

2011 HOLIDAY UPDATE

THE SCHOERKE FOUNDATION



THE GRADUATES OF 2011 AND GRADUATION DAY PARADE

WARM HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES

Especially at this time of year, we want to express our deep appreciation for your ongoing support of the Schoerke Foundation and its work on behalf of out students at Heritage Academy and other schools in Ghana. Thanks to you, we continue to turn dreams into realities by providing transformative

educational opportunities for young people. Momentum is building: what began as a tiny school of 32 students in 2004 is now a thriving institution – with a brand-new secondary school – of over 1,200 students! Demand continues to grow for the progressive education Heritage offers, made possible by

funding from the Schoerke Foundation. Heritage graduates once again achieved a phenomenal 100% pass rate on the national exams administered at the end of junior high (60% rate is the norm, nationwide), and all have gone on to secondary schools throughout Ghana and the United States.



BOARD CHAIR ROY ORTMAN VISITS SUMMER SCHOOL



SUMMER GRANT RECIPIENT DENALI DHAL PLAYS AMPE WITH STUDENTS



F&M VOLUNTEER JESSICA DUNBAR LEADS A READING GROUP

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2011:

- We've launched a new website at www.schoerkefoundation.org. It lets us tell the Schoerke story more effectively, and making a donation is now easier than ever. Friend us on Facebook to follow news of Heritage and the Schoerke Foundation. And as you join in the dialogue, help us spread the word!
- This holiday season, are you looking for meaningful gifts that support a good cause? Check out our Etsy site for one-of-a-kind items made by Melissa and Megan Rose: www.etsy.com/people/FriendsofHeritage?ref=pr_profile
- The Board recently added 2 new members: Ellis Manning is a CPA who has become Director of Finance, and Dan Grebb (who built the beautiful new website) serves as webmaster and digital communication specialist. To a chorus of thanks for her dedication and service, Kim Brosnan-Myers has stepped down from the Board.

THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS IN THE PAST, THE FOUNDATION HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR HERITAGE TO BRING ABOUT TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IN THE LIVES OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN.

These students are our bright hope for the future. Having experienced Heritage Academy's progressive education – with its emphasis on critical thinking skills, empowerment for young girls and respect for every student – they embody its motto of "Knowledge and Integrity" as they carry forward the Schoerke Foundation's mission of changing lives through education in Ghana and the U.S.



WELCOME SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS!

THE NEW HERITAGE ACADEMY SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL OPENED ITS DOORS ON OCTOBER 11, NOW MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR HERITAGE TO SERVE STUDENTS FROM PRE-KINDERGARTEN ALL THE WAY THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. KESTER HALL (RENOVATED WITH A VERY GENEROUS GRANT FROM DANIEL KESTER AND FAMILY) HAS SIX FINISHED CLASSROOMS ACCOMMODATING 100 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. SPECIAL THANKS TO THE COLTMAN FOUNDATION FOR ITS DONATION OF 200 NEW DESKS.

SUMMER SCHOOL BY THE NUMBERS

230 SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE 7TH-9TH GRADE PROGRAM; 24 HERITAGE GRADUATES AND 18 AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS



WORKED SIDE BY SIDE AS TEACHERS AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS; AT A SITE ACROSS TOWN, MEMBERS OF THE HERITAGE CLASS OF 2007 WORKED WITH A PROGRESSIVE LOCAL TEACHER TO SERVE ANOTHER 150

STUDENTS. CONGRATULATIONS TO AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DENALI, ANNE-CLAIRE AND WILL, SCHOERKE FOUNDATION GRANT RECIPIENTS WHO TRAVELED, STUDIED AND TAUGHT IN GHANA.

YOUR GIFT CHANGES LIVES



WITH SUCCESS COME CHALLENGES: AS DEMAND GROWS, ATTRACTING AND RETAINING GOOD TEACHERS HAS BECOME MUCH MORE COMPETITIVE AS A NEW HIGHER SALARY SCALE HAS BEEN INSTITUTED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS. SO, TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING AND TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND PROGRAMS, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER.

With profound gratitude, we look forward to 2012 as a time of continued growth and achievement.
Melissa Koomson, Executive Director
Roy Ortman, Chair