



One Voice

Coalition of African

Communities in

Philadelphia

A Non-Profit Organization

Registered in Pennsylvania

Inside this issue:

- Obamacare session 2
- AFRICOM Collaborates with the University of Pennsylvania 2
- Bartram High School meeting 3
- Mayor Nutter ends ICE-police collaboration, makes history 3

Our Newsletter

A Fantastic First Quarter 2014

During the first quarter of the year 2014, AFRICOM attended not less than 20 events and activities in the city of Philadelphia, including meetings at Bartram High School, meetings with the School District of Philadelphia, joining the campaign for comprehensive immigration laws with New Sanctuary Movement, joining CityLights, meeting with city officials, participating in MOIMA's planning committees, and joining the Paschallville Advisory Council. In doing so, the coalition enlarged the pool of its partners. This resulted in the increased visibility and

credibility that coalition is enjoying as a truly community-oriented organization.

Multiplying our partners reflects



Dr. Edi at PICC Immigrant Day, Harrisburg

the new vision of the Executive board and is the surest path to growth and success. The crowning occasion was the collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania, African Studies Center, which brought us four students, who worked hard to

implement our health, immigration and education programs. The Executive Board is very proud of these achievements and congratulates all the program heads, the members, and all our partners for their continued efforts for AFRICOM. Have a wonderful

summer

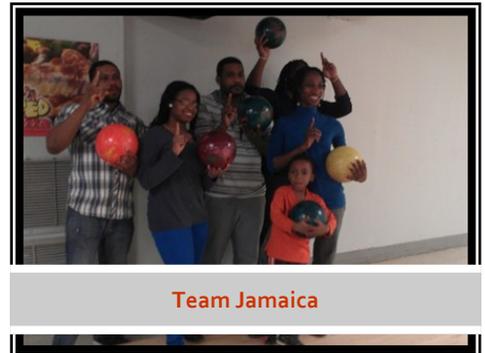
Eric Edi, PhD

President & C.O.O

Coalition for Jamaica (CFJ) wins AFRICOM'S 2nd Bowling Game

Congratulations to team Coalition for Jamaica for winning, for the second time, AFRICOM's bowling fundraising competition.

The competition took place at Haverford Lanes on Good Friday. Four teams competed: Liberia, Nigeria, The Ivory Coast and Jamaica. Team Jamaica received its trophy at the April general meeting. Congratulations Team Jamaica.



Team Jamaica

**CORNER OF EXCELLENCE
FOR OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTIONS TO
AFRICOM**



Sara Hassan



Becca Carroll



Deqa Farah



Will Slotznick

Four University of Pennsylvania Students joined Africom to forward the coalition's mission

In the spring 2014, four undergraduate students of the University of Pennsylvania volunteered with AFRICOM as part of their service to the African and Caribbean immigrant communities. The internship was part of the renewed collaboration between the University of Pennsylvania African Studies Center and AFRICOM-Philly. Mrs. Anastasia Shawn, who is the coordinator of the UPenn African Studies Center listed the coalition among the top organizations to work with the students. The four students Sara Hassan, Becca Carroll, Daqa Farah, and Will Slotznick were welcomed



The UPenn students

at the March 1st, 2014 monthly meeting held at 5000 Spring Avenue (West Philadelphia). They worked in three areas: education, health, and immigration. The collaboration revamps the ties between AFRICOM and the University of Pennsylvania. In retrospect, the first meeting, which laid the foundations for AFRICOM, took place at the University of Pennsylvania's Houston Hall on Spruce Street in the summer of 2000.

Community Development: AFRICOM-Philly and Christ International Baptist Church hold Obamacare sessions

On March 15 and 29, 2014, AFRICOM and Christ International Baptist hosted sessions to enroll members of the African and Caribbean communities into the Affordable Health Care program (Obamacare). Health market representative and insurance agent Paul Snipes offered his expertise, while the city of Philadelphia, department of health and Rosy Periles from PECO energy were in attendance respectively to offer health screening and to distribute energy-efficient light bulbs. .

A total of 40 individuals were helped into "Obamacare." Health Partners sponsored the first session with free giveaways and health information brochure. The four students of the University of Pennsylvania, who volunteered with AFRICOM helped enroll community members.



Will, Daqa, Becca, Sara, A. Ghartey, & Rev. Devine at the event.

AFRICOM Attends Bartram High School Meeting to Address Violence and Language-Related Questions

AFRICOM has opened new lines of communication with officials of the SDP to share its expertise on issues that affect immigrant parents and students. First, on March 14, 2014 Africom’s COO met with Ms. Jennifer Duffy, to discuss the ways in which to improve the experience of ELL students. Then on April 10, Dr. Tolbert, Pat Keita Doe, and Dr. Eric Edi attended the Bartram High

School community meeting, which addressed violence in the school.



Dr. Tolbert & Makuda K.

Dr. Vera Tolbert Testifies for AFRICOM at Historic Hearing at City Hall

On March 12, 2014 Dr. Vera Tolbert, past-President and head of the Immigration and Refugee program took the voice of the coalition onto the floor of Philadelphia City-Council during a historic hearing, in which immigrant community leaders and advocates urged city officials to end ICE-police collaboration. Dr. Tolbert’s testimony illustrated AFRICOM’s involvement in the citywide movement for comprehensive immigration laws. Speaking about the hearing, Dr Tolbert said: “This was a breathtaking experience because it was wonderful to hear the voice of the African/Caribbean community, which is usually unspoken. Seeing immigrants come together for a common purpose and speaking the same language: “immigration justice” is one that will go down in the history of the city of Philadelphia. I am honored and humbled to have been a part of this historic event and believe the city of Philadelphia experienced a new direction, realizing that immigrants are an integral part of it.”

Mayor M. Nutter ends ICE-Police collaboration in Philadelphia

On April 15, 2014, the battle to end ICE-Police collaboration in the city of Philadelphia concluded positively. On that day, in a crowded room 202 of City Hall, where cheers and tears competed against each other, Mayor Nutter signed a new Executive Order to end any police ICE holds except for convicted criminals. In his remarks, Mayor Nutter congratulates the Juntos, the New Sanctuary Movement, ACANA, AFRICOM-Philly, NSC, PICC, etc., for working together to make this Executive Order possible. For Mayor Nutter, the historic ceremony was comparable to the 1776 Declaration of Independence of the United States in Philadelphia. Following the signing ceremony, a group of community leaders including AFRICOM’s Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Eric Edi attended a private meeting with the Mayor to discuss the next steps in implementing the Executive Order. Dr. Eric Edi congratulated the Mayor and offered the coalition’s support.



Mayor M. Nutter made history

AFRICOM Attends Pennsylvania Immigrants Advocacy Day in Harrisburg

On April 29, 2014, AFRICOM participated in the PICC Immigrant Advocacy Day in the Keystone state capital, Harrisburg. Joining a coalition that brought between 200 and 300 immigrants and community leaders to meet with PA lawmakers. The Coalition was represented by its president and C.O.O Dr. Eric Edi. Dr. Edi was part of a team of 10 who went to three PA lawmakers including Senator Anthony Williams. Throughout the trip, AFRICOM gained experience working with immigrants from nationalities other than Africa and the Caribbean. The coalition connected with the Senator’s office to address other issues that are of interest to the African and Caribbean communities.

The experience was worth the trip.



Hundreds immigrants in Harrisburg



New Sanctuary Movement Film Screening

As announced, the screening of the film “Kids United against Deportation” took place at Philly-Cam Studios in Old City, Philadelphia on Saturday, May 10th. In attendance, AFRICOM representatives and several community leaders and parents of various immigrant communities. The



coalition contributed to the film. Ms. Makuda K., teacher at Tilden School, coordinated the participation of African immigrant students. Congratulations to Ms. Makuda who recently joined the coalition in April 2014.

Dr. Philip Udo-Inyang Elected Chairman of Ibibio Akparawa Association, Philadelphia chapter

AFRICOM's past president and board member Dr. P. Udo-Inyang, was officially installed as the chairman of the Mmo Akwa Ibom Association, Philadelphia Chapter on March 8, 2014 during a fundraising dinner at the Hilton Hotel near the Philadelphia Airport. He was supported by members of the coalition, including Dr. E. Edi, Dr. V. Tolbert, Mr. And Mrs. A. Batchelor, and Ms. Makuda Keita.

AFRICOM Meets Senator Anthony Williams' Office to Discuss African Hair Braiders' Issues

As it vows to support the African natural hair braiders, AFRICOM led a two-person delegation to the office of State Senator, the Honorable Anthony Williams. The delegation composed of Mr. Elhadji Ndiaye and Dr. Eric Edi met with Ms. Joanna McClinton at the Senator's local office on Island Avenue. The fruitful discussion will be followed by a formal letter that the Senator will send to the PA Senate to readdress the citations that many of the hair braiders have been receiving from the State Inspection Board.

AFRICOM wins \$ 3,000 Award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine

To crown its efforts to promote health and wellness among the African and Caribbean communities, AFRICOM joined the National Network of Library of Medicine/Mid-Atlantic Region. The membership gives AFRICOM access to several health agencies and professionals in order to increase its health and wellness program. In addition, the NNLM awarded the coalition \$3,000 to continue its mission of promoting health and especially HIV awareness in the communities. AFRICOM will work with partner organizations to use this award efficiently and ensure its continuation in the years to come.

Upcoming Community Events

World Refugee Day

Saturday June 21, 2014

Liberia's Independence Day
Celebration

July 25th-27th, 2014

Cross Cultural Program

September 2014