

They opened our eyes and showed us the way."

People wore their finest Sunday church clothing to meet the students, and one man whose 14-year-old daughter had cerebral palsy carried her for miles to work with the group because he could not afford a wheelchair.

And, yes, the TC students did give the parents their wish. To enable children to shop in the market, they used paper and markers to create "communication boards" with images of okra, plantains, yams and other household staples. They also designed sets of cards that

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~ LLEE HARDY

identified the amounts of goods that each child wanted to buy.

When these tools were ready, the whole team got on a bus and went to the bustling open-air market in Effiduasi, about four hours from Ghana's capitol, Accra. For the first time in their lives, the children made purchases for their families. Crowley says that everyone was moved, including Bukari, the parents, the TC speech pathology team and especially, the children. Even the brusque market women started scolding one another to be patient with the kids. "You could feel the excitement growing," Crowley says. "You say to yourself, this is always what I have wanted to do as a speech pathologist."

"It was the greatest educational experience of my life," says Llee Hardy, who graduated last May from the Speech Language Pathology program. "I'll probably be paying back my loans forever, but it was totally, totally, worth it." ❖

By Elizabeth Dwoskin



MARKET READY In Ghana, parents of children with speech disorders want them to be able to shop for the family in the public market. Here, children equipped by TC students with "communication boards" make their first-ever purchases of okra, plantains and yams at the Effiduasi market.

