



GHANA

2022 BOOK DRIVE

CHILD2CHILD BOOK FOUNDATION ("C2C")
www.child2childbookfoundation.org



Arrival at the Kotoka International Airport, Accra, Ghana



Dear Donors, Friends and Family,

After a year of planning and fundraising, we are incredibly proud to inform you that the Child2Child Book Foundation (“C2C”) book drive in Ghana was a success! Who would have believed teenagers aged 11 to 14 in 2019 could register a non-profit in the USA and Nigeria to ship books to West Africa. To date, we have deployed approximately \$60,000 and shipped 44,000 books to Nigeria in 2021 and 20,000 books to Ghana in 2022. In addition to the book donations we made to schools in Kukurantumi and Tarkwa Breman in Ghana, Makoko and Abuja in Nigeria to name a few places, we also launched community libraries. We had reading sessions and activities with the children encouraging them to read, dream and achieve as we did.

This booklet focuses on our Ghana trip and how special the project was to us with five of six girls traveling to Ghana. Furthermore, it was the first time our team has been physically together since the pandemic.



C2C youngest founders Eline Asase and Amirrah Uwhubetine sorting and offloading container of books

First to arrive in Accra were Eline Asase and Amirrah Uwhubetine, our youngest founders. After a twenty-four hour delay and a ten-hour flight from Washington DC, the girls arrived on Eline’s 15th birthday. We celebrated her special day with family, but then immediately commenced work at Ghana Book Trust (“GBT”), Book For Africa’s affiliate in Accra. We needed to inspect and sort the 20,000 books we shipped in early May from Atlanta, Georgia. There was no time for jet lag!



Eline Asase on her 15th birthday



Eline's commissioned artwork



Eline's commissioned artwork

The next day, Eline delivered several of her commissioned artwork to their rightful owners; partial proceeds of her sales were donated to C2C.

Founders Sedinam Asase and Azzarrée Uwhubetine arrived next, flying in from California and France respectively. Navigating the Kotoka International Airport on their own was a breeze for these globetrotters. The very next day, all four girls were off to more adventures which took them to 5 out of the 16 regions of Ghana.

Tarkwa Breman, Western Region

We left Accra for our first destination, Tarkwa Breman, to visit the Tarkwa Breman Girls' School ("TBGS") in the Western Region of Ghana. Built by Mr. Shadrack Osei Frimpong, founder of non-

profit Cocoa360, the school was funded with The President's Engagement Prize of \$100,000 from the University of Pennsylvania where Mr. Frimpong obtained his first degree. Mr. Frimpong who grew up in this village said that due to superstitions and local beliefs, there was no emphasis on educating girls, and they fell prey to sexual abuse and unwanted pregnancies. He used the prize money to build a clinic and a school dedicated to girls. The school and clinic serve Tarkwa Breman and eight surrounding villages.

Our partnership with Cocoa360 and TBGS was timely because the school had a new library but did not have any books. Of the 20,000 books we shipped to Ghana, we donated over 7,000 books to TBGS, but first we had to get to the school which was over 203 miles (328 kilometers) from Accra!



Eline Asase, Amirrah Uwhubetine, Sedinam Asase and Azzarrée Uwhubetine ready for the 9-hour adventure to Tarkwa Breman

The journey to the school was an adventure in itself. We left the house at 12 noon to take a forty-five minute flight from Accra to Takoradi in a small plane, then drove the rest of the way. Although we had been warned about the roads, we were not prepared for how bad they were. With no internet or distractions from Instagram, we were forced to connect with our surroundings. We passed small bustling towns on the way, bringing back childhood memories of chickens chased in horror by excited children and little boys playing soccer practicing to be the next Abedi Pele.

The excursion was mostly made up of dirt roads with potholes the size of a mini cooper. The expedition had us in a trance, swaying left to right and jerking forward and back trying to avoid the potholes or easing our way into them. The anticipated three-hour ride took us six hours! It was insufferable, the drive was long and difficult, but we are grateful to Uncle Christian who gave us a fully air-conditioned car for the road trip. We can't imagine having to endure this in 90 degree Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius) weather too!

As day turned to night, we found ourselves surrounded by pitch darkness, woods on either side, the dirt road looked like a path in a rainforest and we could only see as far as the car headlights. We even came upon a real life hunter with his headlamp and rifle. We were startled, and did not realize when we all shouted "Jesus!" in unison.

By this time, we had lost mobile coverage and were at the mercy of the driver, Mr. Agyepong, and our downloaded directions to the school. Nine hours later, we eventually arrived at Tarkwa Breman where the Head of the School, Mrs. Janet Anafo ("Auntie Jane" as the kids fondly called her) and some school officials were anxiously waiting for us, as we had not been able to communicate with them for about three hours prior to our arrival. We had a warm welcome at Mr. Shadrack Frimpong's family home where we stayed for the next three days. Our journey was quite an



| C2C Founders on flight to Takoradi, Ghana



| C2C Founders on road to Tarkwa Breman, Ghana



| Dirt road to Tarkwa Breman, Ghana



| C2C reception at the Tarkwa Breman Girls' School

experience, however we were rewarded the next day when we met the students and the rest of the school.

That morning, a few of the TBGS students dressed in colorful wrappers, gave us a heart-warming welcome with school chants and a cultural dance show. We joined them in dancing Agbaja, a local dance from the Volta Region where founders Sedinam and Eline's family are from. Their warm smiles melted our hearts, and everyone forgot about the six-hour ride and pothole-infested dirt road.

The TBGS Library was a big room warmly painted with green walls, wooden desks, chairs and empty bookshelves. With the help of a few students and teachers, we filled the library with 7,000 books! We then dove into C2C's fun reading and art activities. Each of us held a reading session with a group of students. We discussed their favorite books, but most of the children had the same favorite book since there were not many

to select from, prior to our book donation. The students were eager for book recommendations and the big green library looked small as the children filled the room. We started to worry if we had donated enough books for these excited young girls.

As a way to engage with the students and learn their personal stories, Amirrah and Eline led a session of bracelet making. What was planned for seven student leaders, grew to over thirty students, teachers and faculty. We had planned for them to spell out their favorite subject, but quickly realized we did not have enough lettered beads to make thirty "I love Science", so we asked them to spell out their names with the beads or a special word they wanted to remember. The origami, folding small colorful squares of paper into animals, was a hit as well. The excitement emanating from these kids was so palpable that the room was literally bursting! Everyone wanted to take part in the activities we offered. It was an exhilarating experience, one we will never forget.



Empty bookshelves at TBGS Library



Students at TBGS present C2C with an appreciation plaque



Books donated by C2C filled the bookshelves at the TBGS Library



Dancing Agbaja



Sedinam reading to TBGS students

Group picture with students at TBGS and C2C founders



Art activity with Eline and Amirrah



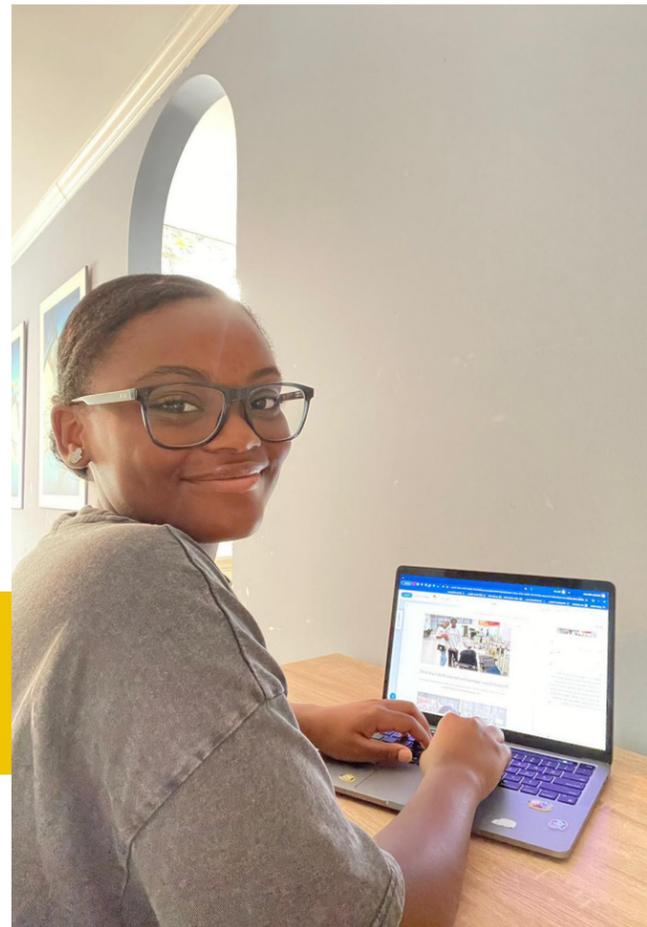
C2C Presenting books to the Head of the School, Mrs. Janet Anafo



Azzarrée, Eline, Amirrah and Sedinam at Cocoa360 Office

After our wonderful time in Tarkwa Breman, we made the six-hour journey back to Takoradi. It was just as bumpy and uncomfortable as before, but it definitely felt more satisfying after the amazing experience we shared with the girls at TBGS. At Takoradi, we stayed in a lovely hotel named The Palms By Eagles, (highly recommended if you are ever in the area) and had an amazing time all thanks to our wonderful Uncle Christian, the owner, who donated three rooms and prepared a feast fit for Queens!

In the meantime, back in the US, our team member Olivia Matthews was busy updating our website and instagram pages to keep our donors informed.



| Olivia Matthews updating our donors on Instagram and C2C website www.child2childbookfoundation.org



| C2C Founders: Eline, Amirrah, Azzarrée and Sedinam at The Palms by Eagles in Takoradi, Ghana



| Thank you Mr. Agyepong for taking such good care of us on the road and for the history lesson during the drive through Elminia

Elmina, Central Region

After a restful stay at The Palms By Eagles, we were ready to head back to Accra, but not before a quick stop at the Elmina Slave Castle in the Central Region. In 2015, the founders explored



Ghana, visiting tourist sites like the slave castles, Akosombo and the Kakum forest canopy walk. Given our tight schedule, we only had time for a quick stopover to recreate an old picture. Check out how much we have grown over the last seven years!



| Eline, Azzarrée, Sedinam & Amirrah at Elmina Castle 2015 (left) and 2022 (above).

Akorkope, Volta Region

For our second destination, we visited a school sponsored by another non-profit organization called Pencils of Promise (“PoP”), in Akorkope, located very close to the Togolese border in the Volta Region. We awoke at 4am to commence the three-hour journey with much better roads. This visit was very meaningful for Eline and Sedinam, as their extended family is from this region. We arrived early to help with the set up, arranging chairs, banners, our donated books, and had the opportunity to engage with some of the older students before the program started. There was a special celebration to commemorate ten years of PoP operations in Ghana, where we enjoyed another cultural dance performance from the

children wearing their brightly colored outfits. We donated 5,000 books to PoP and once again felt like we did not bring enough for all the students.

The uncompleted building where the program was held had doors but no windows and the extended community and other children could join in the fun. During the program, Sedinam was invited to read a passage in a book, and give a motivational speech as part of a panel with the Education and Health Service government officials. Although the youngest on the panel, Sedinam drew from her own personal experience to tell the children that “patience” is key to achieving your dreams. The students, eager and curious, were quick to respond to questions asked by the panelists, demonstrating their brilliant minds.

In addition to donating books, Amirrah and Eline shared with a group of children the intricacies of origami. For the origami exercise we had five children from five grade levels, but as we progressed, the crowd grew. We made several different animals and had fun asking questions like “what shape is a fish’s nose”! Overall, we left

Akorkope feeling proud, grateful and hopeful that we had touched lives. We felt fortunate to be able to give to the thousands of children in this community and hope they will one day do the same. We can’t wait to see what the future holds for these children.

Pictures from the PoP/C2C event



C2C Founder, Sedinam at the PoP/C2C event



Accra, Greater Accra Region

Our hard work was attracting a lot of attention, and we were invited to host a TV show dedicated to teenagers called Teens Time at Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (“GBC”). We had a light-hearted and informative conversation on volunteering and how teenagers everywhere can get involved in their own communities.

The host for the show was Azzarrée and the link to this recording can be found on our website www.child2childbookfoundation.org.



| Azzarrée hosting Teens Time

The following day, we were back to work at GBT where we finished unloading our container of books into two vans. One was headed to Kukurantumi, the location of our next project, and the other one to Tema where our last two donations were held.

After emptying our container, we headed over to GBC again for a live TV interview on a show called Women’s Voice where we had a platform to talk about the low levels of literacy in Ghana. The link for the show can also be found on our website.



| C2C Founders



| C2C at GBC-TV



| C2C interview on Women's Voice



| Sedinam Asase, Eline Asase, Isabelle Quaynor, Amirrah Uwhubetine and Azzarrée Uwhubetine at the US Embassy in Accra

Another highlight of the trip was being invited to the U.S. Embassy in Accra. Team member Isabelle Quaynor, who had just arrived from Lagos, Nigeria, joined the founders for an exciting and educational experience.

C2C was given a tour of the embassy and had an eye-opening conversation with Ms. Amyre Bandom-Skinner concerning Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), foreign service, and ways to procure possible funding for our foundation. It was one of the more relaxed trips with fancy conference room seating and even a U.S. Embassy backdrop for our pictures!

Kukurantumi, Eastern Region

Our next book drive destination was to Kukurantumi where C2C commissioned the Presbyterian Basic Schools’ first library. The Alice Abrokwa Appiah Library, was in honor of Sedinam and Eline Asase’s great grandmother, and established in the same classroom where Mrs. Appiah had taught first grade students as the first female teacher of the school. With your donations C2C was able to refurbish the classroom. We renovated the outer walls, ceiling, windows, made bookshelves, painted the building and decorated the walls with inspiring quotes.

The library donation was timely. Given the school's poor historical performance, its new headmaster implemented reading campaigns to improve literacy levels with a focus on the younger children. He also started a community engagement program to get parents' buy-in to push his agenda of increased academic performance during his tenure. Initially, the library will serve the 352 students in the Presbyterian Basic Schools from Kindergarten to the Secondary School level. It will, however, eventually be open to children from other schools in the village once a full-time librarian has been secured. The 6,000 books donated will therefore serve thousands of students once it is fully operational as a neighborhood library.

The commissioning of the library was a grand affair. The turnout was enormous which included Mrs. Appiah's extended family, students and parents of the Presbyterian Basic Schools, church members and other villagers who all came to celebrate with us. We also had dignitaries like the Municipal Chief Executive for the Abuakwa North District, Alhaji Umar Babs Bodinga and a representative for Ghana Library Authority. The school children put on a great show with poetry

| Building donated by the Presbyterian Church and renovated by C2C

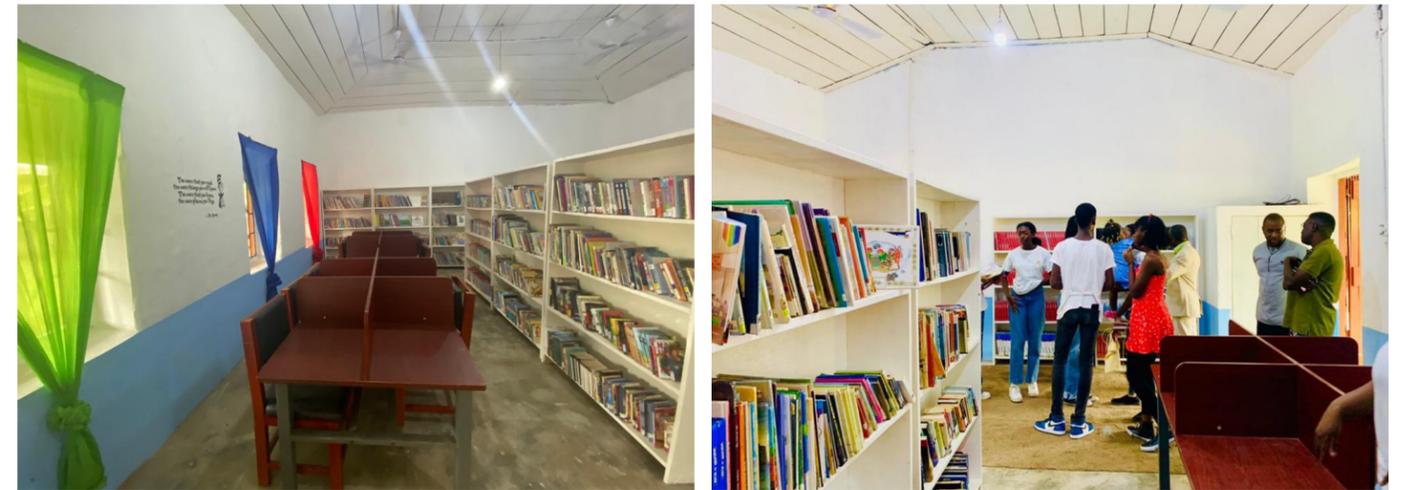


recitals and local dance performances. Alhaji Bodinga, in his address to the audience, highlighted the need for the students to take advantage of the C2C book donation and promised to continue to engage with other communities in his district to address their educational needs.

After the library dedication, it was such a gratifying experience to see the students enjoying the books. We read and engaged with the students, and had the opportunity to interview with the GBC journalist covering the event. The news report can be found on our website.

Eline and Amirrah once again led their fun origami demonstration which was a hit with both students and teachers. It was a fun day filled with smiles and excitement but most of all, we were so grateful to have the opportunity to change the educational trajectory of children.

Two of our members departed after this event. Amirrah returned to the US after missing a few days of school, and Isabelle traveled back to Lagos. It was sad to see them leave, but the show had to go on!



| Newly renovated Alice Abrokwa Appiah Library



| Isabelle and Amirrah in a reading session



| C2C with school children

Tema, Great Accra Region

Our final book drive was in Tema where we visited two schools on our last day in Ghana: The Oyster Academy and SOS-Hermann Gmeiner International College.

We visited The Oyster Academy, a school for children between the ages of two and sixteen. Due to space constraints, the school runs the “library in the classroom” model. We presented about 1,200 books to the academy including a selection of special Boys and Girls Empowerment books to support its literacy program and improve the students’ access to a diverse range of books in each classroom. Our favorite part of the visit was

| C2C with The Oyster Academy, Head of School Mr. Issac Waddy and owner Mrs. Clara Appiah-Korang



the opportunity to engage with the students. We discussed their favorite books, gave a lot of advice about staying focused on their education and answered many questions about everything under the sun. We left our visit knowing that our books will continue to generate interesting classroom discussions and felt confident we had made yet another huge impact on 127 students.

Our last visit was to SOS-Hermann Gmeiner International College (“HGIC”), a boarding school which runs the International Baccalaureate (“IB”) program where the students are encouraged to

display selfless devotion to community service through the IB’s Creativity, Action, Service (“CAS”) program.

As part of their CAS project, the final year students had identified a need in the local community. The library at one of the government/public schools, the Community 8 No 2 Schools, needed a new collection of books for its students. In addition to the book donation, the HGIC students also wanted to run reading clinics and tutorials especially for the younger students in the community to instill in them the importance of reading. When we found out about their project and the challenges they were having with fundraising, it was a no brainer for us to lend a hand.

| C2C with students of SOS-HGIC in Tema



We had been blessed by our donors so it was only right that we also help them get a step closer to completing their project. We donated about 800 books and it was incredible to be in the presence of other teenagers who were also giving back to their local community. What was expected to be a short visit turned into a long and engaging stay at the school. We started with a tour of the school’s facilities and even ran into old family friends from Nigeria. The HGIC students hosted our team for lunch which was a great opportunity to trade teenage boarding school stories. The students were very kind and

we felt at home. We even made a few friends we are keeping in touch with!

All too soon we had to bid farewell to Ghana. Overall, it was a successful trip and we left very confident that our books and libraries will impact thousands of lives. The icing on the cake was receiving an email from BBC Africa What’s New for an interview. Link to the interview can be found on BBC Africa What’s New (<https://youtu.be/HmNIQsnTT9o>) and our website.

C2C would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to all our donors, friends and family for supporting us on this journey: Books for Africa, Mr. Fotemah Mba, Ghana Book Trust, Tarkwa Breaman Girls School, Cocoa360, Mr. Shadrack Frimpong and family, Mr. Christian Asante, Mr. Agyepong, Pencils of Promise, SOS-HGIC, The Oyster Academy, Mr. Mark Adade, The Presbyterian Church, Municipal Chief Executive of Abuakwa North District, Ghana Library Authority, Mr. Daniel Awuah-Darko, Captain Prince Kofi



Amoabeng, Mr. Brian Frimpong, Mrs. Linda Quaynor, Ms. Celestine Avi (GBC), Ms. Victoria Abbew at Teens Time, Ms. Sarah Ofori (Women’s Voice), Mr. Fred Quame Asare (Joy Online), and Ms. Stefania Okereke (BBC Africa What’s New).

To our dear family and friends: We would not be who we are and where we are without you. Too many of you have donated your time and resources, encouraged us and loved us even when our idea was to carry books in suitcases to Nigeria and Ghana! How far we have come! Thank you, most of all, for believing in us and for teaching us that we can achieve anything if we put in the hard work.

Special shoutout to Grandpa Appiah-Korang and Auntie Claire for allowing us to invade their empty-nest in Ghana. Final thanks to our Board of Trustees who are also our managers, chaperones, beloved uncle and mothers. We could not have had a successful project without you and your guidance.

Love always

The Child2Child Book Foundation Team

To Donate, please visit:
www.GoFundMe.com/f/Child2ChildBookFoundation

| C2C founders volunteering at Books For Africa in 2019 where it all started



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