



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

AUGUST EDITION



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

One Grade Up! a column featured in this newsletter shows how children were celebrated for their achievement during a Speech and Prize Day ceremony. When I first arrived in Ghana, I attended a similar celebration in Koforidua, Ghana (located in the Eastern Region); where I was given the privilege of making a presentation; and B.A.S.I.C.S donated over 500 books and school supplies to the local school. It was such an honor for me to attend; and be amongst great people like Micheal Addo; the founder of Kama Pharmaceutical and Ministers of States. The outfit I worn; was the first outfit I purchased from Cadling Fashions and after 20 years I am still wearing their designs and actually serving on the Board of Directors for their foundation; which empowers women with teaching a trade of sewing and giving housing. As much as that day, was so important to me then; I have attended over 100 events similar to that and now they all look the same; until **NOW**.

It's only been one academic year; that many of the children were transferred to The Great Kwame Nkrumah School; and it's been a challenge for many to match up academically with the children that have been attending for a while. Their new environment was a challenge that most welcomed; and proved to be a great investment for B.A.S.I.C.S. In addition to some of the children receiving acknowledgement for their academic achievement in Math , English, Reading, etc; some of the children showcased their creative skills in dance and singing. **But if I had to say, the best part of the story is " 100% of our students were promoted to the next grade. One Grade UP!**

As we prepare to begin a new academic year, we are **seeking sponsors to invest in our children's education, health, wellness and future.** B.A.S.I.C.S is not just a sponsorship program, but we are providing **HOLISTIC** programs, services that has proven results. I know that \$1000 isn't a small amount; however, when you think of the **IMPACT** it is making; who can resist ? You can set up recurring payments of \$84 a month or any schedule you are comfortable with. I really hope I can count on you but most important; I hope the children 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

Feel free to write us and tell us what you think of our newsletters; or to include someone on our mailing list. info@basicsinternational.org



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



"Lift your flags high at all times,

"it's not about you but about giving praise to the Most High," said Tina Marie. Tina "Akosua" Marie blessed us with a heartening Flag ministration on August 6, 2019.

This is a part of their SBF Global Outreach to establish the Sunday Born Flag Chapter in Ghana. With 10 different flags and of course a Ghana flag was spotted, Tina Marie ministered and taught the children how to use the flags to demonstrate love, affection, appreciation and gratitude towards each other. It was a memorable experience for all.



STUDENT'S COLUMN

One grade UP - Graduation Ceremony at Shalom

In their well pressed black and white attire with a black bow tie to compliment their dressing, the students of this year's graduation class made their way to the grounds as their parents, friends and families cheered them. On July 27, 2019, Great Kwame Nkrumah Memorial School (the school where most of our children attend school) held their 1st Speech and Prize Giving as well as their 9th Graduation ceremony. The day was to celebrate pupils from kindergarten and Grade 6 who had excelled academically and socially.

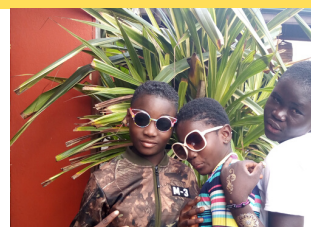
At the ceremony, the Guest Speaker; Mr Stephen Abamafo, the Metro Director of Education - Accra, and a former teacher of Shalom, in his address touched on the theme "The role of parents in educating a child". He urged parents to develop an interest in their children's education. He emphasised the need for parents to supervise their children after school, ensuring they complete their homework, pay regular visits to interact with teachers to discuss child's performance.

To show support to children, staff of B.A.S.I.C.S. who work with the children daily, doing homework, counselling, and mentoring, were in attendance to cheer and congratulate children. Christabel Amoah and Emmanuel Tetteh made us proud by emerging as best students in English and Creative Arts and an award for punctuality respectively. It was such a heartwarming experience to see our children taking part in cultural activities and other entertaining activities at the ceremony.

In addition to those receiving awards; we are pleased to announce that we have 100% promotion this year. Not one child is being left behind.

Consider sponsoring a child's education (\$1000.00 a year or \$83.00 a month)





B.A.S.I.C.S makes a commitment to the children 365 days a year.

School vacated at the end of July, and during the 6 weeks break, most students are left to roam the streets, or work in family business (fishing or selling goods). B.A.S.I.C.S made a commitment nearly 15 years ago (after we learned a child had died during a long break; because she had malaria and the family didn't have funds to send her to the hospital) , to be accessible to children year round, and fill the gaps that were normally seen as major contributors to children dropping out of school or something worse.

Each long or short break, B.A.S.I.C.S finds exciting ways of engaging students, and puts a call out for extra volunteers with skills and love for children. This year, many of our older students who have completed high school recently also stepped up to teach a class or lead an activity.

B.A.S.I.C.S children spent the time, exploring and engaging their creative minds with activities such as beading, crocheting, baking, photography, chess, computer, screen printing, poetry, singing and hat making bingo games. A walk into our compound will just let you know how well we are spending our summer break. With the help of volunteers and staff, there has never been a boring day at B.A.S.I.C.S.



For 19 years, we have given the children a wonderful vacation program from utilizing borrowed spaces, rented spaces and for the last facilities, borrowed space and for the last 8 years in our facility in Chorkor; but the best is yet to come.

In 2020, for our 20th anniversary we look forward to opening “ a fresh air sleep away vacation camp “ **PROMISE**” Sleep away camp is situated on 10 acres of land; that is now in the development stages. (read more about it in our next edition).



DID YOU KNOW Ghana Now Has 16 Regions



The number of administrative regions in Ghana has finally increased from 10 to 16 following the successful presentations of the Constitutional Instruments (CI) on the creation of the six new regions. The new regions are Oti, Western North, North East, Ahafo, Savannah and Bono East Regions.



Chalewote Street Chess Championship

This weekend was lit! B.A.S.I.C.S Chess Team participated in a street Chess game held at the Chalewote Festival, a street art fair in Jamestown, Accra . The word Chalewote (a Ga word which means ('Man, let's go!') and normally associated with flip flop sandals), is a festival of arts and culture which happens each year after the celebration of Homowo. The festival is an alternative platform that brings art, music, dance and performance out of the galleries and onto the streets of Jamestown, Accra.

This year in collaboration with the Ghana Chess Association and Street Chess Ghana to help promote street chess in the country; players were invited to a day long Knockout game - you keep playing so long as you are able to defeat others. Twenty three students (girls and boys) from B.A.S.I.C.S participated in these highly competitive games.

We emerged winners with 14 year old; Jeremiah Adjetej coming first in the Junior category and 18 year old; Daniel Otoo as the champion in the Senior category.



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



Our culture - our Heritage - Homowo Celebration

Homowo is a festival of harvest celebrated by the Ga people located in the Greater Accra region of Ghana. On August 17, the people of Ga Mashie (Chorkor, Jamestown, Korle Gonno and it's environs) celebrated the Homowo festival. With the traditional leaders adorned in red, they sprinkled their traditional food (Kpekple - a maize meal eaten with palm nut soup) around every corner of the street and homes.

The celebration includes marching down roads and streets beating drums, chanting, face painting, singing and traditional dances. On this day, there is usually a lot of traffic and roads are usually blocked off to accommodate the festival.



Customarily, on the festival day, the twins are given special baths to cleanse them from any misfortune. Afterwards, a special meal of mashed yam known as Otɔ (a sacred dish made from hard-boiled eggs, mashed yam, and palm oil) is prepared for the twins and they are pampered to appease their spirits. Once this is done, the bowl containing the leftovers used in bathing them are carried in a procession and dumped along the Korle Naabu. In Chorkor, there is a special cemetery only for twins and people from the royal family. This goes to show the special attachment they hold to twins.



" YEYEEYEE" Twin Festival celebration.

Gorgeously adorned in white apparel, all twins in Chorkor paraded in a beautiful street procession. This is an aspect of the Homowo festival that many look forward to each year. This is a show of pride and a glamorous occasion as each twin is hand held and paraded on the street with their parents amidst singing and dancing as people cheer them on the streets.

In the Ga (a local tribe in Ghana) tradition, it is believed that children are a blessing from God, and when it's given in the form of twins, they believe it's a special blessing, hence the need to have a special celebration for them.





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

202020

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

or call 718-454-1273 (USA)

0277 512671 (GHANA)

Or **DONATE NOW** through Paypal : 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

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.
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Contact details: USA

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Thomas White Jr Foundation Building
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