



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

JANUARY EDITION



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Happy New Year once again. As we said goodbye to 2019, and welcomed this new year; we welcomed so many visitors through the gates of Nana’s House. It was feeling like a party that never wanted to end.

December 27th, would have marked the 124th birthday of Viola Walker McDowell who was affectionately called Nana Viola. My great grandmother’s spirit is the backbone of what B.A.S.I.C.S was built on and why the center is called Nana’s House. Nana Viola, would welcome family and strangers in her home, and insisted on family gatherings. Traditions were upheld because of our matriarch, and never were there excuses permitted.

Each year, BASICS is the host of many activities for the Christmas holiday, from tree trimming, to tree lighting, cookie give away, carolling in the streets, movies, parties, costumes, and gift sharing. This year didn't disappoint. But we were given a bonus, on the 1st of January, when over 50 people in Ghana for the Year of the Return came to visit us, and we organized a street party in their honor.

Check out the edition, and I hope you can feel the love.

Stay tuned to 2020 , as we unfold so many surprises, developments and stories.

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

Boosting confidence in children...

Public speaking incorporated as part of ways to help boost confidence in children.

In an attempt to ensure children are bold, and confident to express themselves among their peers and in school, B.A.S.I.C.S has introduced a new activity to help fill this gap. Usually children will shy away from the mention of **Public speaking** as an activity. However, we developed a new strategy aimed at making this exercise as exciting as possible for our children.

The first week saw children being given 30 seconds to introduce themselves to their colleagues. The next task was to pick a word from a basket, prepare, and present it to the group in one minute. During this exercise, you could observe how some were able to freely express themselves and how others struggled at it. This exercise was aimed at boosting the confidence of these children. And in the coming weeks and months, various strategies will be incorporated to help achieve this goal.



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
Zelle Account: donate@basicsinternational.org



VISITORS' COLUMN

To serve and to offer_ Rev. Dr. Leslie at B.A.S.I.C.S

On January 20, Rev. Dr. Leslie Duroseau of Southampton United Methodist Church (UMC) - NYC, accompanied by her mother Sylvia Stainback of Springfield Gardens - UMC volunteered and made some donations.

They spent their time with our children, teaching them some new choreography dance moves.

Items donated included; 6 HP laptops and chargers, Chess clock(1), Game boy and play items(1), Headphone(3), Portable charger(1), 2 Kindle tablet, Computer mouse 3 phone. 2 Cameras, Calculator(1) and toiletries.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU, for your generous donation and time well spent with us.



YEAR OF RETURN - BLOCK PARTY

On New Year's Day, B.A.S.I.C.S, in collaboration with Afropolitan Group and Tribe Dash, hosted a street party in Chorkor. The children in the community were served with FREE Waakye (rice and beans/chicken) and Sobolo (Hibiscus) drink. The two travel groups which included over 100 members from the diaspora were in the country for the Year of Return and ended their one week holiday with a service day at B.A.S.I.C.S. Amongst the group; Ms USA World; Akeela Douglas was present, adorned in her crown which left the children star struck.



Hedzole (our Social Enterprise) women, were also present with their beautiful handmade table runners, bedspreads, tote bags, shopping bags, etc. Also present were our Screen printers, who allowed visitors to choose their size, color and design and right there t-shirts were created. This collaboration was a great example of what the year of return meant for many; exchange of culture, learning, building relations and economic empowerment. Ayekoo Afropolitan Group and Tribe Dash



The day included visitors taking a tour of the community; getting a first hand experience and looking at why our work in this fishing community is so important. Learning that community members have to pay part of their low income on using the toilet or paying for water to bathe; left many in shock.



They spoke with women who earn approximately 2.00 usd / day on smoking fish as most profits are shared in a cooperative. And the men are struggling to provide for their families because most is imported from China, Turkey and Japan. The day did not end without some performances and of course a giant line dancing flash mob which included kids and visitors.

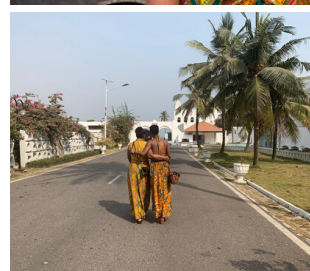


Best friends with benefits

Kwayera Dawn Archer and Patricia Wilkins, have been friends since the age of 14 years old, when they met on the platform of the NYC transit system. The meeting would become a ritual for the two for 4 years, as they attended two different high schools, but met each morning to board the 7:30 F train toward Manhattan. If there was anything called BFF back then, they would be called that as they shared a passion for the arts; Pat in Fashion and Dawn in Dancing. Little did they know their lives would mirror each other, in terms of serving the community and traveling to Africa. Although it was never in the same community or did they travel together; they stayed connected.



But the holiday season, brought the together in Ghana, as Kwayera came to visit and the two shared little stories with the kids about their friendship.



Kwayera is the founder of Ifetayo Cultural Art Academy, in Brooklyn New York.

New York University KICK off B.A.S.I.C.S 2020 CAMPAIGN

As part of an educational awareness campaign, 42 students and staff from New York University- College of Arts and Sciences spent their day in Chorkor and B.A.S.I.C.S. During their visit they had a tour of the community, where a few bold and enthusiastic students, volunteered to help women carry smoked fish off the oven. Fishing is the main occupation in Chorkor, and most women smoked fish in large local ovens known as the "Chorkor Smoker". During lunch, volunteers, staff and women from Hedzole (our social enterprise), enjoyed some of our favorite dishes ; Waakye and Shito served in banana leaves , kontomire and rice and Chicken, as they discussed projects for 2020.

While some of the visitors observed items on display, our women also helped some to shop for tote bags, shopping bags , bed runners, etc. Some helped with homework , while others played chess with the children. The day ended with B.A.S.I.C.S cultural troupe entertaining our visitors with some traditional dances. It was an exciting and impactful day with the NYU CAS team. We are grateful and appreciate your support and we hope to see you again.



The Apple doesn't fall from the tree Daughter of DICK GREGORY spends the day with children

Dick Gregory; American comedian, civil rights activist, social critic, writer, and occasional actor passed away in 2017, but leaves behind a legacy. Throughout his life, he stood up for Black rights, women's rights, indigenous people's rights and spoke out against the 1980s crack epidemic plaguing Black communities.

The late Gregory promoted veganism in Black America. Ayanna Gregory, the 10th of 11 children of Dick Gregory, an activist in her own right, is carrying the torch for her father and mother in different ways using her art, music and spoken word to push the family narrative forward.



She spent the day with the children in Chorkor. She shared her life story with the children, taking them through a time lapse of her childhood. Although the children had not heard of Dick Gregory, there were tears in their eyes, and left feeling hungry to learn more.

Ayanna taught the children how to sing some of her songs, performed some spoken words and shared words of wisdom and encouragement with the children.

"Better Late than Never" _ an anonymous donation



People who often give freely, and willingly understand that true fulfillment comes from giving from your heart. Christmas came late but right on time. Can you believe this was our only food donation for the holiday and it was anonymous?

We are truly grateful and appreciate the love and care shown towards the sustenance and growth of our children. B.A.S.I.C.S provides meals and snacks to children 6 days a week. B.A.S.I.C.S is a non-profit organisation and welcomes donations to help us continue our work.

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.



Hedzole PRODUCTS

Bed Spreads, Pillow Cases, Table Runner and Bed Runners

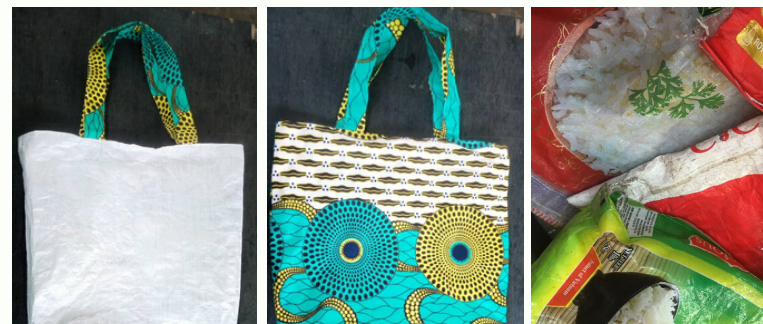
Hedzole (pronounced Hey Jo Leh), which means "Freedom" in GA; a language spoken by the GA tribe. Hedzole is a social enterprise under the B.A.S.I.C.S umbrella, which empowers women through providing economic independence, which results in social inclusion. Purchasing an item made by the women of HEDZOLE - 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

Meet our environmental friendly Shopping Bag

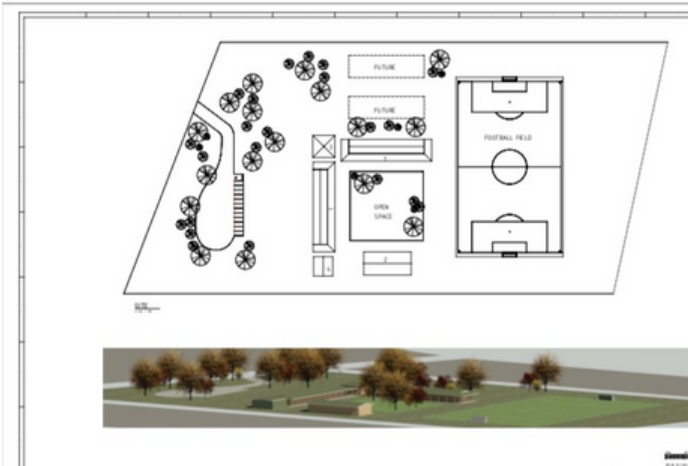
Lined with recycled rice bag sacks, and covered with African prints from Ghana West Africa; this bag is great for the beach, supermarket, market, or just to swing over your shoulder.

Did you know HEDZOLE- can custom make a bag for you?
Get in touch asap Hedzole@basicsinternational.org or 0277 512671



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/>
 Zelle: donate@basicsinternational.org

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
 Zelle: donate@basicsinternational.org

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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