

# Ghanaian Institute for the Future of Teaching and Education (GIFTED) Women's Fellowship Program

Newsletter • Volume 2 • Issue 1 • January 2015

The GIFTED program is a leadership and professional development program that aims to build capacity in emerging female leaders in education. The GIFTED program is a partnership between New York University (NYU), University of Minnesota (UMN), Mujeres por Africa, and the University of Education, Winneba (UEW), sponsored by Banco Santander.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort of GIFTED Fellows began the program in June 2014 and implemented their change projects in September 2014. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort teams and the change projects that are making a difference in the lives of the girls in Winneba, Ghana.

**GIFTED Facts June 2013 – December 2014**

Region: <b>Winneba, Ghana</b>
Number of GIFTED Fellows: <b>24</b>
Number of Change Projects: <b>12</b>
Number of Participants Enrolled: <b>329</b>
Number of Club Sessions to Date: <b>307</b>



**Margaret & Aba**

Primary School

**Unique Girls' Club**

20 girls • Ages 9-14

At Margaret and Aba's school, girls are underrepresented in leadership roles. The club teaches leadership skills so the girls can become leaders at school and in the community, now and in the future.

*"Lead the way"* – Club motto



**Joyce & Eunice**

Primary School

**GIFTED Science Club**

22 girls • Ages 12-18

Girls in Joyce and Eunice's school do not perform as well in science as their male peers. The club engages girls with interactive science lessons that support the girls' school science curriculum. They want to increase girls' interest and performance in science to show girls that science is not just for boys.

*"Science is cool"* – Club motto



**Yacoba & Vivian**

Junior High School

**Goal Getters Club**

25 girls • Ages 12 -18

At Yacoba and Vivian's school, girls regularly dropout of school and teenage pregnancy prohibits girls from continuing their education. The club combines lessons on sexual and reproductive health and performing arts to teach girls about safe health practices so they can stay in school.

*"Education: our priority"* – Club motto



**Yvonne & Roberta**

Junior High School

**Intellect Girls' Club**

25 girls • Ages 15-18

The club targets girls who are low performing in mathematics. Yvonne and Roberta teach math skills combined with practical hands-on activities to improve girls' performance in mathematics so they can pass the senior high school entrance exam and continue their education.

*"We mean success"* – Club motto





**Emma & Lily**  
*Primary School*  
**Pacesetters Girls' Club**  
**27 girls • Ages 10-14**

Emma and Lily's school is located in a rural village outside of Winneba and girls do not regularly attend school. The club teaches soap making and entrepreneurial skills to keep girls in school. They are equipping girls with vocational and business skills to be financially independent in the future.

*"You are stronger than you think you are!"* – Club motto



**Georgina and Hajira**  
*Primary School*  
**Innovative Girls' Club**  
**14 girls • Ages 10-16**

Georgina and Hajira teach at the only Islamic school in Winneba. Girls at their school regularly miss or are late to school. The club uses photography as a way to engage girls and bring them to school. Girls are learning how to represent themselves and their community through visual arts.

*"We are the creative professionals"* – Club motto



**GIFTED Updates**

December Visit

- ❖ December 2014 visit by NYU/UMN team
  - Visits to cohort 2 clubs for monitoring and observation of club activities.
  - One-on-one leadership training with GIFTED Fellows to discuss their leadership development goals.
  - Data analysis workshops for both cohorts to learn how to analyze their data so they may measure program outcomes and improve club programming.
  - Meetings to discuss strategies that support the on-going sustainability of GIFTED clubs.

Cohort 1

- ❖ One of the GIFTED teams was awarded a \$1000 competitive, international grant for the sustainability of their change project!
- ❖ The clubs have enrolled over **75** new program participants for the 2014-2015 academic year!
- ❖ GIFTED Fellows are working with local businesses and NGOs to secure support for the continuation of the GIFTED clubs.
- ❖ Teams presented the sustainability of their change projects to Alicia Cebada, Project Manager of Mujeres por Africa.

**What's Next for GIFTED**

Winter/Spring 2015

- ❖ Faustina, GIFTED 1st cohort Fellow and Municipal Girls' Education Officer for the Ghana Education Service, will conduct a one-day training on the safety and protection of female students in schools and the community.
- ❖ Group mentoring circles will be introduced in order to strengthen the GIFTED support network.
- ❖ Grant writing workshop to help Fellows sustain their change projects by seeking local and international support.

*A special thank you to Prof. Akwasi Asabere-Ameyaw, Vice-Chancellor of UEW, and Rev. Fr. Prof. Anthony Afful-Broni, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of UEW, for their continued support of the GIFTED program.*

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