



## A Dream Come True FOC-USA

Special point of interest

It had always been the cherished dream of the late Mr. Michael V. Gershowitz, a Grant writer of Gershowitz Grant and Evaluation Services, an Iowa City based Institution to have *Friends of CRAN* registered as a shell in the United States of America (USA) the first time ever he came into contact with CRAN in Cape Coast. Indeed since 2005, when Michael first made physical contact with CRAN, there had been considerable follow up communications and activities between the two parties towards the realization of this dream. Then the sad and the unfortunate happened a few years later down the line. On 22nd December 2014, CRAN Executive Director was informed by Gabriel, the son of Michael about the sudden passing of his dad, the previous night. What a shock!!! And what a blow to our joint project!!! In our despair, Gabriel was at hand to offer hope. Gabriel (Gabe) took up his late father's mantle even as he announced the latter's demise to us that fateful day thus: ***"Patrick, my poor father suffered a heart attack and passed on last night. It is very important to me that we finalize the new CRAN-US entity if it would still be useful to you and I will do so as soon as I am back in the office. Just wanted you to know. Please confirm and we will proceed"***. True to his word, Gabe did not relent or waver in his commitment until the dream was recently achieved. The official registration of Friends of CRAN (FOC) - USA was finally done in June 2019. The Executive Director, Prof. Patrick Agbesinyale and his team then made a follow-up visit to the team Leader Gabriel Gershowitz and some of the Board Members in the US. CRAN Ghana wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude to Gabe and his entire team and indeed all and sundry who made this dream a reality. FOC - USA is a dream of the late Father of Gabriel - Michael V. Gershowitz - and we wish to dedicate it to his memory. Gabriel, a Lawyer by profession, took up seriously the vision of the Father and mobilized his colleagues at the Weil Law firm to see the realization of the establishment of FOC -USA. To all behind the scenes, who toiled so hard for the realization of this dream, we say may the good Lord shower his blessings on you and your posterity beyond your wildest imagination. It's been years of working together and all we want to say is God bless you richly.



From the right is  
Gabe, Patrick,

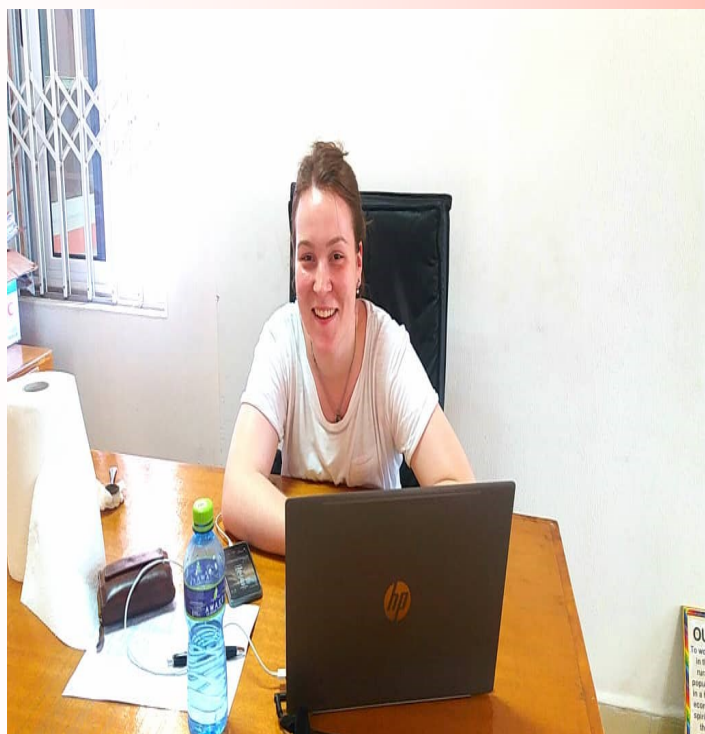
Doris & Jeneé to the extreme left who is one of the Board Members in an FOC-US meeting over dinner in New York.

### Theske Tells Her Story

I have already spent two months in Ghana since December 15th. Time flies by when exploring and experiencing a lot. In the first two weeks I have already seen so much. CRAN staff showed me many places: Cape Coast Castle, Kakum National park, CRAN schools, Cape Coast town and more. What was so new and different to me gradually got known. So that by now I adjusted well. CRAN and my host family made it easy for me to feel at home very soon. Ghana and its people indeed are very welcoming and friendly.

Even though I am happy to have seen a lot already, sometimes visiting the schools was frustrating. The stories children told us when we collected the data for the Child Education Support Scheme (CESS) seemed unreal. I still cannot believe what some children had to go through by their young age. What these children experienced already, one might not experience in a lifetime.

Still, I am thankful for this to have this experience. I am looking forward to four more months working with CRAN and staying in Ghana.



Theske by her desk at the office



Theske with a teacher taking profiles of some new CESS children



### Bank of Ghana (BoG)'s On-Site Examination

After the sanitization exercise in the financial sector in June, 2019, the Central Bank of Ghana (BoG) is not relenting in its' efforts to ensure the financial sector is sound. As such, there was a follow-up visit to CRAN Microfinance to conduct an on-site examination. The exercise took three (3) days and Management was debriefed on ways to improve the business. On-site examination is the Central Bank's routine service to the financial sector and the visit was the second for CRAN Microfinance this year.



*Staff of BoG and CRAN Microfinance in a photo after their meeting .*

### Donation from Compagnon – Netherlands

CRAN Microfinance acknowledges with a heartfelt gratitude another donation from Compagnon – Netherlands to be given as a revolving loan to the women in Micro-finance. On behalf of the women, we say thanks to Hetty and her entire team.

### Livelihood Schemes & Community Based Enterprises training.

CRAN partnered with Friends of the Nation, a sister Non– Governmental Organization (NGO) in the Western Region of Ghana to conduct a training for about one hundred and thirty (130) participants in identified communities in the Western Region . The training was on bee keeping and local black soap making. After which equipment for soap making and beekeeping were distributed to the participants. We are hopeful the participants would take up the lessons learnt and become self employable and financially self sufficient.



*Staff & Trainers of CRAN*



*Trainees & equipment distributed to them*

## CRAN NEWSLETTER

### Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year!



### Faith With Deeds

CRAN

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