



Ginger Gyimah-Boakye, who goes by her Ghanaian name Nana Akua Makafui, shows off some of the clothing donations she has collected for youth living in Ghana. *Julie Slack / Canadian Champion*

'That's where I want to help': Nana

34 Chiefs and Queen Mothers. It means developmental queen. Appropriate, since she's helping a village develop — one step at a time. She started her own non-government organization (NGO), Dove of Hope Ministries. She adopted a village, Toh-Kpalime in the Volta Region. While there's a school there, with a curriculum for all the grades, a library and a medical clinic, she found there were a lot of children not attending school, but running around on the streets instead. She questioned parents in the area, asking why they weren't sending their children to school. No one had an answer — all their children were in school. Turns out that the children had no parents to send them to school — they were homeless. "It was heartbreaking," she said. "I want to bring them all home with me." Since she can't do that, Nana is working to make a difference for them that will have long-term effects. The orphanage, which already has a physical building, just needs the supplies.

She's hopeful she can visit Ghana again in May, when she will travel to a lot of different places. "I travel to surgical clinics and do assessments to see what they require and I go to some of the most destitute spots," Nana explained. "That's where I want to help that's where I want to make a difference." She said she's trying to establish ways for the local communities that her NGO supports to be able to sustain themselves. "Empowerment is the only way that poverty can be alleviated," she said. A GoFundMe page has been established for the orphanage too: www.gofundme.com/ghana-orphanage-home-of-hope. To learn more, or to make a donation, go to <http://www.doveofhopeministries.com>. Nana is hoping to collect towels, blankets, toys, sleep wear, pants, shorts, sofas and chairs, beds mattresses, dish soap, laundry soap, tables and chairs, desks, garbage bags, bleach, kitchen items and more.

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