

Ghana joy at Aussie gifts

MEGAN BAILEY

TOYS, clothes and books from the Mid West arrived at their new home recently — an orphanage in Ghana.

Enough to fill two utility vehicles and a truck, the items were donated to the Adullum orphanage in June.

They were collected as part of a toy drive organised by Diab Engineering managing director Glen Payne after he visited one of the country's

orphanages on a business trip last year.

Mr Payne was moved by the experience and on returning to Australia rallied friends and family members to do what they could to help.

He said he would never forget the children's smiles when they saw the donations.

"When the children finished their Sunday school they came to look at the vehicles but did not know what was underneath," he said.

"The amazement on their faces when we pulled back the tarps and started to unload the vehicles is not something I will forget.

"The children are unbelievably happy and friendly and well-dressed to Ghana standards and more than happy to have a chat to you.

"They were amazed at being able to see themselves in digital photos."

Mr Payne said the books were especially welcome, as the orphanage was building a library with money donated by mining equipment company Atlas Copco.

"The staff and children pass on their sincere thanks to everyone who donated and I

would like to pass on my personal thanks to not only the people who donated, but also the people who packed, transported it and made the whole thing possible," he said.

"It was truly an honour to be able to deliver it on your behalf."

The orphanage houses 169 children aged between seven days and 15 years.

It was started by New Zealand woman Louise Timothy, who also had a great love for helping children.

Diab Engineering also praised moving company Toll West, the Australian Red Cross, Lighthouse Thrift Shop and Midwest Murchison Family Day Care for donations.

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Goodwill: Diab Engineering's Glen Payne (far right, sporting beard and sunglasses) delivers gifts from the Mid West to the orphanage.



For love and money: Gascoyne Dash rider James Doherty, right, pictured with pit crew Matthew Doherty, left, and Dan Lake has convinced his would-be sponsors to donate money towards the expansion of an African orphanage. Picture: JOSH BURROWS

Kids to benefit from Dash cash

JAMES Doherty loves motorbikes but not as much as he loves helping kids.

The former Geraldton man embarked yesterday on the three-day off-road race, the Gascoyne Dash. And he has raised \$20,000 for an orphanage in Ghana.

The Adullam Orphanage will use the money to help fund the construction of a new school.

"They have the orphan children into the school and they'll bring kids from outside into the school and charge them fees to attend," Mr Doherty said.

"This means the orphanage can support itself.

"Orphanages are few and far between in Ghana, so anything they can get to help them out is greatly appreciated."

Mr Doherty, who works in Ghana as an engineering manager for Red Back Mining, said four Australian company's had donated \$5000 each for the cause.

"When I decided to ride this race a couple of people offered sponsorship, which I initially knocked back," he said.

"Then I said, 'I'll take your sponsorship money and it can go directly to the orphanage and I'll fund the whole race myself'."

Geraldton company Diab

Engineering recently collected money for the Adullam orphanage and decided to sponsor Mr Doherty for the gruelling outback race.

Mr Doherty said it was his mission to give something back to the Ghanaian community.

"They do struggle and because they're a Third World country there's no support from the Government," Mr Doherty said.

"The orphanage is run by an Australian couple and they've been running it now for 10 years.

"They have 183 kids, and some are HIV positive and some are disabled."

Nature's beauty is the best medicine for all ailments.