



Unifying Neighbors Through Education and Development

Katrine T. – every year since 2012 – Denmark
UNITED Health Projects & HardtHaven Children’s Home

Women carrying bundles on their heads and babies on their backs, colourful vibrant clothing, local markets, and dirt roads – yes, it looks just as you imagine! I must admit that arriving in Ghana was a bit of a shock. It was my first time in Africa, and Ghana was not just simply another country but rather seemed as if it were another planet – or that’s how I felt at that time. I do admit that it took me a few days to get used to everything – the change in culture and lifestyle, but once I did I started to like it a lot! I was able to work on multiple projects during my time in Kpando, and what I enjoyed the most was my experience and interaction with the Ghanaian culture and people. At some points in fact I almost felt Ghanaian – I simply held a different skin colour. I find it very hard to tell my greatest experience, and its’ also difficult to say the exact reason why Kpando is so wonderful, but I do promise you, it is! Even though it’s a bit of a cliché, I learned a lot about myself during my stay. I was challenged, and I was greatly rewarded. For me, volunteering is a great opportunity to experience “the real Africa” while at the same time making an impact where it is most needed. If I told you I went to Ghana to make a difference, to leave a positive impact on those I met, you may think I was attempting to save the world, but making a difference also means making sure that Small Emma gets his homework done, and that Ruby learns her ABCs.

It can take time to notice, but when you do, you will see that you are helping! The wonderful people in Kpando are very welcoming and invitational, and if you wish to experience and immerse yourself into the Ghanaian culture they will be more than happy to help. HardtHaven and UNITED are helping so many people through the multiple projects they implement, and I am so happy to know that there are many options and places to put my effort and make a difference. What I initially intended to be a 3 month visit in Kpando, ended up in two additional trips and I have now spent almost 11 months total in Kpando – and I’m not finished yet!

