



Dear Community Partner:

We are seeking community sponsors to help make possible the Forever Connected Ghana Artisans Trip, a unique cultural, leadership, and educational experience for young people.

During this experience, participants spend five full days learning directly from master artisans. Each day is dedicated to a different craft—five days of discovery, culture, and hands-on learning that connects students to living traditions. We are not proposing a new idea; we are expanding a proven program.

Last year, five youth participated in our inaugural cohort and returned with a deeper understanding of history, identity, leadership, and their connection to the African diaspora. This year, thanks to support from the Department of Parks and Recreation, we have received a \$10,000 grant to continue the program. That grant allows us to serve five young people.

We are now seeking local businesses, churches, civic organizations, fraternities, and sororities to help us expand the opportunity to a second cohort of five additional teens. Our goal is to send ten youth to Ghana during the last week of June and the first week of July. With your support, that goal is fully achievable. In fact, this additional cohort may include young people directly connected to your organization.

During the trip, students will learn from Ghanaian artisans including cowrie shell jewelry makers, bead makers, brass workers, wood carvers, kente weavers, waist bead makers, and drum makers. These experiences allow students to learn directly from individuals preserving traditional skills and cultural knowledge.

Students may also visit significant historical sites such as Cape Coast Castle and the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial, deepening their understanding of history while strengthening their sense of identity, purpose, and leadership.

We also welcome the possibility of an adult chaperone from your organization joining the trip. Chaperones are responsible for their own airfare; however, lodging, meals, and in-country transportation are covered. This provides a meaningful opportunity for an adult leader to share in the experience while supporting participating youth.

Last year's chaperones continue to speak highly of the impact the trip had on them. The student also continue to celebrate their experience.

Thank you for considering becoming a sponsor. If helpful, we are happy to connect you with parents or chaperones from last year's cohort so you can hear directly about their experience. If you have questions or would like to discuss this opportunity, please contact me at 202.345.0282 or via email at [yao.tyus@stepms.com](mailto:yao.tyus@stepms.com).

Sincerely,

Yao Tyus  
President  
Steppingstones Management Services, LLC

**1706 Gales Street, NE • Washington, DC 20002**  
**202.345.0282 • [admin@stepms.com](mailto:admin@stepms.com)**