



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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Serving

Ending Cycles of  
Illiteracy and Poverty

[www.basicsinternational.org](http://www.basicsinternational.org)  
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# B.A.S.I.C.S international

JULY EDITION

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Happy July.

For the next few months, all you will hear me talk about is BASICS turning 20.

B.A.S.I.C.S will be **20 years old in 2020**; and we have learned some valuable lessons, by examining our achievements, mistakes and listening to others. My wish and goal is that B.A.S.I.C.S continues to celebrate anniversaries and make an impact in the world; whether through providing education to children, providing employment to young people, or empowering communities through economic development.

However, I cannot do this alone, for the next few months, I will host round table discussions (face to face and online) with friends, patrons, supporters, volunteers, and those willing to share and give input to how B.A.S.I.C.S can sustain, grow, and evolve for the next 20 years.

I also am looking for people, who have experienced BASICS or Ghana, through the eyes of BASICS, as we create a 20th anniversary journey. If you have a story or photo; please email me at [2020@basicsinternational.org](mailto:2020@basicsinternational.org).

You can also post something on our social media pages (Instagram or Facebook) just look for basicsinternational and post something.

I am also looking for volunteers to **KICK off our 20 for 2020 pledge** ( see last page) . We are having a virtual walk, and we are asking for volunteers to find 20 people to sponsor them for \$20. I hope I can count on you.

I hope you enjoy this short edition of our newsletter- and please don't forget to share with a friend, and check out our archived newsletters at [www.basicsinternational.org](http://www.basicsinternational.org)



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





## AFRICA GREEK WEEK'S CELEBRATION WITH THE YOUTH OF CHORKOR

With a quest to serve and establish a long lasting relationship with the Chorkor community and the youth, Africa Greek Week team in partnership with the Year of Return and the Divine 9 spent an entire Saturday with B.A.S.I.C.S. According to Maurice, the Co-promoter of the group, Africa Greek Week is a week long activities based on providing cultural connection as well as community service. The purpose of the visit was to host individuals and groups coming to Ghana for Africa Greek Week and provide them a community connection. Some individuals from Bahamas, China, France and New York. While some students from Teshie Technical School painted our library shelves, scraped and sorted books. As some engaged a few of the children in an Essay Writing Competition, others were also occupied interacting with the children, taking a tour of the community and playing various games with the children.



## SHARING IN LOVE: Living the Experience through the People

With cheers and applause of recognition, the children of B.A.S.I.C.S welcomed the twins (Audriana and Ariana) and their friend, Dechana, shouting "Akweley", "Akorkor" (how twins are called in Ga), now they started debating on how to call Dechana, but decided to name her "Maati" - meaning someone who came after the twins. The children were elated to see the twins and their friend. Interesting enough, it was the first time visit for Ariana and Dechana.

Our volunteers spent some days with the children, interacting with them after school, helping them during homework time, their visit left a lasting impression on the kids, as you see them humming to the tune of their call and response song taught during harambe (meaning "let's come together")- "Knowledge is Power", as they walk around the compound.



During their stay in Ghana, Ariana and Dechana decided to stay in the Chorkor community- the B.A.S.I.C.S hostel facility. "we could have stayed anywhere (5 star hotel), but decided to experience what it's like to live with the community we were going to serve (Chorkor)" said Ariana. Ariana and Dechana, spent their time interacting with the community and understanding how they live. "You need to understand how someone lives in order to know their needs, to make an impact in their lives," said Ariana.

Experiences from college, grad school, internship, work life and personal stories shared by these two, not only made us rethink our choices but also encouraged us to be open minded, share wholeheartedly and be firm with our decisions with regard to our future.







## Living with the choices we make...

With God being so good I was able to go through my three years education in Abuakwa State College successfully in the Central Region of Ghana. During my stay in school, I experienced a lot of challenges from having problems with some of my subjects, issues with friends and so on but, I never gave up. I tried so hard to overcome these challenges and to achieve my goal of successfully completing Senior High School.

Getting to the final, was never an easy task, I had to wake up very early mostly at dawn to do an extra study because what we've learnt during the day was not enough for us. I had to be time conscious because there is a saying that "time and tide waits for no man" and truly I began to realize that there is no time to waste because time wasted can never be gained.

One other thing as students we had to struggle with was peer pressure. People do change, especially in the final years. Most students are negatively influenced by their peers. This affects students as their grades begin to fall gradually. Others also engage themselves in flaunting school rules, smoking weed leading to punishment from the school authorities such as suspension and deboardinization.

I remember, there came a time where the school authorities had to bring in Police Patrol teams to bring peace and ensure everyone felt safe in school because some of the "stubborn" students were fighting and destroying properties.

With all these occurrences, I still stayed focused with my education because I believe it is the power to everything. So being in the final year was a decision everyone has to make, to determine how we would live life after school. With every choice we make, we lived the consequences. Some of my mates made the wrong decision which led them to the wrong path while some of us were led to the right path because of the good choices we made. I have really learnt many lessons through my experiences I encountered during my final year.



**Priscilla Laryea**  
B.A.S.I.C.S beneficiary  
Junior Facilitator

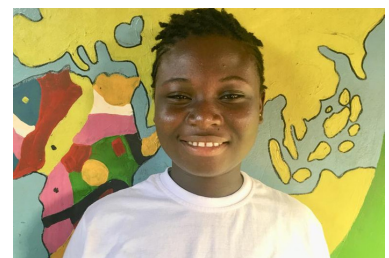
## "The more you go, the tougher it becomes"

All too soon I have completed the next level in education, which is the senior high school - Krobo Girls Senior High in the Eastern Region of Ghana. It's been God since day one. Being in a final year is not easy, you just need someone who is determined to help you to get to the top. My experience in final year was filled with ups and downs. These included finding it difficult to understand some subject areas and having to deal with some teachers bad attitudes. Another issue was the fact that some of our parents did not see the need to motivate and encourage us.

However, it is good when you are in your final year because it brings happiness to you the individual, your families and friends who could not make it to that level. I always believed that with **DISCIPLINE, DETERMINATION AND DEDICATION** one will be able to attain the highest level in life. Indeed education is the passport to the future. In the final year, all students automatically become leaders, therefore I had to do whatever was expected of me as a leader and, not to copy any bad habits from friends that will not help me.

Prominent people come to my school day in, day out to have a word with us, the final year students to be careful and make sure we don't break the rules of the school. I also met a lot of people from different backgrounds who taught me a lot. Some advised me and others inspired me, now I can tolerate a lot of people no matter their culture or religion.

There is a saying that "THE MORE YOU GO THE TOUGHER IT BECOMES". So I had to cope with a lot of situations, be it financial, academics and others. It is not by my might but it is by God's grace and mercy that has brought me this far, and I am looking forward to see how my West African Secondary School results will be like for me to further my education.



**Barbara Thompson**  
B.A.S.I.C.S beneficiary  
Junior Facilitator

# Essay Contest Winner (Africa Greek Week)



## Topic: Five things I will do If I were a president

In a contest entered by over 20 students at B.A.S.I.C.S, with a final presentation to a panel by the top 7 students, Jasmine Nana Adjoa Nortey (grade 7 - second from left), emerged as the winner. Here is the essay that won her the prize.

If I were president, I would do so many things but the 5 major things I would be doing for my country are as follows;

1. The first thing I will do is to make sure that 99% of female children are in school. This is because, a Ghanaian once said "if you educate a boy/man, you educate one person but if you educate a girl/woman you educate a nation. So I would really like to make education one of the priorities of every Ghanaian parent.

2. I would like to end the cycle of illiteracy and poverty. I would do this by building several Non-governmental organization(NGO) in all sixteen(16 regions). By doing so, this organization will pick up most children from the streets and put them in schools. This would make the country develop in terms of education.

3. I would build several social amenities like hospitals, schools, agencies, etc so that problem relating to health, education, child abuse, early child marriage, rape, domestic violence etc. are taken care of using peaceful methods.

4. I would also co-operate with different organisation so that my country would be helped in times of crisis. For example, our beloved country Ghana is a member of the United Nations Organization(UNO), so it means that, Ghana received help from the specialized agencies of the UNO like the United Nations Children Emergency Fund(UNICEF), World Bank, Food and Agricultural Organization(FOA), United Nations High Commission of Refugees(UNHCR) and the International Monetary Fund(IMF). So that when my country need financial assistance, technical assistance, etc, this organization can be of help.

5. I would serve the country whole-heartedly. I would be like so many role models of Ghana Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, J.B. Danquah, Imoro Egala, Dr.Kofi Busia, Colonel I.K Acheampong, James Kwegyir Aggrey and Kofi Annan so that when my citizens are in my leadership, they will feel safe. For example, Kofi Annan, the second Ghanaian to be in the International organization. I would always serve my country fair and square. These are some of the 5 things I would do if I were a president.

## 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](mailto:Hedzole@basicsinternational.org)





## 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!

## SUPPORT THE CHESS TEAM

Our chess team is in need of your support; to the cost in attending more competitions, purchase chess materials ( books, clocks and more boards) and hiring a chess teacher ( as of date, our teachers have been on a voluntary basis). If you would like to make a donation, please send mobile money to 0277 512671 or send through paypal : [www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1347773](http://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1347773)



## DID YOU KNOW?



Ghana was the first place in sub-Saharan Africa where Europeans arrived to trade - first in gold, later in slaves. It was also the first black African nation in the region to achieve independence from a colonial power, in this instance Britain.

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ Serving

# Join us in the 20 give \$20.00 in 2020 CAMPAIGN



B.A.S.I.C.S International is turning 20 very soon, and we are kicking off the celebration with a fundraiser to ensure we are around for the next 20 years.

We invite you to donate \$20.00 and then find 19 friends to donate \$20.00.

**How?** simply ask for a pledge sheet to be sent to you, and then start asking 20 friends ( oops 19 friends, because you will make the first donation). Friends can either make the donation online, or give it to you directly; and then you send it to us. You write their name on your pledge sheet- and BOOM you are done- you completed your 2020 campaign.

Are you ready for 2020 ? Come on the countdown starts now

Email us at [2020@basicsinternational.org](mailto:2020@basicsinternational.org)

or call 718-454 -1273 ( USA)

0277 512671 ( GHANA)

Or DONATE NOW through Paypal : [www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1347773](http://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1347773)





## 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](http://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)  
Thomas White Jr Foundation Building  
162-04 South Road (Tuskegee Airmen Way)  
Jamaica New York



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