



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

NOVEMBER EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Happy Holidays everyone. As we approach the end of 2019, we are gearing up for our 20th anniversary in 2020; but Christmas came early for me on November 27th; as I took the oath of allegiance; and became a Ghanaian citizen. As part of the country's Year of Return celebrations, 126 people from the diaspora were granted citizenship by President Nana Akufo-Addo.

In his speech he stated
"I am glad you have decided to make Ghana your home and thereby join several generations of Diasporans, including civil rights activist William Edward Burghardt "W.E.B." Du Bois and American poet Maya Angelou who committed their lives to us," the president.

Akufo-Addo said that an estimated 75% of the slave dungeons on the west coast of Africa were in Ghana, and the country recognizes its role. People were enslaved in these dungeons and then shipped from Ghanaian ports as part of the transatlantic trade.

"That is why we had a responsibility to extend a hand of 'welcome back home' to Africans in the diaspora. Many have responded to this call," President Akufo-Addo said, adding that the initiative has been a learning experience for all.

On December 5th 2000, I landed in Ghana for the first time; never dreaming that 19 years later, that I would be shaking the hands of the leaders of this country, who presented me with the certificate of citizenship.

As I approach my 20th anniversary, and B.A.S.I.C.S is also turning 20; I feel I already had the celebration and there's no need to do anymore; but then I realize we have so much to celebrate with those around us- and so I say-- let the celebrations BEGIN.

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

On My Way!

a transition Program to get children
Back in school and to ensure they stay...



A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark. This month B.A.S.I.C.S ushered in a new batch of children to participate in the Transition program.



This program provides an opportunity for children, who have never been to school or have dropped out of school a second chance to be reintegrated in mainstream school. The **purpose** of the new **Transition** is to teach children a rich, meaningful, and balanced curriculum of skills and information through age-appropriate activities that encourage children to want to learn more and stay in school.

POEM: SORRY

I'm going to say am sorry.
It's time for this quarrel to end.
I know we didn't mean it,
And each of us misses a friend.
It is not much fun being angry,
And arguing is the worst.
So I'm going to say i'm sorry,
For the sake of our friendship.

I AM SORRY !!!

By: Jasmine NorteyJHS 3

Poetry Club



My Experience as a volunteer

VISITORS' COLUMN

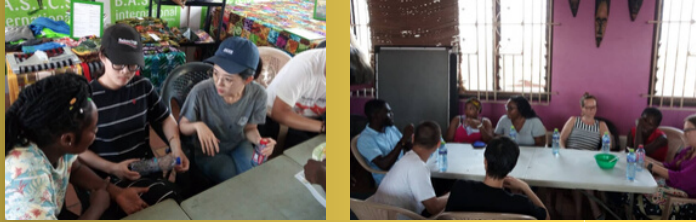
Working at B.A.S.I.C.S. International has been an incredible experience. It has helped me explore more of Accra and get out of my University bubble. Playing with the children has allowed me to feel like a kid again and to reminisce on my time in school. I have been fortunate to be able to share what I know with the students, but they have also taught me lessons.

Whether it was through learning Ga from a student or through acquiring experience leading a classroom, I have grown since first arriving at B.A.S.I.C.S. I have had a wonderful time working with staff members and facilitators as well, and I am very sad to go. Volunteering for such a short time is hard—I have to leave just as I began to really connect with the children. I pray for the children's' success, and I pray that I will be able to return in the near future. Thank you. By: Niara S. Robinson (NYU)



Auburn University visit B.A.S.I.C.S

On November 6, 2019, we had visitors from Auburn University who were in Ghana on a cultural exchange program learning about how nonprofits work and they chose us. Members of the group had a pleasant interaction with staff and interns while at the same time enjoying the sweet taste of rice and tomato stew prepared by Auntie Vida, our Cook.



Our visitors were kind enough to donate some school supplies (pencils, crayons, colouring books) and play items for our kids. As if this kind gesture was not enough, some members made some cash donations as well. Words are not enough to express our gratitude for your giving hearts. We say a big thank you!!!

The children were not left out, as they also got to interact with the students and Faculty from Auburn University. They beamed from ear to ear and their joy was too radiant to go unnoticed. The team had the opportunity to purchase household items made by the women from Hedzole. Items bought included shopping bags, table runners, bed runners etc.



Kerion and family @ B.A.S.I.C.S

2019 as declared the "The Year of Return", really did usher many people to Ghana and B.A.S.I.C.S. With the aim of knowing their roots and exploring our beautiful culture, B.A.S.I.C.S received its share of people who share in our vision and mission and have a passion to serve others. Kerion and her family from the USA, like many others, paid a visit to the B.A.S.I.C.S family.

They had a tour of the facility, our social enterprise center Hedzole, and a tour of the Chorkor community. They interacted with children and made lasting memories in photos. They did not leave us empty handed, as they came with items for the children (school supplies, clothes, shoes). We are truly grateful and hope to see you again.



Our social enterprise; HEDZOLE gets a BOOST

After working and spending time with the Hedzole ladies, Haslina surprised the team by donating an electric industrial sewing machine. This is to help the ladies make beautiful stitches as well as work with speed on the items they create everyday. During her time with the ladies, she taught them how to create Lala beach bags as well as use the electric sewing machine. Bintu Baka, the person in charge of managing the ladies and overseeing work at Hedzole, expressed her profound gratitude to Haslina on behalf of the ladies. She also assured her of the ladies' commitment towards the maintenance and use of the donated item.



B.A.S.I.C.S says a big "THANK YOU" to Haslina for her love and dedication towards women empowerment.

Meet our Team

After completing a one year internship, serving as a Facilitator; Lawrence Lamptey has been obtained as a full time staff, and given the position of Senior Team Leader. Under this role, he will lead other Facilitators in their day to day activities and ensure our that children are getting the best of them. Lawrence is part of a dynamic team that is growing; and led by our Programme manager; Nii Ayitey Buxton, who has been with B.A.S.I.C.S since 2013. Other team members include: Comfort Tenjier; our IT/Media Officer, Francisca Egyir ; Administrative Officer, Vida Allotey, Nutrition Manager; Lawrence Dzakpasu; Team Leader.



Programme manager
Nii Ayitey Buxton



Senior Team Leader
Lawrence Lamptey



IT/Media Officer
Comfort Tenjier



Administrative Officer
Francisca Egyir



Nutrition Manager
Vida Allotey



Team Leader
Lawrence Dzakpasu



A mother's love is kind, a mother's love is selfless. She gives her all to her child, never hesitating, even when she is disadvantaged, she does not see this. She smiles down at her baby while he sucks at her breast. The excruciating pain she felt for hours unending before she had him is quickly forgotten, as she beholds the pretty little angel staring back at her. Unrelenting and unbending, she seeks the healing of her sick child, determined in every way to hasten the healing process as she cannot bear to see her ailing child in pain. A mother's love is discipline. Her's is a tough love. Though the tears of her child troubles her heart, it does not prevent her from withholding discipline from him. She is careful with every stroke, she knows the stroke of the rod is a necessary discipline to drive away foolishness far away from him. A mother's love is great, full of compassion. It never ceases. It is amazing that after nurturing her baby from infancy, she still sees him as her 'baby' even when he turns 50! A mother's love is divine, it is a mystery that none can fathom. It is a wonder, a miracle. It is, God's greatest gift to humanity!

A MOTHER'S LOVE



By: Francisca Egyiri
Admin. Officer

World's toilet day - "Leaving No One Behind"

Toilets save lives, because human waste spreads killer diseases. World Toilet Day is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. World Toilet Day 2019 is drawing attention to those people being left behind without sanitation, therefore using the theme "Leaving No One Behind". It is interesting to note that Sanitation is a Human Right, so whoever you are, wherever you are, you need to enjoy it. And yet, according to the United Nations, today, 4.5 billion people live without a safe toilet and 892 million people still practise open defecation.

According to a study by Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), almost 23% of people in Ghana do not have access to any sanitation facility, and only 15% use improved unshared sanitation facilities. In a deprived community like Chorkor, sanitation is a problem and there is a prevalence of open defecation. There are lots of households without toilet facilities and this compels residents to use the beach as a place of convenience



By: Lawrence Lamptey
Senior Team Leader



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

Hedzole PRODUCTS

Bed Spreads, Pillow Cases, Table Runner and Bed Runners

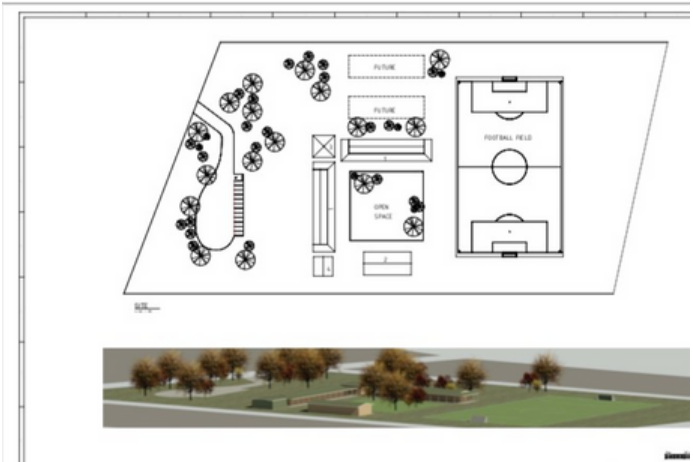
Hedzole (pronounced Hey Jo Leh), which means "Freedom" in GA; a language spoken by the GA tribe. Hedzole is a social enterprise under the B.A.S.I.C.S umbrella, which empowers women through providing economic independence, which results in social inclusion. Purchasing an item made by the women of HEDZOLE - 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 512 671 or 718-454-1273 or email us at Hedzole@basicsinternational.org



B.A.S.I.C.S international is building Ghana its **first sleep away camp for children**. A fresh air camp site for children; filled with activities , dormitories and love. Whilst the camp, will 100% subsidize children from inner city communities, it will be open for a fee to all children in Ghana.

However, we need your help, and what better way to help and get something in return; support our calendar drive. Just \$10 calendar. Our goal is to sell **1000** calendar; which will make a **HUGE** impact on getting the camp open 2020. See the link below



Our goal is to get **PROMISE CAMP** open for August 2020- just as we celebrate 20 years (yes, B.A.S.I.C.S is turning 20 in 2020).



its that time of the year!!
ORDER YOUR CALENDAR TODAY \$10.00



order online today @
<https://basicsinternational.org/2020-calendar/>

Are you ready to order a calendar or two?



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
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 Ph: (718) 454 1273
 Visit our satellite office at: (by appt only)
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