

## Sheid to Ghana, Africa



*Back row on right, Mary Sheid, front row middle Ashley Kimberling, then to the right of Ashley is the first lady Ernestine Mills*

Investigative and bridge building was the descriptive of a recent trip to Ghana, Africa by a United States Women's Executive Group. Members of the group included representatives in education, medicine and business from across the U.S., including Mary Sheid of West Plains, owner of Physical Therapy Specialists Clinic(PTSC). They met with Ghana officials, including the First Lady, Ernestina Mills.

The group arrived in Accra on May \_\_\_\_, 2010. Their first stop was at the Ghana South District Hospital where they met the hospital administrator, Matilda Agyemang, then made several stops at local public and private health clinics in the area. In addition, the group visited the University of Ghana, the University of Ghana Medical School, and the Catholic University College of Ghana to initiate affiliations between Rice University and Missouri State University with medical, nursing and physician assistant students. Missouri State University is also initiating a five week study abroad experience for their students.

During their seven day visit the group went to local villages to work with Teachers Against Malaria Epidemic (TAME), an international organization that supplies and installs mosquito nets in developing countries. The group hung over 150 nets for school age children and infants in their homes in rural Ghana. The purpose of TAME is to prevent malaria, a disease that kills one person every 30 seconds in developing countries.

The group was led by Kelli Moles, a Harvard MBA student and a survivor of Malaria, who was on her fifth trip to Africa. Members of the group included: Suzanne Beitel, Director of J.P. Morgan Bonding, Denise Castell-Rhodes, CFO of Texas Medical Center, Kenia Adeyeri, Duke Medical Student, Phyllis Washington, Belinda McCarthy, Rochelle Darabi and Faith Geidd, all educators, Mary Sheid of PTSC and her daughter Ashley.