

IOM Ghana Counter-Trafficking Sponsorship Update



**January
Month**

**2014
Year**

Name of Sponsored Child	***name removed for safety
Estimated Age at Rescue	17
School/Class	JuniorHighSchool-3

Dear Sponsor,

Please find below a message from your sponsored child, collected during a recent monitoring visit.

My name is *** and I am 20 years old. I have survived a childhood spent working for a fishing master.

I was trafficked at the tender age of seven after I lost my father, and my mother could not take care of me anymore. I spent most of my childhood fishing. During the period of trafficking I worked from 4am-1pm every day under very challenging conditions. I was finally rescued in 2011 by IOM and reintegrated with my mother.

Before being rescued, my master used me for all activities pertaining to fishing such as paddling the canoe, casting net, diving into the lake to disentangle nets, pulling net, scooping water from the canoe and selling fish on Volta Lake.

After my rescue, I was enrolled in school and am currently in my final year of Junior High School. I am happy to be learning in school and my performance is far above the average student. However, I have the challenge of fending for myself and paying for my class fees through menial jobs that I do and sometimes through the benevolence of people. I hope to become visual arts teacher in future.

My current family situation is that, my mother with whom I was initially reintegrated has relocated to a different community due to the inability to make ends meet.

On behalf of IOM, we thank you for your support of ***. Together we can make a difference in the lives of rescued children, so they can attain or reach their highest potential in life through a safe and dignified manner. Your funds are used to provide basic essentials for children to attend school or their apprenticeship programme and include school supplies, food and hygiene items. Should you have any questions about the sponsorship programme, your sponsored child or other ways to get involved, please contact our counter-trafficking team at IOM, Accra-Ghana.

Sincerely,
Wisdom Doe
Counter Trafficking Assistant, IOM Ghana

Please visit our website to review our Sponsorship FAQs and Child Safety Policy.
www.iom.int/cms/ghana



*** with some of his art work (January 2014).

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Please visit our website to read FAQs regarding our sponsorship programme and to review our child safety policy.

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