For New Jersey Social Studies teacher Evan Robbins, his life changed forever when he read an article in the *New York Times* about a six year-old boy who had been the victim of child slave trafficking and was forced to work in the fishing industry in the Lake Volta Region of Ghana.

As the father of a then-six-year-old son, the article just about broke Evan Robbins’ heart. He had to do something— or as he likes to say, he had to “move from empathy to action.”

Working with his students at Metuchen High School, Mr. Robbins began to raise money to rescue and rehabilitate Ghanaian children enslaved on fishing boats. These children work long hours on the boats. They bail water from the bottom of the boats and dive into the cold water to untangle nets; some get tangled in the nets and drown; others break bones or lose an eye.

Mr. Robbins formed a non-profit organization, which his students named Breaking The Chain Through Education (BTCTE). And in just four years, working with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), they had raised enough money to rescue 10 children.

In the winter of 2010, when Mr. Robbins traveled to Ghana, he noticed that several villages in the Lake Volta region did not have schools. This gave Evan Robbins an idea—a very ambitious idea. He and his colleagues offered the village of Awate Tornu a new school in exchange for freeing 19 trafficked children who worked there. The village accepted, and Mr. Robbins and IOM went to work organizing the building of a school for 240 students and raising the funds to cover the costs in full.

In the spring, Evan Robbins received word that Awate Tornu had released 19 child slaves, per the agreement. He’ll never forget that day for as long as he lives. By the fall of 2012, the school was up and running.