



**EMPOWER  
PLAYGROUNDS INC.**

# 2021 Annual Report



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# HAPPY REALIZATION

Empower Playgrounds has been providing lanterns to schools in Ghana for about 15 years. Most schools we work with have had lanterns for 10 years. Primary school in Ghana are K-6 with Junior High adding 7-9. That is the required level of schooling in Ghana. The government is working hard to add High School (10-12) to the requirement, but that requires building many more schools and educating a lot more teachers. It is taking time and money and is very slow to arrive in rural areas.

Our team in Ghana has been capturing stories of children in the schools we support. It has been very satisfying to learn that most of these students have had lanterns and evening lantern study groups for their entire educational experience. I had not stopped to think about that. This generation has an important advantage that never existed in the rural villages before. Or more accurately, have not had a big education disadvantage that has limited previous generations. We are focused on maintaining the progress.

Sincerely,



Ben Markham  
Board President



# CONTINUING

2021 was a great year for us. Schools started back up in January 2021 and travel restrictions were lifted which allowed us the ability to continue to do what we love. One thing that we all realized during this year is just how important education is, especially for those in the rural villages. We have had the chance to talk to students about being back in school. Many children had missed school and were happy to be back.

At Empower Playgrounds we believe that education will help propel these children into the best future possible. With your continued support we are making a difference in their lives. We are able to help them gain confidence in their abilities to learn and grow and see the world for the endless possibilities that are out there.

Thank you again for your continual support. We hope that one day you will join us to see first hand the difference you are making.

Medase,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Williams".

Amy Williams  
Executive Director





# MISSION

Empower Playgrounds, Inc. enhances educational opportunities for children in deprived villages by providing renewable energy through electricity-generating playground equipment, smart LED lanterns, hands-on science kits and feminine hygiene kits.



# EPI SINCE 2008

**16**

Libraries

**21**

Classroom blocks

**28**

Sanitation projects

**56**

Homes with electricity

**1,661**

Reusable menstrual kits

**62**

Merry-go-rounds

**390**

Science kits

**2,100**

Lanterns

**22,000**

Students Empowered to Learn

# LIGHTS CONTINUE TO SHINE

This year one of the challenges we have faced is getting lanterns back into the schools. Many lanterns had issues not being well used for almost a year. Our team in Ghana has been hard at work ensuring that each school has the lanterns they need and that they are charging properly.

Isaac, our country director and resident engineer, took the break from school to configure a new charging station for the lanterns. This new station allows more lanterns to be charged at the same time.

While on a visit to Ghana we were able to stop by Bomigo village and see the lanterns in action. You can see a group of students gathered together under the light of the lantern. This village doesn't have electricity and has greatly benefited from our lanterns. Thanks to the Thorson family who donated the money for a Merry-go-round and lanterns. This village is now thriving.



# COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Did you know that in order to get into high school in Ghana you must pass a country wide exam? On that exam there are questions about science, English, math and computers. Reading through that list of subjects I am sure you didn't think much of it. Now I want you to think about the computer section again.

Most students in rural Ghana have not had access to a computer. If they are lucky to have a teacher bring in their personal computer they can learn and see it. However, many students learn about computer theory from a book.

During our visit to the Bahankra school we observed the Computer Teacher showing the children what a Word Document looks like by drawing it on the chalk board.

Our goal is to help improve access to computers for our rural villages. We hope to put more computer labs that include internet access at many of our schools. Having access to this type of learning would help these rural students the most.





# BOREHOLES

Boreholes continue to be one of our favorite things to do. In 2021 we were able to bring clean water to 5 more villages. Bringing clean water to a village will never get old. It doesn't matter how old you are, faces light up from youngest up to the oldest when clean water comes to their village.

Our focus is always on the children and how we can enhance their educational opportunities. We believe that bringing clean water to villages near our schools will help the children in many ways. Bringing clean water not only helps prevent water borne diseases, but it also helps children make it to school on time. Children are often the ones who are fetching the water for their families. Sometimes the path to get water is long and dangerous. This is why bringing clean water is so important for our school children.



# DAYS FOR GIRLS KITS

This year we will be able to reach 667 girls and distribute reusable feminine hygiene kits to those in need.

Educating these girls on the importance of health and taking care of themselves properly has been an incredibly important mission for us at EPI . Reusable kits allow girls to spend money on other things such as school books, school uniforms or food for themselves or families.

In addition to saving the family money and resources these kits allow girls to stay in school. Girls who stay in school are able to keep up with their peers and are more likely to pass their exams and continue their education.



# EPI STAFF



**Amy Williams**  
Executive Director



**Isaac Darko-Mensah**  
Ghana Country Director



**George Thompson**  
Ghana  
Projects Director



**Richard Koomson**  
Ghana  
Program Director



**Peace Yeri**  
Ghana  
Girls Education  
Specialist

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Ben Markham**

Board President & Founder  
Retired ExxonMobil  
Executive



**Betsy Eckton**

EdD Educational  
Adjunct Professor, BYU



**Jeff Markham**

MD  
Senior Teleradiologist  
at 6Radiology



**Wes Marriott**

Entrepreneur/  
Consultant



**Angie Trego**

PhD Mechanical Engineering  
Trego Engineering President



**Jaron Dunford**

Solutions Consultant  
Workday



**Larry Allred**

Entrepreneur and Consultant  
Retired

# GET INVOLVED IN 2022

## Run a Bookdrive

Donate books or volunteer as a book donation leader. Lead your community or school in donating 1000 books to help add libraries to our schools in Ghana!



## Spread the Word



@empowerplaygrounds



[goo.gl/BCohp3](https://goo.gl/BCohp3)



## Sponsor a Project

Sponsor one of our main projects highlighted in this report and support the children in Ghana.



For more information contact us at: [info@empowerplaygrounds.org](mailto:info@empowerplaygrounds.org)  
or visit us at [empowerplaygrounds.org](https://empowerplaygrounds.org)

# 2021 PARTNERSHIPS



# FINANCIALS

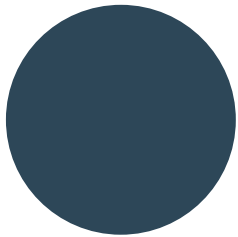
## Donation Breakdown



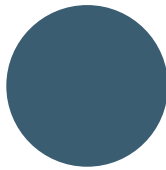
- 3% Investments & Corporations
- 35% Foundations
- 61% Individuals

## Program Expenses

70% Ghana Operations



20% Administrative\*



10% Fundraising



2021

REVENUE

\$482,005.29

\*Please note that the administrative costs for our programs are covered by our founder. That makes it possible for 100% of your donations go to our projects in Africa. We want your money to be spent where it is needed the most, helping the children.



MEDASE

THANK  
YOU