

HOOPS CARE INTERNATIONAL

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"The pure hope way"

MISSION STATEMENT



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Hoops Care International

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Introduction

Hoops Care International is a non profit NGO. The following document is an overview of HCI operations. Please note that HCI is in a starting phase and that the organization including this document is still in progress. Contact us for any questions or suggestions.

Mission statement

The mission of Hoops Care International is to provide opportunities for youth to develop leadership skills, healthy lifestyle, work ethic, commitment, honesty and integrity through sport. We believe that basketball teaches life lessons that can help people of all ages with success on and off the court. Hoops Care International believes in the effectiveness of positive role models, and is active in the fight against HIV/Aids, tuberculosis, drugs and alcohol abuse. Working hard towards goals as a team is an experience that HCI beneficiaries will carry with them for the rest of their lives. HCI activities are also a platform to address social issues such as religious tolerance, behavior and environment.

Besides using basketball as a medium, HCI also seeks to improve the level on which the sport is played throughout the world by detecting and developing talent and continuously train basketball coaches and sports masters.

Through our work as described above, we see HCI causing a major effect in the lives of many children worldwide. By effecting the youth we will contribute in maximizing their potential to help them integrate and perform effectively in the society. We see that enthusiastic spirit in the basketball game will get attention and appreciation of children all around the globe. This will eventually lift the sport to a higher level.

Objectives

Generally the HCI objectives can be outlined as follows:

- To reach out to the youth with the message of awareness on social issues, health and education using sports as a medium.
- To continuously promote basketball wherever possible, by exposing the sport on multiple stages, targeting the youth.
- To detect and develop basketball talent among the youth worldwide, in order to lift the sport to a higher level.
- To increase the availability of basketball resources and accessories.

Overview

HCI offers services in the following target groups.

- Basic schools
- High schools
- Shelters
- Community organizations
- Youth Development groups
- Children in poor communities

What do we do?

HCI visits these groups where we start with organizing an exciting and accessible basketball clinic to introduce the sport. HCI will provide with professionalism of personnel and material to make the visit a success. The clinic given to groups are carefully prepared to ensure a successful day. The duration of the clinic is 45 minutes to each group. The groups will be divided so that all children get attention and sufficient material is available.

Besides inspiring children we also seek to pass through our expertise of teaching and officiating basketball to sports masters and community workers. During the clinic we encourage involvement of the sports master or group leader. He or she is also be given a handout after the clinic. This way the sports master or group leader can proceed in what HCI has started.

After the clinic a meeting is held to address social issues like outlined below, lead by a collaborating health and/or education expert. Together with the school the expert will work out an agenda for the meeting.

Issues to be addressed are, but not limited to:

- Health
- Education
- Religious tolerance
- Social behavior
- Environment
- Pursuance of peace

In the area HCI visits, it will connect the groups that have been visited to organize more basketball sessions for those enthusiastic. After a period of time a regional basketball tournament organized by the groups within a certain area. Through our experience and network we will be an active factor in the organization of the tournament. With the tournaments HCI will seek to awake a continuous interest and enthusiasm for the game in each area HCI visits. Once the tournament reaches its final phase, HCI will be present to award individual and collective achievements at our final presentation.

Talent development

HCI brings as many kids as possible in contact with the sport and guide in organizing practices for those who are enthusiastic. The talented kids can get placed in the recommended basketball academy, where they practice daily with professional coaches, trying to achieve excellence in the art of Basketball.

Besides providing youngsters with the opportunity to play sports, HCI offers the kids scholarships to attend proper education. The HCI is well aware of the importance of education in the development of Ghana. This way basketball gives disadvantaged kids the opportunities they would normally miss. The HCI also guides its players in combining their education with sports so they can excel in both categories.

The HCI serves as a secondary family for its students, both on and off the court, at school and during basketball practice. Hoops Care International believes this affects youngsters by proving them that “hard work pays off”.

Basketball resources

HCI realizes that most target groups and thereby children, do not have access to basketball necessities. That is why HCI lobbies for and be active in building new courts, hoops or other type's playgrounds that can be used for basketball. HCI also networks in supplying balls, nets and other accessories. HCI operational field is widespread and therefore HCI cannot provide target groups with resources itself. By using our international and local networks, we are an effective factor in the process of increasing the availability of resources. This is one of the objectives that make HCI a constructive and continuous partner.

Importance

HCI affords the youth the chance to realize and utilize their potential. To help children in finding the right track that will eventually lead them to places. By engaging the youth and encourage them to play basketball it will occupy them positively, thus keep them away from immoral and other social vices.

By addressing health and education issues, HCI promotes a healthy lifestyle and improve the well being of both individuals and collectives.

Social issues are urgent to be addressed among the youth. In many ways the future is insecure because of human behavior. We target issues from diseases like HIV/Aids, to climate change.

We create a platform through which specific issues on health can be addressed. HCI cares about a better world and basketball is used as a medium.

The basketball sport will strongly benefit from HCI operations because of the mass participation and attention that is being awakened. In improving the sport it is crucial to spread knowledge about the game. This is why our work with Sport masters, coaches and other types of group leaders is evident. Continuity is the keyword.

Justification

Similar projects, in which sports is used as a medium, have proven themselves successful and effective over the past years. Examples can be found all over the world and specifically basketball involving initiatives are emerging fast. This is because the sport is growing worldwide since the NBA is promoting the sport through the internet and because of its overseas basketball promotion programs.

To improve health and education for the future it is more effective to gain awareness among children over adults. The main machinery of national and international development rests on getting the youth involved.

HCI History

The HCI concept as written above finds its origin in the international contacts that were established through the Cape Coast Hoops Basketball Club, Jack Whitehead as mediator between African talents and US colleges which is known as the Runhouse-Hoops Extramural program, Ingmar Snabilie as being a Dutch basketball coach for youth on the highest national level and Mike Speranza, a former professional basketball player in Europe, coming together to brainstorm on how we could share our love for the game in a useful and effective manner. On the first of September, the founders started the preparation on a high intensity and HCI was born on September 27, 2004.

Personal History of the founders.

George Koomson started playing basketball in 1993, to eventually grow out to be a key player in his University team. Started coaching on high schools where he also works as a tutor of physics in 2000. In recent years George has been active as a youth, a player and a secretary to the Hoops Basketball Clubs, being one of the organizations keystones. In 2000 he co-founded Pro Big promotions, an NGO that promoted good health and good morals through sports. Pro Big was able to achieve hosting multiple sports events where issues like HIV/Aids among others were addressed.

Presently living in Cape Coast is the Dutch player and coach **Ingmar Snabilie**. Ingmar plays basketball on the highest Dutch level and has been coaching top youth teams over the last years. He is a certified basketball coach and a journalist. Ingmar has been in Ghana since the 29th august 2008 to dedicate himself on founding HCI.

Claudius Thompson is the president of the Cape Coast Hoops Basketball Club. The club was founded December 26, 2006. Since its formation, the club has been successful in placing six African students into schools and colleges in the United States of America on full scholarships. See also Jack Whitehead Runhouse-Hoops program.

Mike Speranza is a former professional basketball player. After playing throughout Europe, Mike was employed by the 22ft player agency and academy in France. This summer, Mike is moving to Ghana.

Jack Whitehead is director of the Runhouse program that mediates between players and (junior) colleges in the US.

Achievements (Untill May 2009)

- Partaking in the World Heart Day walk in Cape Coast on 27th September 2008
- Launching an U14 team in Cape Coast that practices daily with great potential and ambition. They started their program the same morning their new coach, Ingmar Snabilie, arrived from Holland on 30th August 2008.
- Combined basketball clinics with students of Academy of Christ the King and HCI U14 at Victoria Park.
- Basketball clinics at different schools, such as Academy of Christ the King, Holy Child, Ghana National College, Cape Coast Technical, Wesley Girls basic schools and Philip Quaque Boys School.
- Creation of an U12 basketball team on the HCI home court.
- Acquiring fifty (50) size 7 basketballs donated from Holland
- Acquiring an additional ten (10) size 5 balls for our smaller participant, also donated from Holland.
- Distribution of twenty (20) pairs of recycled shoes to children in the U12 basketball program
- Acquiring invitation for one (1) U16 player to attend a basketball camp in summer of 2009 in the USA.
- Complete renovation of Victoria Park basketball court in Cape Coast.
- Launching different educational projects with HCI participants, such as library visits, ICT education and distribution of writing materials.
- Organizing several recreational activities for HCI participants, such as birthday parties.

