

# CRAN honours staff

AS part of efforts to adequately motivate and reward staff for their commitment towards ensuring that work is duly carried out, CRAN Management has awarded a number of staff for hard work and diligence.

The end-of-year programme held at Elmina Beach Resort was addressed by the Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Agbesinyale; CEO for CRAN MF, Mr Ben Turkson, and the Volta Regional Coordinator, Mr Emmanuel Asior. They each presented various reports and forecasts into year 2012.

With singing and dancing, staff expressed excitement at the programme and asked that their spouses should also be invited next time a programme like that is to be held.

Prizes were awarded in the following categories: Best worker: Mr Abraham A. Akouko: KIVA Unit; Best worker in the Social Department: Mr Emmanuel Asior (Volta Regional Coordinator).

Other awards like the Best Unit with the highest portfolio went to the Abura Unit whilst the Elmina Unit went home with the best Unit with the lowest Portfolio at Risk (PAR).

Mr Victor Agbeboh also known as Torgbui, CRAN's driver for the past ten years, was adjudged the best driver/mechanic for the year.

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## Capacity Building of Staff is key

**R**ealising that building staff capacity is an essential part of human resource development for a growing venture, CRAN has engaged staff at various levels of training and further knowledge acquisition.

There were a number of training sessions and workshops both within and outside the office to update staff knowledge and improve work efficiency.

These included training on Solar Energy products and sales, improving staff relations with Microfinance clients, Team Building workshops.

After a 3-day workshop on team building and efficiency, held at FESPA Hotel in Cape Coast, most staff members said they had been better positioned to cooperate with colleagues in the office and serve clients professionally so that CRAN Microfinance, especially, could compete with other microfinance organisations in the country.

## Trinity Church donates towards Musunkwa library

**T**rinity United Reformed Church of Wimbledon, supporters of the Musunkwa Community School library project, has donated an amount of £1541.38 and some reference books to CRAN.

The donation was towards the purchase of books for the Musunkwa library while the reference books would be given to resource the library.

According to CRAN's social development team, plans have been made to purchase learning materials and books locally for all classes in the school so that by the end of each year each child must have read at least 20 different story books.

Some Board members have also donated some reading and learning materials for the same purpose.



# CRAN

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### In this Issue

- CRAN honours staff
- Bail-out plan rolled out for CRAN MF
- New property for head office acquired



**Mrs Perpetual Eduah**

*CRAN Microfinance's new employee*

**M**rs. Perpetual Eduah joined CRAN in November 2011. She holds a Diploma in Business Management from the University of Cape Coast after graduating with Diploma in Business Studies at the Cape Coast Polytechnic. She had worked with Edsam Press and Ghana Trade Fair. Mrs Eduah is married with a child. She is now at the KIVA desk to replace Miss Gifty Addo who resigned in November 2011.

## More Hope for the Future

As 2011 comes to an end we in CRAN can express our sincere thanks to God, our partners/donors and staff for good work done to keep CRAN on its feet to be able to serve our target groups in CRAN Microfinance and Social Development.

There have been challenges in areas such as the formal separation of CRAN Microfinance from Social Development department, loans recovery, staff resignations, staff accidents, yet the organisation chalked great successes in helping to improve lives of school children and families with a very positive result of having new staff to continue with the work.

From the various meetings and seminars held in the year there were expression of hope for the coming year 2012 and indeed by the end of the year some foreign donors have expressed interest in partnering with CRAN.

We pray that our faith in the Lord will keep us in the New Year to enable us serve Him and humanity represented in Central, Western and Volta Regions of Ghana.

## More Investors show interest in CRAN Microfinance



Ms Diana Banuro, right, with Julie in a chat with staff at CRAN's head office

A number of foreign investors have expressed their interest to invest funds into the operations of CRAN Microfinance.

Their attraction to the work of CRAN Microfinance was due to the organisation's commitment to alleviating poverty among rural dwellers in parts of Ghana, especially in offering opportunities to women to develop themselves and provide livelihood to their families.

Among those who paid visit to assess the financial performance of CRAN Microfinance and its impact of rural women in particular include Alterfin, a cooperative society of North South organisations in Belgium, and ADA Microfinance Expertise.

In a 3-day working visit to CRAN Microfinance from November 28th-30th 2011,

Ms Diana Banuro, Financial Analyst of Alterfin, expressed her organisation's desire to invest in a socially-oriented microfinance organisation

like CRAN MF.

The visitors were taken to the field to familiarise themselves with CRAN MF's field work and assess the impact of the loans on the lives of the rural women who form about 80% of CRAN Microfinance's clients base.

The CEO of CRAN MF, Benjamin Turkson, in an address said that CRAN MF and Alterfin have a common social goal of alleviating rural women especially of poverty and so Alterfin's desire to invest in CRAN MF was in the right direction to give hope to the rural dweller.

He expressed the hope that by the time CRAN MF and Alterfin conclude discussion on the investment, an amount of five hundred thousand dollars would be invested into the operations of CRAN MF.

## CORDAID rolls out Bail-Out plan for CRAN MF



Ms Annemieke Van Der Liej seated with the CEO of CRAN MF, Mr Benjamin Turkson

CORDAID's Africa Investment Officer, Annemieke Van Der Leij, had paid a three-day working visit to CRAN Microfinance to ascertain the current operations of CRAN MF as prescribed by the demands in the new agreement between CRAN and her donors.

The visit took place between September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and was meant to provide information to the donor about the current

operations of CRAN Microfinance as well as lend further support on its development agenda of providing livelihood to the rural poor in parts of Ghana.

Among other things, Ms Van Der Liej's visit was to confirm the bail out plan for CRAN Microfinance out of the financial crisis it has suffered for the past two years.

CORDAID has therefore supported CRAN Microfinance with a 2-year interest-free loan of €125,000.00 and a donated equity of €150,000.00 meant to relieve CRAN Microfinance of its operational cost and expenses.

At the end of the visit during which she called on some clients at their meetings, Ms Van Der Leij expressed confidence in the operations of CRAN Microfinance and stated CORDAID's resolve to continue to support the operations of CRAN Microfinance.

She was however emphatic on CORDAID's main objective of providing support to the rural poor, insisting that CRAN Microfinance should roll out its loans to improve the lots of the rural poor in the Ghanaian society.

## CRAN Acquires Property for Head Office

THE legal acquisition of a two-storey building situated at Pedu, a suburb of Cape Coast, has set the tone for the fulfilment of one of the goals set out in the 2005 - 2015 strategic plan of the CRAN.

A professional architect, Mr. Ebenezer Botchey was contacted to redesign the building for office use.

Artisans have thus began working on the building which will house eleven offices including a conference hall, reception, washrooms, kitchen, an archive and a large parking space.

The renovation is expected to complete in July 2012 for occupancy.

CRAN's corporate image is tipped to improve by the new head office and also give staff enough space to work conveniently.

Plans have been concluded to name the new building after Hans Wallhausser, first coordinator of CRAN Germany who died recently.

Until his demise, Mr Wallhausser was regarded as the kingpin in the beginnings and one who sustained the work of CRAN Germany and CRAN Ghana.

