



B.A.S.I.C.S international

APRIL EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Happy May!

This months edition I have very little to say. Not because there was very little to talk about it, but because I have many friends that have volunteered to help me this month.

Last year, I took on the task of organizing a group trip for the National Association of University Women, and to my surprise we had 41 people sign up. Within 7 months of planning we lost 3 people, and our final count was 38.

On April 18th - Ghana welcomed mothers, sisters, daughters, sons, cousins, friends and strangers. B.A.S.I.C.S welcomed volunteers ready to paint, teach baseball, robotics, vision boards, slime making, art n craft, sexual education, gardening, poetry, african american history, and of course DANCE!

Without any further ado, here is their story. Contribution by my friends:



Patricia Wilkins
 Founder & Executive Director
 B.A.S.I.C.S International

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (FNS) VISIT GHANA (THE YEAR OF THE RETURN)

In Washington DC in September 2018, Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo declared and formally launched the "Year of Return, Ghana 2019" for Africans in the Diaspora, giving fresh impetus to the quest to unite Africans on the continent with their brothers and sisters in the diaspora.

At that event, President Akufo-Addo said, "We know of the extraordinary achievements and contributions they [Africans in the diaspora] made to the lives of the Americans, and it is important that this symbolic year—400 years later—we commemorate their existence and their sacrifices."

2019 is a landmark year marking the 400-year anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in the United States in 1619 widely recognized as the start of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade where millions of Africans were kidnapped and brought to America as free labor. Underscored by The United States Congress recently passed Act H.R. 1242 – 400 Years of African-American Experience Act – recognizing the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in 1619 thus commencing the beginning of the African American experience.

Did you know ? Dr W.E.B Dubois , a civil rights leader and founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) moved to Ghana in 1961, and lived until his death in 1963. Dr Bois had a strong desire for Africans in the diaspora to retrace their roots and return to the continent. Ghana was a major hub for the transatlantic slave trade from the 16th to the 19th century.

Others that have made the journey included Dr Martin Luther King, Jr, Coretta Scott King, Maya Angelou and many many more.

Each year, the Kotoka Airport in Accra is host to planes that are carrying curious spectators, enquiring minds and those seeking answers. Many come to lend a helping hand, while others come to party in a city that is close to NY; it never sleeps.

On April 20th , 38 returned home from (USA) , ready to do all of the above. Many had high expectations while others had none. They all agreed on one thing; **we are home!**

After a 10 hour flight, a welcome dinner and sleeping comfortably in one of the finest 5 star hotels in Ghana- their journey began. It's no formal way of telling this story, and a newsletter will never do it any justice. It was all in God's hand now.

Day one led the group to Jamestown Accra , home to the Jamestown fort and trading post during the transatlantic trade for a tour of old Accra. Prayers were given and libation (drink poured out as an offering to a deity) was poured to welcome the group to Ghana. by the Wulemo ; a traditional Priest. The Jamestown Cafe hosted the visit .

After the prayers their journey was set; the rest of the stories continues through pictures and captures submitted by the participants:



Service Project - Community School Painting & Fun games activities (Time to serve - NAUW team @ Chorkor)

They returned to home to learn about the history of their roots, as well as serve our community. Their service included donating paint and supplies to a community school (partner of B.A.S.I.C.S International) and taking on the task to paint the desk and walls of three classrooms.



While the adults (and some kids) painted; 13 year old Jackson English led a Baseball camp with the help of other young people in the group (Andrew Joseph, Sanyah Terry, Troi Jackson)



The team also spearheaded various activities at B.A.S.I.C.S International for two days. (Nana's House); Arts and Crafts, Robotics & Science explorations with Leila, where children got the chance to interact with a member from NASA.

There was a Health session on breast and condoms with the older children. We had Hip-Hop Dance sessions, Games & Jacks, Gardening-Composting, Vision Boards, Poetry and African American Story sessions with teams from NAUW leading each group.



MEMORIES FROM OUR TRIP

The following photos and excerpts were submitted by members of the team



"Forever changed and grateful for the experience of a lifetime. My heart remains with my friends in Ghana."
Leila



"My heart and soul found peace on this journey. I'm forever a changed woman"
Tracy Barclay



"When you believe you're going to impact their lives, but they've impacted yours..."
Auntie Joyce loves the kids...
Joyce Love Wilson



"Humbly I return home to the motherland with gratitude in my heart and a spirit set free." - Iris Wilson



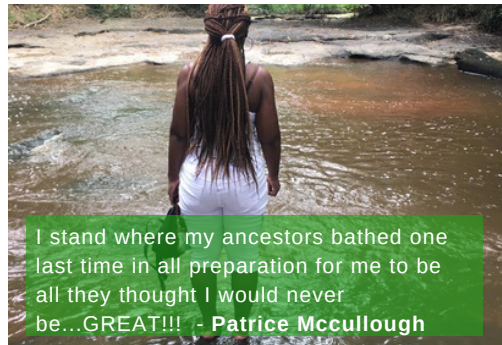
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave. I am the dream and hope of the slave. I rise. I rise. I rise.
Tanisha Teal & Aaliyah Kerr



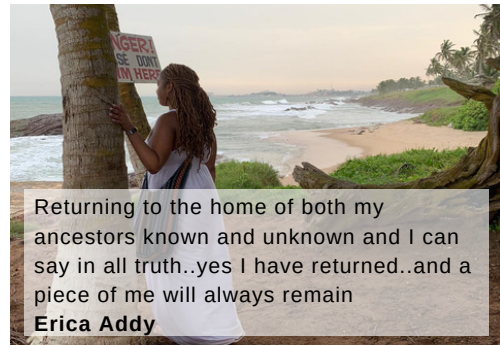
New friends, new beginnings. "I had so much fun in Ghana!" - Jackson (Age:13)



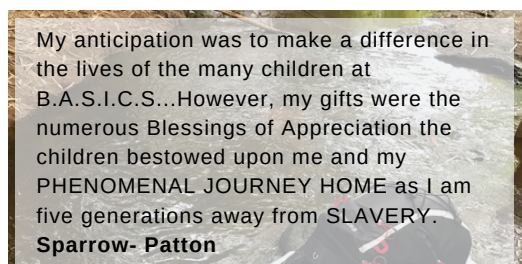
A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots. Walking thru all doors with a Mindset of accomplishment and strength that will always be tested by adversity. - Tina



I stand where my ancestors bathed one last time in all preparation for me to be all they thought I would never be...GREAT!!! - Patrice Mccullough



Returning to the home of both my ancestors known and unknown and I can say in all truth..yes I have returned..and a piece of me will always remain
Erica Addy



My anticipation was to make a difference in the lives of the many children at B.A.S.I.C.S...However, my gifts were the numerous Blessings of Appreciation the children bestowed upon me and my PHENOMENAL JOURNEY HOME as I am five generations away from SLAVERY.
Sparrow- Patton





"They are just like me...fun, athletic and strong." Baseball in Ghana. - Jackson English



Walking through the door; the ancestors welcoming us HOME emotional and gratifying. Cynthia Addy



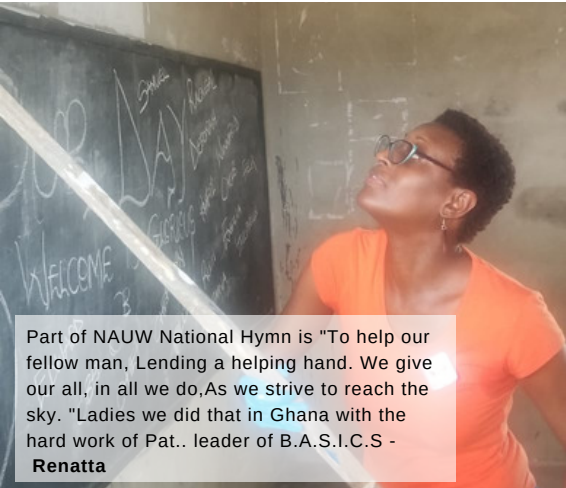
"Visiting Africa was a life changing experience that I look forward to doing again" - Troi English (Age: 17)



"I stand firm on the mighty shores of Africa, thanking God and the ancestors for setting me free indeed to live a powerful, full and successful life!" - Dr. Vee



"Africa? A book one thumbs. Listlessly, till slumber come." - Countee Cullen "Added to my list of loves is Ghana!" - Iva English



Part of NAUW National Hymn is "To help our fellow man, Lending a helping hand. We give our all, in all we do, As we strive to reach the sky." "Ladies we did that in Ghana with the hard work of Pat.. leader of B.A.S.I.C.S - Renatta



it was a rewarding experience for me to embrace students creating their vision at B.A.S.I.C.S to shine from inside out. - Venessa Mullins



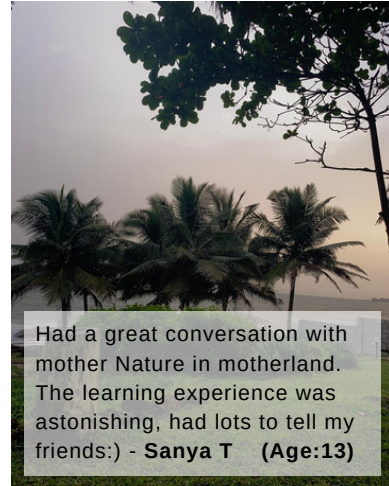
Working with the children at B.A.S.I.C.S filled my heart with an indescribable joy that can only be found through service to others. Karen Joseph Richard



I stand in the waters of the "Last Bath" of our brave and strong ancestors who sacrificed their lives for "Our Freedom" forever humble - Sharon Owens Boykin



These children gave me life. The joy on their faces as they learned " AMERICAN DANCE" was priceless Patrice Muccullough



Had a great conversation with mother Nature in motherland. The learning experience was astonishing, had lots to tell my friends:) - Sanya T (Age:13)

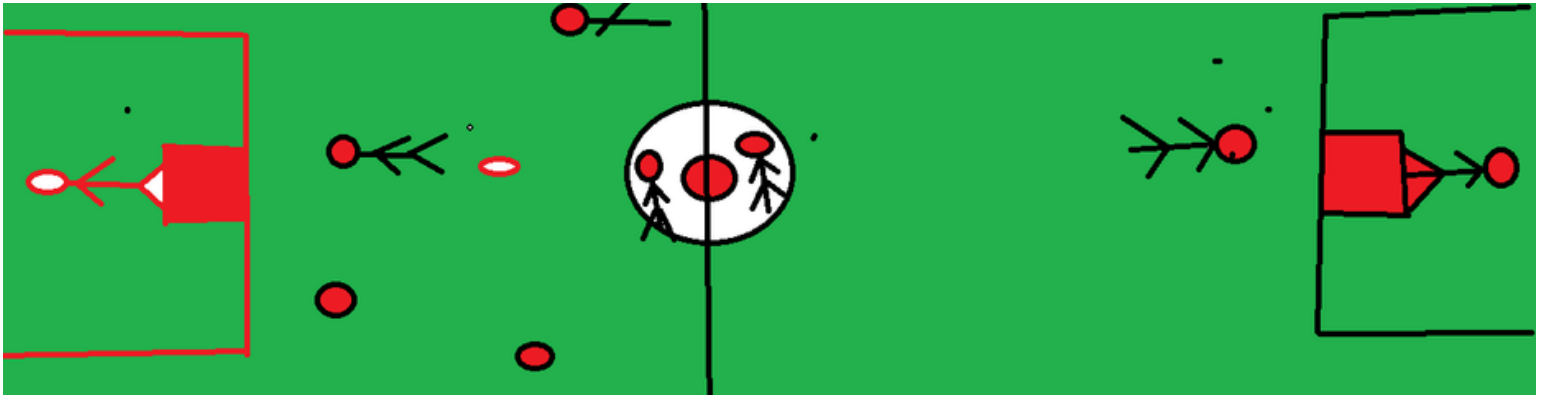
OTHER FEATURED NEWS

Artwork by a student using Paint Application.

My name is Gideon Addo, am 11 years of age and started B.A.S.I.C.S at age 7. I attend school at Great Kwame Nkrumah Memorial (SHALOM SHALOM), am in grade 4 and a student of B.A.S.I.C.S. My favorite dish is Banku with Okro stew and I love playing football and drawing. Art is my way of expressing myself and what I feel. I love soccer, so I was motivated to draw a football pitch similar to Gyan's Astro pitch at Accra Academy (Ghana's football captain Asamoah Gyan). Though I have not seen the pitch before, I imagined how it looks and feels from stories I have heard from friends in school. This is a football pitch with players training with a few footballs.



STUDENT'S COLUMN



B.A.S.I.C.S children gets new Sponsors

B.A.S.I.C.S Sponsorship matches donor directly to children needing sponsorship to stay in school

Last week Friday, when we were having our closing assembly, Aunty Pat called me to go upstairs. I saw a group of people standing in the Library. When I entered, they told me I have a sponsor. I felt very happy when my sponsor gave me a cheque. We had a conversation and took pictures. I thought it was a dream, but it was real. Thank you very much. At first, I did not have a sponsor, but now I have a sponsor. Thanks be to God.



**John Allotey in Grade 7
Sponsor: The Osmond A. Church School
PS/MS 124**

On Friday, when we were about to close, I was called upstairs. I was afraid I have done something bad, but when I got there, there were a lot of people gathered, not knowing it was my sponsor who had sent me a cheque of one thousand dollars. When I saw the cheque, I was overwhelmed. Now, all that I need to do is to learn very hard to pass all my exams and also top the class with first position. Thank you very much, I really appreciate it.



**Emmanuel Owoo in Grade 6
Sponsor: The William C Hughley School.
PS/IS 116Q**

My Easter Fun Days Experience at B.A.S.I.C.S

Shadrack Quarthey Grade 8

On Saturday, the day of the painting at Shalom, I saw a group called National Association of University Women(NAUW). During the Easter fun games, I learnt a lot like baseball, dancing, making robots to walk and vision boards, that made me happy and very excited to have this opportunity. Through interactions, I got to know Jackson, Auntie Joyce. Auntie Joyce taught us about Sex and how to prevent it, also got to know that unprotected sex leads to sexually transmitted infections(STI's).I learnt how to make a robot to walk,, and also learnt how to play baseball.



I was very excited and interested on how to use a Latex Condoms when having sex and how to prevent yourself from having sexually transmitted infections.

I really appreciate them and the time they spent with us. I hope they will come back again, I was sad when I heard they were leaving.

Emmanuel Kotey - Grade 8

With the Easter Fun Activities, I got to learn many things including baseball, dancing(Afro Beats), making a robot walk, the history of African American, etc. I really appreciate all that they thought us, especially with the Vision Boards, it's really helping me, thank you all. I enjoyed the interactions with the groups and got to know people like Auntie Joyce, Tracy, Auntie Monica and my only friend called Jackson. I asked questions and they answered to my satisfaction which made me excited.

I got to know many wonderful things like the baseball experience, how it is and how it's played. cucumber, and garden beans. Secondly , the robot, how it's fixed, learning the history of the negroes, learning how to properly plant tomatoes, cucumber, and garden beans. I was worried when I heard they were going back home, but I hope they come again.



On behalf of B.A.S.I.C.S, we really appreciate and thank you for your contributions towards the painting and teaching us new things. Thank You.

RECURRING DONATION

Consider making a donation

Recurring donations are our bread-and-butter here at B.A.S.I.C.S. It helps us plan for the future and allows us to grow faster.

Make a recurring donation to one of our projects, or simply make your donation a general donation, leaving us to chose which project is currently most in need of support.

Any amount is appreciated, no matter how small.

You can make your donation via PayPal, Cheque, Credit Card authorization form.

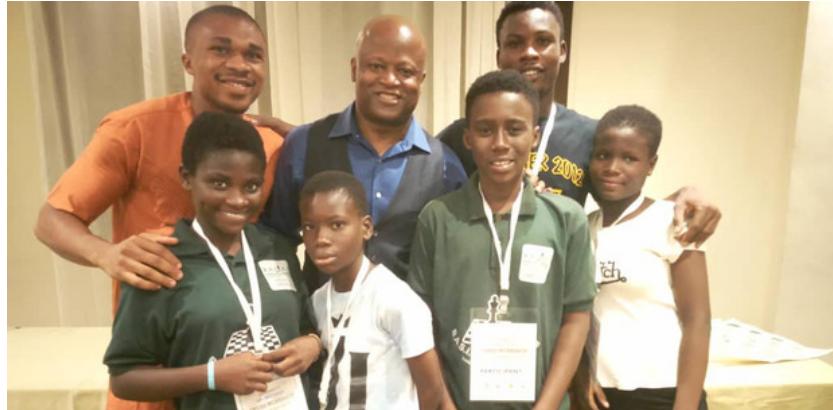
If you'd like to chat to us first, please get in touch!

CHESS WITH THE GRANDMASTER

the early bird catches the worm

The excitement to meet, interact and have a match with the American Chess Grandmaster was an overwhelming experience. Our children arrived early for the chess workshop, which was organized by the Ghana Chess Association in collaboration with African Regent Hotel in Accra.

During the workshop, the chess master, Maurice Ashley introduced the children to some chess techniques such as progress chess, chess puzzles, and playing chess from your opponents view. After a sumptuous lunch, the Chess Master played simultaneously with children during the workshop. The children lost to him, but left the workshop feeling more encouraged and motivated to harness the new skills learnt.



PRODUCTS

Bed Spreads, Pillow Cases, Table Runner and Bed Runners

Hedzole (pronounced Hey Jo Leh) Meaning "Freedom" in the language of the Ga people. Is a social enterprise under the umbrella of B.A.S.I.C.S. B.A.S.I.C.S International empowers women through providing economic independence, which results in social inclusion. Purchasing an item made by the women of HEDZOLE- empowers women, community and a nation.



Items are available in our Ghana office (333 Ama Twitwegu Street, Chorkor) or New York Office and Showroom (162-04 Tuskegee Airmen Way, Jamaica New York) To order items or visit one of our showrooms call: 0277 512671 or 718-454-1273 or email us at Hedzole@basicsinternational.org

VISITORS' CORNER

The come back - Theresia and Paul return

The joy and excitement when past volunteers visits you again. Paul and Theresia volunteered with us in 2017, and surely made an impact in the lives of these kids. The smiles and hugs from the kids says it all. For most volunteers, this is a home they yearn to come back to after they complete their service. These two came around to spend time with the kids, motivate and inspire them to keep the hope alive.

From the way they interacted and played around them with smiles and excitement, it was a surprise visit for the kids and you could see they truly missed their former teachers. Harambe was much louder as they screamed and danced around in circles when Paul led them for the "Say and Response" session.

We hope you visit us soon, and thanks for the the gifts and donations as well.



Entrepreneur and Veteran from New Jersey

On April 12th, we were blessed to have with us; Hanif, an entrepreneur and veteran from New Jersey, and his team to interact with our children and make some donations. "I am really happy to meet and to be welcomed by people of my ancestors" were the last words shared by our visitor before departure. On arrival, Hanif and his team of 3 people were given a tour of the Chorkor community where they interacted with fisherman and fishmongers to understand how they work and also a tour of our Center (Nana's House).



Afterwards, they came back to the center to meet our children, held a small open forum discussion where kids got to ask questions about his life and work in the army. They brought with them books, and other school supplies as donation to the kids. We are truly grateful, and may your kind hearts be blessed. Hope to see you again.

#TheYearOfTheReturn



ENGLISH
FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS
BOOK 5



DID YOU KNOW?

There is a unified national curriculum for the entire country, with textbooks by grade that are the same for every school!



SPONSOR A CHILD

An investment of \$1,000.00 per child/per year ensures students receive quality education, uniforms, books, supplies, lunch, health insurance, supplemental tutoring, extra curricular activities, psychological support and a hot dinner- every school day (including long vacations).

Follow link below:
<http://basicsinternational.org/take-action/findyourchild/>

SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMMES

Consider making a donation. Programs like #IAM Hedzole, Rerun Thrift and Break the Cycle directly benefit our social intervention programs. By patronizing, donating and spreading the word, you are helping us to keep our purpose alive.

Follow this link:
www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1347773

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME/ VOLUNTEERISM

Whether it's for 1 day, 1 month or 1 year, volunteering doesn't mean you can't have fun, see Ghana and serve.

Let us help you.

Contact details: Ghana

Project location

4 Kojo Armah Road

Chorkor, Accra, Ghana

Located on the road behind Chorkor Police Station.

BASICS International

P.O.Box CT 3727, Cantonments Accra

Ghana, West Africa.

(+233) (0) 277 320 925

(+233) (0) 277 512671

Contact details: USA

Mail all correspondences and donations to:

BASICS International

c/o 112 23 196th Street

St Albans, New York 11412

Ph: (718) 454 1273

Visit our satellite office at: (by appt only)
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