to build important teambuilding skills in the youth of the community.

Volunteers will work with GHEI staff and local teams in several teambuilding sessions that will culminate in a highly anticipated football tournament competition. Volunteers will also be building capacity in GHEI, by running one on one computer training sessions with staff.



Qualifications

Applicants from all backgrounds and majors are encouraged to apply. No advanced computer skills or soccer experience are necessary.

Time Commitment

Volunteers will be expected to dedicate three hours each week for the month preceding departure to gathering resources and plan activities. There will be two conference calls prior to departure, which all volunteers are required to participate in, to go over both project-specific material and general GHEI Information.

Session IV – Malaria Prevention: Community Health Evaluation

July 28th – August 13th, 2012

**Dates listed are the dates in which participants should arrive and depart Accra, Ghana if they are traveling with the group. On these arrival and departure dates, there will be GHEI staff to meet or drop off volunteers at the airport.*

Project Description

Volunteers will partner with a team of local community members trained in data collection to evaluate bednet usage and collect basic health indicators for the Humjibre community of over 4,000. Local staff and volunteers will administer a GHEI-designed, culturally appropriate questionnaire to a sample of households. Volunteers will be responsible for ensuring accuracy of data collected, as well as entering and managing the data.

This is a fantastic opportunity for volunteers to actively collaborate with GHEI Community Health Workers (CHW) in Humjibre. This process will give volunteers a detailed glimpse of the work of CHW's. It will also provide an incredible chance to be fully subsumed in the sights and sounds of the local community, as well as intimately get to know the warm and welcoming people of Humjibre.



Background

In Ghana, malaria causes more deaths in children under 5 years than any other disease (Countdown to 2015). Sleeping under an insecticide treated bednet can reduce mortality from any cause by 15-30% in children under age 5 (Phillips-Howard et al, 2003). However, bednet usage rates are generally poor throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

In order to increase usage rates, GHEI implemented an intervention in Humjibre in 2010 that involved a free bednet distribution with assisted hanging over every sleeping site, an in-home flipchart education and follow-up visits to ensure proper usage. Over 2,000 nets were distributed with the help of Serve and Learn volunteers.

In 2012, GHEI will conduct a survey to evaluate usage rates approximately 26 months after the full Humjibre distribution.

Qualifications

Applicants from all backgrounds and majors are encouraged to apply. No prior research experience is necessary, but a background or interest in public health and/or research would be particularly beneficial for the project.

Time Commitment

Volunteers will be expected to dedicate three hours each week for the month preceding departure to gathering resources and planning. There will be two conference calls prior to departure, which all volunteers are required to participate in, to go over both project-specific material and general GHEI information.