



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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

I guess the best thing, or way to describe what I am feeling this month is a roller coaster ride. We just finished a month long celebration of welcoming in our 20th year, hosting visitors which included my parents; Eddie and Lenora Gates, friends; Sarah Barber and board members; Vivian Rodgers Hill who traveled to Ghana to participate in the celebrations. It was just yesterday, we were dancing with the seniors, and sharing gift bags to each one of them.

March was supposed to be a month of rest, and preparation, as we were expecting another big group in April during the Easter holiday. The elves (what I like to call my team) were prepping for the huge street carnival, which was to bless over 5000 families with activities, and support.

I was finishing the final touches on the itinerary for Stepafrika (African american dance company based in DC) visit to Ghana- and then just like that the LIGHTS went on what would have been a show of a lifetime.

We watch country after country, be infected and affected by Covid 19 aka Corona virus but never thought we would be hit too. Our first case was a member of the diplomatic core, an Ambassador, and then the cases grew and the President had to take actions.

International schools were the first to close, and then public schools followed a week later. I was very unsure of what to do, as we are NOT a school, but rather a social intervention center.

However our board of directors took a vote, and decided it was best we close the center.

I chose not to leave the community and stayed around, ensuring that B.A.S.I.C.S help in a small way; so we distributed water (to ensure people can wash their hands). Our team worked from home; calling those who had phones, and updating our files.

If this was a roller-coaster, for sure I would scream, let me OFF, but I feel nauseated. But all we can do is pray and keep our faith to believe this will end soon, and those around us will be safe. When you say your prayers tonight , please remember us here in Ghana.

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

Children celebrates Valentine's Day

On Friday, February 14, there was so much love and affection in the air - especially on the B.A.S.I.C.S compound. Children arrived from school super excited, some had candies in red which they gave to their friends, while others only waited patiently for their gifts from their valentine. A week before, both staff and children picked someone to share a gift with as their valentine. Some knew who their valentines were and so were anticipating the kind of gifts to receive, while the rest only waited for their surprises.



After dinner, gifts were given out and it was such a lovely sight to behold as children hurried to open up their gifts, while others only wanted to get home to unwrap their gifts. Valentine's day is a day of showing love and affection, and we made it a point to ensure that our children received that love and affection from us, no matter how small it was.

B.A.S.I.C.S gives FREE hand sanitizer to children and staff

Say it Loud is one of our major Friday activities here at B.A.S.I.C.S. This is usually the time where children have the chance to discuss and deliberate on personal, social and economic issues affecting their families, community and the world at large. On March 13, our focus was on the novel Coronavirus pandemic and the best sanitary practices to help stop the spread and ensure the safety of ourselves and our loved ones.



As a way to help stop the spread, children are encouraged to wash their hands with soap under running water at the center. Hand sanitizers were made available for each group on a daily basis, however what happens when they get home or school? To help answer this, our founder, Patricia Wilkins, surprised children and staff with FREE bottles of hand sanitizer to use while away from the center. As the deadly virus continues to spread at an alarming rate worldwide, It's imperative we all take precautions to protect ourselves and our loved ones.



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at B.A.S.I.C.S

VISITORS' COLUMN

On Monday, 9th March 2020, we had some members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and a few friends from the USA visit our center in Chorkor. During their visit, they had a tour of the community, where they interacted with some women who smoke fish for a living at the seaside. There was an open session that addressed our work and impact here in Chorkor. Before departure, they made a donation on behalf of their friends in the USA. It was a wonderful experience spending time with you all. We are truly grateful for your donations and continuous support.



A double win for the boys at the Rapid Chess tourney

Mentors Chess Academy in collaboration with the Ghana Chess Association, organised a Chess Tournament on February 24, at the Association International School. Six players from B.A.S.I.C.S took part in the Under 14 and U18 division. B.A.S.I.C.S had 3 wins out of a possible 6 for the final round. Jeffery, Jeremiah and Vincent won this round. In all, Jeffery with 4.5 points out of 5 placed 1st for the U14 division. Jeremiah came 3rd with 4 points. For placing first, Jeffery was presented with a gold medal, a big chess board and a certificate. Jeremiah received a bronze medal, a chess board and a certificate for placing third. The other 4 players had certificates of participation.



The Barnor sisters prepare for chess qualifiers ahead of Russia 2020.

In December, 2019, four of our girls participated in a chess qualification match to determine who represents Ghana in Russia 2020. Out of the four, two girls qualified to the next stage where they will meet with the best players in Ghana to compete for a spot in the Ghana team. Rebecca Barnor and Mary Barnor are the two girls who advanced to the final stage of the qualifiers. With the qualifiers more than a month away, and to ensure these girls were well equipped and practiced each day, B.A.S.I.C.S gave out two Amazon Fire Kindles loaded with chess materials, strategies, and chess simulation games for the girls to use at home. We had some volunteers who passed by each Sunday to teach them some chess strategies and moves.



The Barnor sisters participated in a three (3) days chess qualification match from February 21. This was one of the toughest competitions for the girls as they had to play against some of their chess teachers and other chess officials to qualify for Russia. As usual, our mother and founder was present to offer some emotional support as the girls felt discouraged over every game they lost. Though they were unable to qualify, they still made some good impression by winning a few games.

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).

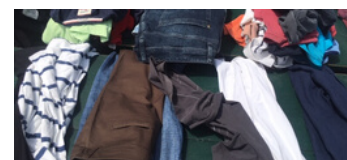
If you would like to make a donation, please send mobile money 0277 512671 or send through paypal : www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1347773
Zelle Account: donate@basicsinternational.org



Horace Donates to support our great work

Horace Saizonou, a friend of Metrova who is a volunteer at B.A.S.I.C.S, was inspired to donate old clothing and shoes after he attended our Founder's Day dinner and saw what great work B.A.S.I.C.S is doing.

We celebrate and cherish Horace and every single donor who provides us the support we need to ensure the sustenance of our programs. We say Ayekoo and God bless you.



VISITORS COLUMN

Football Beyond Borders: Changing the lives of young people through football

On Valentine's day, Mr. Salem, the founder of Football Beyond Borders shared some love with the children. During his visit, he indulged the children in some football 4 aside games on the compound. Wearing soccer jerseys donated by Mr Salem, the boys' team and the girls' team exhibited their skills to the admiration of everyone present.



At the end of both games, Mr Salem presented trophies to the winning teams. Mr Salem hopes to use the children's love for soccer, to help make them confident and also provide a boost for their career. His organization provides assistance to children who are passionate about football. They bridge the gap by ensuring children play football and are still able to attend school.



Reusable sanitary kits for girls

On February 24, 2020, Judith Mcrae of United Methodist Women, was in Ghana and what better way to serve and offer support but pay a courtesy visit. She gave our girls a talk on reproductive health and menstrual hygiene. Girls were educated on some basic but important hygiene tips for healthy, happy periods and safe practices that can generally promote good reproductive health. Before leaving she distributed sanitary kits to our girls. Each kit was filled with reusable sanitary pads, cycle calendar, towels and soap. This is to help equip young girls to maintain good health and take care of their bodies during their period and beyond. Our girls appreciate your support and are excited about your gifts. Thanks for choosing to serve with us.



Return and Serve- Sarah Barber

Sarah is a long time friend of B.A.S.I.C.S who has returned to serve again. Anytime we have people dedicating their time, energy and skills in voluntary service to help our organisation, we are deeply honored. But to have a person like Sarah return after about 10 years to volunteer with us again, is very humbling for us indeed. On her arrival at B.A.S.I.C.S, Sarah was taken on a tour around the community she served 10 years ago. She visited the old center, the place where it all started for B.A.S.I.C.S.

While there, she interacted with the women enrolled on our social enterprise program, Hedzole (GA word meaning freedom) and took particular notice of one of the women, Emelia, who was a little girl back then, when she first volunteered. Now a full grown woman, Sarah was proud of the woman Emelia has become. After volunteering with us for a week, it was time to send Sarah off with something to remember us with. She was presented with a Certificate and a custom made B.A.S.I.C.S Scarf. Sarah helped out with homework, chess tutorials and supported our Seniors' Party during her visit.



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.



Center shutdown as COVID-19 cases increase in Ghana

On March 19, 2020, B.A.S.I.C.S had to close its center to allow children and staff to stay home and help stop the spread of Covid 19 virus. On Monday March 16, the President of Ghana announced the closure of schools and other institutions as the number of infected cases increased rapidly. Children were left to go home unprepared with no learning materials from the schools as the announcement came on Sunday evening. It became our priority to ensure children are well prepared to study at home should our center be closed.

With very little notice, Staff and interns worked hard to prepare learning materials for each year group; word puzzles, review questions, worksheets, reading books, etc were among some items given to children when we had to finally shut down. Additionally, kids were given school supplies, toiletries, sanitary napkins and a few food items to use at home. It's not enough to educate just yourself, educate others around you as well. Our center is officially closed for staff and children, however our center is open to children who would like to work independently and may not get the luxury of doing so in their homes. We have opened a Trust Library stocked with reading books for all age groups; this is to help children improve upon their reading and vocabulary. Strict sanitation methods have



FREE clean water supply to people living in Chorkor

In our quest to stop the spread of Covid-19 and other diseases, B.A.S.I.C.S International provided and continues to provide FREE cleanwater to people living in Chorkor. For the past 5 months, there has been a shortage of water in the community. People have to queue at dawn to buy water from homes with running taps and pay. At a time when many are left with no income as there is a forced quarantine in most countries, communities like Chorkor suffer more.. This initiative is to ensure people have water at home, and are able to wash their hands as often as possible to avoid spreading diseases. Water is essential; for bathing, washing hands, washing clothes, drinking, cooking, and watering plants. But many don't have that LUXURY. It is our vision to see to it that people in Chorkor get to enjoy this luxury.



Hedzole PRODUCTS

Bed Spreads, Pillow Cases, Table Runner and Bed Runners

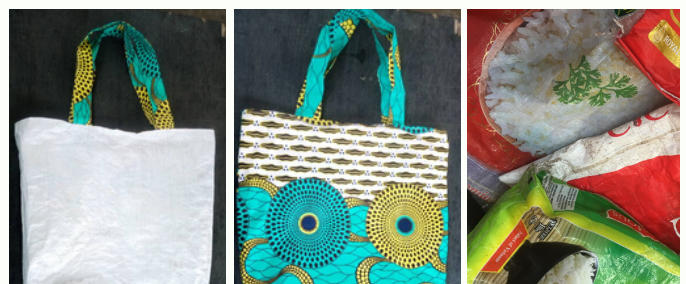
Hedzole (pronounced Hey Jo Leh), which means "Freedom" in GA; a language spoken by the GA tribe. Hedzole is a social enterprise under the B.A.S.I.C.S umbrella, which empowers women through providing economic independence, which results in social inclusion. Purchasing an item made by the women of HEDZOLE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

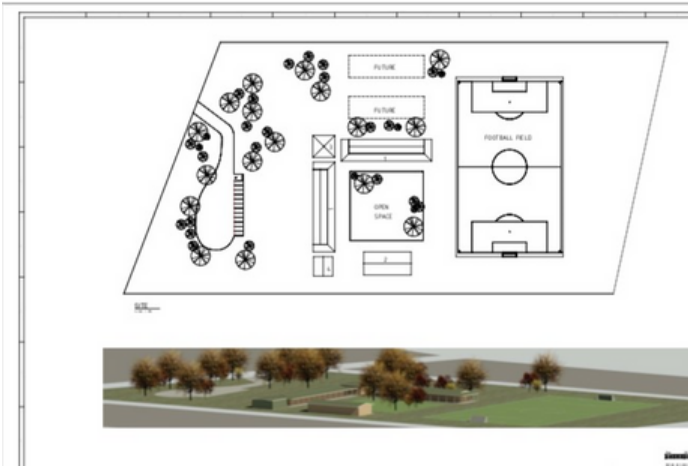
Lined with recycled rice bag sacks, and covered with African prints from Ghana West Africa; this bag is great for the beach, supermarket, market, or just to swing over your shoulder.

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



www.basicsinternational.org
info@basicsinternational.org



[@basicsinternational](https://www.facebook.com/basicsinternational)



[@basicsinternational](https://www.instagram.com/basicsinternational)



www.basicsinternational.org
info@basicsinternational.org



[@basicsinternational](https://www.facebook.com/basicsinternational)



[@basicsinternational](https://www.instagram.com/basicsinternational)