

## Ashanti News 10 November 2009

*Some Ashanti Development volunteers run their own projects to provide, for example, mosquito nets to babies or hardship money to villagers with special problems, or to provide free school meals to children under five years old.*

*Simon Sholl, who spent six months in Ashanti earlier this year, describes the project he runs which is looking for sponsors to provide five years National Health Insurance cover for needy families.*

In 2003 the Ghanaian Government began a National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to make healthcare available to more people at a more affordable rate. Due to the large amount of casual labour and trade (and hence lack of tax payers) in Ghana, if a person wishes to be eligible for healthcare they must pay an annual subscription to be registered. This subscription fee goes towards paying for the healthcare and entitles them to numerous services without further charge:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Visits to doctors or healthcare workers</li> <li>* Blood and urine sample analysis, X-ray, ultrasound and other diagnostic procedures</li> <li>* Accommodation and food (if available) in the general ward</li> <li>* Oral health</li> <li>* Child-health advice</li> <li>* Medical and surgical emergencies</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Road traffic accident emergencies</li> <li>* Prescribed drugs on the NHIS Medicines list</li> <li>* Blood and blood products</li> <li>* Physiotherapy</li> <li>* Surgical operations</li> <li>* Antenatal and post-natal care</li> <li>* Childbirth including by caesarean section</li> </ul> |
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There are a number of nearby medical centres where NHI subscribers can receive treatment, including Mampong District Hospital, Nsuta Polyclinic and, within the next few months, Ashanti Development's Clinic in Gyetiase.

In theory, only people aged between 18 and 70 must pay to be registered; in reality, though, everybody except pregnant women must pay at least a processing fee, which many cannot afford.



### **A Dream of Africa, Gala Evening**

To see more pictures of dancers from the Royal Ballet performing their annual fund-raiser for Ashanti Development, go to

<http://elise-wwwwords.blogspot.com/2009/09/dream-of-africa.html>.

**Next year's Gala will be on Sunday September 19**

Ashanti Development is now running a sponsorship scheme whereby people can pay for a family's NHI for five years. For many families this will be their first experience of healthcare. We hope this will benefit them in many ways including preventing disease and infection, curing illness, reducing child mortality, improving general health and enhancing their productivity. We also hope that at the end of the five year period the family's knowledge and understanding of the importance of good healthcare will have increased and they will be in a better position to organise their own NHI for the future.

Family size, unsurprisingly, varies considerably, therefore Ashanti Development have had to average costs and will spread the money out so as to include the maximum possible numbers, including people with no families. There are three options available, all of which take into account the expected price increases over the five year period and assume that the donor will allow GiftAid. To date Ashanti Development have sponsored 569 people, but this is only the beginning.

The cost of sponsorship<sup>1</sup> is:

- A. a child and their full family, including one grandparent (£52 a year or a lump sum of £260 to cover five years)
- B. a child and their immediate family (£33 a year; £165 for five years)
- C. a child and one parent (£15; £75 for five years)

If you are interested in sponsoring a family or have any further questions we will be happy to send you a sponsorship form. Further information can be also be obtained from the Ghanaian Government's official NHIS website [www.nhis.gov.gh](http://www.nhis.gov.gh).

Care that is not available with the NHI includes:

Appliance and prostheses (Ashanti Development and SpecSavers already work together to provide free glasses)

- \* Organ transplantation
- \* Heart and brain surgery other than that resulting from accidents
- \* Cancer treatment other than breast and cervical
- \* HIV retroviral drugs (these are available without NHI)
- \* Cosmetic surgery and aesthetic treatment
- \* Mortuary services.

We don't yet have our own Christmas cards, so please support our sister charity, Friends of Tafo, this Christmas. Tafo is a village to the east of Ghana and the charity faces problems very similar to ours.

Their website is at <http://www.friendsoftafo.org> and Christmas cards cost £4.99 for ten.

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We are very grateful to Queenswood School, Potters Bar, for choosing Ashanti Development to sponsor during 2009, and to members of Christ Church, Lewes, for taking up where Queenswood left off and sponsoring us for 2010.

We'd also like to thank the Ex Pat Foundation for the generous donation they recently made.

<sup>1</sup> These figures take account of inflation and projected price increases in Ghana, and the effect of GiftAid in the UK.