



COALITION OF AFRICAN & CARIBBEAN COMMUNITIES ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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Happy New Year 2018.

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Children Engagement Chair

Astan Hair Braiding

In 2016, the Coalition of African and Caribbean Communities - AFRICOM turned 15. By then, we took a new direction to make the Coalition sustainable and more efficient in assisting African and Caribbean immigrant organizations, leaders, and families. In 2017, we surely made measurable progress towards these goals with the support of generous donors and partners. We are grateful for the funds, assistance, and advice they provided. We hope that they will continue to support the community-led and people-centered initiatives that define the Coalition's character. It is true that the 2017 report highlights what we accomplished. Yet, what is more important is the people that the numbers included represent. These people are children, adolescents, young adults, and disempowered women seeking help with resources for their children, younger siblings, or senior parents. They are ELL/ESL learners and job-seekers. They are people, who worry because of the surge of anti-immigration rhetoric. They are holders of now terminated TPS from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Haiti. They are high-school and college students seeking volunteer opportunities to hone their leadership skills. They are also researchers, who want to initiate change through data collection for policy-making. To respond to these diverse needs, we emphasized leadership training programs, doubled on advocacy efforts, allied with other organizations to implement collective actions, established our first legal assistance fund, and joined the Office of Immigrants' Affairs (OIA) to develop an immigrant workers' rights curriculum. We are pleased that AFRICOM will pilot the first the phase of the program.

Of course, we faced enormous challenges. But fortunately, they underscored the need for resources and volunteering to make social justice a reality for many.

We invite you to get involved and help the Coalition or any other organization bring hope to immigrants and refugees.



Zemoria Brandon
1st Vice-Chair,
Board of Directors



Eric Edi, PhD.
President & C.O.O



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City of Philadelphia - Philadelphia Activities Fund (PAF)
City of Philadelphia – Support Community Opportunity Program (SCOP)
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC)
Bread and Roses
Green Standards
Tickets for Kids charities
Bartram's Garden Community Yes Fund

Partners

The University of Pennsylvania
Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School
African Family Health Organization (AFAHO)
African Caribbean Cancer Consortium (ac3)
The Southwest Community Development Corporation
MinutemanPress
Haitian Coalition of Philadelphia
Philadelphia Department of Health
Philadelphia Autism Project (Philly AP)
United African Organization
Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church
Nationalities Services Center
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New Sanctuary Movement
Funtimes Magazine
American Heart Association
The Sickle Cell Disease Association – Delaware Valley Chapter
Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY)
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African Caribbean Business Council (ACBC)
African Small Pot Restaurant
African and Jamaican Kitchen
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA)
Corrielus Cardiology
Restaurant le Nile
Philadelphia Neighborhood Small Business Council
Office of State Representative Joanna McClinton 191st District
The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians
Multicultural Family Services
Coalition for Jamaica
Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Organizations
Nilien Insurance

We thank our funders and partners. Our accomplishments would not be possible without their contributions and assistance.



Immigration and Legal Assistance

PA IS READY

We offer information sessions, community navigators training and free legal clinics.

WORKERS' RIGHTS

We raise immigrant workers' awareness of their rights in the workplace.

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

We send weekly updates about immigration policies and practises.

CAPACITY BUILDING

We offer and coordinate training programs for community leaders and facilitate relations with law enforcement agencies.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND

We provide low-income individuals & families with minimal financial assistance for consultation fees.

ADVOCACY

We conduct assessments to facilitate policymaking and collective actions.



AFRICOM's C.O.O Eric Edi at PICC annual Convening in Harrisburg, PA in May 2017 with other immigration advocates

Immigration and Legal Assistance

Know Your Rights Sessions

- 12 radio campaigns and information sessions on WURD AM 900 and social media
- Number of people: 500

Immigrant Workers' Rights

- Part of Task Force to develop immigrant workers' rights training curriculum with the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA).
- AFRICOM to pilot first curriculum and trained 25 immigrant workers

Community Updates on Immigration

- 100 community updates on immigration reforms.

Advocacy and Collective Action

- AFRICOM attended PICC Annual convening
- Campaign to expand TPS for Haiti
- Participant in the Report Hate Project with Arab American Institute
- Joined American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Leadership Training and Capacity Building

- Compilation and publication of legal aid resources
- Greet and Meet with law enforcement meeting

Legal Assistance Fund

- First established legal assistance fund to provide small grant for consultation fees with lawyers
- 50 individuals and families to benefit from this fund.

Legal Clinics

- 2 legal clinics
- 125 individuals served

Health and Social Services

HEALTH FORUMS

We convene community leaders and immigrant health practitioners to discuss health topics and community outreach strategies.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

We participate in “*We are Healthy Philadelphia*” quarterly meetings to address African immigrant health needs.

HEALTH AND CULTURAL FAIRS

We provide culture-sensitive health screenings and information, cultural performances and sports tournaments every summer.

HEALTH CENTER ACCESS

We provide proof of residence referral letters to immigrants and refugees to receive services at Philadelphia health centers.

HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

We conduct health awareness and education campaigns through radio, posters, and social media.

PUBLIC BENEFITS

We help eligible immigrants and refugees apply for public benefits: SNAP, Medicare, CCIS, etc.



Dr. Camille Ragin of Fox Chase Cancer Research Center presenting at First Community Health Forum - August 2017 at Bartram's Garden.

Health and Social Services

Health Forums

- 2 community health forums
- 50 participants
- 6 health agencies

Access to Health Centers and Healthcare

- 9 referral letters to immigrant families
- 18 individuals and families referred to AFAHO and other health resources
- 77% women and 23% men received referral services

Health Insurance

- Joined partners and Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY) on advocacy day and campaigns on health insurance for all PA children
- Promoted Affordable Care Act Enrollment

Community Health Improvement Plan

- AFRICOM participated in the City's Health improvement plan conversation to share the needs and obstacles faced by the African and Caribbean immigrant communities.

Health Conference

- 2 delegates attended the 5th annual US Conference on African Immigrants Health in Virginia.

Public Benefits Applications

- 26 Medicare applications filled
- 16 CCIS, SNAP, CAP, PGW applications filled



Participants at first community health forum at Bartram's Garden August 2017



AFRICOM delegates (Dr. V. Tolbert and Nurse A. Gharthey) at 5th US Conference on African Immigrant Health with Aminata Sidibe (Action Aids) - October 2017 Virginia

Community Empowerment

BUSINESS SUPPORT

We connect business owners to financial and technical resources.

EMPLOYMENT

We connect job-seekers to job readiness labs, resume writing services, and job fairs.

HOUSING

We help immigrants locate affordable housing and connect renters and homeowners to housing counselling services.

SENIOR CITIZENS

We address senior citizens' needs and help community-based organizations strengthen relations with PCA.

Business Growth and Small Business Development

- 3 business owners referred to resources and assistance
- AFRICOM Joined Philly Neighborhood Small Business Council

Job Readiness and Employment

- Continued involvement in Paschalville Library Partnership for Job Seekers
- Assisted and referred 17 immigrants with resume writing
- Prompted 6 job fairs
- Set employment availability database Employment

Housing

- 2 families found housing with AFRICOM's assistance
- 12 individuals referred to partner home counseling agencies

Senior Citizens

- Co-hosted senior citizens dinner with AGAPE
- Part of strategic group to form African advisory board with PCA
- Distributed 80 vouchers to senior citizens for fresh groceries

Education and Culture

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

We offer children and youth recreational and educational activities.

ESL ASSISTANCE

We help new immigrants find and enroll into ESL programs

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We offer volunteer opportunities to students to conduct research while honing leadership skills

SPORTS

We organize annual soccer tournaments to foster cultural diversity in Philadelphia.

ARTS

We promote African arts, music, film and fashion design.



Education and Culture

Children and Youth Engagement

- 317 tickets distributed to kids aged 5 to 17 and their accompanying parents
- 8 winter coats distributed to kids ages 6 through 7. Coats were donated by the Philadelphia School District, Office of Community Engagement.
- AFRICOM joined AFAHO to host the annual African Families and friends Day at Bartram's Garden bringing together 150 attendees including adults and children.



Penn Law students volunteered with legal clinics

ESL Programs

- 26 new African immigrants referred to ESL programs



A view of Penn Law Center student volunteers

Volunteer Program

- 20 volunteers

Arts and Culture

- Sponsored one Fashion show at Temple University
- Co-organized one celebration of African culture at The University of Pennsylvania



African Family Health Organization's Annual Family and Friends Day at Bartram's Garden - July 2017

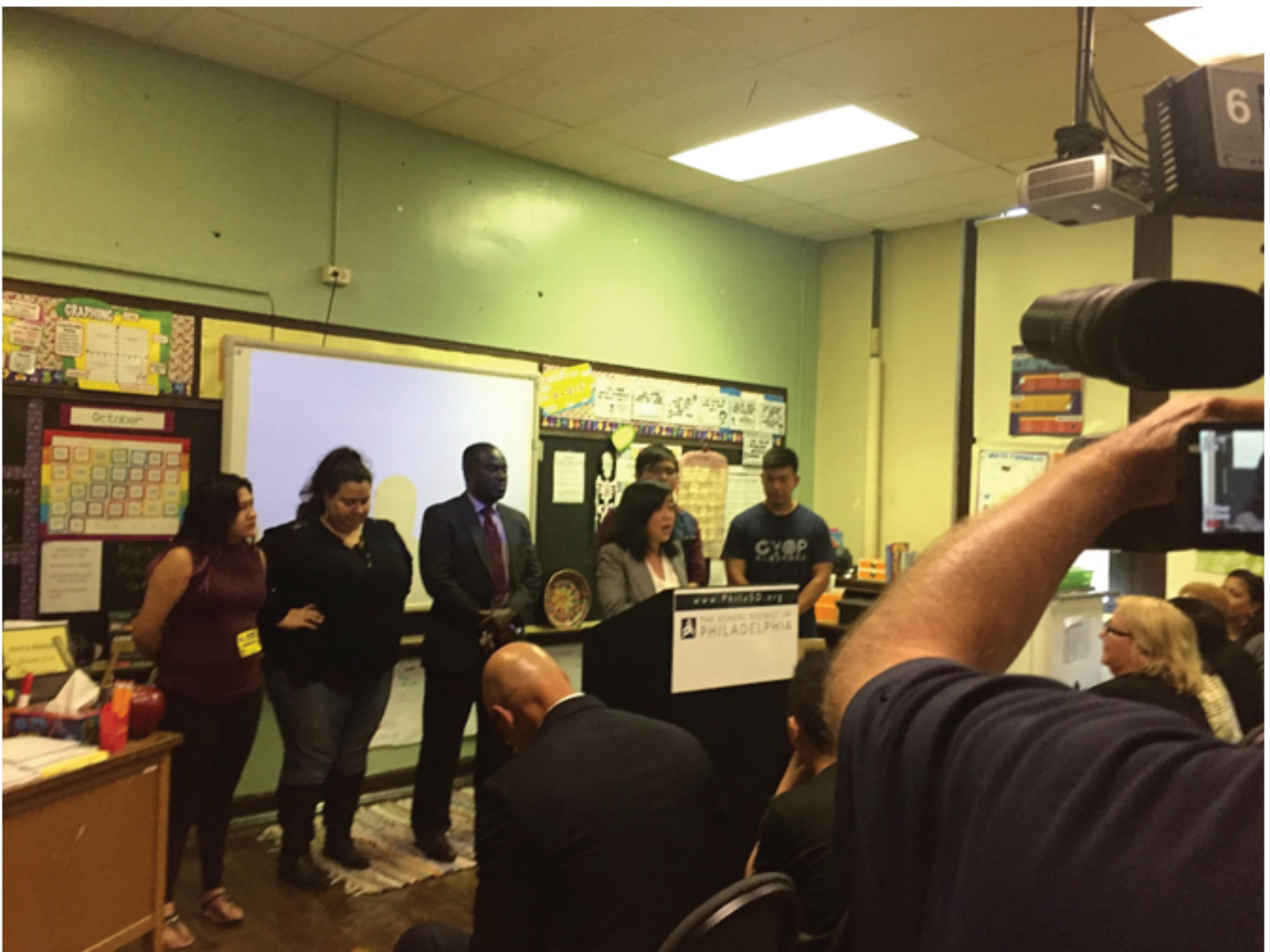
Research and Policy

RESEARCH

We help individual and institutional researchers collect data for research related to the experience of Black immigrants.

POLICY

We work with lawmakers to provide testimonies and background information to shape public policy and ensure social justice for all.



AFRICOM joined immigrant advocates, community leaders, and Councilwoman-at-Large Helen Gym at Press Conference on Language Access for Non-Native English Students

Research and Policy

Research

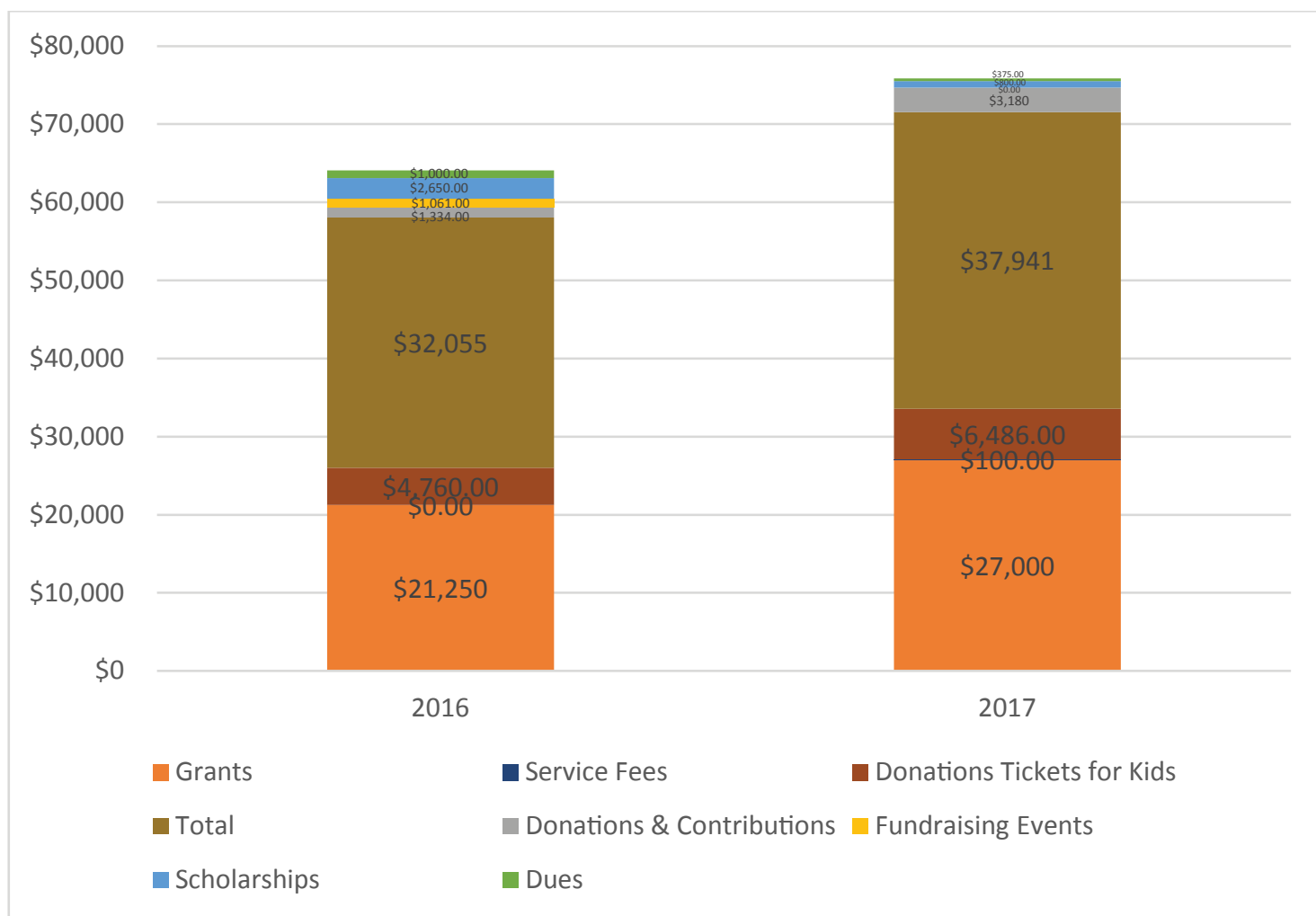
- AFRICOM was presented with the results on an-ongoing research on Cancer Prevention led by Dr. Camille Ragin (Fox Chase Cancer Center). AFRICOM is also listed as co-author of the related article submitted for publication.
- The City of Philadelphia Financial Literacy Center sought AFRICOM's assistance in identifying the difficulties that African small business owners meet in expanding their businesses.
- Northeastern University student Sokona Diallo interviewed AFRICOM's C.O.O and other members for a capstone research: Skin Bleaching/Whitening in the African Community.
- AFRICOM participated in a Focus Group Research entitled: Southwest Philadelphia Conversation about Bartram's Garden. The conversation is part of a study led by a team of researchers from Penn State University.
- Philadelphia Neighborhoods staff interviewed AFRICOM as part of their research on Philadelphia communities. The article is available on Philadelphia Neighborhoods website at

<https://philadelphianeighborhoods.com/2017/06/26/kingsessing-africom-serves-as-center-of-african-immigrant-community/>

Policy

- AFRICOM was part of the Language Policy working group with the School District of Philadelphia Office of Multilingual Curriculum and Program. The group was tasked with drafting a new language policy # 138. The School Reform Commission (SRC) passed the Policy on December 14, 2017.
- AFRICOM supported and testified for half a dozen resolutions introduced by city council members that sought to positively impact the lives of immigrants and families in Philadelphia.

Our Finances



Get Involved

Help us support immigrant and refugee communities by donating to the Coalition of African and Caribbean Communities (AFRICOM)

Donate Online:

www.africom-philly.org

By Check Made to:

Coalition of African Communities

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