



AFRICOM 2016

COALITION OF AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN COMMUNITIES

Coalition of African Communities
5133 Baltimore Avenue,
Philadelphia PA 19143
Phone: 215 816 8063
Email: info@africom-philly.org
Website: www.africom-philly.org

Report Editor

Eric Edi

Staff Author

Manthitha Diawara, Intern
diawaramanthita@gmail.com
Sankofa Academy Charter School

Graphic Designer

Devin Broughton
Philadelphia University

Follow Us On

Twitter: [@africom_Philly](https://twitter.com/africom_Philly)
Facebook: [Africom-Philly](https://www.facebook.com/Africom-Philly)



WE DESIGN, PRINT & PROMOTE...YOU!



**BUSINESS CARDS • LETTERHEADS • ENVELOPES • BOOKLETS • BANNERS • FOAMBOARDS
POSTERS • NEWSLETTERS • PRESENTATION FOLDERS • SIGNS • MAILING SERVICES
PROMOTIONAL ITEMS • POSTCARDS • T-SHIRTS • HATS • HOODIES • MAGNETS AND MORE!**

Two Convenient Locations To Serve You!

1717 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148 Phone: 215.339.1596 Email: philadelphia@minutemanpress.com
301 East Montgomery Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 Phone: 610-668-8847 Email: bala@minutemanpress.com

WWW.PHILLY.MINUTEMANPRESS.COM

From the Board of Directors

Dear friends,

When African and Caribbean community leaders formed the Coalition of African Communities (AFRICOM) in 2001, they envisioned a long-standing body to advocate for and support African and Caribbean immigrants' integration into Philadelphia.

Celebrating 15 years of service clearly means that we are fulfilling this vision.

In 2012, AFRICOM shifted its priorities and approaches. We have established numerous partnerships, joined larger local, state, and national organizations and agencies, created new programs and projects, expanded relationships with donors, strengthened the board of directors, generated more revenues, and created a better path to sustainability.

This 2016 report celebrates these achievements and indicates how critical it is to work with AFRICOM to develop comprehensive plans to ensure that immigrants get effective assistance for access to healthcare, legal assistance, employment, housing, that researchers conduct research, that policy-makers design comprehensive policies, that community leaders are trained to be effective leaders.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Executive officers, we thank all our partners and donors and invite all communities to join in the movement. Our direction is clear.

Zemoria Brandon
Board Vice-chair

Eric Edi
Executive Director



Funders and Partners

Our accomplishments are possible thanks to the generosity of individuals, foundations, business owners and organizations that we have had the honor and privilege to work with:

Funders

The Philadelphia Foundation	www.philafound.org
African Audio Video	www.africanaudiovideo.net
AllState	www.allstate.com
The Douty Foundation	http://www.doutyfoundation.org/
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA)	www.pcacares.org
Philadelphia Activities Fund (PAF)	
Multicultural Family Service Center (MCFSC)	http://multiculturalcommunityfamilyservices.org/
African Family Health Organization (AFAHO)	www.afaho.net
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC)	http://paimmigrant.org/
Nilien Insurance	

Partners

The University of Pennsylvania	
Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School	www.sfacs.us
African Caribbean Cancer Consortium (ac3)	www.ac3online.org
The Southwest Community Development Corporation (SWCDC)	http://southwestcdc.org/
MinutemanPress	
Haitian Coalition of Philadelphia	www.haitiancoalition.org
Philadelphia Department of Health	www.phila.gov/health
Philadelphia Autism Project	http://www.paautism.org/phillyautismproject
United African Organization	www.uniteafricans.org
Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church	
Nationalities Services Center	www.nscphila.org
Office of Councilwoman Jenny Blackwell	http://phlcouncil.com/JannieBlackwell
Office of Councilwoman Helen Gym	http://phlcouncil.com/HelenGym
New Sanctuary Movement	www.sanctuaryphiladelphia.org
Funtimes Magazine	www.funtimesmagazine.com
American Heart Association	http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/
The Sickle Cell Disease Association – Delaware Valley Chapter	www.sicklecelldisorde.com
Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY)	www.pccy.org
Tickets for kids	www.ticketsforkids.org
Radio Xalaat	www.radioxalaat.com
African Caribbean Business Council	www.acbcphilly.net
African Small Pot Restaurant	http://www.africansmallpot.com/
African and Jamaican Kitchen	http://www.africansandjamaicanskitchen.com/

Board of Directors

Chair

Mr. Giordani Jean-Baptiste
C.E.O E.Z Language Translation and Interpretation Services
Haitian Coalition of Philadelphia

1st Vice-Chair

Mrs. Zemia Brandon
Sickle Cell Disease Association - Delaware Valley Chapter

2nd Vice- Chair

Vera Tolbert, PhD
Liberian Association of Pennsylvania
Delegation Oversight Specialist, Independence Blue Cross

Secretary

Ms. Raphiatou Nombissi
Cameroonian Association of Pennsylvania
Social Worker

Treasurer

Mr. Chima Orji
Owner and Manager
African Cultural Center

Dr. Philip Udo-Inyang

Nigerian People Forum
Associate Professor of Engineering, Temple University

El Hadji Ndiaye

Manager, Radio Xalaat
Community Liaison, Philadelphia Department of Housing

Rev. John Jallah

Liberian Association of Pennsylvania
Assistant Pastor

Sister Florence Enemenchukwu

Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Executive Officers

President and C.O.O

Eric Edi, PhD.
Philadelphia University

Vice President

Dr. Lanfia Waritay
Project TAMAA

Education Committee Chair

Mr. Camille Kamkaing
Special Education
President Cameroonian Association of Philadelphia

Public Relations Officer / Youth Coordinator

Mr. Samuel M. Cole, MBA
Bank Secrecy Act Specialist Franklin Mint Federal Credit
Union

Health and Family Wellness Chair

Ms. Aminata Sidibé
Community Outreach, Action Aid

Children Engagement Chair

Mrs. Astan Sacko
Owner and Manager

AFRICOM at a Glance

History

Founded in 2001, AFRICOM is the umbrella organization of African and Caribbean communities and faith-based organizations.

Mission

AFRICOM's mission is to empower the African and Caribbean communities and facilitate their integration into the social and economic fabric in the Greater Philadelphia area. AFRICOM seeks to achieve this mission by: facilitating families and individuals' access to health and social services, with special focus on women, children, and the youth, promoting economic development, facilitating resolution of inter and intra-group conflicts, advocating on issues of concern to African communities, educating the media and broader public on African cultures and experiences.

Programs

The Coalition of African and Caribbean Communities operates several programs in partnership with agencies and other non-profit and community-based organizations. The most important programs are:

- African and Caribbean Business Development
- Education and Culture
- Immigration legal Assistance
- Advocacy
- Data collection
- Need assessment
- Grant writing
- Community Livelihood / Support
- Health and social services

The Population We Serve

“Sub-Saharan Africans are among the fastest-growing groups of US immigrants.”

AFRICOM-Philly serves the growing African and Caribbean Immigrants and refugees in the greater Philadelphia Area. According to Global Philadelphia, there are an estimated 50,000 African immigrants living in the Greater Philadelphia area, representing a variety of nations, cultures, languages and religions. (<https://globalphiladelphia.org/communities/african>)

Where do they come from?

The Migration Policy Institute (www.migrationpolicy.org, 2015) estimates that there are 837,159 foreign-born immigrants in Pennsylvania.

65,969 or 7.9% of foreign-born Pennsylvanians were born in Africa. African Immigrants in Pennsylvania come from: Eastern Africa (1.6%), Northern Africa (1.5%), Western Africa (3.5%), and the Middle and Southern African (0.8%).

Like U.S immigration trends, African immigrants in PA come from diverse countries. In Pennsylvania and especially in the Greater Philadelphia area, the largest contingents of African immigrants are from Liberia, Nigeria, Eritrea, and Ethiopia.

103,442 immigrants in PA come from the Caribbean islands, which is 12.4 % of Pennsylvania's total immigrant population. The largest contingents of Caribbean immigrants come from: Cuba (0.6%), Jamaica (2.3%), and other Caribbean (9.4%).

Where Do They Live in Philadelphia?

African and Caribbean immigrants and refugees are dispersed throughout the city of Philadelphia and the Greater Philadelphia area. Yet the largest contingents live in West and Southwest Philadelphia. North Philadelphia and the northeast section of the city are two other neighborhoods that have seen a good increase of African and Caribbean immigrant and refugee residents.

Liberians: Although Liberians are dispersed throughout the city, there are some concentrations in West and South Philadelphia, Upper Darby, and the Northeast.

Nigerians:

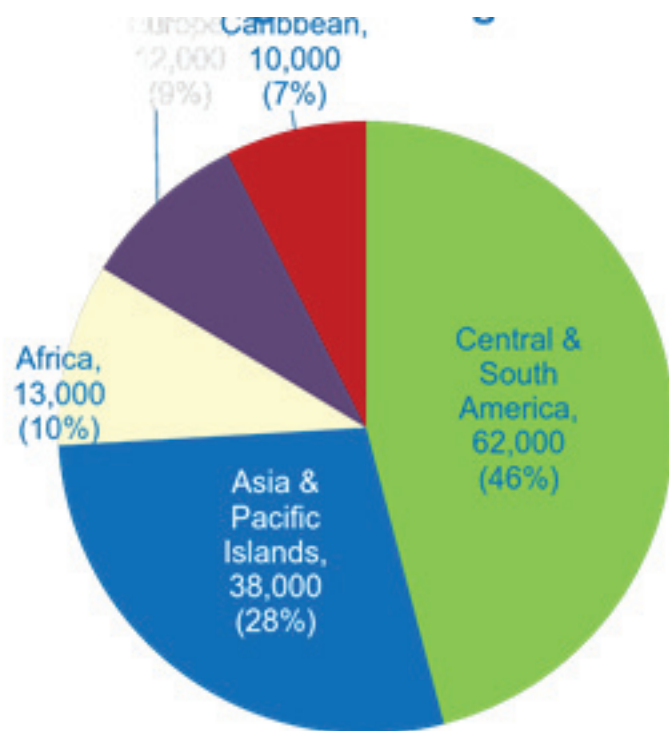
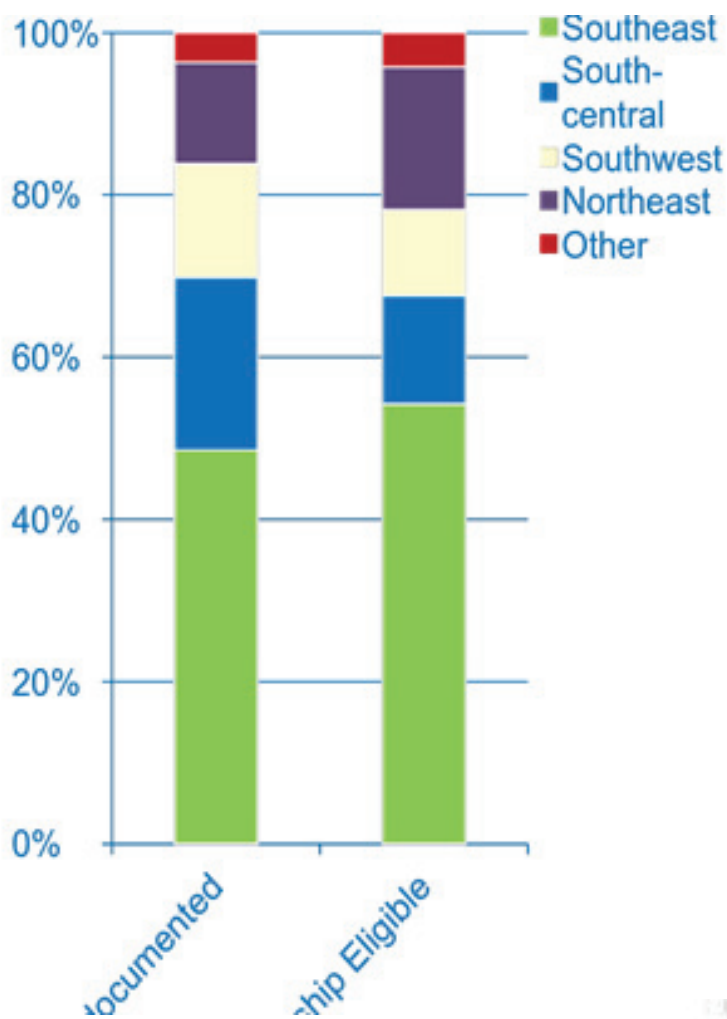
Settlement is dispersed throughout the city and surrounding suburbs with no specific neighborhood concentration.

Eritreans:

Many Eritreans live in West Philadelphia, where their community center is located.

Ethiopians:

The core of Ethiopian settlement has been in West Philadelphia, including University City. Ethiopians also reside in Upper Darby.



Immigration Legal Assistance Program



Core objectives

Expand immigration legal assistance program
Ensure African and Caribbean immigrants' accessibility to legal services
Provide training opportunities to community leaders
Increase immigration advocacy
Ensure that AFRICOM expand its scope and participation to immigrants' rights conferences
Build a legal defense resource

Accomplishments

Know your right information sessions

10 Informational Sessions in Communities.
7 Radio Campaigns
1 Newspaper campaign

Legal Clinics and Screening

2 Legal Clinics for help to apply for immigration benefits without fees
2 Screenings for eligibility to immigration benefits

Leadership Training: Community Navigators

5 Training Sessions
4 community leaders trained
2 enrolled in Basic immigration law curriculum

Immigration updates

Every month AFRICOM immigration committee updates the members of the Mayor's Commission for African and Caribbean Immigrants' Affairs on the latest news about immigration laws and immigrants' integration networks.

Immigrant rights conference

In 2016, AFRICOM attended three nationwide conferences on immigration laws and immigration integration. Participating in these conferences helped build internal capacity and increase the coalitions knowledge and network with other regional and national organizations.



Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Los Angeles, CA April 2016



America is Ready
Arlington VA, Feb 2016



National Immigrant Integration Conference
Nashville TN, December 2016

Information Sessions

Type of Event	Date	Host	Number of People Reached
Info	Jul-16	TAMAA	26
Info	11/13/16	Bamileke Group	60
Info	12/3/16	High school Program	25
Info	12/4/16	Cote d'Ivoire A.	29
Info	12/4/16	LAP	27
Info	12/12/16	TAMAA	24
Info	1/8/17	Akwa Ibom	21
Info	1/11/17	MCACIA	66
Info	1/14/17	RCCG Men	42
Info	1/15/17	Ibibio	27
Total		10	271

Media Outreach

Media Event	Date	Host	Number of People Reached
	Jul-16	Radio Xalaat, WURD am 900	200
	Aug-16	Radio Xalaat, WURD am 900	200
	Oct-16	Radio Xalaat, WURD am 900	200
	Nov-16	Radio Xalaat, WURD am 900	200
	1/7/17	Radio Xalaat, WURD am 900	200
	1/14/17	Radio Xalaat, WURD am 900	200
	1/20/17	Radio Haiti	400
		L'Eclaireur	150

Screening and Legal Clinics

Legal Clinics	Date	Number of People Served
	1/28/17	6
	2/18/17	75
	2/25/17	50

Capacity Building: Recognition and Accreditation

AFRICOM is actively seeking accreditation and recognition with the Department of Justice Office of Legal Access Practice (OLAP) to enlarge its immigration legal services and offer better services to African and Caribbean immigrants

Two accredited representative applications have been submitted

Once approved AFRICOM will become the second African and Caribbean community-based organization to have the status

With the recognition and accreditation, AFRICOM is projected to double its services and clients and establish a more financially sustainable program

Other immigration-related services

Translation/interpretation: AFRICOM provided language assistance for 7 new arrivals with USCIS and social Security administration

Referrals: Over 20 immigrants and refugees were referred to immigration agencies and lawyers for questions and consultations

Letters of support: AFRICOM provided letters of support for 5 individuals and families applying for immigration benefits including: Legal Permanent Residence, family-based petitions, and adoption

Immigration Resource Day: AFRICOM collaborated with the Paschalville Library Job Readiness program to host two immigration resource days in May and October 2016.

Stakeholders meeting with USCIS: AFRICOM attended 11 meetings with the United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS). The purpose of these meetings is to ensure AFRICOM has the latest information on immigration services and benefits: asylum, Female Genital Cut, BIA Accreditation process unit, Fee change stakeholders meetings, etc.

Health and Social Services



Core Objectives

Ensure African and Caribbean communities have access to health services
Increase services to African and Caribbean Seniors
Focus on health awareness campaign and education

Health Fair 2016

“The health fair remains a vital opportunity for numerous African and Caribbean immigrants and refugees to receive not only basic medical services and information especially from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, but also other information related to education, immigration, health insurance, financial literacy.” Raphiatou Noubissi, Chair Health and Social Service Committee.

Keeping the tradition alive, the Coalition of African and Caribbean Communities (AFRICOM) hosted its 16th annual Health, wellness and cultural fair on Saturday, August 27, 2016. For the 7th time, the fair took place at Kingsessing Recreation Center, located 4901 Kingsessing Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19144. The choice of this center as permanent home for the annual health fair is the result of the excellent partnership between AFRICOM and the Center’s management team and the need to make it easy for community members to participate,” says Eric Edi, AFRICOM’s Executive Director and C.O.O.

Raphiatou Noubissi, the chair of AFRICOM’s Health Program commented that the health fair remained a vital opportunity for numerous African and Caribbean immigrants and refugees to receive not only basic medical services and information especially from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, but also other information related to education, immigration, health insurance, financial literacy.” Ms. Sophia Poe, who represented the Philadelphia Mural Art, one of the Silver sponsors of the event, said she was impressed by the diversity of services offered at the fair, especially the children’s corner and the soccer tournament because they truly engaged children and youths.

This year, a children's corner was erected and graciously manned by three female teenagers offering art work and face painting. The children who visited the corner received bags, crayons and pairs of sandals offered by the School District of Philadelphia. Aminata Sidibe, the co-chair of the health fair, and winner of the 2016 AFRICOM Award for outstanding service said that children and parents were happy to receive those giveaways. The soccer tournament, it brought together three teams representing: Nigeria, Mali and Sierra Leone. Unlike Mali and Nigeria, the Sierra Leone team was participating for the first time. Its young players all high school students were happy to take part to the event. They promised to be back next year. The Mali team won the 2016 championship after defeating the Young Lone Stars of Sierra Leone 2-0 and longtime rival Nigeria 3-2.

The fair record showed 15 agencies and organizations tabled at the event and 200 people including young children, youths, and adults registered. 60% of registered participants were females, which to the satisfaction of the organizers reflects the populations that AFRICOM has served for 15 years. The organizers of the fair were also proud that the Philadelphia Department of Public health community nurses offered HIV, hypertension, diabetes, and other tests. Their presence is a good thing because the purpose of the health fair is also to link uninsured immigrants and refugees to the Philadelphia health centers. Though the number of people, who took the blood test has not yet been communicated yet, it was good to see that some immigrants voluntarily submitted to the blood tests, thus underlining the relevance of the health fair. Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, Philadelphia 3rd District, who also attended the event could not agree more as she praised AFRICOM's persistent effort to improving health literacy among African and Caribbean immigrants and refugees.

As AFRICOM looks ahead to the 2017 edition, the health fair committee thanks all partners, sponsors, agencies and community-based organizations that helped organize the 2016 health fair. AFRICOM thanks the following sponsors: Allstate, the Philadelphia Corporation of Aging, Health Partners Plan, the Neighborhood Yes Fund, the Multicultural Community Family Services, the African Family Organization and Funtimes Magazine, the African Audio Video Market, for their financial contribution.

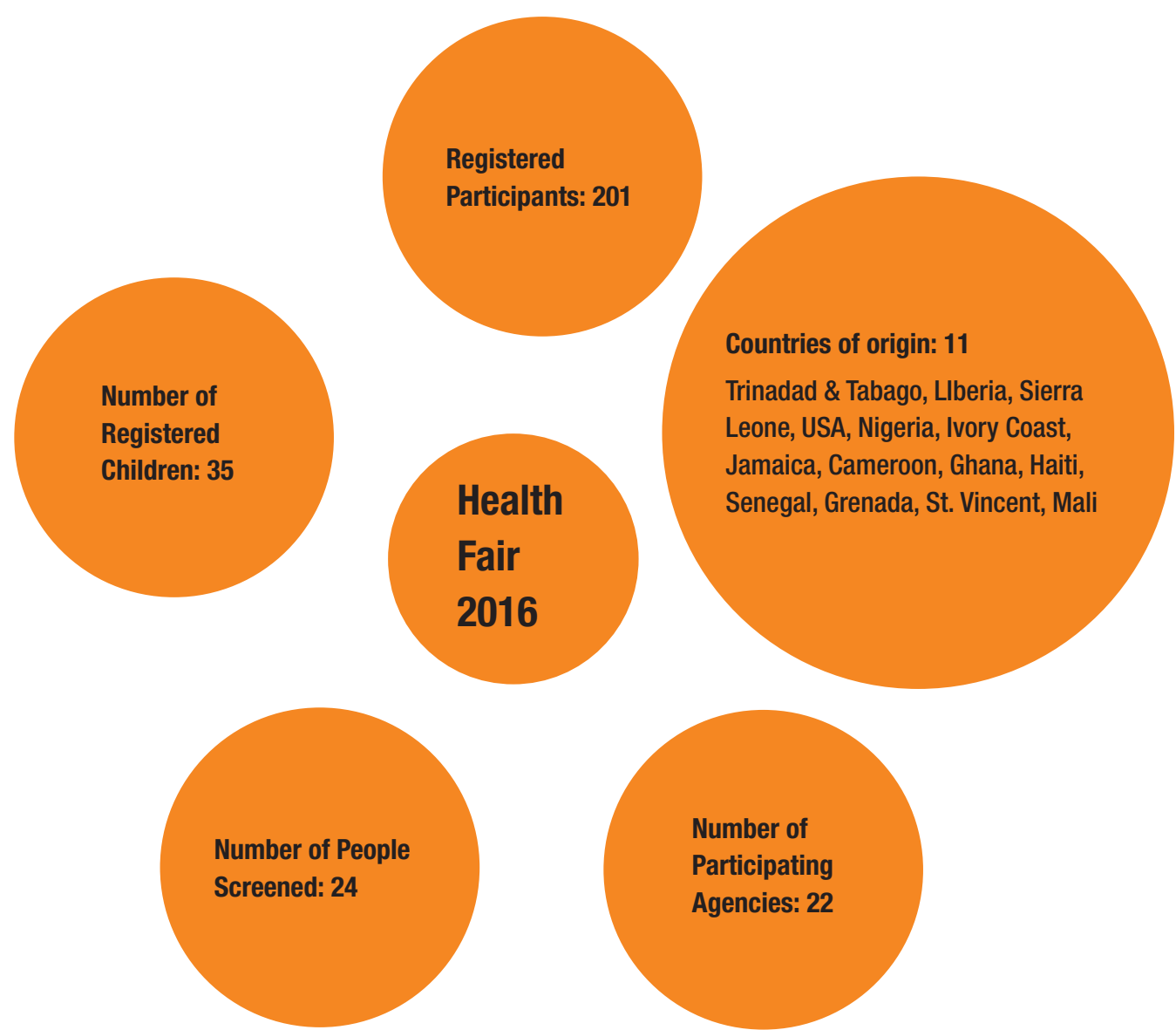
Samuel Cole, Public Relations Officer
Tel: (267) 815 7536
Email: livn2liveagain@gmail.com

Facilitating Communities Access to Health Centers

AFRICOM helped over 60 African and Caribbean families and individuals get service at Health Centers by writing referrals to prove that they reside in Philadelphia.

AFRICOM referred 25 families and individuals to African Family Health Organization (AFAHO)

AFRICOM conducted a yearlong community wide campaign of awareness and education on autism and other unaddressed health issues



Community Empowerment

Business Development

AFRICOM assisted 6 immigrants in locating resources to launch their business, promoted loan access programs through FINANTA and Women Opportunities Resource Center (WORC), and promoted a dozen African and Caribbean immigrant-owned restaurants.

Job Readiness

AFRICOM helped over 10 job-seekers with their resumes, facilitated the application and acceptance of 2 students to attend Job Corps program, and promoted job fairs in collaboration with the Paschaville Library Initiative.

Housing

AFRICOM assisted 5 African immigrants in finding temporary or permanent housing and referred 3 immigrant families to Home counseling agencies for services regarding heat and electricity.

Senior citizens

AFRICOM provided technical assistance and financial support to 3 senior citizens-oriented agencies and services:

AGAPE African Senior Center, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging and the Land Bong Mines Senior Citizens Services.

AFRICOM collaborated with Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) in exploring ways to make services accessible to African and Caribbean seniors, and supported three fundraising events benefiting adult citizens.

Public Department Benefits

AFRICOM helped 15 individuals apply for health insurance and 19 immigrant families apply and obtain SNAP benefits.

Sports: Soccer Tournament 2016

The soccer tournament remains the attraction of the health fair and an effective way to conduct health outreach!!! Three teams participated in the tournament this year: Nigeria, Mali, Sierra Leone

Mali 2016 Champion



Nigeria 2016 2nd Place



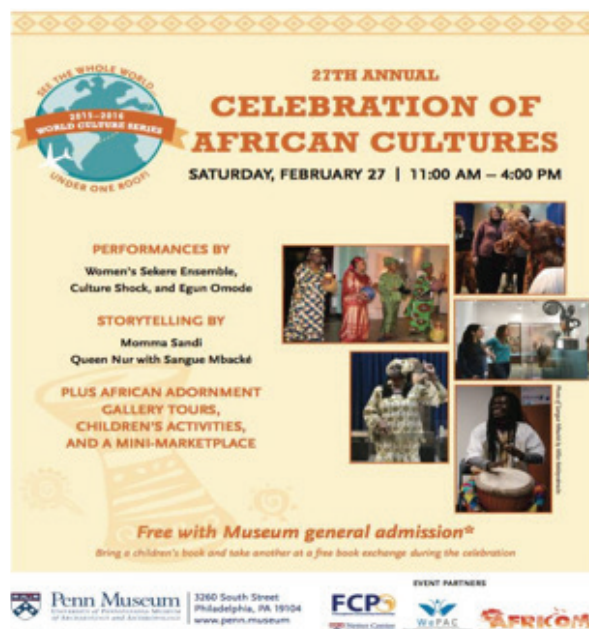
Sierra Leone Lone Star 2016 3rd Place



Education and Culture

Core objectives

- Establish a directory of ESL programs
- Collaborate with Philly-OIA on cultural programs and events
- Participate in and collaborate with institutions on promoting African and Caribbean cultures
- Promote volunteer program
- Organize college access workshops for high school students
- Create a children program through ticketsforkids



Culture

AFRICOM promoted African and Black culture in the city of Philadelphia by serving in the African Advisory Board for the Philadelphia Museum of Arts - African Exhibit in summer 2016.

AFRICOM also sponsored the Penn Museum of Archeology Cultural Event in March 2016.

AFRICOM also presented at the City of Philadelphia, Unity Cup Final Exposition Fair on November 5, 2016 at Citizens' Bank Park.

AFRICOM spearhead the African and Caribbean communities' participation in the Bartram's Garden Community Fund advisory and grantmaking board.



College Access Workshop, Dec 3, 2016 University of Pennsylvania

Education

The first inaugural College Access workshop took place on December 3, 2016 at the Houston Hall, University of Pennsylvania. The event was put together and coordinated by Ms. Christiana Kallon, the Black Women Graduate Association and AFRICOM. Drexel University, Temple University and University of Pennsylvania admission representatives attended the workshop. 35 people attended the event of which 22 high school students, both males and females.

Children's Program

AFRICOM worked with the School District of Philadelphia to promote awareness of Head Start program in Philadelphia. In June 2016, AFRICOM established a new program in collaboration with www.ticketsforkids.org to offer free tickets to children aged 4 to 17 to attend cultural, entertainment and sports events. AFRICOM has distributed 500 tickets in 2016

Volunteer Program

AFRICOM's volunteer Program attracted a pool of students from Philadelphia High schools, colleges, and universities: Romario Brown (Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School-SFACS – Operations), Christiana Kallon (University of Pennsylvania - Education and grant writing), Natalie Dixon (Temple University - Health Fair), and The Black Women Graduate Association (University of Pennsylvania - college Access)

ESL

AFRICOM referred 30 new and limited-English proficient immigrants and refugees to ESL programs and developed a booklet of ESL services in the Philadelphia area.

Linking Hands

AFRICOM collaborated with local and statewide agencies and organizations.



Research and Policy

Research

AFRICOM helped Dr. Camille Ragin and the Fox Chase Cancer Prevention Program recruit participants among African and Caribbean immigrants and refugees. 20 participants were recruited

AFRICOM assisted a high school student, Romario Brown from Sankofa Academy Charter School in conducting and completing and complete his senior research on Jamaican immigrants

AFRICOM advised and helped a team of researchers from the University of Pennsylvania recruit participants among Ghanaian immigrants

AFRICOM served a site of observation for Kristiana Kallon, a Graduate Student at the University of Pennsylvania. She researched the impacts of community organizations on the lives of African and Caribbean immigrants.

Policy

AFRICOM made recommendations to the Office of Councilwoman Jenny Blackwell and the Department of Health regarding African and Caribbean immigrants' difficulties in accessing health centers

AFRICOM partnered with numerous organizations to craft policies regarding:

- Dream Act

- Drivers' License for all Pennsylvanians

- Insurance for all children in Pennsylvania