



# Opportunity Education Foundation

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## February 2013

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## **OEF invites you to share our Education Experience Trip to Ghana in June 2013**

**Who Should Go?** YOU! Educators, high school/college students, professionals - anyone willing to share their experience.

**What?** A trip of a lifetime!

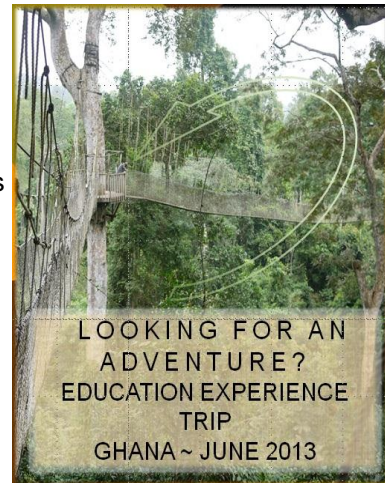
The trip to Ghana features an orientation, 5 days teaching in schools with the lodging options of a home stay with a local family or hotel. Our Trip also features an excursion to Kakum National Park & Elmina Slave Fortress while staying at a beautiful hotel on the South Atlantic Ocean! Based on current airfare, an estimate of trip expenses, including the lodging, meals and excursion would be \$3000-\$3200.

OEF scholarships are available. (see below)

**When?** June 14-23, 2013

**Why?** This is the most important question!

The main focus: to foster cultural awareness and professional development outreach through visiting African schools. You will experience the successes and struggles that African teachers face every day as you work with students improving their English skills. Connecting to classrooms not only promotes cultural understanding but also provides motivation - to all of the participants - to share & learn more.



## What can you expect on our trip?

Take a quick video vacation to learn more. <http://www.opportunityeducation.org/videos/load/ugandashort/>  
Want more info? [Click Here](#) or email [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) and we will send you everything you need.

## How to Pay for Your Trip - Grants & Scholarships

Opportunity Education wants you!

To share our Education Experience Trip to Ghana in June 2013.

**We are offering scholarships - to help offset the trip costs. All you need to do is email, "Send me the Trip Form" to [Schools@OpportunityEducation.org](mailto:Schools@OpportunityEducation.org)**

We will send you a registration form which also serves as an application for the scholarships we are awarding to participants. Fill out a five minute form for at least five hundred bucks..pretty simple!

**If you're on the fence, fill it out! We have extended the registration until Friday February 22.**

Other funding opportunities are available with outstanding organizations that support teachers. Last year we shared our Africa trip with 3 teachers who won a \$10,000 grant from Fund for Teachers. Check out the following links for the very easy application process.

<http://www.fundforteachers.org/funding-opportunities/index.php>    <http://www.fundforteachers.org/apply.php>

## What Doesn't Kill You Makes You "Stronger"!

Hear this hit song sung by megastar Kelly Clarkson at the  
Opportunity Education Foundation  
March 1, 2013 Benefit Concert in Dallas.

We are grateful that Kelly Clarkson, a Grammy-winning, multiplatinum singer and songwriter is performing at the Opportunity Education Foundation Benefit Concert.

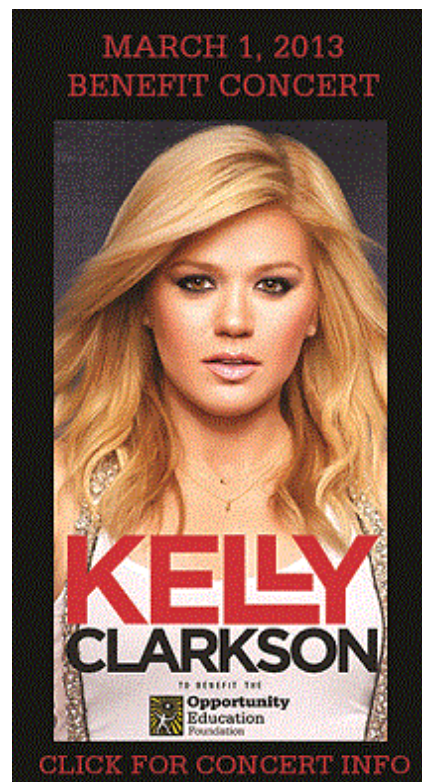
Her bold anthems of empowerment relay a message of strength and inspire hope!

This hope translates well to OEF plans to expand its mission to high school education both in the USA and abroad. As part of this wider mission, OEF is developing the Opportunity Tablet, a low-cost tablet loaded with powerful digital lesson plans that can be given free of charge to hundreds of thousands of disadvantaged kids.

Click here for more information.

Tickets are on sale now!

<http://verizontheatre.com/events/eventdetail.php?id=39313>



## What Are St. Rocco's Waves of Hope?

Despite facing their own struggles with water - due to Super Storm Sandy and the recent blizzard,

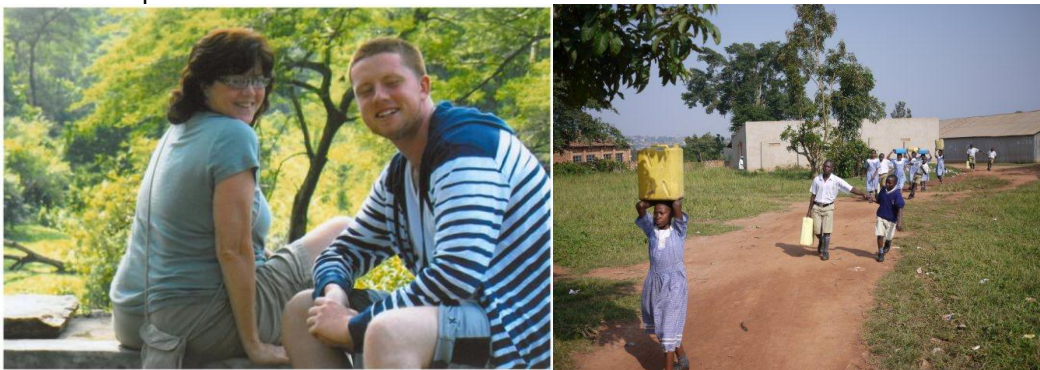
St. Rocco's School in Johnston, Rhode Island is working wonders with their Wave of Hope Fundraiser - [Click Here to Read More](#)

Pictured below, Maryann Bennett a teacher at St. Rocco's and her son, Christopher traveled to Uganda with OEF last July and came home with a mission.

The mission - to help keep kids in school, rather than spending hours collecting water.

Students in hot classrooms are forced to leave school early if they don't have water - or spend hours away from their classrooms walking to the nearest water source.

We are grateful for teachers like Maryann Bennett and schools like St. Rocco's - that are creating waves of hope all over the world!



## Start Writing to This School Now!

Ashok Memorial School, India

We still need your help!

We still need pen pals for:  
Students in grades 1-3  
Students in grades 4-5  
Students in grades 11-12.



Ashok Memorial School in India sent letters to our office hoping we could immediately find them a pen pal school. Last month we had 2 new sister schools start writing Ashok students in grades 6-8 and grades 9-10.

If you know someone who might be interested in jump starting a pen pal relationship, we can immediately send letters knowing that both teachers and students will enjoy getting to know this school.

Ashok Memorial has 2,400 students from preschool to grade 12. Established in 1984 it was named after the owner's son who was killed in a tragic accident. To help educate poor children, tuition fees are kept low ranging from \$15 to \$26 a year. The parents of these school children are largely uneducated and unable to provide educational support at home. Over 300 students travel 30+ miles from Delhi to attend this school.

Ashok describes itself as a progressive public school with due emphasis on Indian culture and values. Art, music and dance play an important role in the life of the school. Nishkam Karma - Service to Humanity - is the school's motto.

There are so many letters that each one of your students can have their own individual pen pal - or you can choose to write to the grade as a whole. However it works for you, works for us!

If you have a pen pal, [share the program with a friend](#).

Email [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) and note what grade you would like to write to and we will put the letters in the mail so you can get right to writing!

## Welcome New Schools



## **We are happy to welcome the following new schools:**

Fairhaven, Bellingham, WA  
WA Fraser Middle School, Abbotsford, Canada  
Maxey Elementary, Lincoln, NE  
Hoffman Trails Elementary, Hilliard, OH  
Rosegrove Infant School, Rosegrove, United Kingdom  
Westside Middle School, Omaha, NE  
St. Pius X, El Paso, TX  
Warrenton Grade School, Warrenton, OR  
Metcalf Junior High, Burnsville, MN

## Featured Sister School & Gift Certificate Winner?

Congrats to Angela Cannady at George Wythe High School, Richmond, Virginia.

The winner of our monthly drawing for schools that send letters.

Just email [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) after you mail your letters and you are entered to win!



## Need Ideas?

For letter topics or how to integrate letter writing into your lesson plans?  
Want to win a Gift Certificate?

We now have two options to stay up to date with our international pen pal program!

**OPTION 1: Unable to get on Facebook? No worries.**

**Just [CLICK HERE](#) for our [Sister School Blog](#).**

**OPTION 2:** To keep up with our "Friends" - we also have a Facebook page just for you!

Both the Sister School Blog and Facebook offer interesting ideas, stories, and links to help generate enthusiasm and discussion about education and integrating pen pal letters into your mission and curriculum.

Simply "Like" us and we will randomly select winners who show up on our Facebook page for a gift certificate drawing!

Like us on Facebook 

**CONGRATS TO Laura Gage of Ohio!**

Email us at [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) to claim your gift certificate for liking us on Facebook!

## Need Help Finding Your Sister School?

Whether you need the name, address, or mailing instructions...

you can find it on our website or by emailing:

[schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org)



**Click Here for OEF  
Sister School  
Search Link**

## Refer A Friend and Get A Gift Certificate!

[CLICK HERE](#) to share a link to refer your friends!

Outreach & Sister School Coordinator  
Opportunity Education Foundation  
[schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org)  
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