

NEXUS ABROAD

CASE STUDY: NECTAR HOME



BACKGROUND & CHALLENGE

Nexus Abroad is an international development project that assists community organisations in developing countries to become financially independent. Since 2008, the team has been working on its pilot project with Nectar Home, an orphanage located in the Manya Krobo district in Ghana that provides food and shelter for children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Today in Ghana, there are 170,000 children orphaned by the AIDS virus. Many orphanages are unable to afford simple necessities such as education, food supply and medical care, making it difficult to break the cycle of poverty.

Nectar Home currently looks after 20 children and relies heavily on international donors to meet its day to day expenses. However, the unstable nature of the income stream generally falls short, and calls for the home's pastor to dip into his own salary to cover costs.

ACTION TAKEN

In December 2009, three students from SIFE made a trip to Nectar Home in Ghana to meet with the people responsible for the home as well as gain a better understanding of its operations and culture. The trip allowed the students to closely assess the situation in order to help with the implementation of:

1. A sustainable income stream by creating a Student Volunteer Program, with program fees directly going to Nectar Home.
2. A Board of Governors to assist with the management of Nectar Home and increase its credibility.

A key observation from the consultation trip was that Nectar Home had various ad hoc volunteers, but they were unable to generate any revenue from hosting them. Hence, following the trip, Nexus Abroad developed a formal cost structure for a volunteer program.

During the trip, the students were also successful in facilitating partnerships between Nectar Home with St Martin de Porres Hospital and Queen Mother's Women's Rights Association. The aim of these partnerships is to diversify placement options, give volunteers a network of support during their stay in Ghana, and provide Nectar Home stronger ties within the wider community.

RESULTS

In 2010, Nexus Abroad raised capital by hosting various community fundraising events such as an Open Mic night. The funds raised were used to convert an unused building into volunteer accommodation for the home. By allowing Nectar Home to host volunteers onsite, revenue generated from accommodation and meal fees will be able to flow directly to Nectar Home.

By September 2010, the volunteer accommodation and program had been fully developed and marketed. Nexus Abroad will be sending over their first group of four volunteers next summer. Profits generated from the upcoming volunteer trip and money raised at the Nexus Abroad Charity Ball in October 2010 will be sufficient to sustain the orphanage for the next three years.

Nexus Abroad has also established a Board of Advisors for Nectar Home in order to provide credibility, ensure transparency, and encourage accountability to attract international awareness of the Home and its newfound Volunteer Program. So far, a Memorandum of Understanding has been created and engagements have been established with a local council man, the Dean of the business school at Central University College and several others to serve on the board.

By establishing a sustainable income stream and the Board of Advisors, Nexus Abroad has achieved in making a positive impact on the lives of 20 children at Nectar Home.

LOOKING FORWARD

Between December 2010 and February 2011, Nexus Abroad will send over their first group of 4 volunteers to Nectar Home. 3 team members from Nexus Abroad will join the volunteers to monitor and review the Program while teaching the Home business practices that will enable them to run the Program independently. While in Ghana,

the Nexus Abroad team members will also attend the Board of Advisors meetings and provide counsel where requested.

From the success of the Nectar Home Volunteer Program, Nexus Abroad hopes to set up similar models in India and South-East Asia, thereby creating a network of global social organizations.

PHOTOS



SIFE students Carryn and Veronica celebrate Christmas with the children of Nectar Home.

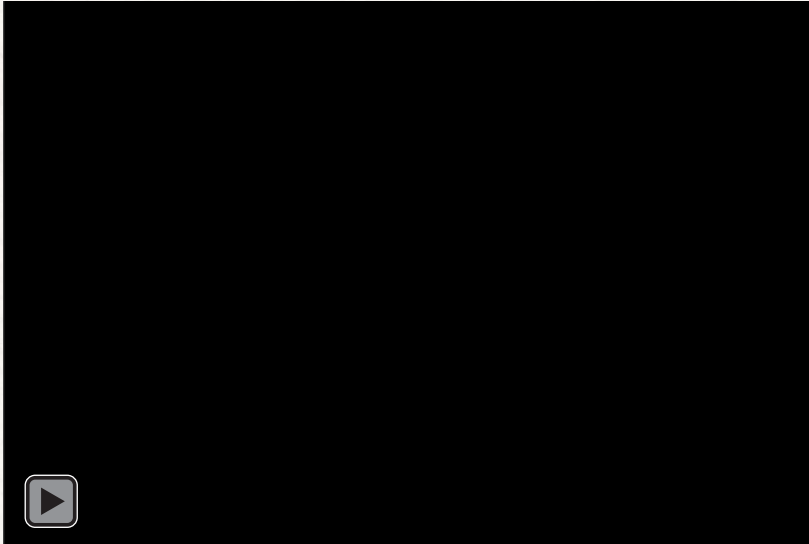
NEXUS ABROAD

CASE STUDY: NECTAR HOME



Nexus Abroad will be sending over their first group of four volunteers next summer.

CASE VIDEO



Pastor Fred from Nectar Home talks about how the Nexus Abroad team has assisted the home over the past 2 years.

NOTE: Adobe Reader 9 is required to ensure the video loads correctly. You can download the latest version of Adobe Reader free from the Adobe website. You can also view the video online by pasting the following into your internet browser: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9Zrczy8yCs>