



**Friends of Wechiau Group Charity number: 1113023**

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## Newsletter

**September 2017**

Dear Friend,

### Greetings from Friends of Wechiau

#### Senior High School Scholarships

This year we have seen a big step forward for young women. All four of the newly selected senior high school scholarship students are female. Up to now it has been a struggle to find young women living in the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary who have the necessary grades to enter senior high school as they tend to drop out of school at earlier stages than young men. This is for a variety of reasons including parents not taking care of their needs, teenage pregnancy leading to an early marriage and peer group pressure.



This brings the total number of scholarships awarded since 2005 as 48. As 3 scholarships were for students receiving an additional scholarship for study to gain a professional qualification this means the total number of students receiving scholarships is 45. 33 of the students were male and 12 female. We have set a target of 50% women students being selected for scholarships by 2023.

Part of the drive to ensure that young people continue their education, especially women, is the involvement of their parents and guardians in the education programme. We are pleased that the parents continue to attend the meetings where the scholarship funds are

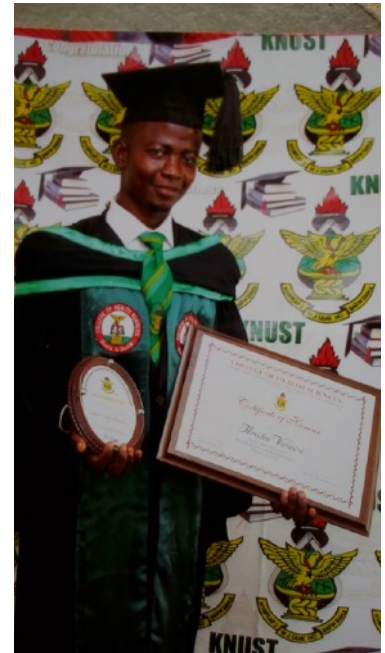
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Parents and guardians are also involved in the presentation of school supplies, which this year in May were given to Dodome R/C Primary School.



## Support into University

We launched an appeal last year to support Hassan (Vampere Hasehni) in his quest to study for a Masters Degree. We are very proud of Hassan who we have supported financially since 2007 while he studied at Wa Islamic Senior High School and then went to Kwame Nkrumah University where he obtained a First Class Honours Degree in Disability and Rehabilitation Studies. Hassan needed funds to take his IELTS (International English Language Testing System) exam which is a requirement for any scholarship and entry to the UK to study for a Masters degree. We are pleased to report that we were successful in raising the £200 needed and Hassan has passed his IELTS. Although Hassan was offered places on Masters Courses in the UK for 2017/2018 academic year he was unable to secure the necessary funding and will be reapplying for scholarships and courses in the next academic year. Funding of a post graduate course is beyond the scope of Friends of Wechiau, but we would welcome any suggestions of possible scholarships or sources of funds for Hassan and we will continue to support Hassan in other ways.



## Future Plans

We are continuing to provide a rolling programme of senior high school scholarships by selecting four new students each year who we will support financially for the three years of their study. This year we are also supporting a student in their final year to complete their study to become a teacher. However this will be our last year of providing scholarships for tertiary education and we will be prioritising our funds for senior high school students in future years. This year we increased the value of the senior high school scholarships and the amount we pay for the administration of the project in Ghana due to rising costs in Ghana and the fall of the value of the pound. Which means that the money we raise does not go as far as it has in previous years. We therefore appeal to all members and supporters to think about donating, increasing the amount that they already donate, organise a fundraising event, or find other people who would like to donate. We are willing to speak about Friends of Wechiau and what we do at any meetings in the UK.

## Data Protection

From May 2018, new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force in the UK which means we will need specific consent (opt-in) to contact you. Therefore if you wish to continue to receive this Newsletter and/or appeals please respond to any emails from us asking how we can contact you.

You can donate on line through our website [www.friendsofwechiau.org.uk](http://www.friendsofwechiau.org.uk) using Paypal or [MyDonate](#), or send a cheque to the address on the letterhead overleaf.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Ann*

Ann Bannister, Chair, Friends of Wechiau Group

[Thank you to R.Y. Abudulai Issahaku, Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary and Donna Sheppard, Calgary Zoo for the photographs, to R.Y. Abudulai Issahaku for administering the project locally and the Savannah Fruits Company for their continued support in disbursing the funds and providing a monitoring role]