

The Post and Courier

Following the beat from Charleston to Ghana

Area groups help African village

By [Adam Parker](#)

aparker@postandcourier.com

Sunday, January 8, 2012



Children in Okurase in Ghana play traditional drums. Music and dance are a big part of village life. // Gerald Bybee

It didn't take much to reforge the connection: only making the dotted line solid.

The line first had been drawn between Charleston and West Africa in the 1700s, when the trans-Atlantic slave trade furnished the Lowcountry with captive Africans to work the rice fields. It fractured after the Civil War.

Now the line is solid again, linking three local groups to a certain village in Ghana: Okurase. And the link was made because of music.

From peril to purpose

The story begins in 1983 in Union Heights, a low-income neighborhood in North Charleston.

