



Opportunity Education Foundation

January 2013

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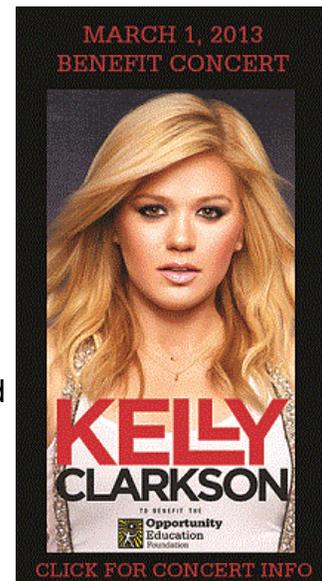
Breakaway - For a Cause!

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 go on sale January 18.
<http://verizontheatre.com/events/eventdetail.php?id=39313>



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 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 \$500 scholarships - to help offset the trip costs. All you need to do is email, "Send me the Trip Form" to Schools@OpportunityEducation.org

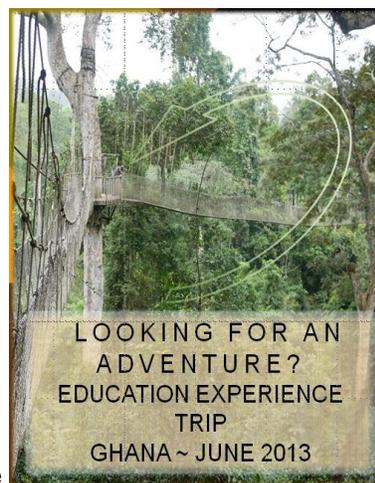
We will send you a registration form which also serves as an application for the \$500 scholarships we are awarding to participants. Fill out a five minute form for five hundred bucks..pretty simple!

If you are interested in the \$500 scholarship, registration must be received by 2/15/13.

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.

Deadlines for entries begin in January 2013, depending on the state.

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



Just how does a letter get to Mugu, Nepal?

It is a long and tedious journey.

First the letter has to get to Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal.

It then waits for a break in weather, which can take days - to try to make it on a small plane for couple of hours to Mugu.

That is if the airport is open.

Unfortunately with a gravel runway, it was closed for repairs.

The next plan is go to another 'nearby' airport and walk for two days to get to Mugu.

But this two day walk involves climbing up to 11,500 ft. which can be tricky due to altitude sickness.

OEF is grateful for our partners in Nepal who have hiked to schools with letters on their backs.

The donkeys pictured transport both letters and educational materials.

They are on the "highway" leading to other OEF Nepal schools.

Students don't have it any easier.

A one way trip to school might take them up to 3 hours on difficult terrain.

Despite the hardships, the students are eager to learn and treasure the letters from their pen pals.

We appreciate the patience of our Sister Schools partnered with Nepal schools- as it is a long journey for your letters, but good things come to those who wait!



Start Writing to This School Now!

Ashok Memorial School, India

I need your help!

I have many amazing letters from students in grades 1-12 from Ashok Memorial School in India.

They sent the letters to my office hoping I could immediately find them a pen pal school.

If you know someone who might be interested in jump starting a pen pal relationship, I can immediately send these 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 and note what grade you would like to write to and I will put the letters in the mail so you can get right to writing!

Welcome New Schools



We are excited to welcome 18 new schools to our pen pal program - including schools from Great Britain and Canada!

Featured Sister School & Gift Certificate Winner?

Congrats to Hilda Lahti Middle School,
Astoria, Oregon
The winner of our monthly drawing for
schools who send letters.
Just email 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 created a Facebook page just for you!

Like us on Facebook 

With 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!

CONGRATS TO JENNY PASKA, an Omaha Public Schools teacher who gets a 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:

<http://www.opportunityeducation.org/our-schools/sister-schools/>
or email: schools@opportunityeducation.org



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

More About Opportunity Education Foundation

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Opportunity Education Foundation

[CLICK HERE](#) to refer friends to our pen pal program & get a gift certificate!

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