

Empower Playgrounds Summer 2018



Meet Erika

Empower Playgrounds is partnering with Days For Girls to help bring Ghanaian girls access to sanitary supplies that will allow them to attend school even while they're menstruating. 500 Days For Girls kits will be distributed at our schools in the rural areas over the next year. We are excited about this partnership, as menstruation is the biggest cause of girls 11-18 missing school, and we believe that no girl's education should ever be set back because of reasons that are beyond her control. Click below to read our blog post about our DFG partnership, and learn how these kits will change the lives of girls like Erika!



Days for Girls

Erika lives in Bahankra, and is the top student at her school. She has been a friend of Empower Playgrounds for four years now, and we are excited to be a part of her educational journey. She has been a shining example of how a lantern, in the hands of a devoted and bright student, can allow a love of learning to grow even when the sun goes down. Erika is a lantern leader (she is in charge of keeping her solar-powered lantern charged), and the oldest student in her study group. She helps younger students learn, and when the group finishes studying she continues reading on her own. Erika's favorite book is *The Human Body* and she wants to become a doctor after she finishes school.

Annual Report 2017

Our Annual Report is now available online! Read it to learn about what EPI accomplished in 2017.



Second MGR Installation in Mali

Last week we installed our third-ever merry-go-round outside of Ghana, in Fanterela, Mali. We are excited to have been able to work with Empower Mali to bring light to even more children, and to enable 245 more students to extend their learning outside of school! Empower Playgrounds is a natural partner with Empower Mali (it's in the name!), which has made it its goal to bring education, healthcare and clean water to all of Mali. Their work complements much of what we do in Ghana--in the past Empower Mali has provided schools with tablets for learning, and partnered with American organizations to provide students with scholarships for higher education.



STEM Activity Day

We hosted African STEM Activity Day on June 2, see the photos to the left! Attendees were able to play with the very same science kits that we send to Ghanaian students, experience a VR set, and get an exclusive look at EPI's latest projects. We were happy to have Bryce Hixon from Loose in the Lab demonstrate how a science experiment on creating foam and what it can be used for. We also had a representative from Origin, a company that creates sustainable glass waterbottles, who presented on the importance of clean water. Each child left with a banner, bracelets, and a knowledge of how science and technology can change the world.

Fall Event

Save the date for Play for Light 2018 on Friday, October 12th! EPI will be hosting our fourth annual donor event in Provo, Utah. Join us for an authentic Ghanaian breakfast and presentations about our recent projects, as well as the chance to have your name on a lantern. Stay tuned for more details!