



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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Serving

Ending Cycles of
Illiteracy and Poverty

www.basicsinternational.org
findout@basicsinternational.org



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CHRISTMAS EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

Now that your social media pages, and message boxes are cleared of the endless holiday cheers, posts and gifs; it safe for me to come in to say; **HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Like all the others, I wish you joy, happiness, good health and prosperity for 2019. But just for a minute, can we go back to 2018. Last year has ended and I have so many memories; good and bad but I embrace each experience- and count it as 'my story'. We had many visitors from far and near visit BASICS (too many to mention here- but if you go to our FB or Instagram page you will see the photos). We had our events; vacation programs, internship training, personal and staff development workshops, children completing high school, children entering university, children being promoted, (thank GOD none were repeated), Christmas activities, community outreaches, Ambassador visits, and on and on. But if I had to pick my all time favorite moments for 2018; these would be it:

Step Afrika; was invited to Ghana by the US Embassy. The magic these young people brought to Ghana under the leadership of the Founder;**Bryan Williams** - is very hard to put in words (you can see video of them stepping in the streets of Chorkor on our website or social media). Although I secretly,

wished I could learn to Step and join their dance company; it was the founder that touched me. Bryan has dedicated his life using his passion and talent to provide employment, opportunity to many young dancers. In addition he touches over 1 million lives yearly through the shows they perform in USA and around the world. I was truly inspired by Bryans work; and it gave me a push to continue doing what I do- making a change!



My second most memorable event/moment is **Obed Tagoe**- entering University. A child that BASICS (through a sponsor; Rachael Cromwell) provided full sponsorship to since he was 7 years old. Although I was so proud and happy that he was entering university to study History; I was worried. How would he survive; he's so young, small, quiet, - maybe I should move closer to the school and care for him.. Haha!! Obed showed me; that all the lessons BASICS has given him- he is NOW putting them in place.

Recently, we agreed it's time to open a bank account; and I offered to travel 5 hours to assist; he said " I got this!

Within hours he texted me his account number. Each obstacle he shares with me; a solution is followed (despite my mind going in overdrive of how I will fix it). It's been 6 months since he moved to Kumasi (just 5 hrs away) , we speak via Whatsapp weekly, and an occasional call. One day, I gave him the "no drugs, no drinking, no partying talk; he agreed- and then we hung up. I called Nii Ayitey my manager bragging about the parental talk; and he replied ' what about no sex! I instantly called back but couldn't get Obed. So I texted him! (I am getting too old for this). I am facing the fact; they are growing and taking the lessons they have learned along the way; and they will be okay, and so will I . Obed comes home on breaks; and just steps into BASICS and takes charge of something. He will on his way.

My last (only because we are running out of space) is the birth of **HEDZOLE;** our social impact programme. Although it has been in the works for about 2 years; it was only January 2018- that a beneficiary of BASICS (since she was 6 years old); **Bintu Baka** who had just completed an apprenticeship returned to BASICS and kicked it off the ground.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

She had support of **Jasmine Opare - Darko** - another young person; who has volunteered with BASICS for the past 10 years. And then a few months later; **Rhodarine Aryeetey**; a beneficiary of BASICS since she was 7 years joined them, when she completed high school. This past year; they have studied techniques, systems, and other projects to support the mission of HEDZOLE; which means FREEDOM. Hedzole offers economic empowerment to young women (and men) through manufacturing household items, bags, and more. Items are sold in Ghana and around the world. Women are paid for each item they make and are involved in costing, pricing and selling. So far, women who have participated (some are former beneficiaries of BASICS), have earned income to pay school fees, pay medical bills, and just buy themselves something they like.

That's Freedom. Hedzole offers economic empowerment to young women (and men) through manufacturing household items, bags, and more. Items are sold in Ghana and around the world. Women are paid for each item they make and are involved in costing, pricing and selling. So far, women who have participated (some are former beneficiaries of BASICS), have earned income to pay school fees, pay medical bills, and just buy themselves something they like. That's Freedom. I want to personally thank **Ghana International Bank** for the donation of equipment (sewing machines, screen printing machines) and solar panels; we could NOT have done this without you.

So, that's my 3 top moments- please dont charge my heart- if i didn't mention you.

BASICS is so blessed to have so many friends, supporters, patrons, and just the aunties who love, the mommas that pray, and the angels that give. I am blessed that GOD chose me to spearhead this.

2019- marks our 19th year; and just when I thought I would be writing; I am tired; I find my fingers writing I am rejuvenated, refreshed, and ready to do more. My babies (who are growing) are giving me strength with excitement- so I am walking into 2019- with the biggest smile on my face; knowing GOD still has work for me, and BASICS is my mission. I hope I can continue to count on you to be with us.

HAPPY
New Year

Santas Helpers!

Thanks for helping...

We would like to thank all those that donated in cash or in kind toward our wonderful Christmas festivities. Special thank you to **Myra Msibi**- who makes an annual donation to ensure the children have a Christmas party. This year was even more elaborate than ever.

The seniors were also treated to a bag of food items, after their annual luncheon. The bags were sewn by our ladies of **Hedzole**; a social impact program under BASICS, and items in the bag were purchased ; through sponsorship of the following people:

Nana Biney Ohemeng, Rose Walls, Norma Populampu, Yawa, Ralph Tettey, Anonymous, Theresa Kwakye, Margaret Mccue, Beryl Hammond, Dagny Stone, Rita Larbi, Jess Ofarrell, Lawrence Charity, Patience Owusuwaah, Regina fuller, Candice whitley, Marian Amoo, Nana Ama Asamoah, Linda Ampah, Ron Pickings.



TEACH FOR GHANA

FIRST ALUMNI INDUCTION CEREMONY

As part of the celebrations to induct the first cohort of alumni to complete the 2 year internship, BASICS children were invited to serenade guests and graduates at the Kempinski Hotel during the holiday season.

The Operations and Strategy Manager for Teach for Ghana; Mr Andrew Bonsu, who is also an alumni of B.A.S.I.C.S encouraged the children and offering some advice and revision to their performance; sharing this is what I learned at BASICS, when I was your age.

The famous little dancers, of B.A.S.I.C.S, gave the audience a mind blowing performance, while our flute team serenaded the audience with the Ghana National Anthem. It was an exciting and memorable night for all.

SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMMES

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.

To find out more ways to give;
Email: info@basicsinternational.org

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT US



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/>

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Whether it's for 1 day, 1 month or 1 year, volunteering is a great way to give back to B.A.S.I.C.S. You can volunteer in Ghana or U.S.A

If you are interested in volunteer-ing, send us an email at volunteer@basicsinternational.org.



HOW WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN CHORKOR

The Elf's gets cranking with preparations

Christmas means a lot to us here at BASICS, so we put efforts into making it memorable and impactful for the children and the community.

TREE LIGHTING & STREET CAROLING

Christmas tree has been mounted and decorated, the center has been lighted and the children are ecstatic to sing their Christmas carols. Thursday December 14, marked the day of our annual Tree Lighting and Caroling at B.A.S.I.C.S.



SENIOR DAY CELEBRATIONS

HONORING GRANDPARENTS

Christmas means giving and showing love to all. Each year, we celebrate grandparents (retirees) in Chorkor who help raise our kids in the absence of their parents. Each year, B.A.S.I.C.S sponsors a Christmas Party for our seniors in CHORKOR; a very low income - under-served community located along the seaside southwest of Accra.



This year, on December 20, we sent each senior (approximately 150) home with a gift bag, filled with food items and other pleasantries.





MOVIE NIGHTS

As part of our annual Christmas celebrations, we organised Games and Movie nights. This is usually the time of year, where children are eager and excited to watch their favorite Christmas movies like "Home Alone, The Christmas Story, The Santa Clause" and many more.



CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

For friends of B.A.S.I.C.S

This year's carnival was so amazing, one that surely left a lasting impression on the kids and their invited friends. With games like marble toss, spin the wheel, tic-tac-toe, gone fishing, etc, our children and their friends had a nice time playing.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

We love Christmas, and we surely celebrate it in a grande style each year. With staff and children dressed mimicking characters of Christmas, we shared gifts and made merry while singing and dancing. This year, we challenge our selves to creating "Ghanaian" Christmas costumes, and awarding anyone whose costume was exceptional. Aunty Jasmine (dressed as a masquerade), won the best costume award of \$50.00, followed by Laurette (dressed as an angel) , and Bintu (dressed as a christmas tree) who received \$25.00 each.



CHESS TOURNAMENT

AFRICAN UNDER 16 ZONE 4.4

It was no big surprise when 5 of our kids were selected, to represent Ghana in the African under 16 Youth Chess Tournament held in Cape Coast. These talented players, joined other chess players from various schools in Accra to form the Ghana Under 16 chess team. Team Ghana arrived in Cape Coast on December 16 and lodged at the Cape Coast Stadium Hostel.



Unfortunately, team Nigeria was unable to arrive until Tuesday December 18. However, the first round of the tournament which was an internal one between Ghana sub teams took place on Monday evening. Between Tuesday and Friday, Ghana and Nigeria teams battled it out.



Nigeria team A and B, took home the gold and silver, as Ghana team D took home the bronze. Isaac Norvi won the best player in his team and a bronze medal as well. To round off, we had an adventurous trip to the Kakum National park before departure on Friday December 21.



ROMAN RIDGE TOURNAMENT

KINGS & QUEENS OF CHORKOR

We continue to defy the odds, and achieve greatness. On 8th December the BASICS Chess team made us proud by beating the other schools at the International Chess Tournament held at Roman Ridge. Mary, Isaac, John, Clement and Emmanuel represented the team at the tournament. It was not an easy game, yet we made it out as the winning team. With support from our coach @ Wilson, we went prepared and ready for the trophy.



RECURRING DONATION

Consider making a donation.

Recurring donations are our bread-and-butter here at BASICS. 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 choose 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!

ONE – TIME DONATION

Donate Now!

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

You can make your donation via PayPal, Cheque or Credit Card authorisation form. If you'd like to chat to us first, please get in touch!

Find link to donate;

<http://basicsinternational.org/take-action/donate/#donate>

CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO BASICS

Follow the link below to make your donations:

<http://basicsinternational.org/take-action/donate/>



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info@basicsinternational.org



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Contact details: USA

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St Albans, New York 11412

Ph: (718) 454 1273

Visit our satellite office at:

Thomas White Jr Foundation Building
162-04 South Road (Tuskegee Airmen Way)
Jamaica New York



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Lake Volta, in the Volta region of the country, is the world's largest man-made lake.



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

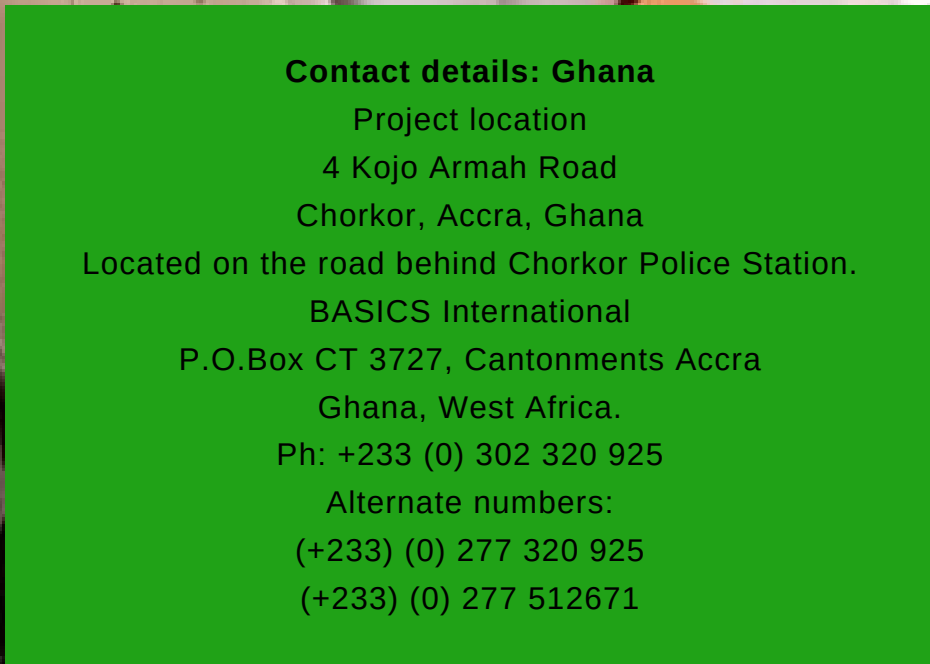
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