



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

OCTOBER EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

If anyone knows me, then you should know I am counting down to Christmas already. It's one of my favorite times of year since I have been a small child. The feeling I get from the lights, trees, and the smell of things; just makes me feel happier. This year; I don't think we will do as many activities for the Christmas holiday, as we have something bigger to celebrate and that is my **20th anniversary** of entering Ghana, and B.A.S.I.C.S 20th anniversary.

To kick off the activities; there will be a **fundraiser at Springfield Gardens UM Church (NYC) on November 23rd**, filled with music and dance ministries; you don't want to miss- and can buy tickets by calling **718- 454 -1273 or 718 415-0831**. Our annual calendar is back and what a great time for it to have its comeback; when we are turning 20. We want everyone to have us in their homes and office next year; celebrating with us every step of the way. The price is still \$10.00 (plus shipping), and a great way to give to others and support the organization. Our goal this year is to sell 1000 copies; won't you help us. This year all proceeds will be directed to our sleep away camp; which is in works on 10 acres of land. Will tell you more about that later. To order your calendar by phone , call 718 454 1273. To order online; <https://basicsinternational.org/2020-calendar/>

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

How BASICS is contributing towards ending Plastic Pollution in Ghana

As part of our vision to help maintain a clean and healthy environment, we revamped our environmental program, Trash for Cash; which paid community members for plastic waste. This initiative was started in 2004, to address the mountains of plastic waste that was choking the gutters in Ghana, and the cause for many floods, and also diseases. The trash for cash effect made a great effect on the community, as more depots opened and soon everyone was collecting plastic waste. Through the years, B.A.S.I.C.S continued its mission to eradicate plastic through recycling, up-cycling and also using less plastic where we could. Unfortunately it wasn't enough!

During our August vacation program we launched a competition amongst the children who worked in groups, to see who can collect the most plastic waste from the community. Children won stars which they will use for shopping at the end of the month in the Incentive Store (a place where items donated are kept for children to shop from). As they involved their friends in the community, a new initiative was born **HELP O (Help End pLastic Pollution nOw)**. HELP O is asking everyone to HELP us to eradicate plastic waste; and guess what you can get rewarded. Over 200 children have redeemed plastic waste for school supplies such as pens, pencils, school bag, etc. B.A.S.I.C.S is using this program to help end plastic pollution, as well as helping children earn some school supplies for their hard work which ultimately keeps them in school. Often we are asked; how many children can we take in our program; and of course we would like to enroll every child in Chorkor;

but programs like this allows us to reach more children and address a huge problem in the community. B.A.S.I.C.S uses the proceeds from selling the plastic waste to support its core programs.



Others get involved....

Our goal is to remove 2,020 kilos of plastic trash by January 1, 2020. So we put out a call for help and we got it. It was a sunny Saturday morning, staff and volunteers were occupied with placing campaign stickers on shirts of children, assisting others to wear gloves, as the rest waited patiently to launch out into the community with their trash pickers and bags.

We couldn't have done it all without some assistance from our partners/volunteers from Webster University - Ghana Campus, past interns, friends and volunteers from New York University- Accra Campus, friends of B.A.S.I.C.S, staff and everyone who offered a hand in the form of support, donations, etc. to make this event a success. B.A.S.I.C.S appreciates your selfless actions and desire to contribute towards maintaining a clean healthy environment FREE of plastics. We will continue on our mission #2020kilosoftrash by removing one plastic trash at a time. About 265 kilos of plastic trash was collected on that day, giving us a total of 626 kilos of trash.

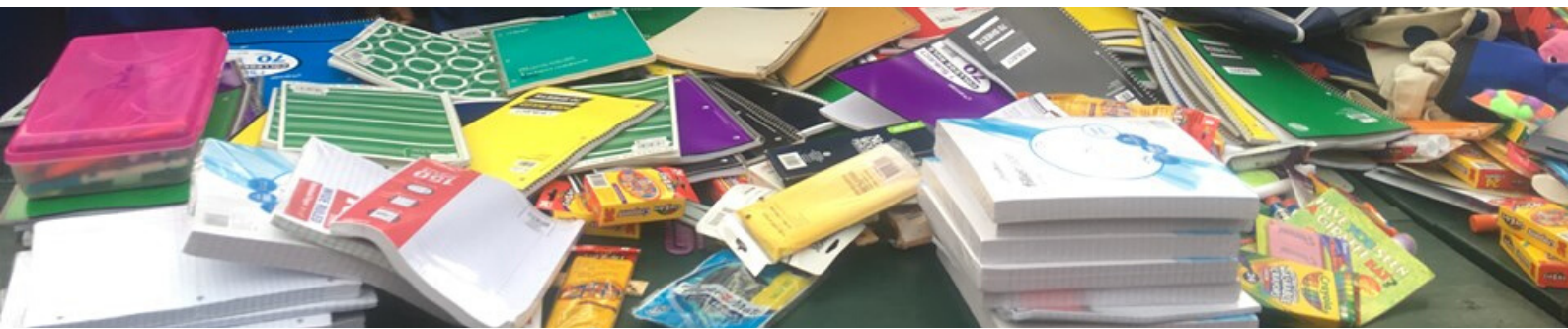


A NEW WAY TO SPEND YOUR WEEKEND

Nothing makes us happier than to see our children beaming with smiles everyday. As a result, we are always finding ways to be in the lives of these children and Saturdays present another great opportunity for us to extend our assistance and love to the children and the community.

In October 2019, we expanded our Saturday program by opening the doors for all children to come. They came in their numbers to participate in various activities supervised by staff and volunteers. The schedule has been carefully designed and filled with extracurricular activities such as hair braiding, chess, computer, video gaming, guitar, singing, movies, etc, aimed at bringing out the creativity in the children. Previously Saturday, was designated for special activities and chess clinics. but now all children come in; and of course a hot meal is waiting for them. Consider volunteering if you have time.

Please call 0277 512671 to sign up.



DELTAS DONATES TO B.A.S.I.C.S

The spirit of giving back to the community...

As sisters with a responsibility and love towards giving back to the community, the Madison Alumnae Chapter of Delta SigmaTheta donated barrels and boxes filled with school supplies to children of B.A.S.I.C.S. A representative of the chapter and sorority; Regina Fuller presented the donation on behalf of her sisters. To see a video of the chapter packing and shipping the goods, check out of website under news/post.



Karen celebrates her 58th birthday with B.A.S.I.C.S

Everyone's birthday is special to them, whether they choose to celebrate it alone, with family or loved ones. This year, Karen Wright; the sister of our founder; Pat Wilkins visited, volunteered and spent time with the children to celebrate her 58th birthday. Though the cake was the center of attraction for the little ones, the memories made with the children were the highlight for her. They sang birthday songs for her while she danced in the middle of the circle. Although it was her birthday, she came bearing gifts of candy and bookmarks for each child. Sometimes, it's the little things that matters as they make huge impacts. #happybirthday Karen.





Chess Grandmaster and contender visit B.A.S.I.C.S.

It's not everyday that you get to meet and interact with the first black person to attain the title of a grandmaster (Maurice Ashley) and Rochelle Ballantyne, an African American chess player and a contender for the title of chess grandmaster. On October 11, 2019, a few selected chess players joined children from other schools to welcome Grandmaster Ashley and Rochelle Ballantyne for an event held at the pavillion of the African American Association of Ghana, hosted by B.A.S.I.C.S International in collaboration with the Ghana Chess Association at the Dubois Center in Cantonment, Accra. It did not end there, the next day the chess team visited the Accra Sports Stadium for a chess training for advanced Juniors organised by the GCA. This presented a greater opportunity and experience for our young chess enthusiasts to have a personal encounter with the grandmaster and his contender. If that was NOT enough...

Grandmaster Ashley and Rochelle on their way to the airport, surprised the children of B.A.S.I.C.S with a visit, which was filled with words of encouragement, advice and of course some chess tutorials. *"to be better at something you need to dedicate your time and give your heart "* said Maurice, *"because of chess I was able to go to College "* said Rochelle to our young chess players. These two chess masters are bent on changing the world of chess, by encouraging the youth and being an inspiration to them. You two are an inspiration to our children. We promise to become the chess giants we ought to be!



Members of the African American Association of Ghana sponsors Chess team for the 2019 African Youth Championship.

Members of the African American Association of Ghana made a donation in the amount of GHC 3,869.00 to sponsor 12 students to participate in a qualifier tournament; which will determine who will represent Ghana in the African Youth Championship tournament. Out the 12 that competed; four students of B.A.S.I.C.S qualified; 3 girls and 1 boy. On September 25, 2019, the four elated children made their way to the Palma Hotel - Spintex in Accra, to compete in their first international tournament - the 2019 African Youth Chess Championship held under the auspices of the African Chess Federation, and the Ghana Chess Association featuring 11 countries. This was a one week tournament with 9 rounds of games in the Open and Girls section. This championship was to help create some form of interaction between players from different countries and also award personal rights to winners to represent Africa in the World's tournament in 2020.



MARY SHARES HER EXPERIENCE AT THE AJCC

I played the game very well but I got two(2) points out of nine(9) games. We usually played the game among ourselves after our games were over. Some of the chess masters also analyzed and reviewed our games with us after each game. We made some new friends from other countries, we played and learnt new moves and strategies from them. I did not just play chess, but also learnt something new each day. I made a lot of friends at the Palma Hotel, who were very nice people. We ate good food during our stay at the hotel. We visited the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park & Mausoleum. We saw were he and his wife were buried. We also went to the Accra Arts Center and the Independence Square. I enjoyed my time at the AJCC tournament.

By Mary Barnor, grade 8



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

Early Detection Saves Lives! #pinkOctober

October is a month dedicated to breast cancer awareness worldwide. This year's pink October celebration aimed at creating awareness and educating people on the menace of the disease, as well as the dangers associated with late detection and promoting preventive measures such as self examination or visiting designated health centers for screening for early detection. Children from B.A.S.I.C.S. International celebrated the pink month no differently as they showed their support by encouraging the general public to go for checkup to know their status and also to remember that breast cancer can be treated and prevented.



International Poverty Eradication Day

It takes #ONE to help #ONE !

Let's act together to empower children, their families and the community to help End Poverty. We continue to equip and empower our children everyday after school and on weekends. We believe by helping them academically, socially and emotionally, we are giving them a hand-up to be able to dream of a better tomorrow. Poverty hurts children's development now and in the future. Let us help protect and promote the right of children as we observe this year's International Day for Eradication of Poverty. It begins with you! International Poverty Eradication Day is observed on 17 October every year.



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





its that time of the year!!

ORDER YOUR CALENDAR TODAY \$10.00



September 2020
A junior high student helps to teach a popular Ghanaian dance to teachers during a Thursday Maranatha session. Songs of praise at B.A.S.I.C.S. open a variety of ways and the children are encouraged to express themselves through many different mediums.

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



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

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