

B.A.S.I.C.S
international
Brothers and Sisters in Christ Serving

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

DECEMBER EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

I would like to close out the year, with a message of gratitude. I would like to speak to each one of you, that have played a role in the success of B.A.S.I.C.S for the past 19 years.

If I have ever failed to acknowledge a good deed, donation or act of kindness that has been bestowed on me, or B.A.S.I.C.S International; but know it has never been intentional.

I walked through the gates of our center each day, and am reminded of all of these good gestures instantly.

But today, as I sit to think about what would be the appropriate message to close the year out with - its simply to say thank you. **2020, marks our 20th year anniversary** and I feel it in my bones- it will be a GREAT year for B.A.S.I.C.S and Ghana.

We closed the year by celebrating Christmas in a special way; thanks to one of Santa's elves; Myra Msibi who ensures we always have a donation in December to share some cheer.

So this only leaves me to say..
Merry Christmas and THANK 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

B.A.S.I.C.S Staff- take on local school staff

It's the last but one day of vacation, and as it's usually done, children have an inter house sports competition. However, this year took a different turn as B.A.S.I.C.S team of staff and high school students were invited to compete with staff and children of Great Kwame Nkrumah Memorial School (Shalom).



The morning games included; Sack race, lime and spoon race, and 100 meters athletics featuring B.A.S.I.C.S. children and Shalom children. Our children made us proud by emerging winners in almost all the games. Before lunch, we were already in a comfortable lead.



After lunch, soccer games were launched. B.A.S.I.C.S. children had a tough match which ended in a draw, we however lost on penalty kicks.

The second game was for ladies, staff mixed with a few girls from B.A.S.I.C.S. and Shalom had a beautiful encounter, and B.A.S.I.C.S. scored a goal before the end of the match. The final battle between the males (boys vs staff), saw B.A.S.I.C.S. go home with a lone goal in the second half of the game.



Collaborations such as these friendly (but competitive) matches build relationships, which is essential in our work to provide quality education and advocate for the rights of the children. It was a very exciting day for both staff and children and we hope to have another one next year.

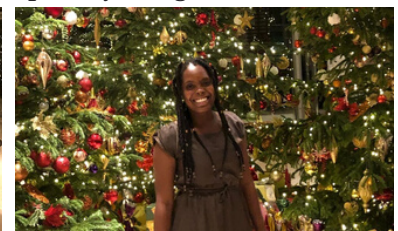
Dancers performs at Teach for Ghana graduation

December to remember ; A night at Kempinski

It's amazing how fast time flies yet the memories always remain fresh each time. The thrill, excitement and enthusiasm with which we prepared our children to perform at the graduation for the first Cohort last year, was more intense this year. This was because, we did not just want to show up and entertain our guests, but wanted to give our children a night to remember.



It was an incredible night to behold, meeting new people, enjoying the nice food and atmosphere at the 5 star luxury hotel - Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City Accra. B.A.S.I.C. dance troop also performed their hearts out to the tune of drums and bells, as the flute group graced the guests with their melodious tunes of Christmas carols, and contemporary songs.



We are grateful and thankful to Lead for Ghana (Teach for Ghana) team for inviting us to a blissful night at the graduation of their second Cohort.



Christmas in Chorkor

Tree lighting and Caroling

Christmas came early for us here at B.A.S.I.C.S. The elks came to work early and by the first week in December, our place was already looking like Christmas with our magnificent Christmas tree, decor and lighting. On Monday, December 9th, 2019, our children and staff took to the street singing carols with their candles lit.

B.A.S.I.C.S. extended their joy by inviting children in the community to join in the merry making with snacks and drinks. As others took to the dance floor, some of the children also posed to take pictures under the beautiful Christmas tree.



It's Party Time! Christmas Party at Christiansborg castle (Osu Castle)

With the interest of our children at heart, we are always looking for opportunities to bring some adventure and excitement to them. On December 21, 2019, children, staff and interns smartly dressed in B.A.S.I.C.S shirts convened to make the trip to the Parliament House. We joined hundreds of children from other NGOs and orphanages for the 1000 Orphans Christmas party, organised by Field of Soul's ministry. Although, B.A.S.I.C.S is not an orphanage, our children were invited to participate and enjoy this special day for children. Activities included, bible lessons, modelling, dancing, singing, poetry and the highlight of it all, a tour to the Osu Castle, also known as the Christiansborg Castle. New bonds were created, memories were made. It was such an inspiring and insightful adventure.



Movie night at B.A.S.I.C.S

Two days to Christmas, and what better way to share some love other than inviting the community to be part of our movie night. On December 23, 2019, we had our long awaited for, annual Christmas Movie Show. During this time each year, we open our doors to friends and families from the community to join us. One can feel the joy and excitement from the kids as they walked in with their friends, searching for comfortable seats while munching on some snacks served during the movie. It was a night filled with laughter and fulfilment.



It's the "Year of Return" and never too late to share some love with our wonderful children.

On December 18, 2019, we had a pleasant surprise by a team of six(6) dynamic individuals from the USA visit , led by Isaac from Roots and Connection, and they shared some love with us. This group comprised of people who had never visited the continent before and a few others who had to return for a second tour of our country Ghana. Led by Nii Ayitey Buxton, our Programmes Manager, the group had a tour of our facility, the Chorkor community and interacted with a few people on the streets and at the seaside. They had lunch with the Executive Director, Pat Wilkins and a few staff members, where they shared their stories, challenges and next steps.



Education! education!! education!!!, this was the last piece of advice and encouragement they shared with the children, "education is the only thing that cannot be taken away from you".

"Sometimes when there is nobody there to encourage you, you have to encourage yourself", said Carmen during the question and answer session with the kids during their visit. Special thank you to Lisa Aubrey for organizing the visit.



The first thing they learned before the sessions with the children was how to say "Thank You" in Ga, the native language of the people in the Chorkor community. This seemed a bit challenging because the words were many, and hard to roll over the tongue, but ultimately, they were able to say it, but not sure if they will remember the next day.



OTHER FEATURED NEWS

Adding value to our waste- A 5 days waste management training

Lawrence Lamptey, our Senior Team Leader, and co-led for our HELP O (Help End Plastic Pollution Now) campaign, attended a five(5) day Waste Management Training, organized by Waste Aid UK and Environment 360 at Prestige Suites Hotel - Osu.

This was a workshop for individuals and organizations, to address the impact of waste on our environment, economy and health. It also presented an opportunity to learn how to add value to the waste we create through recycling, and actually earning funds from the waste people make.

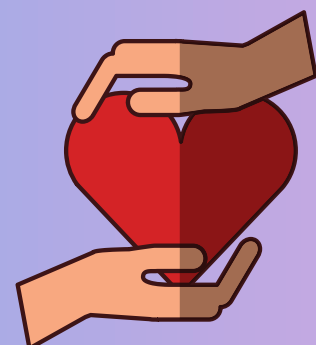


RECURRING DONATION

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.



Chess and entrepreneurship

Time with Naren, the young CFO and business owner

Members of our chess team on Wednesday December 18, had the opportunity to meet the young entrepreneur, CFO of Innovix Consulting who is a student of Ghana International School and a chess player, Naren Varyani. He was led by his mom, Larisha and Hakem from the Ghana Chess Association. During his presentation on how to be an entrepreneur, he spoke about savings, having a dream, and making an effort.



Naren made the session lively by sharing his own experiences while growing up as an entrepreneur. The children also, shared their dreams and aspirations, and how to achieve them. In his last remark to the children, he said, "if you don't work for your dream, someone will ask you to work for their dreams."

Thank You Naren for being an inspiration to our kids, and we hope to see young entrepreneurs bloom out of them.



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



Hedzole PRODUCTS

Bed Spreads, Pillow Cases, Table Runner and Bed Runners

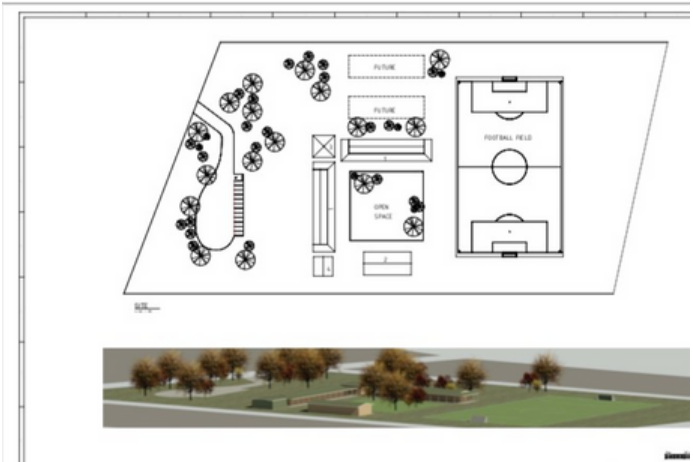
Hedzole (pronounced Hey Jo Leh), which means "Freedom" in GA; a language spoken by the GA tribe. Hedzole is a social enterprise under the B.A.S.I.C.S umbrella, which empowers women through providing economic independence, which results in social inclusion. Purchasing an item made by the women of HEDZOLE - 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
4 Kojo Armah Road
Chorkor, Accra, Ghana
Located on the road behind Chorkor Police Station.
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Ghana, West Africa.
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(+233) (0) 277 512671

Contact details: USA

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St Albans, New York 11412
Ph: (718) 454 1273
Visit our satellite office at: (by appt only)
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Jamaica New York



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