



Happy April! We have some great news to announce and some save the dates! Read below!

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### **Project Redwood Grant Accepted to Build Educational and Residential Centers in Ghana**

Breaking the Chain Through Education (BTCTE) has obtained a \$32,833 grant from Project Redwood, a non-profit partnership of the Stanford Graduate School of Business Alumni. The money will be used to fund the construction of a new residential and educational center in the Sogakope region of Ghana.

The Center will provide housing to BTCTE's awardees who are learning a trade from local tradespeople. The apprentices currently are housed in apartments located throughout the region. The Center will become their new home.

The Center also will provide supervised housing to students attending boarding schools who require support during school breaks and other times when the boarding schools are closed. Having the students under one roof will allow BTCTE's social workers to spend more time working with them and less time traveling to the various remote locations where their families reside. A BTCTE social worker will live on the Campus to provide the apprentices and students with additional support and supervision.

Two buildings will be constructed on the property. The Residential Center will have single-occupancy bedrooms, a common kitchen and dining area, a communal study room, and an entertainment room. As needed, the study room will be converted into temporary sleeping quarters for students. The Campus Education Center will contain a conference room/classroom, offices for BTCTE personnel, and a caretaker's residence. In addition to its use for teaching and BTCTE administrative activities, Ghana's District Social Services will use it to interact more frequently and conveniently with the students and apprentices. The remainder of the land will be used as a farm to grow crops and raise animals, and for a volleyball court.

Once finished, the Center will significantly reduce BTCTE's costs to house apprentices and students, including students attending local universities. The money saved will enable BTCTE to enroll many more needy youngsters into its programs. The construction of the facility itself will provide on-the-job training for the apprentices and help the local economy. The goal is to open the Center by early 2024.

"This project was a perfect fit for our organization," said Mike Fitzgerald, who serves on Project Redwood's board of directors and its grant review committee. "We're looking forward to watching it progress, and establishing an ongoing relationship with BTCTE."

Project Redwood provides funding, expertise, and connections to social entrepreneurs addressing the challenge of global poverty. Since its founding in 2010, Project Redwood has provided over \$4 million in grants to dozens of organizations located in over 30 countries. In addition, to construct the Center, BTCTE is partnering with Youth Creating Change, a program of Communities United Against Hate(CUAH) that provides extra classes for children in Sogakope.

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#### **Save The Dates:**

**April 22nd Garage Sale** We will be at Old Franklin Schoolhouse (491 Middlesex Ave) selling items at the Metuchen Town-wide Garage Sale.

**May 15th Tricky Tray** Held at The Brownstone in Metuchen.

**June 11th Street Fair** We will have a booth at the Metuchen Street Fair on Main Street.

**June 15th Summer Kickoff** Held at Metuchen High School, we will have three food trucks, ice cream truck, bounce houses and obstacle course, corn hole, popcorn and cotton candy machines, dunk tank and kids crafts.

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Thank you to all who support BTCTE!  
If you would like to donate,  
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#### **Our Contact Information**

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