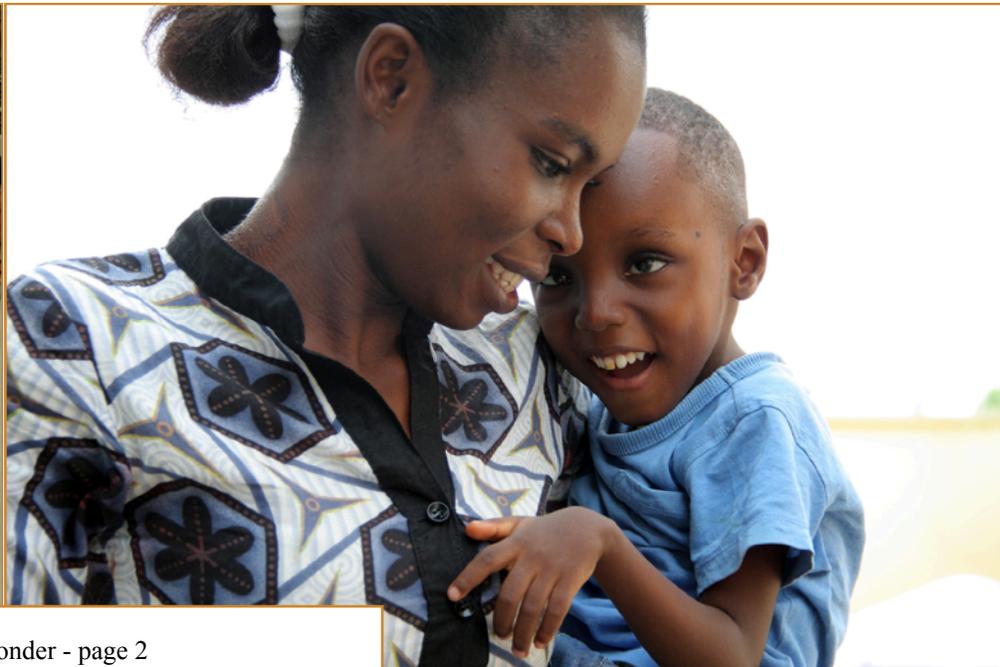




Kekeli Inc./ 518-465-6576



Update on Wonder - page 2
Left: Wonder at the Ho Municipal Hospital, 2014
Right: Wonder with his mother on his first day of school, 2017

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Greetings from Ghana

We are always grateful to all of you for your support of our work. In this newsletter, you will read about the progress we are making on projects and with children that we have reported about before, but you will also learn about new projects. This is our ninth year in Ghana, and we have been able to accomplish so much with the donations made by both organizations and individuals. Thank you! As Kekeli's program expands, we are continually looking for new sources of funding. We are one of very few organizations aimed at helping persons with disabilities learn the skills they need to earn an income. Our independent living project is dedicated to this goal. With your help, we will have even more exciting progress to report in our next newsletter in December.

Carrie Brown

Wonder's Story

We first met in 2014 when the department of social welfare contacted Kekeli Staff about a baby that had been abandoned at their hospital. The child was showing signs of a disability, and they were searching for the family. The social welfare officer named him Wonder, because the fact that he was found after being abandoned in the bush was a “wonder.”

After a month at the hospital the police found the child's mother and arrested the boy's father for attempted murder.

Wonder has congenital rubella syndrome and was in need of heart surgery, eye surgery, and physiotherapy. Since we met him, he has had heart surgery, has been attending physiotherapy and will go for eye surgery next month. His condition has improved, and he can sit independently and is standing with support.

This year, after several failed attempts to find a mainstream school that was ready to admit him, we found a private school ready to admit him on a trial basis. We are now working with the school to educate his teacher on Wonder's disability and how to include him in the school.



Wonder, 5,
with his
mother at his
new school
in Ho

Building CP Chairs



Above: Two assistant physiotherapists from the Volta Regional Hospital building a cerebral palsy (CP) chair.

Left: The completed CP chair

Over the years Kekeli staff has worked with many families who have children with cerebral palsy. The families face many challenges getting the equipment their children need to be more independent. Often children are left to lie on the floor in their home with no special chairs to help them sit. Special equipment is difficult to find in Ghana and often very expensive. Therefore, Kekeli Foundation, in collaboration with the Volta Regional Hospital Physiotherapy department, joined together to build CP chairs, standing frames and wedges for our children. Each child has been attending physiotherapy at the hospital.

Kekeli and the hospital staff collected thick cardboard which we glued together in five layers to make it very strong. We then built CP chairs, standing frames and wedges for the children. The chairs went to children unable to sit without support. The standing frames went to children who are now learning how to stand on their own and the wedges went to children who still need to develop strength in their neck before they can sit.

Kekeli Staff will now train four parents to build these devices so more of our children will be able to receive the equipment they need.



Above: One of the goats donated to Kekeli Foundation Ghana.

Right: Dzibordi Self-advocacy group in Ho in the goat pen at Kekeli Ghana office

Goat Project

This year we were very grateful to receive a donation to start a project aimed at promoting sustainable living for persons with intellectual disabilities (PWIDs) who are part of our self-advocates program. The group is located in Ho Town. The project will help strengthen their capacity in business skills and farming skills. The long-term goal of the project is for the self-advocates to earn some income. We hope to reduce the poverty of PWIDs and show community members that these self-advocates can also contribute to society.



The students are learning how to care for the goats. As they learn we will begin to build structures in their homes and give them goats to care for with support from their families. This is a long-term project, but we are very happy with the students' dedication and interest in the program.

Independent Living

Kekeli, with support from the Disability Rights Fund, is currently developing an Independent Living Policy for persons with developmental disabilities in the three districts where we operate.

The purpose of this Policy will be to provide a strategy for the district assemblies to plan for and ensure Persons with Developmental Disabilities have access to services and can live independently in their communities. Currently, persons with developmental disabilities are either sent to live at special schools, hidden away in their families' homes or left to fend for themselves.

Kekeli staff has been working with assembly members, social welfare officers and persons with developmental disabilities to draft this strategy.

The policy will define more precisely what is meant by independent living and offer greater protection to vulnerable individuals to ensure that, in practice, they have as much independence in their lives as possible.



Above: Brandford Tay, Kekeli's Project Manager, presenting our report on independent living to Adaklu District Assembly Members



Left: Selorm, Kekeli Self-Advocacy Group Leader, presenting his experiences as a person with cerebral palsy in Ghana

SEND DONATIONS TO
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Note cards available

Sets of four note cards are available for \$10 depicting images of Ghana by Ghanaian photography students. All proceeds will go to Kekeli Inc. to help support future student projects. To order cards contact Mary Jane Brown at (518) 465-6576 or by email kekeliinc@gmail.com

How to Help

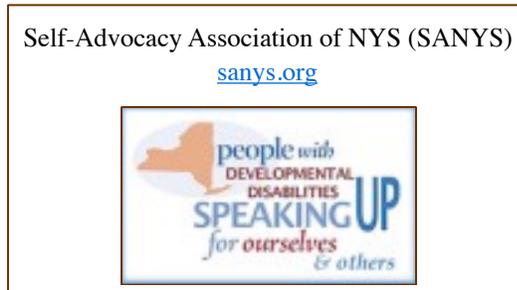
- _____ \$1,000 Guardian Angel
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