



The Revolution.

Volume 2, Issue 1

February, 2010

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Special points of interest:

- Our School in Ghana is scheduled to open on June 30
- The first Fellowship program was a huge success
- The Rock Out Karaoke Fundraiser in San Diego was a hit
- Blue Kitabu photographs are on display at BHCC art exhibit for Black History Month

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Ghana Project Updates



Our pioneer project in the Asebu community of Ghana is getting closer and closer to completion. The foundation of the school has been completed and the remainder of the structure is currently under construction. This is extremely exciting news for all of us here at Blue Kitabu, as it means that the kids in Ghana are *that* much closer to beginning their education in the new school. The tentative opening date is June 30, 2010, just months away! The project began as a simple idea: to build a school for children who have not had the opportunity to gain an education. Now our dream is quickly becoming a reality! However, there is still much work to be done, and that work requires more funds. If you are able, please consider supporting our work through a donation or by purchasing Blue Kitabu merchandise, available on our website.

The Blue Kitabu Fellowship recently completed its first session and it was a great success! The fellows experienced a crash course in Ghanaian culture and society and integrated with flying colors. The group spent three weeks in the Asebu community in January, 2010 and conducted important research which will

greatly benefit Blue Kitabu. The five fellows each selected a unique research topic which they investigated during their time in Ghana. Examples of research topics include: individual teaching philosophies of local teachers in Asebu; the effects of experiential learning on a student's education; and the business needs of the community and the school, with a focus on making local businesses more sustainable and beneficial to the local people. The research papers written by the fellows will allow Blue Kitabu to fine tune our work in Asebu and will ensure that our future students have access to the best education possible.

“Our dream is quickly becoming a reality!”

In addition to conducting research the team spent a retreat weekend in Busua beach where sea turtles come to lay their eggs. They also spent time with many of the children in Asebu and took local students to a nearby monkey sanctuary to learn about endangered animals. We look forward to hosting our summer fellows! For more information and an application for our Summer Fellowship Program please visit our website.





“Guests learned about the importance of sustainable education and the work that Blue Kitabu does to raise awareness about and alleviate global education inequity.”

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San Diego Fundraiser



The Rock Out Karaoke fundraiser in San Diego, hosted by students at San Diego State University, was a huge success, especially for a first time fundraiser. The group raised approximately \$575 and over 100 people attended the event at the 710 Beach Club. Attendees were able to



sing karaoke along side a live band! Blue Kitabu gear was on sale, and guests learned about the importance of sustainable education and the work that Blue Kitabu does to raise awareness about and alleviate global educational inequity. Thank you to everyone who came out!

Blue Kitabu Receives Google Grant!

Blue Kitabu is excited to announce that we received a Google grant for \$10,000 worth of yearly advertising on Google! Google offers select non-profit organizations and charities free Adwords advertising. The grants go to organizations that promote ideas which emphasize Google's "philosophy of community service to help the world in areas such as science and technology, education, global public health, the environment, youth advocacy, and the arts."

The Adwords advertising system works to target Google users who may be interested in Blue Kitabu's work. This is determined by the keywords which the users type in their Google search. If a Google user searches for a word that matches something related to Blue Kitabu (such as "sustainability"), a small advertisement will appear in a

box to the right of the search results under "Sponsored Links," prompting users to visit the Blue Kitabu website. This is an enormously helpful resource because it will attract people who might have never learned about the organization. Most importantly, it will target people who are more likely to have an interest in our projects because of their search queries. *Through our account, we will be able to learn how many people have viewed our advertisement and how many people have gone on to visit our website.* Please look out for Blue Kitabu's advertisement the next time you use Google! For more information on Google Grants, please visit <http://www.google.com/grants/>.

“It will attract people who might have never learned about the organization.”

One Man's Trash...

...is another man's treasure, as the old adage goes. With that in mind, we're asking you to donate old t-shirts and plastic bags to Blue Kitabu. We will pass some of these along to people living in the communities where we work, the remainder of the donations will be used at our Boston office.

Donate old t-shirts and plastic bags to Blue Kitabu!

In both countries your "trash" will be turned into recycled art which will be sold to benefit our projects. Donations may be dropped off at Blue Kitabu. Please stay tuned for information about how and when you can join us in making art projects.



Blue Kitabu Photographs on Display at Boston Art Show

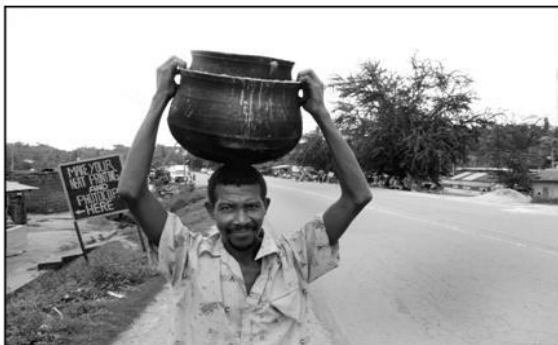
Blue Kitabu is proud to announce our participation in the "Body and Soul" art exhibit currently on display at The Bunker Hill Community College Art Gallery. Please help us

celebrate Black History Month and support local artists as well as Blue Kitabu by visiting this free exhibit!

The exhibit features artwork by Boston-area African American artists working in the figurative and spiritual traditions, as well as photographs from various Blue Kitabu projects in Africa. The show opened on



February 1 and will be on display through February 27, 2010. The opening event, held on February 1, was a huge success thanks to Governor Deval Patrick who held a press conference in the Art Gallery.



Upcoming events in the Gallery include: an Artist's Reception which will be held on Thursday, February 11 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.; and a Gallery Talk on Thursday, February 18 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. All Blue Kitabu photographs were

taken in Ghana and Rwanda by Alexander Rivest, Chief Development Officer and co-founder of Blue Kitabu.



These beautiful pictures are on sale through our online store at bluekitabu.org. Please support our work by buying one of these striking prints. All of the proceeds directly benefit our projects in Africa.

The Bunker Hill Community College Art Gallery is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Gallery is free and open to the public. It is located at 250 New Rutherford Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02129, near the Community College stop on the MBTA Orange Line.

Thank you to the BHCC Art Gallery for hosting this inspiring exhibit and to everyone who comes out to support Blue Kitabu by visiting the gallery!

The show will be on display through February 27, 2010 at the Bunker Hill Community College Art Gallery

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2009 In Review

2009 was a great year here at Blue Kitabu. We would like to thank everyone who donated time and money to our cause, without all of you, none of our projects would be possible. **Here are just a few of the highlights from 2009:**

- Our volunteers and interns donated over 1,500 hours of their time
- We held six extremely successful events that both raised money and awareness for our cause
- We broke ground on our first school, in Asebu, Ghana
- We raised over \$60,000!!!

Conference on Sustainable Education

In December, 2009, Blue Kitabu co-founders Elizabeth Barreras and Alexander Rivest attended the third annual Conference on Sustainable Education in the Amazon region of Ecuador. The theme of the conference, which was hosted by the Teach a Man to Fish organization and the Yachana Foundation, was “income generation for education.” The model used by Teach a Man to Fish provides schools with a way



to eliminate the dependence on aid by establishing school-run businesses, a concept also employed by Blue Kitabu. At the conference Ms. Barreras and Mr. Rivest were able to trade ideas with educators and NGO workers from around the world. We hope there will be many more opportunities to share new ideas and sustainability models with like-minded organizations in the future!



February Fundraiser in Boston!

Join us for a night of live music and award-winning burritos at Cantina La Mexicana on February 26, 9 PM to 1 AM! This ‘Best of Boston 2009’ restaurant will be serving up platefuls of burritos, enchiladas, quesadillas and more. Get raffle tickets and you could win gift certificates to great

Boston eateries or gifts such as batiks or margaritas! Live music will



be provided by local artists Jaques Pardo and ZMP Band. Come by for a delicious dinner and make

an impact by supporting our school in Ghana! Tickets are \$25 and include 5 raffle tickets and an all you can eat Mexican buffet. Search the Events page of our website for tickets or buy them at the door. Located at 247 Washington Street in Somerville, (617) 776-5232 or lataqueria.us