



The UNITE Foundation

Empowering Youth & Connecting Cultures

Annual Report 2017



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A Message from the Unite Foundation President

It is a very exciting time for The UNITE Foundation! In many ways, we are in the midst of a milestone moment as support for our camps and mission is growing exponentially. Born out of a desire to help Togolese youth find a voice within their communities, a decade of steady progress has culminated with a watershed year of change and progress. Thank you for your part in helping create these achievements!

The UNITE Foundation will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2018. From delivering one camp for young girls to executing multiple impact camps, our innovative programs now link young women and girls with young men to become community change agents. Hundreds of youth who attended our camps are leading and empowering their communities, thereby improving Togo and beyond.

We continue to benefit from a motivated and vital donor base. This year alone, our proceeds sustained our highest operating budget ever of \$65,000. These resources are allowing us to lay the groundwork to enter new countries where we think Camp UNITE can be an effective. We have also been able to create a new Dan Geisler Camp Scholarship to be awarded at the end of each camp.

This Annual Report continues to tell our story. As we enter another decade of The UNITE Foundation, please consider that every camp, every new initiative, and every dollar raised may forever change a young life. We will continue to adapt, build bridges, unify, and uplift. Our compass remains to listen, learn, and follow the needs, aspirations, and guidance of our campers, Togo, and West Africa.

Thank you for your gracious support over the last 10 years. As we enter a new decade, we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JC', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jason Coleman
President - UNITE Foundation

10 Years of UNITE Foundation Support for Camp UNITE!



Camp UNITE 2017!

Camp UNITE engages campers in a variety of activities to build new skills and cultivate lasting friendships. The image at right depicts a daily event to demonstrate the campers growth. Each day, participants earn a new plank that symbolizes something that young people need to succeed. These planks reflect the lessons that they've learned during the day, including topics like self-confidence, good planning and budgeting, gender equality, positive relationships, and knowledge about health. At the end of the week of activities, the participants have all the planks to build a bridge to a healthy life.



On the last day, newly trained young leaders march and sing in a celebration of their new friendships. They march down the road to a local village where they will perform skits about what they've learned. These skits and songs are practice so that they can be young leaders and continue to share the lessons when they return home.

U.S. Ambassador to Togo David Gilmour visited Camp Unite to meet the participants. Photographed here with the organizing team in fashionable matching pagne outfits!



Gatien and Rosine Bring Camp Unite Lessons Home

A story from Jason Haworth, Peace Corps volunteer Togo 2016-2018

2016 Unité camper Gatien Padabo, age 15, loves to talk. As the middle child in a household with little fatherly presence, Gatien was often responsible for taking care of his young brother, mother, and grandmother. In addition to a large share of household chores, Gatien attended the local CEG where he forged personal relationships with his teachers. When I arrived in village, I was greeted by many neighbors but it was Gatien who made a lasting impression. Gatien would often visit two or three times a day just to say hello, to start a conversation (or on occasion a debate), or to offer his assistance. Gatien exhibited a number of unique and commendable characteristics: perhaps in response to the lack of leadership at home, Gatien looked to community leaders for advice; he was unreserved in extending greetings to neighbors; he consistently offered to help neighbors with odd jobs; and he showed a thirst for cultivating new skills, including a recent foray into cell-phone repair (which remains a skill in development). Gatien brings people together and has a naturally entrepreneurial spirit. At camp Unité, the traditionally extroverted Gatien encountered new challenges. When he arrived knowing no one, the strength that Gatien traditionally derived from his connections was disrupted. His behavior reflected his insecurity – he wore sunglasses to trainings, talked over younger participants, and argued with campers and counselors. But his eagerness to forge relationships remained constant and Gatien grew into his Camp Unité community. As a result of his experience at Camp Unité, Gatien grew as a person, and is more humble, but no less outgoing. Upon his return from camp, Gatien showed initiative in leading two meetings for community members to share his newly acquired knowledge. He and I worked together to refine his presentation skills and, despite being a young man in a culture that remains averse to discussing women's issues, he charismatically addressed the neighborhood about sexual harassment, reproductive health, and the importance of school for girls. He and Camp Unité made me very proud, and helped me see firsthand the impact of Peace Corps.

Rosine, a 2010 Camp Unité participant, is going places. I was introduced to Rosine by the Director of the local CEG where she was interning for a few months before returning to Atakpamé to complete her University studies to become a teacher. She still remembered the names of the counselors she'd had at camp Unité seven years earlier, and she proudly recounted how she was asked to return to the camp as a Jeune Leader. She also explained how, despite coming from a poor family, the experience at Unité propelled her to achieve success, pursue other volunteering opportunities, and strive to become a teacher. Rosine shared with me that she desired to start a Club for Girl-Leaders at the CEG before returning to Atakpamé. She asked me for help, but I told her I knew someone more qualified.

A few weeks later I attended the inauguration of the Club for Girl-Leaders with Rosine and Gatien working side by side. The young women of the school elected a council of 9 girls to lead the club. The whole school was present when the female club participants and Gatien introduced themselves. After the club's inception, Gatien instructed the club from the Camp Unité curriculum – drawing directly from the Camp Unité book distributed to camp participants. The Girl's Club counsel was so inspired by this activity, they raised money to copy the books for each member of the counsel so that they can all participate in planning meetings. Eventually the council will take responsibility for all club activities and direction. The Girls' Club has proven to be a great success. The CEG classroom used for meetings is often full beyond capacity, with more than a hundred girls and boys in attendance. Gatien employed his impressive networking skills to invite a community member named Kpatcha, with training from Hope for Health, a local health-focused civil society organization, to participate in the first meeting. Together, Kpatcha, the Girls' Club Council, and Gatien presented information on reproductive health to the club members with passion and energy. I am appreciative to Gatien, Rosine, Kpatcha, the young leaders of the Girls' Club, Camp Unité and all of the supporters of the Unite Foundation for making this serendipitous, inspiring story come true.



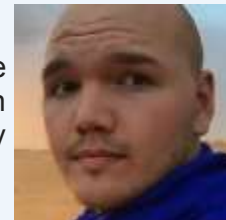
From the Organizers of Camp UNITE 2016

My name is **AKALAH Malika**, and I am a psychosocial counselor for individuals living with HIV-AIDS. I have been an organizer for Camp UNITE since 2015, and I am motivated by a commitment and dedication to promoting the education of adolescents to lead healthy and conscientious lives. For me, every person has a value, you just have to trust each other. My work with the Peace Corps dates back to 2011. I am very proud to work with the youth of the future.



My name is **Steve AMOUZOU** and I am a social and educational leader for the YMCA in Lome, Togo. I attended the University of Lome, and I now serve as an organizer of Camp Unite. I am motivated to lead the UNITE camp to contribute to the blossoming of the youth and also to promote cultural mixing. I believe that we all have potential and that it is through tolerance, collaboration and cultural mixing that we can achieve a better world. I also like to share, because it is by sharing that we learn from others, and the UNITE camp allows me to give, to receive and to grow in knowledge for a better Togo.

My name is **Ti Bedunah**, and I am the communications organizer for Camp Unite this year. I grew up in West Virginia, but spent the majority of my teenage years in Columbus, OH. I studied French Literature and Linguistics at WVU and was lucky enough to study in Quebec, Canada, as well as Ifrane, Morocco.



My name is **Allie Olmsted**, and I'm a Community Health and Malaria Prevention Volunteer serving in the Savannah region. I was born and raised in Texas but went to school in Atlanta to study chemistry and anthropology. In Togo, kids are the group most open to learning and change, and Camp Unité allows us to impact this group. I first became interested in Camp Unite after completing a mini-camp series in my village, where I saw clearly the motivation and excitement of participants. Camp Unité has impacted many participants who have gone on to do work in their villages to educate and train others. Seeing the changes that they want to make in their communities and their country is inspiring and motivates me.

My name is **Sibabi Ouro-Bodi**, I work for the NGO ADIFF in Sokode. I've been an organizer for Camp UNITE since 2008. Gender equity is the theme that is especially important to me because it inspires change in the behavior of men toward women and girls in the division of tasks. I practice gender equity in my own home and my wife, my children, and I, we live joyfully.



My name is **Will Thomas** and I am an English and Gender Education volunteer serving in N'Dewone-Kondji in the Maritime region. I come from Chicago and graduated from Loyola University Chicago. Prior to serving in Togo, I taught English in Santiago, Chile. I applied to be part of the Camp UNITE team because I enjoy working with youth and had heard lots of positive reviews of past editions of the camp. I had a great time as an apprentice last year and especially liked seeing kids from all of the regions, ethnicities, and religions of Togo interact and work together. I am

UNITE Foundation Financial Information

UNITE Foundation Revenue

Individual Donors	\$23,173.21	68%
CFC	\$3,881.73	11%
Cost of Benefits to Donors	\$3,610.00	11%
Corporate Contributions and Donation Matching	\$3,338.59	10%
Amazon Smile	\$58.81	0%
Total	\$34,003.53	

UNITE Foundation Expenses

Spring Fundraiser	\$7,232.50	64%
Government Filing Fees	\$2,446.72	22%
Payment Processing Fees	\$679.74	6%
Printing, Postage	\$533.28	5%
Travel	\$330.21	3%
Accounting Software	\$50.00	0%
Bank Fees	\$35.00	0%
Total	\$11,307.45	

Funds Sent to Camp

\$10,000

Total Number of Individual Donations

248

Thank you to our donors, whose generosity makes Camp UNITE possible:

Kari Abood	Maureen Danzot	Elizabeth Hanley	Jennifer MacLeod	Ameenah Pridgen
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			Faith Polkey	Nora Zarcone

Introducing: The Dan Geisler Award

Dan Geisler served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Togo from 1977 to 1980. He was a world explorer, always happy to discover a new place new people. He remained committed to Togo and to the RPCV community especially through his role on the board of the Friends of Togo.



When The Unite Foundation was first created in 2008, Dan was one of the earliest supporters. His combination of enthusiasm and practical advice helped get the organization on its feet and allowed us to support the past ten years of youth leadership camps, benefiting over 1000 young leaders and 160 camp counselors in West Africa.

We are proud to announce that The Unite Foundation has teamed up with the Geisler family to create the Dan Geisler Award to recognize Camp UNITE participants who:

- Demonstrate good peer mentorship
- Show kindness and generosity
- Encourage peers who are struggling
- Consistently see the best in others

The admirable participants who earn the Award will receive additional support and resources to exercise their peer mentorship skills and bring the lessons of Camp Unite back to their villages.



The Foundation's Third Annual Fundraiser, held on July 23, 2017, was our most successful yet! Enhancements included featured performances by Elikeh, a Togolese band, and a marked increase in silent auction contributions by local and regional artists. Since 2015, the Annual Fundraiser has raised over \$50,000 in online and in-person donations, which has facilitated hundreds of teenagers' attendance for our Boys and Girls Empowerment Camps, the expansion of the Foundation's donor base, the establishment of the Dan Geisler Award, and plans for expansion into other West African countries.

Meet the UNITE Team

Vision

The UNITE Foundation seeks to empower the next generation of leaders in West African development.

Mission

Driven by our commitment to youth development, we provide financial support to Camp UNITE, which equips West African youth with the skills and knowledge they need to lead healthy, productive lives.

Beliefs

We believe in the transformative power of the youth summer camp experience. We believe in each young person's ability to make a positive contribution to the world.

We believe education is the most powerful tool a young person can have.

Executive Board

Jason Coleman - President

Rose Lindgren - Vice President

Chelsie Rattani - Secretary

Drew Quinton - Treasurer

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