Our Experiences

“My name is Alexis Roman and I graduated from ISP in 2013. I have undertaken two Humanitarian Projects at ISP, the first one in Namibia and the second in Ghana. If I could say one thing about these trips, I would say that it has been an amazing experience and I wish for every student at ISP to experience it. It is, without a doubt, a life changing experience. During these two trips, I have learned to work with people, be independent and, most of all, be caring. I have previously lived for 10 years in Africa, but these trips have truly helped me to open up to the world and to understand different cultures. I am grateful I have had the opportunity to gain this experience.”

- Alexis, Class of 2013, Namibia 2011 and Ghana 2012

“This experience in Ghana was incredible. We met so many different people, we helped the villagers build the new computer lab, it was hard work but we achieved our goal. I will never forget what happened over there, I was very touched by the sincerity and peacefulness of the people. We had lots of fun playing with the children.

This was also a very good experience of working in a team. Even though it was hard to ‘think’ as a group at the beginning, I think we were a pretty solid group at the end of the trip. The best part of the trip was the last week when we visited Ghana. It was very relaxing after two weeks of hard work.

I liked this trip so much that I am coming back next year for sure. :)

- Laetitia, Class of 2014, Ghana 2012 and 2013

What have we done so far?

On the previous two Humanitarian trips, we have gone to Tafi Atome, a village in the Volta region of Southeast Ghana. Last year, we worked hard for three weeks on projects such as teaching children, from pre-school to secondary science classes. Throughout the three weeks, we worked in the school to build a computer lab from scratch. We spoke to the locals in order to raise awareness about AIDS, HIV and the necessity of recycling. We cleaned up a large part of the nearby forest and by doing this we improved the living conditions of the wildlife and of the local community.

In collaboration with the Mathematics and Biology departments of our school in Paris, we studied the monkeys living within a large monkey sanctuary next to the village. We were able to observe them and learn a lot about how they live and survive in their natural habitat.
The Humanitarian Project

Having finished the renovations of the Omuhaturua School in Namibia over a period of five years, students from ISP will now travel to a village in Ghana to do humanitarian and environmental work. The ISP humanitarian projects began when geography students suggested to their teacher that rather than learn about developing countries by reading school books, it would be more interesting to go to one of these countries to gain a more personal and practical experience.

Approximately 20 high school students aged 14 to 17 will be participating in the trip to Ghana. We will be doing intensive community work in the Tafi Atome village in the Volta region of Southeast Ghana.

Throughout the year, the students will collaborate and work individually to raise money to buy the materials for building an orphanage in Tafi Atome. Students will also prepare classes at both primary and secondary school levels, as well as work on projects to raise awareness about HIV, AIDS and the local environment in the village. This will provide the students with a more varied learning experience and allow them to develop new skills. Students will also develop independence as they make their own food, clean up after themselves, and take care of each other.

In the village, there is also a monkey sanctuary, where the group will be learning to work alongside monkeys, clearing the trails and helping to maintain the site.

What do we do and why?

We have initiated this project in order to help people in less economically developed countries in Africa, with a focus on Ghana. We want to make a change and improve their lives by providing the children with education, tools and skills which will help them in the future. These changes will promote sustainable development in Ghana.

During our yearly humanitarian trips, we do not make donations to local charitable organizations. Instead we work more directly, in a team of volunteer students alongside the local people in order to undertake service projects that directly benefit the community of Tafi Atome. By contributing to a worthwhile cause, we hope to have a meaningful experience and build a spirit of friendship and solidarity that goes beyond the boundaries of politics, religion, race or geography. We will interact with children from other cultures; we will educate them, play with them, and form unforgettable friendships. We will raise awareness of diseases and promote personal hygiene, in order to help them become more conscious of basic health issues.

This trip will also help us to become more independent: we will have to learn and understand how to live in a small community such as that of Tafi Atome, by cooking for ourselves, washing our clothes and adapting to a new and challenging environment.

Our Aim

The aim of this year’s project is to improve living and learning conditions of the children in Tafi Atome village. We will be working for the benefit of the school children, painting and fixing walls, organizing classrooms and creating an orphanage in order to give a normal childhood to some of the many orphans in the area, who are otherwise subject to forced labor conditions. We will be raising money to cover the entire construction costs of the orphanage.

Who are we?

We are a team of high school students committed to forming a relationship between the International School of Paris and the Tafi Atome village in Ghana. Throughout the school year (from September to June), we will raise money by organizing a variety of school events, such as the Ghana Gala. We will also have ‘Movie Nights’, ‘Game Nights’, bake sales and school dances. Each member of the team does his or her own personal fundraising, through activities such as babysitting, dog walking, tutoring, and selling sweatshirts with the 2014 Humanitarian Project team logo. By June, each team member is expected to raise 700 Euros towards the cause. Over the course of the year, we will be forging a sense of community and team spirit, as well as improving our organizational skills with the ultimate goal of creating a sustainable long term project.