



Dear friends and supporters

I welcome you all to yet another exhilarating year (2023). This year promises to be another exciting one, as we continue to level up in the path of literacy, numeracy and transferable life skills—the core mantra of our grooming for the future leaders. As a learning institution, it was necessary to pick up from where we left; hence some pieces of 2022.

I am very elated to announce the introduction of a Pre-school Program, an addition to programs already running. Panko is always looking for ways to maximize our resources (including physical structures).

One thing that is worth mentioning is the regrouping of our various clusters. The names haven't changed. What has changed however, is the number of beneficiary kids in the cluster and the grade they occupy at their various schools.

Our ICT for Education and Job Creation (ICT4E&J) Project is picking up really fast. With a fully furnished computer laboratory, it's living up to its usefulness with many of the beneficiary kids now having their way around computers. It was amazing seeing a cluster already using Mavis Beacon typing software. Five months ago, these same kids didn't know how to boot a computer.

Our Hot Meal Before Session Initiative since January has received some innovation with seasonal foods now in the menu. With a timetable and a rotation of what is being served, our beneficiary kids cannot hide their excitement about that.

Serving the communities of Kogni, Kulmang, Yilo Naayili and Bangi Yili, all in the Sagnarigu Municipality, PANKO Youth Center is not only challenging the status quo, but in a quest to building better individuals with quality education for quality life. Before, there was a huge challenge with attendance, this has improved tremendously, which we are very grateful for.

On behalf of PANKO and all the beneficiary kids and the four (4) communities and beyond, I will like to thank all donors, funders and sponsors of PANKO. For your benevolent acts, the educational gap between the urban and the most marginalized communities is closing up.

Till I come your way again, is your humble servant of the people.

Sincerely,
Mubarak Alhassan.

Managing Director

HIGHLIGHTS



Pre-school Program Launched!

With the introduction of a Pre-school Program, our goal is to ensure these preschoolers have the basic preparation, which will form the foundation on which they will build upon when they leave. The program would help consolidate the gains we have made so far with the After-School Program.

On 19th January, 2023, PANKO Youth Center had a meeting with parents of beneficiary kids. The meeting was to spell out some of the modalities concerning the newly introduced program; the pre-school. Upon several consultation, policy reviews and modalities, we are happy to announce the commencement of the program today, 13th February, 2023. This is only but addition to our already existing programs.

The pre-school will solve most of the issues that lead to weaker foundation as far as literacy development in marginalized communities is concern. As the beneficiary kids are equipped properly with the fundamentals, it makes it easier for them to completely adopt to school life after pre-school.

As a youth center, we are committed to building the youth and equipping them with the needed foundation for self-growth and that of their communities.

Our approach is love, acceptance and inclusiveness. These very elements do not only give the beneficiary kids joy to come to PANKO but have brought a different dimension and outlook to what learning and education is. Indeed, they are not alone because we are here to guide them through this journey.

A Day at Red Clay Studio's

On Saturday 21st January 2023, beneficiary kids of PANKO had the rare privilege of visiting Red Clay Studio located at Jana community on an educational/Learning tour. This was the first time visit to the studio and indeed it was an exciting moment for all.

Being an archiver, Ibrahim Mahama, founder of Red Clay Studio, has been able to preserve so many artifacts dating back to the pre-colonial days. With a periodic addition of new collections, our visit met the arrival of old trains from Takoradi (located in southern Ghana), this added up to the whole studio experience.

Red clay over the years has become a tourism destination in the northern part of Ghana. For art lovers, the space is just magic breath taken. With artifacts from different parts of the country, this has not only made the past possible, to be viewed and felt today but has also awoken that sense of responsibility to protect and utilize what is present today for posterity.

Coming from marginalized communities in the Sagnarigu Municipality, Red Clay and what it represents is what these beneficiary kids need to believe, dream and to re-ignite their passion. The question-and-answer session, after the history of how some of these artifacts came to live in Red Clay was facilitated by Ibrahim Mahama himself. It was a very humbling experience for both staff and beneficiary kids of PANKO Youth Center.

A special thank you to Ibrahim Mahama and the team at Red Clay Studio for the kind gesture.

We look forward to visiting again soon.





First (1st) Quarter Parents Meeting

PANKO Youth Center held its first (1st) quarter parents meeting for both pre-school and after-school on 23rd March, 2023.

As we all recall, PANKO promises to keep a solid relationship with parents of beneficiary kids and this is only possible if we report quarterly the affairs of PANKO and that of the progress of its beneficiaries.

With a welcome address by the Managing Director, introduction of staff by the speaker and a breakdown of the first three (3) month spent so far at the center, behavioural challenges by the Programs Coordinator, it was now time to receive inputs from parents.

It was yet another insightful meeting, as parents openly express their gratitude to PANKO's many-positive interventionS towards their wards education and grooming for the future. The first quarter looks refreshing already and we cannot wait to report on progress and positive impacts at the center. We look forward to greater heights with all of you.

Workshop: Career in Photography for Our Girls

PANKO in partnership with Nuku Studio Young Talent organized a workshop for PANKO's girls on 28th March, 2023.

The girls were taken through photography, career in photography and the life of a photographer.

It was an eye-opening workshop for the girls. Apart from aspiring to become teachers, nurses and doctors, there is another profession girls in the district can make a mark.

At PANKO, we believe in diversity and inclusiveness with the girl child. This drive makes us go an extra mile to close the information gap as far as equal learning is concern.

Already breaking myths and stereotypes by having girls playing in the center's football team, a sport that is said to be male dominated, is specially refreshing to see another step at inspiring new career paths as far as photography is concern.

Nuku studio for photography and research founded by Francis Nii Obodai Provencal is curating and offering residency in photography right here in Tamale. This type of engagement between Nuku and PANKO will help our girls in this new pursuit.

We will like to thank Fibi Afloe and Amelie Koerbs of Nuku Studio for the wonderful presentation and looking forward to more engagement in the future.



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