

TheBrotherhood



SisterSol

Established 1995

THE BROTHERHOOD/SISTER SOL

E-Update Newsletter

August 2011

Program Highlights

This summer, Bro/Sis held a one month long International Study Program (ISP) to Ghana; two job training initiatives; two intensive arts institutes, one focusing on media and the other on performing arts; two summer day camps; free breakfast programs; an environmental education and job training program; externship initiatives and a community organizing school. We also offered college scholarships to our alumni. In this issue, we highlight our International Study Program to Ghana and a new initiative, our Future Foundation exposure program for youth of central Harlem.

We have documented outcomes that far surpass City numbers: Harlem's teenaged pregnancy rate is 15 % - our members have a rate of less than 1%. Our educational achievement numbers far surpass those of NYC as well. In the City of New York the general high school graduation rate is 58%; while the Schott Foundation found that the graduation rate of Black and Latino boys is 34%. And 49% of Black men, between the ages of 18-65 in New York City are unemployed. 88% of our alumni have graduated from high school, 94% either graduated from high school or earned their Graduate Equivalency Degree and 95% are working full time or enrolled in college. With regards to issues of criminality and morality – after sixteen years none of our members or alumni members are incarcerated and less than 1% have a felony conviction.

Read more about our work below, and please support our young people.
The contributions of individuals like you are essential to our work.

MAKE A DONATION

Future Foundation

“The Brotherhood/Sister Sol's Future Foundation summer immersion program builds on sixteen years of our youth development model – we are seeking to expose young people to workforce possibilities, culture, and higher education; to provide nurturing and holistic mentorship; and to empower youth to define a moral and ethical code by which to live their lives.

-Khary Lazarre-White, BHSS Executive Director

Future Foundation is a six-week immersion program for 40 youth from central Harlem. Young people are exposed to educational possibilities via college tours; to workforce possibilities and job site visits; to the diverse cultural offerings of New York City; and to Bro/Sis style workshops on issues of gender, race, identity, history, political education, conflict resolution and emotional intelligence.

Five alumni of Bro/Sis administer the program. One alumnus is a professor at Lehman College, two are public school teachers, and the remaining two educate young people via spoken word workshops held at public schools and community based organizations. These alumni represent the essence of the youth development leadership model of BHSS and our development of community organizers, educators and new voices. This program was funded by the New York City Council with support and partnership from Bill Lynch & Associates and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.



Left to right: City Council Member Inez Dickens, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Khary Lazarre-White and City Council Member Robert Jackson with youth of Future Foundation.

Click here to read: [DA's Office Press Release](#), [The Epoch Time's](#) and [The Amsterdam News Article](#)

Program Highlights

International Study Program (ISP): Ghana 2011

From July 3 to July 28th, ISP took 14 members and 2 staff to live and study in Ghana after 6 months of preparation. While abroad, members reflected and wrote about their experiences and shared them with us. Alumnae Zora Howard writes:

July 12, 2011. Every morning my body wakes me at 5:30am. The rooster crows, but everything else is quiet. Quiet makes me reflect on who I am already and who I am becoming here. In Wusuta. In Ghana. Outside of my window the sun is rising higher and the clouds are clearing her way. No fog at 6am in the morning? It will be hot hot hot today.

Last night, Wusuta welcomed us. Someone sings a line, everyone responds. Someone starts to clap, everyone joins. Someone has a bell. The children are moving from their knees and smiling. S-M-I-L-I-N-G wide. The drums begin and soon the women emerge from the crowd. Even when the step is simple their behinds are moving every which way. I feel if the bottom isn't moving, it is all wrong. They are low to the ground and swaying, shaking, jumping, smiling, s-m-i-l-i-n-g wide. Mowufemo said she was surprised to see me dancing the way I was. I did not see her there but she saw me. Mowufemo means "God's way" in Ewe.

My language here consists of good morning, afternoon, and evening, how are you, how are you doing, I'm fine, welcome, yes, okay, thank you, no, may I help you, I am from. Quite limited. Here I am learning that of all the languages in the world, love is the most widely spoken and understood. Love is the strongest. Love is the language. And smiling. S-M-I-L-I-N-G wide.



Zora Howard (right), & Shani Ogilvie, BHSS alumni members, in Ghana

Read weekly blogs on ISP's travels at [Reality Check Online Newsletter](#)

Freedom Riders Screening

ISP in Ghana was a dynamic cultural exchange and learning experience for our members. The group spent time in Accra, Kumasi, the rural village of Wusuta and Cape Coast.

In one peer-to-peer exchange, the members screened a new documentary, [Freedom Riders](#), by Stanley Nelson. Bro/Sis is an official community partner on this film, which documents the freedom riders who fought Segregation by taking integrated buses into the South in 1961.

At the Vakpo Secondary Technical School in the Volta Region of Ghana, Brotherhood/Sister Sol Alumnae Lauren Crawford (sophomore, SUNY New Paltz) introduced the film.



Lauren said, [This] **"is a moment that will forever remain in my memory. The students gave the screening their full attention - they were talking to the screen and each other just as we did when we screened the film before we left for Ghana...It's amazing to see that the struggles seen throughout the African Diaspora are so similar."**

[Click Here to learn more about the Freedom Riders Screening](#)

Global Youth Learning July Meeting Site Visit

On July 19, 2011 Bro/Sis hosted a site visit of our facilities for about a dozen participants attending the Atlantic Philanthropy Global Youth Learning Planning Meeting. The Liberation Program (LP) and Susan Wilcox facilitated the visit and tour. Executive Director Khary Lazarre-White along with Hannifah Madyun and Carolina Castillo (current LP members), JP Infante (LP alumnus) and Enmanuel Candelario (LP Organizer & Brotherhood Chapter Leader) participated in the discussion. Guests were from Umthombo Youth Foundation (South Africa), Include Youth (Northern Ireland), Padres & Jovenes Unidos and Youth Justice Coalition (the latter two from the United States).

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More Info? Contact us at:
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