



JugendPartnerschaft Ghana e.V.

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Dear Members and Friends of JPG and YHFG,

a long time has passed, since our last update and much has happened at JPG and YHFG. The summer has been busy for everyone, but now we are happy to share a lot of exciting news with you.

A new Youth and Study Centre for YHFG!



After long preparations, **JPG in partnership with YHFG has won a grant from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to construct their own Youth and Study Centre (SKILL Centre).** The centre will be built on land, that has been donated to YHFG by the local community. It will create 100 study spaces and accommodation for 50 students. Furthermore, it will host a seminar room, library, assembly room and computer room.

Why a new Youth Center?

Many students, in particular young women, fail their final exams in school and hence lose any career prospects. These women are then often forced to marry early instead of continuing their education. Since 2009, the YHFG is running very successfully the SKILL Youth Centre in the centre of Bolgatanga. It serves young people as a refuge and offers support through various training opportunities such as IT- or entrepreneurial courses to develop self-reliance. The demand on the various activities by young people has continuously increased and can hardly be handled in the current location. Furthermore, the access to the centre of Bolgatanga is limited for the students by the schools. The continuity of the centre is threatened each year by the renewal of the rent.

The first aim of YHFG is to support young women in this Youth Centre to complete their school education. In the Youth and Study Centre, 200 girls and young women will find specific support for exam revision every year in order to complete their school education successfully. **The second aim is to extend the access of young people in Bolgatanga to YHFG youth services.** In the new centre, which will be located in the close vicinity to several schools and training colleges, 500 adolescents will have the opportunity to find support and improve their skills every year. The schools have indicated, that they would facilitate students access to the new youth centre.

The Ministry for Technical Collaboration and Development (BMZ) is funding 37,500€ of the overall budget of 51,850€ for the construction of the new Youth Centre. According to their statutes, a contribution of at least 25% is expected from the project partners JPG and YHFG, in this case 14,350€. Due to the guidelines of the BMZ, the project funding has to be completed in 2013. Payments of the BMZ are made only in accordance to the self-contribution of YHFG and JPG.

We are therefore, kindly inviting all friends of YHFG to support this project with donations.

This new Youth Centre will help many young people in Bolgatanga on their way to a self-sufficient life of their choice.

For YHFG it is a significant step to secure their youth friendly services and their organisation for the future.





JPG stall at the Leicester Riverside Festival, UK



On the weekend of 1st and 2nd of June, JPG participated at the Leicester Riverside Festival with a stall. According to the general topic of festival Water and environment, JPG used the general theme *Water and Environment* to create awareness about the the water situation in Northern Ghana. Children (and adults) had a lot of fun trying to balance a bowl of water on their head and finding out more about the use of water in rural communities.

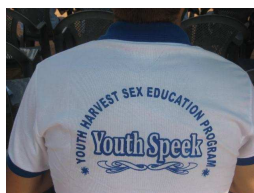
In lovely sunshine, everyone had a great time. By selling STEP UP products and water bottles JPG was able to raise 184€ for STEP UP and 128€ for other YHFG projects.



SPEEK Update

The *Youth SPEEK (Youth Supporting Peers and Encouraging Empowerment through Knowledge)* program aims to create awareness on sexual health among young people in rural communities in order to reduce teenage pregnancies and sexually transmittable diseases. In 2012, the program reached already 2300 in-school youth aged 10 to 24 via community based peer educators.

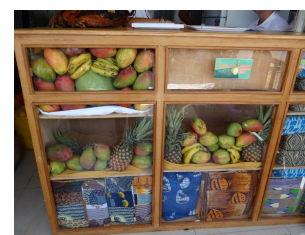
Since March 2013, the *Youth SPEEK* Program is also targeting out-of-school youth in 10 communities. Local youth groups could register for the program and are now meeting weekly to learn and discuss about Sexual Health and Family Planning with their peers.



SPEEK out-of-school launch in March 2013 (l), SPEEK out-of-school groups (m,r).

Smoothie Café

In recent years, YHFG has carried out a lot of fascinating projects very successfully. The organisation has grown and had to employ core staff to coordinate the activities, as well as to manage the finances and organisation itself. However, these central services are not always easy to cover by project funds. While in the beginning many donations helped to sustain the core activities, YHFG had to develop additional sources of income to secure the long-term viability of the organisation.



The new YHFG Smoothie Café.

With the support of the Meet Africa Foundation, YHFG has recently opened a smoothie bar in the centre of Bolgatanga. With freshly made smoothies, hot coffee, (ice) tea, sandwiches and wraps the *Zaare Smoothie* offers light lunch or refreshments and has become very popular among volunteers, but also many people from Bolgatanga. The café is located next to the YHFG office and had its Grand Opening on 11 May 2013. All profits made in the café benefit the YHFG.

Thank you very much for your interest and your support. There is much more to be shared with you. You will hear from us soon again.

Best wishes,

Anke van Amelsfoort, Jolien van der Geugten, Julia Leimkugel and Gero Frisch
Board of JPG