

Sullivan's Island Elementary students enjoy a cultural African experience



STAFF PHOTOS BY HELEN RAVENEL

Pictured from left are Judy Reese, Rose Yeboah, Nana Ama Yeboah, Samuel Yeboah, Eve Spratt Edwards and Jim Edwards. (See more photos at spotted.moultrienews.com)

Last Friday the students at Sullivan's Island Elementary School heard a special performance from three family members from Africa.

Eve Spratt Edwards, who went with her family to Ghana in 2006, explained the cultural differences between Africa and the United States as well as she found it interesting to learn that drumming is a way that the people welcome others into their homes.

Master drum-maker Samuel Nkrumah Yeboah (also known as Powerful), along with his mother, Rose and sister Nana Ama explained the AIDS epidemic in Okurase, Ghana, as well as made joyful noise. Students from all grades were randomly selected to participate on their own drums as all students clapped and sang.

Yeboah's Project OKURASE includes a collaboration of the MUSC Family Services Research Center, community and faith based groups in the Charleston area with Nkabom Artists and Crafts people in Ghana to build an education and skills training center and home for AIDS orphans in Okurase, Ghana.

The groundbreaking of the building took place on March 26 but the organization still needs to raise the funds. Yeboah said that he wants to build a center "to give children a platform to help themselves."

More information about Project OKURASE can be found at www.projectokurase.org.



Samuel Yeboah (also known as "Powerful") and his sister, Nana Ama make a joyful noise. Eve Spratt Edwards participates (shown left).



Samuel Yeboah (far right) shows SIES students how to play the drums. The students pictured here were randomly selected from the group.



Rose Yeboah, SIES fourth-grader Carly Edwards and Nana Ama Yeboah after Friday's performance.