



# Horizons Children's Centre

"Forward Ever, Backward Never"

Issue #5

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**Sandema, Builsa District,  
Upper East Region, Ghana**

**In Ghana:**

Horizons Children's Home  
Box 59, Bolgatanga, UER  
Ghana, West Africa

**In Canada:**

24 Marblemount Crescent  
Toronto, ON  
M1T 2H4 , Canada

[www.horizonscentre.org](http://www.horizonscentre.org)

March, 2004

Dearest Friends,

Warmest greetings from the Horizons Children's Project! We are a Canadian-Ghanaian partnership that supports street children and needy children in Sandema, a rural town in Ghana. Over the past four years, we have given 30 children the opportunity to attend school, providing them with accommodation, food and medical care to help them reach their fullest potentials.

2003 was certainly a busy year for our program in Ghana! In July, I returned to Sandema to visit with the children and take stock of our program. It was a thrill to see the children again after two years, and to realize how quickly the young boys I met on the streets of town have grown into young men. Sandema though, is much the same, and it was wonderful to visit with many of the people who have helped to sustain our project over the past 3 years. Barbara Hoover, a recently retired teacher, accompanied me, and dedicated herself to teaching the children literacy and numeracy.

Until now, Horizons has supported boys in attaining their educational goals, and the time was ripe for addressing the needs of the girl-child. From a very young age, girls in Ghana are saddled with a heavy load of household chores and are often unable to attend school. With the support of the local Builsa District Assembly, we are now renovating a structure next to the boys' home, and have taken in two sisters who were in great need of support. The home will have room to take in up to 10 girls.

Returning to Ghana was a poignant reminder to me of the tremendous impact our program is having on the lives of children. The boys and girls in our home are full of hope and joy. Thanks to all of you in the US and Canada who give from your hearts, the children of Horizons are reaching for the stars!

Thank you sincerely and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Heather Menezes

P.S. Check out our website at [www.horizonscentre.org](http://www.horizonscentre.org)!

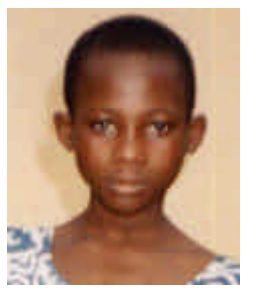
## Newsflash



### New Horizons Management Board

In August 2003, a new Horizons Management Board was formed. The Board is a dynamic group of dedicated volunteers, made up of representatives from various government and non-governmental offices in the Region. They meet regularly to discuss our program and guide its developments. Left: Mr. Stephen Azantilow, the Chairman, goes above and beyond the call of duty on a regular basis to ensure that everything runs smoothly. A photo of the whole Board will be featured in our next newsletter.

## Our Growing Family



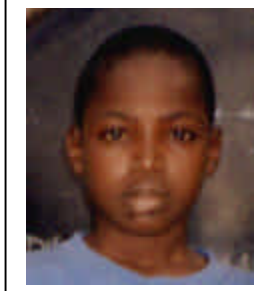
Sofia



Selina



Daniel



David



Abid

During the summer of 2003, we welcomed another 5 children into our ever-growing home. Daniel and David walked miles to reach our Centre in search of a place to stay. Their parents and sister passed away tragically. Selina and Sofiya were spending most of their days and nights wandering in town. They are now in school and will soon move into the girls' home. Abid arrived in October 2003, and is well adjusted to his new .

## Our Latest Project...A Home for Girls



One of our major achievements in 2003 was to begin renovation of a home for girls. Life can be especially difficult for the girl-child in northern Ghana, and fortunately, we will soon be able to extend the benefits of our program to needy girls. The home will be ready in May 2004. Above, Roland (centre), who has completed his vocational program with support from Horizons and is now doing his apprenticeship, reaches up to secure a beam for the girls' home. Below left: little Akosua is a caregiver for her ailing mother, and she carries rice and other foods to her mother's home. Below (left to right): Sofia and Akosua giggle while Selina hams it up for the camera!



## A Summer...

Our summer in Sandema got off to a grand start with a wonderful play put on by the kids that traced the history of our home. Right: Yaw dressed as a market woman who used to give the children food when they worked on the streets. Below: (Left to right) Isaac (dressed as me!), Kasimu, Joseph, Monday and Danladi acted out the first day I met the kids in Sandema town. All in all...a fabulous



In Ghana, drumming and dancing is a big part of any celebration. Above right: James, Dennis and Jacob use some ordinary buckets to create extraordinary traditional rhythms. Right: A radio and some music cassettes are a foolproof formula for fun as the kids enjoy a dance



## ...To Remember



Barbara Hoover dedicated her summer to helping our children with reading and writing. Before her arrival in Ghana, she contacted local organizations for donations, with great success. **Canadian Tire Uxbridge** donated soccer balls, while the **Markham Fair** generously sent frisbees (above right), boxer shorts (below left), and pencils for all the kids! The children were just thrilled with these special Canadian gifts! Above left: Barbara strikes a pose with Maxwell Akandem, a co-founder and active Board member of Horizons. Over the years, Maxwell has provided endless support to our program and to the children.



Left to Right: Daniel, Paul and Emmanuel quietly pore over the *Hooked on Phonics* reading series, a gift from Barbara to the home. Books are a rare and much-appreciated treasure in northern Ghana!

## ChildSpeak



Above (left to right): Joshua, Prince and Moses share a happy moment. We asked all the children to write down their aims and achievements as part of the Horizons family. Here is a sample of their (sometimes humorous) responses:

### Aims

- To respect people (Yaw)
- I want to know how to live with other people (Emmanuel)
- To help and care for people in the future (Isaac)
- To finish my education and become the president of Ghana (Joseph)
- To know who is bigger than me (Amos)
- To know my left and my right (Paul)
- I am want to get my own property and I want to make a book (Daniel)
- To become a teacher and teach somebody like how they teach me in school (Danladi)

### Achievements

- I have change in my life now...I also have a teachers teaching me now (Emmanuel)
- Horizons have help me to know what I know and what I don't know (Amos)
- This house has help me to learn and has change my mind to stop doing foolish things (Victor)
- Now I can write a letter for my friend (Danladi)
- Now I know how to read and speak good English (Paul)

## Acknowledgements

On behalf of all the children in the Horizons Family, we would like to thank all of our donors for their generous support!



**The Stanley Francis Foundation is a registered Canadian charity which supports educational initiatives in developing countries. Donations towards our project can be made c/o the Stanley Francis Foundation, 22 Rustywood Drive, North York, ON, M3A 1R8 and marked for the "Sandema Horizons Children's Project". Receipts will be issued for tax purposes.**