



# Opportunity Education Foundation

March 2013

- [What's the Best Letter You Can Write?](#)
- [OEF Benefit Concert Rocks Dallas](#)
- [It's Not too Late For Africa](#)
- [This School Needs A Pen Pal Partner](#)
- [Welcome New Schools](#)
- [Featured Sister School Drawing Winner](#)
- [Find your Pen Pal School - Refer A Friend](#)

## **What's the Best Letter You Can Write?**

**It's the one you write, right now!  
Let us help!**

**We have fun ideas for letter topics and  
creative ways  
to integrate letter writing  
into your  
lesson plans - that are even  
directed at  
Common Core Standards.**



[Click Here for Letter Ideas & Resources](#)

[Click Here for Letter Lesson Plans](#)

**We also 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.](http://opportunityeducation.wordpress.com/) <http://opportunityeducation.wordpress.com/>**

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

**[Click Here for Facebook Page](#)**

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** 

**A special message from  
OEF Founder and Benefactor,  
Joe Ricketts.**

**“On behalf of all of us  
at OEF - Thank you  
for your incredible  
support !”**

March 1 was a special night for my foundation which helps to give hundreds of thousands of kids in Africa and Asia access to quality education and which I've been privileged to support for the past eight years.

We were in Dallas, Texas, at the Verizon Theater at Grand Prairie, for the first-ever Opportunity Education Benefit Concert, an exciting event headlined by the talented young pop star Kelly Clarkson.

It was a wonderful evening, filled with great music and good feeling. For me, the best part was seeing so many young people having such a good time while hearing about the foundation's important work.

It was also inspiring to hear Ms. Clarkson, whose mother is a teacher, talk about the link between education and opportunity - how America became known as the Land of Opportunity because of the access to good education that so many of us take for granted and how the Opportunity Education Foundation is working to give children all over the world the same chance to succeed.

I'm so grateful to Ms. Clarkson for supporting our efforts and helping to spread the word about Opportunity Education's vital mission.

A special thanks to Edna Phythian, Global Connections and Sr. Internship Liaison, with Highland Park ISD in Dallas who welcomed us into her school and recruited so many students to celebrate the sister school program at the concert.



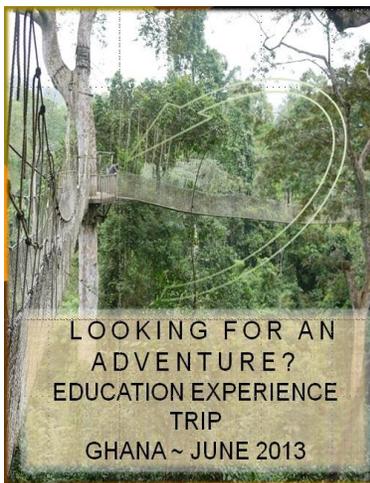
**OEF Rocks Dallas!  
Welcoming the 100+  
Sister School Students  
to the Benefit Concert are  
Joe Ricketts, OEF Founder &  
Benefactor (left) and Jim Ricketts,  
(right) OEF President & COO**

## **It's not too late to join 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.



**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.

## **Start Writing to This School Now!**

### **Mawingu School, Tanzania**

Mawingu School in Tanzania is a newer school, founded in 2010. There are 28 students who commute daily and 60 boarding students, ranging from pre-school to grade 2. Although they are younger students, they are very eager to have pen pals to show off their growing English skills. Similar to many OEF schools, Mawingu faces many obstacles to educating their students but enjoys great community support.

If you already have a pen pal, refer a friend to our [OEF Pen Pal](#) link. If you would like a different school, simply email [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) and note what grade you would like to write to and we can get you writing, right away!



## Welcome New Schools



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

Waverly Academy, Jacksonville, FL  
Crestview Middle School, Ellisville, MO  
Flushing High School, Flushing, NY  
Brownell Talbot, Omaha, NE  
Garfield Elementary, Clovis, CA  
Vernon Primary School, Poynton, UK  
Church Hill Alternative School, Ottawa, Canada

## Featured Sister School & Gift Certificate Winner?

Congrats to Lindsay Shields at Flushing High School, Flushing, NY.

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 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)  
402-614-5381