

Dear everyone, who helped me reach my goal of volunteering in Ghana!

Let me start off by saying a huge thankyou to every single one of you, who went out of your way to help me have the most amazing experience of my life, without you I wouldn't have been able to raise all the money before going to Ghana and would have struggled to gain the money myself.

When I first arrived in Ghana, I was skeptical of how the trip would be but soon I settled right in and started to adapt to the non-working showers and toilets, as it helped me appreciate how lucky I was day to day at home with full basic needs and how the children in Ghana and other countries were so happy and joyful, yet they had little to nothing. At the start I also came face to face with reality not realizing how some people lived and worked yet they all seemed to be happy and smiling all the time which just filled me with joy seeing all these welcoming people who were willing to share anything and everything with us.

On the first day on teaching at my allocated school Woe E.P we were immediately greeted with smiles and welcoming arms from many teachers and children who were delighted to see us, I also had to get used to the children examining my hands and hair all the time too which I found funny! Me and some of my friends who were in a small group together



volunteered to take the youngest class (basic 1) they were called, at first they were sweet and just wanted to do handshakes and thumb wars all of the time but soon started to become cheeky as we were not as strict as their usual teacher, I now know where my sheets of stickers went ! and countless other items as well. Most days we would do coloring as they wouldn't get to do that normally and it's a fun bonding activity which helped me connect with the children



and have some laughs. On another occasion we decided to make a massive paper chain with all the children's drawings and names on, and some of the older children got involved too, which was very nice to see.

Whenever it was break time or lunch time for the kids they would all run out of the classrooms and caught on very quickly that we all had bubbles in our pockets so soon all of the bubbles had magically disappeared as well as most of our teaching resources, so instead we would be constantly doing handshakes that I now know off by heart as they taught me some new ones; I also really loved the constant cuddles with all of the young children who would run and jump on us and sometimes even fall asleep on us too 🥰

Throughout this entire trip the African adventures staff and our teachers were making sure we were all safe and happy, and a lot of us bonded well to the African adventures staff who enjoyed learning English teenager slang words which they found hilarious. On one of the evenings we got taught the Ghanaian language Ewe, the alphabet was very confusing, and the staff enjoyed teasing us on the pronunciation of the words that we attempted to say to the children. They also accompanied us to school every morning and



helped us gain control of the class who would only sit down whenever they walked in which we thought was funny.

When the weekend arrived, we were all exhausted however we were excited as we were going to the cape coast, it was a 6 hour drive there and a 6 hour drive back so a lot of travelling but it was worth it as when we arrived we visited the cape coast slave trade museum which was both horrifying but also interesting to listen to. We had our own personal tour guide who kept threatening to lock us in the dark chambers as he thought it was funny however we didn't 😊. After that interesting trip we arrived at our hotels which

were luxury compared to our hostel and we were all delighted to stand under a working shower!!!

After our nice weekend away, it was back to hot and sweaty teaching as the classrooms were 8 degrees hotter than outside so every 10 minutes, I had to take a couple minutes outside to cool off, however I did enjoy the warmth as back in England it was cold and rainy so I soaked in the hot and sunny weather for as long as I could.



On the last day at the schools, we all watched some celebratory dancing from the children who all seem to be born with amazing dance moves because some babies were even dancing to the music, we were also given a beaded bracelet as beads are very important and symbolic in Ghana. After what seemed like several million photos with all the children and staff, we headed back to the hostel for some food and then our bonfire and party night which in my opinion was the best night out of them all as they played some classic English songs which the African adventure staff and the chefs came out to dance to!

It then came to the Friday that most of us were excited and sad about as we were leaving Ghana, there was a ceremony and we all got given a scarf with our name on as well as the African adventure logo as a souvenir, and then it was time to leave for the airport and a very long overnight flight back to England.

Overall, this trip was absolutely incredible, the number of brilliant and kind people I met and many children I made friends with was just lovely and it is a trip which I will remember forever, I also hope to go back to Africa again as I loved it so much!! Again, thank you so much for everything and I hope you enjoy reading about my experience in Ghana!

Thanks so much! Molly Tarr

