

July - December 2020

Dear all,

We said goodbye to 2020 and are optimistic about 2021. The last 6 months of 2020 saw us return to the Centre in September after the lockdown, with all the necessary COVID-19 protocols in place. This however meant that we had to limit the amount of children that could physically sit down and read or follow computer lessons at the Centre. Only by doing so were we able to adhere to the social distancing directive of Ghana which is 2 meters. We did promote the borrowing of books more as that allowed children to come and go.

As you have come to expect from us, we did not sit idle! In anticipation of the educational institutions opening up in January 2021, we offered our Alumni the opportunity to seek support from the Alumni Fund to enhance their education. Additionally, with the support of our sponsors we were able to launch 2 new programs; Nose for plastic, a program on the impact of single use plastic on the environment and To Be Connected, a program providing access to tablets for home use with our e-learning material, as our children are still not all in school. Working within the new normal, travel restrictions and online meetings, plans were made for the next steps in the digital marketing program.

Bringing 150 children together for a Christmas party this year was of course out of the question... but we could not disappoint the children. A Christmas surprise box was a wonderful alternative 🎄

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter. On behalf of the team, please stay safe and healthy!

For regular updates on our work do visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/tobeworldwide/>, website www.tobeworldwide.org and follow us on Instagram.



Nose for Plastic

A program that creates awareness about the pollution caused by plastic in the environment and the communities of our children. Children will learn using a fun packed, specially developed workbook. They will engage in collecting plastic waste. "Nose for plastic" badges will be awarded for each amount of collected plastic starting at 2kg. A visit to a plastic waste management and recycling plant is part of the program, where we will hand in the plastic collected. Participating in the pilot are 12 children.



“It is one world and it is in our care. For the first time in the history of humanity, for the first time in 500 million years, one species has the future in the palm of its hands” - Sir David Attenborough

To Be Connected - digital devices for education at home

The World Bank estimates that more than 1.6 billion children were out of school due to the Corona pandemic. The Ghanaian government only opened up school to students taking exams on the 5th of October (still from the 2019/2020 school year). All other children (primary school children, a large group of children that visit our Centre) will remain home until January 2021.

As we could not receive large numbers of children at the Centre, we wanted to reach the children at home. We are working on providing a group of 15 children access to a tablet in combination with our e-learning platform *EducationCity* to work on learning activities.

The first tablet was distributed in December. Parents co-sign for receipt of the tablet and promise to provide internet data in addition to the data provided by the Education Centre.

Meet **Precious Baidoo**, our proud recipient. Precious lives close to the Centre. She is 11 years old and has 2 sisters. Her parents are Thomas Baidoo a Taxi driver and Elizabeth Mensah a market trader.



Look no further!

We responded to a plea on Social Media (see message) and now Emmanuel is taking reading classes at the Centre. He is doing really well now!



Hello again,
We need some advise, as the schools are closed, the grandson of our gardener spends most of his days in our house. He is a clever guy, makes puzzles, puts robots together, reminds us to check the oil of the car, asks a lot of questions and is eager to learn.

We have taken it upon ourselves to teach him how to read and write, but here a huge problem occurs. His memory is so bad, he can't remember new sound/letter combinations or new words, even after a few days of exercises/pictures/writing the same words. What can we do?



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update from the person who reached out after Emmanuel's time with us & **Yes!! We have Doris, whom we are very proud of!**

And they have Doris. Doris is a lovely lady, who teaches Emmanuel reading. She uses special material and this method is working. She showed us the words he has been spelling correctly and he has improved so much! He loves to go there, which makes learning a joy, instead of a task.

I am so happy we have gotten in contact with [ToBeWorldwide.org](https://www.tobeworldwide.org). They haven't only changed Emmanuel's life, but also the lives of the children around, who come from poor backgrounds and would otherwise not have had the access to books and computers.

For any donations, please look at their website and see what an amazing job they are doing.



Alumni Support

Although all tertiary institutions were closed due to COVID-19, we decided to continue to commit to supporting our alumni in their wish to advance their education and be prepared to start in January 2021 when institutions would open. We honoured 3 requests.

Joshua Suuk (class of 2010) has started his BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY (BTECH) IN APPLIED STATISTICS (ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS OPTION).

Joseph Wollo (class of 2006) is building on his certificate in Mechanical Engineering with a (BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (Plant).

and **Kelvin Impraim** (class of 2007) BACHELOR OF ARTS (Political, Social & Information Science).



Kelvin 10 years old at the Centre



Kelvin now in 2020

Christmas Box

Always the highlight of the year! A Christmas party with 150 children, performing, dancing and singing and of course lots of goodies. This year we had to come up with an alternative and decided to give each child a Christmas Box with goodies, fun activity books and Christmas decorations. A big hit with the kids! Thank you for making this possible.



“You don’t have to see the whole staircase to take the first step”

- Martin Luther King Jr.

We may not know what 2021 brings but we do know that we are committed to bring our best!