

Teach a Man: Wisdom

Story | Updates 10 | Comments 29 | Funders 62 | Gallery 13



175 | 1 | Email | Embed | Link | Follow

A story about a man in Ghana and his desire to attend college.

Boulder, Colorado, United States | Education

What's the goal?

Raise \$3,800 to send my Ghanaian friend Jey to the University of Ghana for 3 years so that he can earn his bachelor's degree in Afforestation (the conservation and reintroduction of plant life in barren areas).

Who is Jey?

Jey is a 28-year-old Ghanaian man who lives in Accra. His father passed away when he was 9 and he grew up in a single mother household, polishing shoes on the street until he was 16 to help support his family. He made it all the way through high school (earning good grades), but was unable to continue into college because of a lack of funds. He's smart, caring, good-natured, and passionate about education. Right now, Jey lives hand-to-mouth selling handmade bracelets and necklaces to tourists who stay at or near The Rising Phoenix Hotel.

Where does your Money Go?

1. Jey's Tuition & Housing Costs for 3 Years
2. 3 annual allowances for Jey to purchase books, school supplies, new clothes, and cover basic needs
3. Printing & Shipping costs for 'Wisdom' Tees

About the Traveler...

Hi! My name is Justin Dart and I'm a soon-to-be senior business student at the University of Colorado. A little over a month ago, I set foot off the MV Explorer in San Diego having completed a Semester at Sea and traveled through 11 different countries. It was the most challenging and intense (not to mention fast-paced) environment I've ever been in. I've never felt so many high highs and so many humbling lows in just over 100 days. I've come out of SAS more sure of who I am and the kind of person that I wish to become than I've ever been in my life. For these reasons and the fact that I got an opportunity to take a voyage like that, I am incredibly blessed. Thank you for taking a look at 'Teach a Man,' I hope you like what you see.

About the Program

SAS is a nonprofit program run by The Institute of Shipboard Education that recruits college students from all over the world and sends them on a circumnavigation of the globe aboard the MV Explorer (our traveling campus) twice a year. We took classes full-time on the ship and traveled in country at each new port. Simply put, "the world is our classroom." The spring 2012 voyage journeyed to:

- Nassau, Bahamas
- Rosseau, Dominica
- Manaus, Brazil
- Tema, Ghana
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Port Louis, Mauritius
- Cochin, India
- Singapore
- Saigon, Vietnam
- Hong Kong
- Shanghai, China
- Kobe, Japan
- Yokohama, Japan
- Hilo, Hawaii

'Teach a Man: Wisdom' T-Shirts

When I designed this shirt, I wanted a purpose-oriented Tee that people would actually want to wear. I started with a high quality Anvil Sustainable product that's comfortably soft, cut in a flattering shape, and will stand up to years of wear. Details include:

- 50% Organic Cotton & 50% Post-Consumer Recycled Polyester
- Ultra smooth, lightweight Fabric
- Pre-shrunk
- Tear-away Neck Tag for Comfort
- Available in Sizes S through 3XL
- Note: Typically runs small (for sizing info visit: http://www.customink.com/items/sizing/166200_lineup/standard.htm)

What happens if we exceed \$3800?

Until the time meter runs out, we can continue to raise funds above and beyond the current goal. Meaning, if you still want a 'Wisdom Tee' (or any other perk) or just care to support the cause, please go ahead and do so. Here's what I have in mind in case this happens:

1. Jey gets several new sets of nice clothing for school. There's a reason you only see him in that lime green Tee (those pictures came from multiple days). Attending the sociology lecture, I was blown away with how well students dress for class (polo's, button-down shirts, skirts, dresses, and so on). Compared to us casual Boulder students, our Ghanaian counterparts dress REALLY nicely.
2. Depending on housing costs, I'll help Jey look into renting an apartment in Accra for when he's on summer and winter break. What I didn't mention in the video is that Jey currently sleeps on a covered bench outside the Rising Phoenix Hotel. He uses a tarp for a blanket and wears long-sleeve clothing to avoid mosquitoes and getting malaria during the night. He very much lives hand-to-mouth...at least for now.
3. If the funds allow, I'd like to purchase a laptop for Jey. Not necessarily a high-end or brand new model, just something that he can complete schoolwork on and send email to all of his supporters in the US. He needs something that'll last for at least three years. And I know for a fact, this would be the first major possession he could call his own.
4. Other than that, you decide! I'm certainly flexible in where additional support goes. I'd love to hear any ideas you might have.

FAQ's

1. You said you keep in touch with Jey through email. Does he have a computer?
 - The first time I was asked this question, I had to ask Jey myself because I really didn't know the answer. No, he doesn't have a computer. Like many in Accra, Jey just doesn't have the money to afford one. Instead, he goes to public computer terminals and pays 80 peswes (about 41 cents) for each hour of use.
2. Can you donate in other currencies besides USD?
 - Yes, absolutely! Indiegogo will take payment in most currency forms, but your donation will need to be equivalent to the dollar amount of the perk you choose. For instance, if you wish to receive one of Jey's bracelets (\$100), you'll need to donate something like 80 euros or 5,729 Indian Rupees. Thanks to all our international sponsors.
3. What percentage of T-shirt funds go to supporting Jey?
 - Each 'Wisdom' shirt sold generates right around \$10 US for Jey's education. Unfortunately because of printing and shipping costs, I wasn't able to negotiate a better margin without sacrificing product quality. If you're interested in helping Jey more (and still getting a Tee), I suggest looking at the other levels of contribution as they yield more to the 'Teach a Man' fund.
4. How are you getting Jey enrolled?
 - I'm currently in touch with Professor Kofi Adjei at the University of Ghana and despite his busy schedule, he's offered to help in whatever ways he can to get Jey enrolled. So far, he's given advice on how to pay the University and process that Jey must undergo to become enrolled.
5. Do you have any other contacts in Ghana helping with this?
 - Yes, actually. Not too long ago, I received an email from a Dutch volunteer, Jurriaan de Jong, who's currently serving a 10-week stay in Ghana. Jey put me in touch with Jurriaan in hopes that he could help me with this project. We've emailed back and forth a few times and I'm thrilled to have someone actually in Ghana that can lend a hand if necessary.
6. Where did you get all those photos in the video?
 - All but the T-Shirt pic came from my camera. No Google Images on this one. What you saw in the video is what my friends and I experienced.

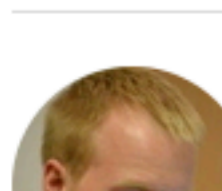
Cheers & Thank You

On behalf of Jey, Jurriaan, Prof Adjei, and myself, I'd like to say thank you for your support. It means the world to me that I have friends, family, and friends-of-friends to call on for something like this. I know for a fact that it certainly means the world to Jey. I believe we have the power to change the world every single day; we just need to start small. For today, let's teach a man...

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Team



Justin Dart
Executive Producer
VERIFIED



Jeff Willich



John Cutter

\$4,925 USD

RAISED OF \$3,800 GOAL

130% | 0 time left

This campaign started on Jun 14 and closed on August 13, 2012 (11:59pm PT).

Flexible Funding

CAMPAIGN CLOSED

This campaign ended on August 13, 2012

SELECT A PERK

\$10 USD

Primary Education

Every little bit helps, so THANK YOU for your support!

2 claimed

\$25 USD

Secondary Education

'Teach a Man: Wisdom' T-shirt. A good-looking, comfortable cause-related Tee you'll actually want to wear (see Gallery).

16 claimed

\$50 USD

High School Diploma

In addition to a 'Wisdom' Tee, I'll be forwarding you an electronic copy of the picture of Jey sitting in the classroom and giving you a flattering shout out both here and on Facebook.

4 claimed

\$75 USD

Accepted into to College

Above perks and a year's worth of quarterly updates on how Jey is doing both in school and in life.

3 claimed

\$100 USD

Studying Abroad

Perks listed above and a handmade wire bracelet made by Jey and sent from Ghana. Picture in Gallery shows the design of Africa, but more options available. You're making me giddy with this one.

17 claimed

\$250 USD

College Graduate

You'll be receiving all of the above perks, a personal 'Thank You' email from Jey himself, and a handwritten thank you from me. I'll be tickled pink!

1 claimed

\$500 USD

Semester at Sea Graduate

For your incredible support, you'll be receiving 2 Wisdom Tee's, a framed copy of the picture of Jey in the classroom, a year's worth of quarterly updates on Jey, 1 of Jey's handmade bracelets, a handwritten thank you from me, a personal thank you email from Jey, and I'll get you in touch with him, be it through email, on the phone, or Facebook. I'll be doing the snoopy dance on this one.

0 claimed

\$1,000 USD

Captain of the MV Explorer

For your magnanimous contribution, you'll be getting 2 Wisdom Tees, a framed copy of Jey's picture, 2 of Jey's handmade bracelets, a year's worth of updates, a handwritten thank you from me, a personal email from Jey, I'll put you in touch with him, and everyone knows the Captain gets a special dinner. My family and I will be hosting you and yours for an African-themed dinner at our home in Lafayette, Colorado (travel expenses are yours, but we'll make it worth your while!).

0 out of 2 claimed

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