

Global Citizen Journey

Grassroot connections. Bridges of peace.

Axim, Ghana, 2006: Western Heritage Home

In the fall of 2006, GCJ partnered with the Western Heritage Home to bring its second group of delegates (15 US and 13 Ghanaian) to the town of Axim, Ghana to build an orphanage and community center. Delegates were able to share technical skills and professional expertise, along with participating in workshops promoting cross-cultural understanding, compassionate listening, conflict resolution, gender dialogue, leadership skills and HIV/AIDS understanding. The delegates hosted a powerful Town Hall dialogue with a cross section of over 150 Axim citizens, from fish mongers to judges, youth, women, elders, Christians, Muslims, professionals and illiterates.

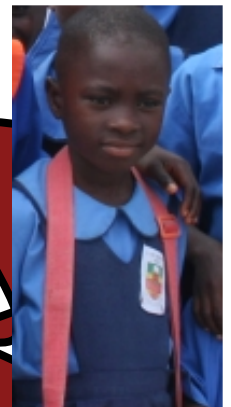


Delegates from Ghana and the US participate in a Town Hall discussion



Above: Delegates and Axim residents join together for a dance.

Below: Students at the Manye Academy



Western Heritage Home is a Ghana-based NGO formed for the purpose of building and managing the community center and orphanage and for bringing foreign nationals with particular expertise to Axim, with Mr. James Kainyiah serving as Chairman and host.

Since the initial trip to Axim, many US GCJ delegates have taken it upon themselves to return in order to continue to assist in the building project, train office staff in the use of computer software, and follow up on projects begun during the Fall 2006 visit, such as supplying a science classroom and Veronica buckets for hand washing and sanitation for Manye Academy, where many of the orphans attend.