



Ghana Health and Education Initiative, a nonprofit organization working in the Western Region of Ghana, provides innovative, self-paid internship and volunteer programs in international development. These programs offer participants the opportunity to develop and strengthen their skills in cross-cultural communication, project design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and community outreach. Participants will be immersed in a rural Ghanaian community and work alongside local staff members in support of GHEI's health and education programming.

[Session I – Literacy Promotion Project](#)

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For additional information please visit our [website](#) or contact us at [volunteer@ghei.org](mailto:volunteer@ghei.org).

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## **SESSION I – LITERACY PROMOTION PROJECT**

**JUNE 1ST – JUNE 30TH, 2013**

*Interns who are traveling with the group will arrive at and depart from Accra on the dates listed above. GHEI staff will meet/drop off interns at the airport on these dates.*

### **Project Description**

The Literacy Promotion Project will pilot the expansion of GHEI's Community Library programming to the rural community of Soroano. This literacy campaign aims to increase primary and junior high school students' ability to employ literacy strategies and effectively engage with books through a school-based outreach. The outreach will culminate with the provision of books to the Soroano primary and junior high schools and literacy skill development in the school community.

Before travelling to Ghana, literacy interns are responsible for completing an annotated literature review on literacy development, particularly in the African context, and the role of community libraries. Upon arrival they will work under the guidance of GHEI staff to develop and conduct a baseline survey to evaluate students' awareness and understanding of books, reading strategies, and basic literacy skills. Using survey results the interns will develop and conduct a comprehensive literacy outreach targeting lower and upper primary levels at Soroano Primary School, which will supplement the students' primary school education through innovative learning techniques. In the final stage of the project, interns will create



and conduct an evaluation survey, use the survey results and their literature reviews to prepare a final project report, and present project findings to local officials and staff.

In addition, project interns will play an instrumental role in establishing a monitoring and evaluation system for GHEI's continued Community Library programming in the Soroano community.

Upon completion of the program, interns will be responsible for conducting educational and promotional events in their home communities.

This is an excellent opportunity for candidates seeking to gain international experience in community outreach, literacy skill development, project design and management, and monitoring and evaluation.

### **Background**

Literacy is an essential prerequisite to full participation in Ghana's rapidly changing society, increasing the ability of individuals and communities to access educational, political, economic, and health related services and opportunities. The national literacy rate among adults in Ghana has risen significantly over the past two decades, from 58% in 1995-2004 to 67% in 2005-2010. However, the literacy rate among adults residing in rural communities, such as those in which GHEI works, remains considerably lower than the national rate, at 40%.

While many factors contribute to Ghana's literacy gap, a significant contributor is the lack of written resources available to residents of rural communities. GHEI aims to make such literacy-building resources accessible to all members of the communities we serve. GHEI has successfully operated the Humjibre Community Library since 2005 to increase community access to literary resources.

### **Qualifications**

A background in education, child studies, or international development may be beneficial, but applicants from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

### **Pre-Departure Time Commitment**

Interns are expected to dedicate 4 - 5 hours each week for the month preceding departure to completing their literature survey, gathering resources, and organizing activities. There will also be conference calls prior to departure that interns are required to participate in.



## **SESSION II – RURAL GIRLS’ HEALTH PROJECT**

**JUNE 1ST – JUNE 30TH, 2013**

*Interns who are traveling with the group will arrive at and depart from Accra on the dates listed above. GHEI staff will meet/drop off interns at the airport on these dates.*

### **Project Description**

The Rural Girls’ Health Project (RGHP) is a health campaign for female upper primary and early junior high school students from the rural community of Humjibre. Through school-based education on age-related health concerns, such as adolescent development, menstruation, and menstrual hygiene, the campaign aims to empower girls to participate fully in social and academic activities.

Interns will play an integral role in designing and facilitating the Rural Girls’ Health Project during its inaugural year. Before travelling to Ghana, RGHP interns are responsible for completing an annotated literature review on adolescent female development and hygiene, particularly in the African context, and will work with the Ghana-based health team to prepare for the project. Upon arrival, interns will work with local staff to design and conduct a culturally appropriate baseline survey to assess the students’ understanding of adolescent health and health management practices. Using survey results, interns will design and conduct health education outreaches targeting adolescent female students during their transition from primary to junior high school. Following this, interns will facilitate a culminating meeting with the student participants and community members and will conduct an evaluation survey to assess the impact of the project. Finally, using their literature reviews and survey data, project interns will produce a final report and present their findings to local officials and staff.

Upon completion of the program, interns will be responsible for conducting educational and fundraising events in their home communities.

This is an excellent opportunity for candidates seeking to gain international experience in adolescent and reproductive health, survey writing and administration, project design and management, and data analysis and report writing.

### **Background**

In rural communities in Ghana, the physical and emotional changes characteristic of adolescent development have a particularly significant impact on adolescent girls. Without access to information regarding bodily changes or health management skills, girls often miss school and exclude themselves from social activities rather than seeking advice from teachers or family members.



In recent years, Ghana Health Service (GHS) has developed a strategic plan to increase access to health education and services for adolescents. While GHS initiatives play an important role in providing youth-friendly services to Ghanaian adolescents, they are often carried out in urban areas. As a result, rural communities such as those in which GHEI works, do not always experience the full benefit of these initiatives. GHEI uses community-based health and education programming to close the gap between the health services available to urban and rural communities in Ghana.

### **Qualifications**

Backgrounds in adolescent health, global health, and data management are beneficial, but applicants from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

### **Pre-Departure Time Commitment**

Interns are expected to dedicate 4 - 5 hours each week for the month preceding departure to completing their literature survey, gathering resources, and organizing activities. There will also be conference calls prior to departure that interns are required to participate in.

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## **SESSION III – MALARIA PREVENTION: COMMUNITY HEALTH EVALUATION**

**JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> – JULY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

*Volunteers who are traveling with the group will arrive at and depart from Accra on the dates listed above. GHEI staff will meet/drop off volunteers at the airport on these dates.*

### **Project Description**

In partnership with a team of local community members who are trained in basic health services and data collection, volunteers will evaluate bednet usage and collect basic health indicators for the Humjibre community of over 4,000 people. Local staff and volunteers will work together to administer a GHEI-designed, culturally appropriate questionnaire to a sample of households. Volunteers will be responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the data, as well as for entering and managing the data.

Through close collaboration with GHEI's Community Health Workers, volunteers will gain detailed insight into rural health care and the work of CHWs, and have unique opportunities to visit people in their homes and enter into the life of the local community.

### **Background**

In Ghana, malaria causes more deaths in children under 5 years than any other disease. Sleeping under an insecticide-treated bednet can reduce mortality from any cause by 15-30%



in children under age 5. However, bednet usage rates are generally poor throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

In order to increase usage rates, GHEI implemented a multi-faceted intervention in Humjibre in 2010. This involved the distribution of free bednets, with assisted hanging over every sleeping site; in-home flipchart education; and follow-up visits to ensure proper usage. Over 2,000 nets were distributed with the help of Serve and Learn volunteers.

In 2013, about 38 months after the completion of bednet distribution to residents of Humjibre, GHEI will conduct a survey to evaluate usage rates.

### **Qualifications**

Applicants from all backgrounds and majors are encouraged to apply. No prior research experience is necessary, but a background or interest in public health and/or research would be particularly beneficial for the project.

### **Pre-Departure Time Commitment**

Volunteers are expected to dedicate three hours each week for the month preceding departure to gathering resources and organizing activities. There will also be conference calls prior to departure that volunteers are required to participate in.

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## **SESSION IV – GIRLS’ EMPOWERMENT**

**JULY 26TH – AUGUST 11TH , 2013**

*Volunteers who are traveling with the group will arrive at and depart from Accra on the dates listed above. GHEI staff will meet/drop off volunteers at the airport on these dates.*

### **Project Description**

Volunteers will work with local staff to develop girls’ leadership and life skills and teach them about health issues relevant to young women. This intensive 2-week session with local middle-school aged girls will give them the opportunity to think about their futures and see themselves in a new and broader context. Volunteers will meet with the girls daily for the majority of their time in the local community and will be in charge of coordinating a Girls’ Empowerment Camp.

This is a deeply rewarding learning experience for the volunteers as well as the girls, as both groups actively reflect on what they are learning about each other and about issues that affect women globally. The volunteers also gain experience in teaching and mentoring the girls over the course of the session.



### **Background**

Empowering and educating girls are essential elements in the fight against poverty. Given the opportunity to pursue her education, one girl can bring significant positive change to her family and community. Without this opportunity, young girls are often expected to stay home to care for family needs instead of investing in their future. Knowledge, good communication skills, and the ability to make good decisions can help girls make the most of their education and develop happy and healthy relationships while they are young. These girls go on to have greater earning potential and to have fewer, healthier children when the time is right for them.

GHEI has been coordinating girls' empowerment camps in Humjibre since 2006. Young girls, in particular, thrive on and benefit from these experiences. Many of the girls have gone on to articulate their goals, apply for scholarships, and find a new sense of pride in themselves and what they can do for their community and immediate family. As an organization, GHEI strives to empower females year-round by targeting girls in all of our education programs.

### **Qualifications**

Applicants from all backgrounds and majors are encouraged to apply.

### **Pre-Departure Time Commitment**

Interns are expected to dedicate three hours each week for the month preceding departure to gathering resources and organizing activities. There will also be conference calls prior to departure that interns are required to participate in.