



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

MAY EDITION



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

As the world works to contain the spread of COVID-19 (the coronavirus), I wanted to reach out to everyone to say that I'm thinking of each and every one of you. I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe in these uncertain times.

I also wanted to let you know that while our staff are taking all Ministry of Health and CDC-recommended precautions, B.A.S.I.C.S International daily operations are continuing. With schools closed, many families without work, we can't slow down our work.

This virus may change our way of life for now, but it will not change our love for one another, our service to a community, that needs us more now than ever. It will not alter our determination to help others who are hoping for our help.

I want to thank everyone who responded to our request to support the Covid-19 relief in Ghana and the USA. I am fortunate that we didn't have to turn our backs on the children and their families.

It has been my honor to be at the front line, and essential at a time like this, but then I realised our work has always been front line, and essential and you have been by our side the whole time.

As we continue to respond to the gaps that the pandemic has created, we will continue to work on our projects such as the building of a sleep away camp, getting our next group of students into university and keeping our kids healthy and safe. *Together, we will get through this stronger than ever.*

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 served breakfast and lunch during COVID-19



Since March 16th, when schools closed, school lunches ended also; and children were left hungry. Under the B.A.S.I.C.S sponsorship program, we ensure every child receives 2 meals a day, through paying for school lunch and providing dinner after school. However when all social gatherings including schools were ordered to cease, families struggled to fill the gap, that they never had to think about. B.A.S.I.C.S quickly responded by running shifts to feed children at least one meal and also provide weekend food boxes, but still it wasn't enough.



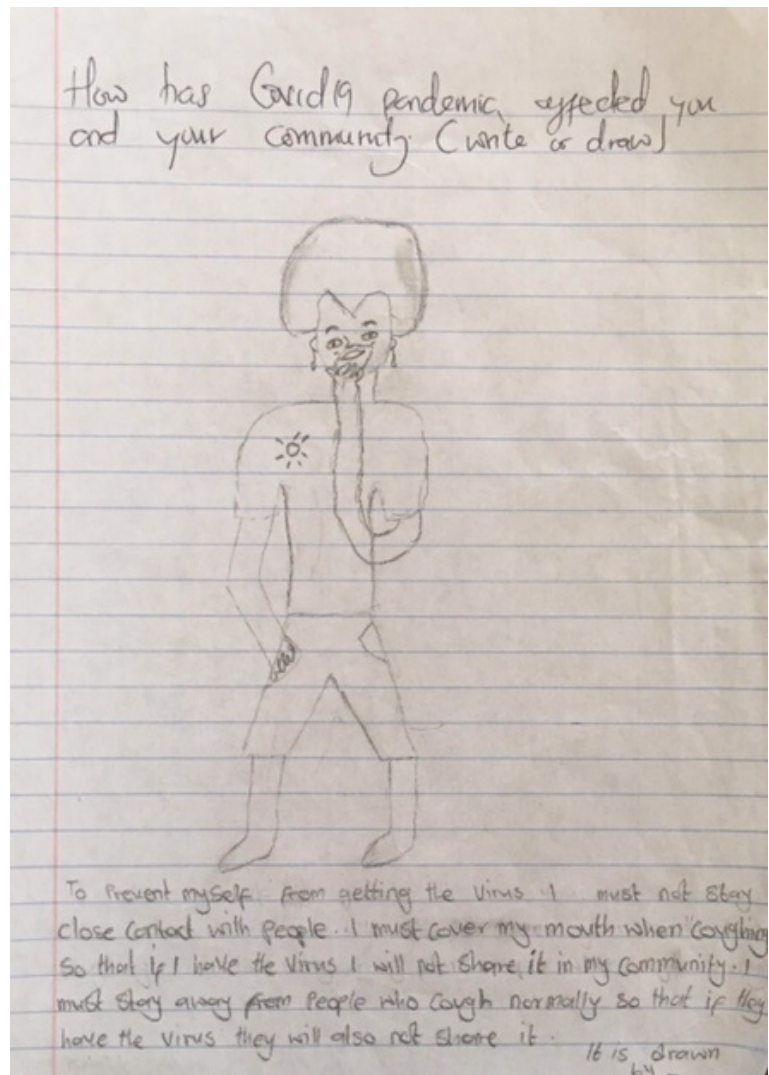
Children need nutritious meals and vitamins to grow healthy, and fight Covid. We serve breakfast to children everyday, as it is an essential meal for everyone. Children report to the center early, and take a hot breakfast drink and sandwich/fruit to start their day. For those reporting to the center later in the day, we add fruits and Sobolo drinks (Hibiscus tea) to help boost their immune system.



How I am protecting myself from Covid-19



To prevent myself from getting the virus, I must not stay close contact with people. I must cover my mouth when coughing so that if I have the virus I will not share it in my community. I must stay away from people who cough normally so that if they have the virus, they will not share it.



**by Mary Barnor
Grade 8 student**

How COVID-19 pandemic has affected me and my community



Before the era of COVID-19 pandemic, life in the community has been quite cool, normal day to day activities like school, market, church and all other social activities have been going on. This hit us like a wildfire, all of a sudden everything stopped, all activities were stuck. Schools, markets, businesses and all other human day to day activities were put on hold.



My community is now getting to see the worse. Water is not running through the pipes, businesses are shut down, no school for children and no backup plans for students. Another set of burden on parents; there is no income for parents to feed children and family due to market and business shutting down. The weak community has to strive through this period.



Although the government put measures for the distribution of food, and water, it did not reach everyone. The water and food came in once or twice during the full lock down; but when that was lifted it stopped. This is definitely a hardship on our community, and I am praying for an end to come soon.

**By Samuel Kotey
Junior Intern**

(beneficiary of B.A.S.I.C.S
since the age of 7)



HELP OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

For 20 years BASICS International has been working in Chorkor; a fishing village and a neighbourhood in Accra, the capital of Ghana. Chorkor is a densely populated community. Due to its over-population, social distancing is IMPOSSIBLE. Children have no space for themselves, or learning.

Many households average 20 x 20 feet, hosting 10 or more people. We are providing sanitation and food for the community of Chorkor, and closing the gap in our children's education whilst their schools are closed. We are in need of help from our international community at this time. Any amount is helpful, please consider donating today.

Consider making a donation

Ways to donate

Tigo: 0277 512 671

Momo: 0591 651 000

PayPal :

<http://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1347773>

Zelle: admin@basicsinternational.org

Ghana International School Alumni donates to B.A.S.I.C.S

During this COVID-19 pandemic season, many hearts are being touched to offer some support to communities who are mostly affected. Alumni from Ghana International School; one of the prestigious private schools in Ghana showed us their heart and donated veronica buckets (buckets that are used to wash hands), breakfast items and cleaning products to support our Covid-19 relief aid program in Chorkor.

Estelle Sowah, a strong believer in our work and intervention in the community spearheaded this great initiative, and we say thank you for thinking of us in Chorkor.



Our children also expressed their gratefulness to the alumni for thinking of them during these trying times.

This donation will help us stay a step ahead of the COVID-19 virus, by ensuring hands are being washed regularly, practicing social distance and wearing masks at all times. We are truly grateful for your donations and we say “ Thank You “



Ghana's premier natural hair salon donates to Covid relief

Twist and Locs, a natural hair salon in Accra Ghana made a donation of GHC 2,000.00 to B.A.S.I.C.S International to support our Covid-19 efforts. During Covid-19 pandemic, we have been able to provide meals to children, and weekly food bags to children and seniors from donations made by individuals and companies like Twist and Loc.

We say thank you and also happy 10th Anniversary.





NO COMMUNITY LEFT BEHIND

With help and assistance from individuals and the international community, we are able to supply food items and clean drinking water to senior citizens and children in the Chorkor community. At the beginning of each week, our team prepares food bags by sorting and packaging them for delivery.



On the day of delivery which is Wednesday/Thursday, our Covid-19 relief aid team sets out into the community in teams of two to deliver packages on a truck.



Our focus on food packages is mainly senior citizens and children ; these are grandparents with no source of income and mostly depend on others for their daily meals. Most of them also have grandchildren living with them, and they are responsible for their daily upkeep as well. Our gesture of giving is to support them during these trying times. Every Thursday, our children also go home with their weekend food packages and bags of clean drinking water. This is to support and relieve some financial strains on parents during weekends.



How we became essential workers

When the pandemic hit Ghana, and things shut down, the 5 ladies of Hedzole (our social enterprise) started making face masks to distribute to our children, staff and community members. But the reality hit, and they realised they were also unemployed because, there were no bazaars or hotels to sell their quilted bags, runners or bedspreads.



The ladies decided they would join forces with one of the largest apparel companies in Ghana, Cadling Fashions and work on the line to make masks. Cadling Fashions had just earned a government contract to make 750,000 masks, and other PPE for Ghana; so there was plenty of work to do. The ladies who have been in charge of their own production, selling, sourcing and marketing, were now line workers. They worked alongside 200 other people who also had their own stories but they shared one mission now and that was to MASK GHANA.



The owner of Cadling Fashions; Mrs Linda Ampah set an example each day, and reminded the workers of the important role they were playing as 'essential workers'. Moved by the commitment and the mission; our own Executive Director "Aunty Pat", joined the line as a volunteer and helped at the factory'- helping with quality control, packing, record keeping and production.



The ladies continue to work at the factory, which earns them an income during a time, when so many are out of work. We thank you Cadling Fashions.

Hedzole PRODUCTS

Bed Spreads, Pillow Cases, Table Runner and Bed Runners

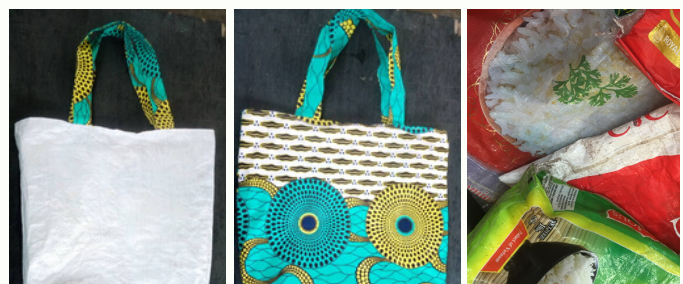
Hedzole (pronounced Hey Jo Leh), which means "Freedom" in GA; a language spoken by the GA tribe. Hedzole is a social enterprise under the B.A.S.I.C.S umbrella, which empowers women through providing economic independence, which results in social inclusion. Purchasing an item made by the women of HEDZOLE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

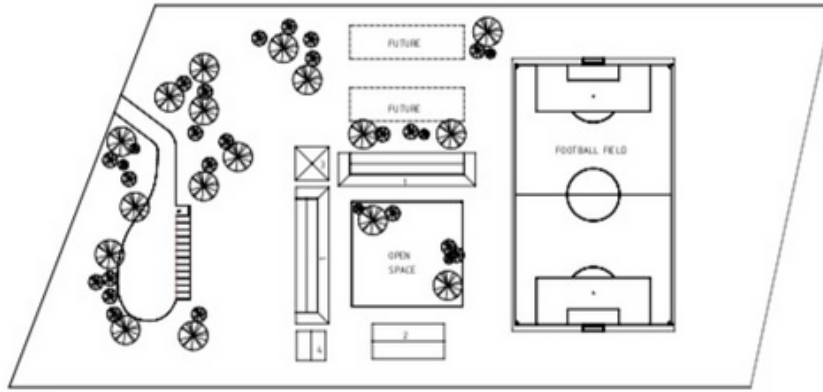
Meet our environmental friendly Shopping Bag

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



What's NEXT for B.A.S.I.C.S ?



CAMP PROMISE, a fresh air sleep away camp; a home away from home; for children during long school breaks and holidays. An eco-friendly serene, refreshing and welcoming environment which will offer 150 children an experience of a lifetime over and over.

Promise CAMP/CAMP PROMISE will expose children to skills and opportunities that might not be easily found in urban communities, and empower them to develop their individual potential. Situated on 8 acres of land 95 km out of Accra, on a beautiful nestled farmland 15 km from the Shai Hill Game and 45 km from Akosombo Dam.

Children will come together to create memories that will last a lifetime. Every holiday at CAMP PROMISE is filled with fun, friendships, learning and excitement. Our campers will develop and improve skills through high-level instruction, and will be encouraged to try new things while learning about others and themselves. Campers enjoy every moment of vacation camp while they grow in confidence, leadership and self-esteem in a secure, community environment.

Camp Promise is in need of your help to ensure we complete construction, implementation and OPEN for the children by 2021. Our original date was August 2020, however due to Covid 19, our major fundraiser was cancelled; which halted the process.

Although, CAMP PROMISE is not ready yet, we would like to give our children an experience of leaving the city, during these current times of Covid 19. The pandemic has schools shut down and students are being restricted, deprived, and tempted to engage in activities that will hinder their progress. The community they live in is overcrowded, and lacks any recreational or learning opportunities.

Consider sponsoring a student to attend a weeklong- camping project; at an adjacent site. Students will also visit our camp site and participate in gardening projects, and other activities towards the development of our permanent site.

Be a part of the PROMISE .. make a generous donation today. Have a hall/dorm/play area named after yourself or love one.

Sponsor a student to attend camp- this July/ August 2020 for \$500.00 /per child (Lodging, food, excursions).

Please contribute towards the construction of Camp Promise. Our goal is to raise \$500,000 to complete the camp, and OPEN the doors by 2021.



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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