



# *Volunteer with the Volta Revival Foundation*



*Together we make a difference!*



VOLTA REVIVAL FOUNDATION

## What is it like to be a VRF Volunteer?

As a Volta Revival Foundation volunteer in Ghana our team welcomes you like family! With options to volunteer as a teachers aid, lead creative workshops for our sponsored students, be a sports coach, work as an intern at the local hospital, engage in research, plant trees and run community clean ups and campaigns, and so much more we know you will fit in perfectly in our tight-knit community! You can live at our volunteer house in the beautiful Ada, Ghana between the ocean and the Volta river and experience the paradise of West Africa! On your free time, relax on the beach, go for a bike ride, learn Ghanaian cooking, and have interesting conversations on our porch, whatever you want to do, we are here to help you! With 4 full time volunteer support staff you will always be taken care of!





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## Our Story

The Volta Revival Foundation was created by love.

Love of the people.

Love of mama Africa.

Love of justice and kindness.

And love of each other.

Volta Revival Foundation was manifested by the imaginations of two dreamers: Monique Vandenbroucke and Mershack Aklie who met in Ada Foah Ghana in the summer of 2016 and together established VRF that December.

Since that fateful day VRF has grown exponentially and many have come along side, caught up in our philosophy and vision including our projects manager Julius, our volunteer coordinator Era, our secretary Isaac, our chef Philipa, and our volunteer house manager Aggie, along with hundreds of Ghanaian volunteers and many international volunteers.



In the three years we have been operational VRF has touched the lives of thousands, and directly impacted over 3,000 people with direct, and in some cases



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life-saving aid. Some of our accomplishments include: sponsoring the education of 19 children including 13 child survivors of slavery, donated 50 bicycles to students living very far from their schools, campaigned and successfully kept two multinational corporations from displacing an island community without just resettlement, provided pure water to one island school and wind powered electricity to another, provided sanitation, health care, and electronics to a children's home to ensure proper management; aided another local NGO in the establishment of one of the highest performing schools in the district, provided a resettlement clinic with equipment and needed medicines, ran over 15 youth sports camps, supported the Ada arts community with an arts revival competition, and we are currently creating monitoring and intervention programs to work towards ending the trafficking of children in Ada into fishing slavery on the Volta lake and river, as well as seeking funding for a tree planting project in the district to decrease erosion and the worst forms of climate change on our Ramsar protected coastal area. The Volta Revival Foundation is now stronger than ever, and getting better every day, and we want you to be a part of it, because if there's anything we know, its that together we make a difference!



Volta Revival Foundation is established both in USA and in Ghana so you can volunteer with us in either location! The Volta Revival Foundation is headed by a board of directors based in Bend Oregon,

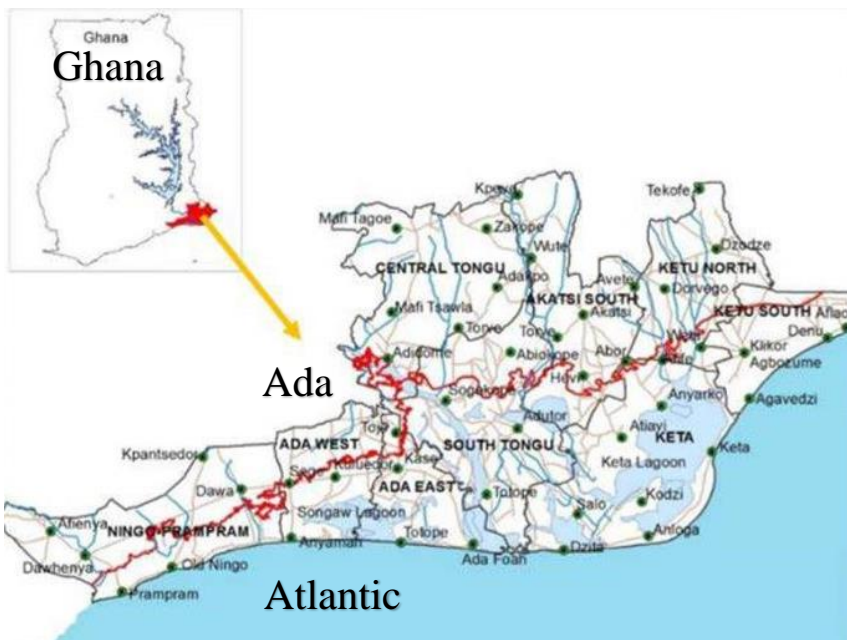
and is regularly audited in order to ensure transparency and financial honesty.



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**About Ada, Ghana**



Ada Ghana is situated between the Volta river and the Gulf of Guinea, near the Volta river estuary where the ocean and river meet. The place is a hidden paradise and makes for a very relaxing atmosphere. On your days off you may hang out at the beach, or spend time at local restaurants and resorts, take a boat ride and tour the islands, take a local class in cooking or art, as well as enjoying a swim in either the ocean or the river.



The Ada East and West districts are the most rural districts in the Greater Accra Region, Ada Foah is the district capital. The districts have not yet caught up with the rapid urbanization of surrounding areas though it has a good transport system and is about 2 hours away from Accra airport. Coconut trees can be found along the coast along with many species including hundreds of types of birds, and the



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whole is a Ramsar site and Biosphere reserve. The population of Ada is approximately 140,000 living in hundreds of communities. The main economic activities include salt mining, oyster mining, fishing, farming, livestock rearing and trading.



There is a widespread poverty in the district, sanitation, and access to clean food and water are major factors, as well as low quality education. Regardless of these facts, the resilience of Adano (Ada people) is evident, and despite every challenge being placed in their way, many are creating a comfortable life for themselves, or at least are able to hold on and survive from day to day.

The estuary of the Volta River is comprised of seven main islands with Twenty-



Two communities living on the islands. The indigenes of the land are called Adas from various clans and There is a paramount Chief who is the overlord of the Ada State. The people of Ada speak the Ada dialect (Ada- Dangbe) of the Ga-Adangbe languages. The people of Ada are heterogeneous in terms of religion, and there are Christians, Moslems and Traditionalists. The major festival of the people of Ada is Asafotufiami which is celebrated in August every year and attracts tens of thousands of people from all over the world to witness it.



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## The Volta Revival Foundation Volunteer Program

The way the Volta Revival Foundation works with volunteers is by discovering your interests and passions as volunteers then we will place you in a project where you will work closely with other international volunteers as well as our Ghanaian team leaders who will ensure the projects sustainability. Additionally, every volunteer will be paired with a like-minded Ghanaian counterpart, who will be their partner and guide on the project. Once we



identify your placement, we will work closely with all associated agencies and individuals to create a project schedule for you and your team, as well as a budget for the project. For some projects there is simply a \$200 project fee to help with operational costs (such as being a volunteer teacher or coach), other times there will be a budget for the project and because the Volta Revival Foundation works on a very limited budget some fundraising may be an important aspect of realizing that project (such as building a bridge or a building in a community). The project fee may not always come in cash, but also in donations of necessary items which we will inform you of.



The only other necessary volunteer fee (apart from room and board) is a management fee of \$100 which includes all your paperwork, visa help, around the clock contact, information, as well as a custom shirt from the Volta Revival Foundation!



## Volunteer house costs



At our volunteer house not only will you have a great living environment, but we provide a secure, clean, and easily reachable home. The cost for living at our house is all-encompassing and comes with 4 full time staff who will help you with everything you need.

The following is a chart of costs by length of stay:

| <b>Time</b>                | <b>Cost</b>         |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b><u>1 week</u></b>       | <b><u>\$80</u></b>  |
| <b><u>2 weeks</u></b>      | <b><u>\$160</u></b> |
| <b><u>3 weeks</u></b>      | <b><u>\$240</u></b> |
| <b><u>Monthly rate</u></b> | <b><u>\$250</u></b> |





### Meal costs

Includes breakfast foods, and dinner except on Saturday and Sunday. We are also able to accommodate for gluten-free, lactose-free, and vegetarian diets. All our food is fresh, hot, and very tasty!

**1 week** **\$50**

**1 month** **\$200**



### Additional Costs Include:

- Volunteer management fee: \$100
- Project contribution: \$200 (or donations in-kind)
- Airport pick up (Accra to Ada): \$60 one-way



## Volunteer Projects and Activities

The Volta Revival Foundation runs well organized and fun volunteer programs in most areas of our organizational programs and projects. Volunteers may work in Ghana towards hands-on sustainable development work, and project building. Through the volunteer program, volunteers will choose which area of the organization which they would like to do direct service in, and then the Volta Revival Foundation program management pairs the volunteers with other local volunteers, and partner associations/organizations who- in concert with Volta Revival Foundation staff- carry out the volunteer projects. Areas where volunteers can work include:

### Environmental protection projects

The environmental program focuses on creating a safer and cleaner environment, to safeguard the wildlife and ecosystems, and to educate children and communities about their environment, and ways they can make it better. Projects include:

- Environmental clean-ups
- Engage local youth in environmental health exercises
- Tree planting and ecosystem rehabilitation projects
- Environmental education in schools and communities
- Monitor sea turtle activity and protect turtle eggs until the baby turtles (*this project can only run during the turtle laying season September to January*)



### School and Youth Development Projects



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The school and youth development program focuses on empowering the youth and children toward achieving their full potential. We do this through educational, skills, advocacy and networking opportunities which can expand their world view and open-up greater opportunities and possibilities for the children and youth in order to create a stronger, more educated and engaged Ghana. Projects include:

- Being a teaching aid at the school where our sponsored students attend
- Running creative workshops with our student survivors of slavery
- Sports coach/ putting on sports camps



**Health and Sanitation projects**

Health and sanitation is a pillar of any thriving community and through our partnership with the local hospital and the Ghana education service we are able to provide volunteer possibilities in the following areas:

- **Intern nurse at the Ada East district hospital**
- **Educate school children on sexual and reproductive systems and rights**





### **Human Rights Advocacy Projects**

The Volta Revival Foundation human rights advocacy program focuses on uplifting and empowering communities and groups towards achieving their human rights. We do this through campaigns to raise awareness and boost the voice of those most effected, and through educational human rights trainings, as well as research, consultation, and reporting. Through this program volunteers may engage in the following projects:

**Volta Revival is always looking for volunteer specialists to do specific tasks; we need expertise in: Medicine, engineering, NGO management, I.T. and database, farming and conservation, film making, researching, Law and marketing (and the skills you have!)**

- Film making and photography on human rights related issues
- Attending and reporting on community events and issues
- Writing and compiling reports on topical issues
- Strategizing for human rights campaigns
- Working with women's groups towards women's development, education and advocacy
- Working with youth groups towards youth and community development, education, and advocacy
- Learn community radio



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### Community Partners

The Volta Revival Foundation believes in community solidarity, because of this we are partnered with all major institutions and associations in Ada, and in other surrounding areas. We work in partnership with many grass-roots organizations to offer broach and far reaching volunteer and internship opportunities:

- Ada East District Hospital
- Ada East District office of Education
- Radio Ada
- Ada District Disabilities Association
- Ada Foah Youth and Coast Guard Association
- Ada Development Network
- The District Assembly
- Ada Tourism Association
- Farm for livelihood Association
- Goal Youth Association
- Women's Improvement Network
- Ye Katsemi (the brave women's association) and the Songor Lagoon Cooperative



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## **Volunteer responsibilities**

Volunteers work five days a week, and the weekends are allocated for relaxing and excursions. Transportation and accommodation are always well organized by Volta Revival Foundation for the convenience of our visitors. Staff of the organization travel with you and your group to the tourist sites, pick you up at the airport and drop you off at the airport on your day of departure just to ensure that you have the best possible experience.

## **Why us?**

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The Volta Revival Foundation focuses on sustainable grass roots community empowering projects, with us you will never be able to say that you didn't make a real difference in the lives of the community members. We also believe that its very important that our volunteers understand what locals are also doing for their communities which is why we always pair volunteers with like minded community advocates and groups of Ghanaians in the same field. No matter what, we are certain that in volunteering with us, you will go away with the intention to come back!



*Together we make a difference!*