



Centerville-Washington Township TIMES

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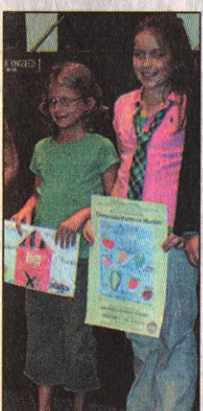
Thursday, October 1, 2009



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IN THE NEWS



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See
page 3

BRIEFLY

CHS senior starts charity for orphanage

Breanna McGowan, a senior at Centerville High School, went to Ghana the first two weeks of August for a two-week immersion program for 16-19 year-olds with Projects Abroad. While there, she celebrated her 17th birthday, and she was very surprised when the orphans sang "Happy Birthday" to her.

She and several other teens (mostly from the UK, Canada and France) volunteered for projects with the 57 orphans at Cape Coast's Outreach Orphanage and Evangelical International Mission (OOEIM). They painted the orphanage, played football (soccer), and swam with the children.

Breanna was so taken with the children there, who range in ages 6-18 years, that she decided to use most of her souvenir money to purchase much needed food from the market for the orphanage. In her calls home, she expressed to her mother, Laura McGowan, that the orphans needed so many things, and that she wanted to start an organization to get the kids shoes and school supplies. She and her mother came up with the name, "All God's Children Got Shoes," after a very old Christian song.

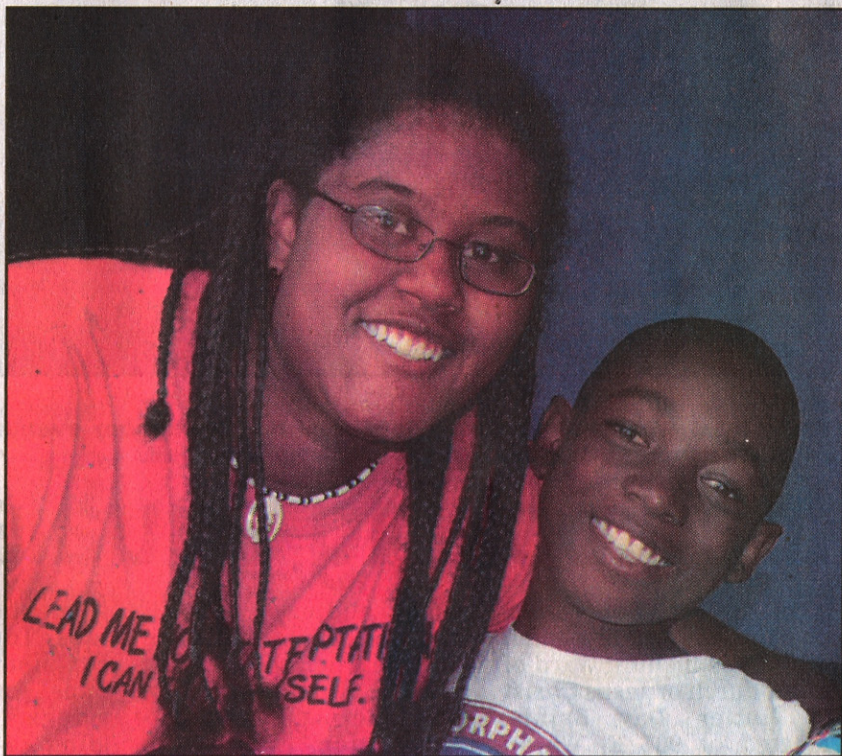
To date, Breanna has received

support from teachers, family and friends who want to help with her cause. One of her teachers is helping her with ideas on how to raise money and some friends have sent money. She has collected all of the school supplies like notebook paper, pens, pencils, folders, crayons and markers for this school year and is working on supplies for next school year. She also has purchased 28 pairs of shoes and is still waiting to get more money and shoe sizes for the rest of the children.

Additionally, Breanna has contacted the administrator of the orphanage, Mr. Kweku Bondzie, and requested that the 17 and 18 year olds write essays for colleges stateside, and she will gather information about colleges in the United States where these teens can apply to possibly come to school on student visas.

"To say that I had fun would minimize my experience," Breanna said. "It was life-changing, and I will never forget them, and I want them to always remember me."

Breanna plans to return to Ghana with Projects Abroad next summer and will take one of her high school friends with her. After that, she plans to visit



Submitted photo

Breanna McGowan (left) spent two weeks in Ghana and is now leading the effort to help schoolchildren in orphanages.

South Africa and Ethiopia with the program in the next three years.

If there are other teens, individuals or companies in Centerville, Dayton and the sur-

rounding area who would like to find out how they can join in this cause, contact Laura McGowan at (937) 789-1043. To find out more about Projects Abroad, visit www.projects-abroad.net.