



THE VINEYARD FOUNDATION

IMPACTING OUR WORLD ONE PROJECT AT A TIME

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JOURNEYING TO GHANA THROUGH THE POWER OF SOCIAL WORK

BY BARRY E. KNIGHTON, MSW

What a journey this has been! I am genuinely excited to celebrate my fourth social work missions project under the umbrella of the newly formed Vineyard Foundation. In this issue, learn about the social work impact in Ghana, and the leadership development through our first Education Summit as teachers continue to inspire Ghana's next generation. In addition, learn about the Vineyard Foundation's partner organizations and their impact on reaching the local communities.

WELCOME TO THE VINEYARD

Barry E. Knighton, MSW, President
The Vineyard Foundation

VISION

Changing our world one leader at a time.

MISSION

Our mission is to provide leadership development and community training for non-governmental organizations, as well as outreach to area schools to improve literacy and educational initiatives.

OUR PASSION

Here at The Vineyard Foundation, we are driven to do our part in making the world a better place. We take part in a wide range of activities that empower individuals and communities. We strive to build productive relationships and make a positive impact with all of our pursuits.

THE VINEYARD FOUNDATION IS A NONPROFIT, TAX EXEMPT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION UNDER SECTION 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE AND IS A REGISTERED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA (EIN NO.: 88-2161264). DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS ALLOWED BY LAW.



LET'S WELCOME OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



TAMALA ASHFORD, PRINCIPAL, DENT MIDDLE SCHOOL

A lifelong educator, Mrs. Ashford has taught in the Richland County School District Two for over 24 years, serving as a teacher, high school administrator, assistant principal, and now a principal. In 1998, She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Biology Education for South Carolina State University and her Masters of Education for Southern Wesleyan University in 2004. She is married to Aaron Ashford and they share three children.



DR. NINA ELLISON, MSN, CEO, HEALTHY LEADERSHIP

Dr. Ellison has been a healthcare leader for over 30 years. She is a Family Nurse Practitioner with a Doctorate in Nursing. She delivers primary healthcare in rural underserved areas, supporting disaster relief in countries on the continents of Africa, Asia or North and South America. Dr. Ellison serves as a leader and educator in both academic and corporate settings.



PHILIP KUDJOE ABBAN, CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE MANAGER, AMERICAN AIRLINES

Mr. Abban works as a customer experience manager. In this role, he is responsible for leading the customer service recovery efforts at airports and additional departments during regular/irregular flight operations. He is Chief Executive Officer of Adinkra Cargo Movers, LLC. and obtained his Bachelor of Science and Legal Studies at Kaplan University. A native of the Republic of Ghana, Philip hails from the Greater Accra Region.



JOSHUA ROSS, COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, MUSIC ARTIST, MISSIONARY, AND FAITH-LEADER

As a community activist and Christian lyricist, Joshua works within the community in promoting unity and community outreach. He credits himself as simple a servant of God with the motto: *"The measure of a man's greatness is not the number of servants he has, but the number of people he serves."* - John Hagee



WENDELL ALEXANDER MIZELL BRYANT, M.B.A., SHRM-SCP, PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICER, CITY OF ATLANTA

A native South Floridian with adolescent ties to Dallas, Texas, Wendell graduated from Morehouse College with honors and obtained his Master of Business Administration from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University). He is a member of Society of Human Resource Management, a lifetime member of the National Black MBA Association and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He has been a presenter at national and regional conferences, quoted in *Wall Street Journal*, and has served on the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Community ToolBank and the Home Depot Foundation. Currently, he is employed with the City of Atlanta as the Senior Human Resource Manager with the Department of Parks and Recreation and currently serves as a Deacon at his church - The Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral at Six Flags.



LET'S WELCOME OUR BOARD OF ADVISORS

LA-VERNA FOUNTAIN, PRESIDENT, MEANINGFUL COMMUNICATIONS MATTER, LLC., VICE PRESIDENT, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY (RET) AUTHOR, TRAINER, CONSULTANT



La-Verna Fountain is the founder and president of Meaningful Communications Matter LLC, a consulting and training firm focusing on bridging the divide of misunderstandings in the home, community and workplace and developing intentional and healthy dialogue. She serves as an instructor with Columbia's School of Professional Studies. A U.S. Army veteran, La-Verna has an Associate Degree in Police Administration from Harrisburg Area Community College, a Bachelor in Public Policy from Pennsylvania State University and Master of Science degree in Negotiations and Conflict Resolution from Columbia University. She and her husband of 39 years currently live in Pennsylvania and would be empty nesters except they have a large, spoiled German shepherd who is quite demanding.

MINISTER DAVID BRYANT, MISSIONARY AND CROSS-CULTURAL STRATEGIST, AMBASSADORS FELLOWSHIP



David and his wife, Keyon, serve as full-time missionaries and cross-cultural strategists with Ambassadors Fellowship, Inc. (AFI), an international, interdenominational, African-American-led, multi-ethnic mission agency through discipleship and mission preparation. David participated in his first mission trip to Panama. He graduated from missions training school in 2014, where he completed a 6-month outreach in two Middle East countries, being one of the few African Americans to serve in the Middle East. In 2015, as part of a six-person mission team, David was sent to East Africa to start a church plant and a Missions and Prayer Training School for local Africans. Recently, David completed a season in North Africa, where he focused on worship, evangelism, church planting, discipleship, and youth ministry. In addition, he used his passion for dance to reach and mentor youth in the local community. He currently serves at the home office of AFI in mobilization efforts as he and his wife, Keyon, are in leadership training to be team servants in the Middle East for their next assignment. David is a student pursuing a degree in Education to reach his long-term vision to one day to serve migrants and refugees.

"Strategic wisdom is an integral and multidimensional intelligence." - Pearl Zhu



Journeying to Ghana 2022

August 31, 2022 - September 10, 2022



Travel Day - Charleston, SC

I was excited as this was my fourth trip traveling back home to Ghana. What was most important about this trip was I was getting a chance to work with the educators who impact the lives of the students helping them improve and maximize their potential and mission as community stakeholders. Other than the mechanical issue in Charleston, we were good to go to fly and connect at JFK in New York, NY.

Almost Home and Back In Action

When I arrive at JFK and see the Accra departure sign, the people, the clothes, the colors, and hear the language, the anticipation builds because I am getting closer to returning to Ghana and doing, what I was born and called to do!



The Arrival in Accra, Ghana!

When I landed in Ghana, I was overjoyed! I was greeted by the staff of the Jerremites International School and the FaFali Foundation, friends, and beautiful children who presented me with flowers. I could not have received a better welcome back to Ghana! I was humbled and honored to return.



A True Global Impact

I was excited to see my friend and brother Raymond who is the visionary and founder of the Ngorli Foundation. Through the Fafali (formerly Ngorli) Foundation, children's lives have been impacted not just in Ghana, but in the United Kingdom and United States. We salute Raymond for his dedication, as well as being a Veteran having served in the United States Army.



MISSION PROJECT ONE

EDUCATION SUMMIT 2022

SEPTEMBER 3, 2022

DOWNTOWN HOTEL, WEST LEGON



This year through the inauguration of the Vineyard Foundation, in partnership with the Fafali Organization, both organizations hosted the first ever Education Summit centered around leadership, character education, and best practices for classroom management and concerns around social work issues plaguing families. The attendees inspired me through their efforts in serving their students.



Benjamin Franklin said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." Through teamwork, collaboration, and facilitation, these teachers gained tools and best practices to use for empowering and enriching the lives of their students. This event inspired me just as much as it inspired them.



MISSION PROJECT TWO

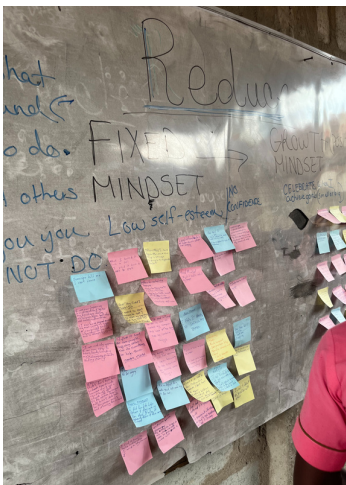
CHARACTER EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2022

JERREMITIES INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, WEST LEGON



During this project, students gained insight in understanding the definition of identity and taking negative thoughts and feelings about themselves exchanging them with positive thoughts. This activity was amazing because students openly expressed their tenacity for overcoming hardship and negative thoughts by participating in group activities and completing a vision board.





PARENTS COMMUNITY FORUM

Parents are the bridge between children and education in Ghana. For many children in the West Legon section of Ghana, education is critical for advancement in society. What is even more important for the child is having parental support while attending school. In partnership with the FaFali Organization and the Vineyard Foundation, Jerremites International School hosted its first-ever parents' community forum.

Seeing parents advocate for their children and talk about ways of improving their communication with the school was a beautiful sight. The FaFali Organization and the Vineyard Foundation facilitated the conversation as they collaborated on finding solutions for supporting the school and families in the community! The parents proved themselves to be true champions of change!





WE MADE IT TO JOY PRIME NEWS AFRICA!

On Thursday, September 8, 2022, Barry E. Knighton, MSW, CEO, the Vineyard Foundation and Rev. Senyo Sosu, CEO, Fafali Organization were interviewed by news anchor Roselyn Felli on the morning news. They shared about the Education Summit and its lasting impact on teachers throughout all of the Ghana.



THE ENCORE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022
VICTORIA WORLD SCHOOL
WEST LEGON



I was pleased to visit Victoria World School with Principal Stanley, and his excellent teachers, who attended the Educational Leadership Summit. I got to meet all the children and spend time with the teachers. I encouraged the students to ask any question. Let me tell you, those students were not afraid to ask tough questions!



They asked me everything from the relationship between whites and people of color, immigration, racism, and prejudice. As a social worker, I enjoyed the questions and realized they are inquisitive thinkers. They are our future world leaders!



"Cultivate curiosity. If you really want to grow in your lifetime, learn to be inquisitive as a child. Curious people are never bored, and for them life becomes an unending study of joy." - Tony Robbins

The Power of Perpetual Partnerships



Dinner with the Starlight Foundation

The Vineyard Foundation sponsored a dinner with Isaac Opuko, CEO, the Starlight Foundation and his amazing leaders. We discussed future partnerships and their work in working with displaced youth in the city of Kasoa, located in the Central Region. I look forward to following-up with them on improving the situation.

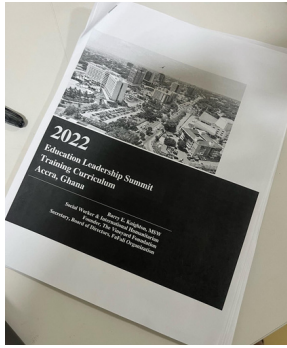
Hosting the Reliance Charity Foundation Workshop 2022

The Vineyard Foundation, sponsored a workshop with the Reliance Charity Foundation which is under the extraordinary leadership of Eric Owiredu. Through faith-based outreach and evangelism, this organization supports widows, helps orphanages, and partners with schools all across Ghana. The workshop centered on teaching best practices to expand community outreach. These young people are incredible, and I honored and humbled they entrusted me to be in their lives.



YOUR GENEROUS GIVING!

"Because of your support and generous giving, we accomplished our mission!"



1

CONFERENCE COST

Your generosity covered the cost of all travel expenses, conference costs, food, rental, decorations, summit, and school project supplies!

SCHOOLS IMPACT

School supplies, snacks, and pizza party for the children at the school!



2



3

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Sponsorship of the community forum, which covered all food and supply costs.

We Extend a Special Thank You To!

We extend a special thank you to Minister Gray of Light of Light Consultants and Pastor G. Jones for donating books and school supplies. In addition, we send a special thank you to the Wittens for the school supplies and the balloons for the kids.

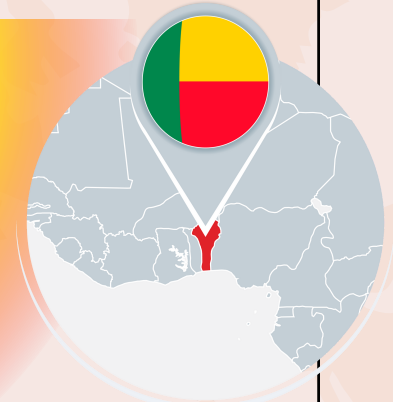


THE JOURNEY CONTINUES! GHANA & BENIN

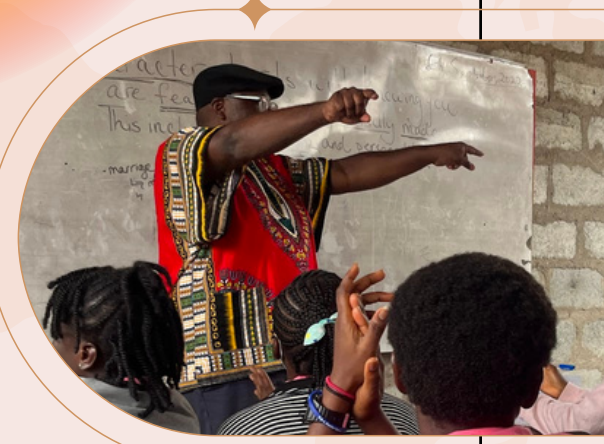
THE 5TH EDITION

AUGUST 2023

SOCIAL WORK MISSIONS PROJECT "TAKING IT TO THE STREETS!"



Find out how you can partner with me to take the journey of a lifetime with through financial support and sponsorship! All financial support and sponsorship are tax-deductible!



FUNDRAISING WILL BEGIN JUNE 1ST. SO GET READY!

Keep In Touch



Contact Us

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