



## EPI Progress for the Fall of 2016

*Empower Playgrounds Inc. has exciting things on the horizon. We are currently testing new lanterns, our girls' scholarship program is underway, we are collecting books for libraries at our schools, and we interviewed over 100 students at our schools to evaluate our project.*



### Testing New Lanterns

Empower playgrounds is in the process of testing new lanterns at our newest school, Fatwa Kosie. Many of our current lanterns have been working well for the past 6 years, but it is time for them to be replaced. We have been preparing for this for sometime and have included the cost of replacing lanterns in this year's budget. We are very grateful to our partners at nCAP Technologies for their support in helping find these new lanterns. We have put 40 lanterns in the hands of students at Fatwa Kosie to determine durability, duration, and functionality.



### Girls' Scholarship Program

Empower Playgrounds is partnering with a family foundation to start a girls' scholarship program. This program will provide 3 girls from EPI schools the ability to attend high school in Ghana. Rural families often cannot afford the cost of high school and they will rarely put preference on sending their girl children. The EPI scholarship program will cover the 3 years of student high school fees to Ada Senior High School. The scholarship will also cover uniform, room & board, books, travel to and from their home on vacation, and mentorship from a local female university student.



### EPI Library Project

The schools that we partner with are located in the rural and most deprived areas of Ghana, and they simply do not get the needed support from their government for necessary supplies. EPI has helped to meet this need by providing light and science kits to 47 of these schools. Now, we are starting to add libraries! This will enable children to have more items to read with the lanterns when they are studying at night. We are beginning our library project starting with 5 schools. We will be collecting 1000 donated and lightly used children books and chapter books for each school.



### Project Evaluation

This year we conducted over 100 interviews with students and teachers at our EPI schools. Each of our students have rich backgrounds and hope for the future. While interviewing, we discovered that our students are studying 9-12 hours a week in groups of 4-5 students. We were very excited to confirm that our merry-go-round project is continuing to work, and is changing the lives of the students. Students reported improved exam scores, improved reading ability, and an improved ability to complete their homework.



# Hold a Book Drive

Visit: [empowerplaygrounds.org](http://empowerplaygrounds.org) to learn more about collecting books to be added to our libraries in Ghana!