

The Colorado-Ghana Children's Fund is a non-profit Colorado organization that provides financial support for educational opportunities and basic needs for school-aged children living in Ghana, West Africa.

All donations are tax deductible.



COLORADO-GHANA
CHILDREN'S FUND
1820 Lee Street
Lakewood, CO 80215

Phone: 303.202.1979
Email:
info@cgcfund.org
Web: www.cgcfund.org

CGCF WebLetter - Spring 2010



Obama's Victory CAST IN BRONZE

Denver's hardest working sculptor Ed Dwight has created two monumental works of art, as lasting treasures to commemorate the nation's election of the first Black United States president. The two sculptures, one of Barack Hussein Obama as the presidential candidate at the 2008 Democratic National Convention and another of Obama, his wife and daughters on Inauguration Day in Washington, D.C., were unveiled at the Colorado History Museum on Saturday, February 20, 2010.

At 76, Dwight is recognized across the nation for bringing history alive and holding up a light to hidden events – especially in African-American history – so the public can better understand

America's past, and future generations can continue to learn from it. Called a national treasure by many, the prolific sculptor has created an extraordinary 113 public art commissions, including more than a handful around the Denver metro area.

He oversees possibly the busiest bronze sculpture studio in the country, producing highly detailed as well as uniquely stylized statues for private collections as well. While his artistry includes every type of person from sports figures to western icons, he specializes in African and African-American people. *Dwight has generously created and donated a unique sculpture, one that captures the drama of a young African girl going "Off to School," for the Colorado-Ghana Children's Fund to aid in its fundraising efforts (see sidebar).*

Dwight was commissioned to sculpt the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for at least a half a dozen locations across the U.S., including the 2002 installation at City Park in Denver. The memorial near the park's southwest corner in the esplanade is the starting point for the annual Marade, the march/parade honoring King on the national holiday.

"One of the extraordinary things about Ed's work is he does the research. He is a student of history so you can see the history come alive," said Happy Haynes, a Denver City Councilwoman for 14 years including the time when Dwight created the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial.

With assignments for other public art commissions coming, he enrolled at the University of Denver in 1975, and earned a master of fine arts degree in sculpture and art history in 1978.

The first time Dwight met Obama was at the 2004 unveiling of a memorial to Chicago's first Black mayor, Harold Washington. Dwight was commissioned to do the 20-foot sculpture at the intersection of 47th Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Chicago.

"I noticed (Obama) was a very gracious, tall, strident and smooth individual," recalled Dwight, noting that Obama shook his hand and said 'Everybody knows the great Ed Dwight.'

Obama's ability to inspire is in small or large part why he has become the first African-American president of the United States. And, Dwight emphasized,



"My medical education means I can help many people when I graduate."

HANNAH KOMEH

Hannah, the fifth child in a family of five, was born on September 14, 1987. Her father is retired while her mother is a newspaper vendor.

Though she had excellent exam results, she could not continue her education to fulfil her aspiration of becoming a medical doctor due to her parents' inability to sponsor her. She went straight into the newspaper business, distributing newspapers from office-to-office and also on the streets.

It was on one of her rounds that a staff member of the Metropolitan Assembly (Mr. Cudjoe) took interest in her plight and took her to the Mayor of Sekondi-Takoradi (Hon. Philip K. Nkrumah), who called Dr. Linda Vanotoo, then the District Director of Health Services, to discuss what could be done to help her. Hannah was asked to produce her exam results and, when she did, it surprised everyone that someone who had performed so well could be compelled by economic circumstances to be selling newspapers.

Although she exceeded the age limit of when children are typically admitted to the program, an exception was made so that this person's exceptional abilities would not be wasted! Today, due to partial funding support from the CGCF, Hannah is now in her third year at the medical school in Kumasi and aspires to be a pediatrician.



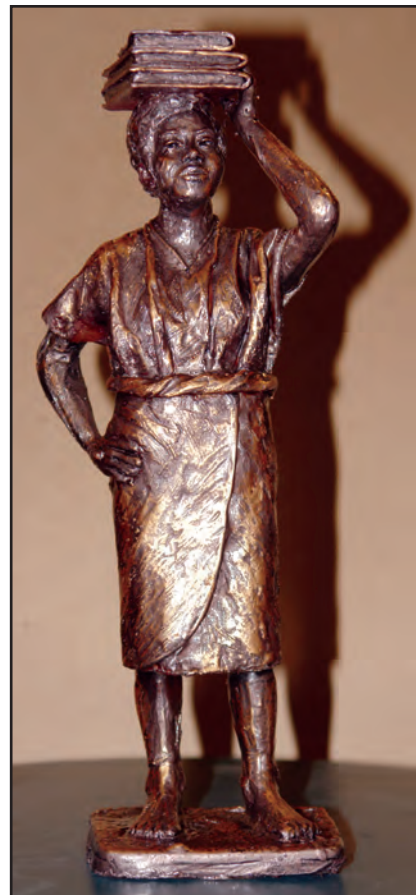
“This is the most important event of our time. Whether we like him or not, he’s still the first African-American guy in the White House.”

One of the two monuments is a life-size scene of Obama with his wife and two daughters, being sworn in as the 44th president by Chief Justice John Roberts on Jan. 20, 2008. The Obama statue is 6-foot, 1½ inches, the First Lady is 5-foot, 11 inches, and the whole statue is an 8-foot diameter circle weighing about 1,200 pounds.

The other monument, which is also to scale and weighs about 250 pounds, depicts Obama waving to the crowd just before his

speech at the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver

Both Obama monuments were displayed at the Inauguration of Hope exhibition during Black History Month on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010, at the Colorado History Museum. The plan for the monument of Obama at the convention is to return it permanently to Denver, most likely at the new History Colorado Center. The hope for the monument of the Obama family at the Inauguration is to find it a place at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, scheduled to open on the National Mall in 2015.



“Off to School”

This is our “Thank you” when you donate \$720 or more to the Colorado-Ghana Children’s Fund.



Ed Dwight, internationally renowned master sculptor, generously donated this beautiful sculpture created especially for the Colorado-Ghana Children’s Fund.

This is the perfect opportunity to own a graceful, fine art piece by Denver’s revered artist while helping to educate the Children of Africa. Your donation goes directly to the Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and is fully tax deductible.

Colorado-Ghana Children’s Fund

President: Emmanuel Eliason
 Treasurer: Dennis R. Chrisbaum
 Editor: Nancy Chrisbaum
 Graphic Designer: Gillian Conte



How you can help a child in Ghana:

educate

Why aren’t you in school?!



“We don’t have the money.”
 “Mama can’t afford uniforms.”
 “We barely get enough to eat.”
 “I must work to help my family.”
 “There is no way to get to school.”

sponsor

Educate A Child!

Sponsor a young student for a full year of school for only \$60/month (\$720/year). This modest sum provides school fees, uniforms, books, medical care, transportation and a daily living allowance.

donate

Select a boy or a girl in primary, middle or secondary school. Colorado-Ghana Children’s Fund will send you the profile of your chosen student along with periodic progress reports. You may write to your sponsored child, or perhaps plan a trip to beautiful Ghana to visit the school, meet teachers and get acquainted with the young pupil.

grants

Become a Corporate Sponsor

The Colorado-Ghana Children’s Fund welcomes and encourages new corporate sponsors.

fund raise

Grants Needed for Expansion

Please contact us if you know of foundations or corporations which focus on education and are open to helping us expand our program in Ghana, providing education and opportunity for even more children.

tell others

Contact

Please call, email or go to our website to obtain information regarding donations and sponsorships. Or contact: Dennis Chrisbaum, Treasurer, at 303.202.1979 or dchrisbaum@cgcfund.org.

intern

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