



A Ban Against Neglect

THE FABRIC OF CHANGE

2015 Annual Report

Dear friends,

ABAN has always prided itself on being an act of transformation. Transforming plastic waste into beautiful products. Transforming the lives of neglected young women into hopeful futures. Transforming the landscape of Ghana into empowered communities.

Forty-three women successfully graduated our women's empowerment program! Some of these women went back to high school. Some are working in hotels. Some are pursuing a career in sewing or hair dressing. Some have dreams of becoming teachers! **Thirty-seven** babies came through the doors of our preschool and received a jump start on their education. All their mothers saved money while participating in our program to pay for their future school fees.

Fourteen seamstresses and tailors in our community have been given employment through our sewing center. They recycled over **half a million** plastic bags into useful products sold in Ghana, the UK, and the United States! **Ten** of our surrounding communities now collect the plastic bags instead of discarding them on the street.

We are now facing our biggest transformation yet. We are shifting all managerial and programmatic decision making to our capable staff in Ghana. With that shift, comes the shutting down of ABAN's US operations. We are confident and excited to see where our leadership in Ghana takes ABAN through this next transformation.

We could not have accomplished all that we did in the last five years without your support. We value the selfless contributions you have made to transforming the lives and communities in Ghana. While our program activities are suspended, we will not accept donations in order to ensure the integrity of your gift. We hope you will be open to receiving program updates in the future! Also, please let us know if you would like a call from one of us to discuss these changes further! We are happy to answer any questions you may have!

Thanks for all your support!

Callie and Becca





Women Empowerment Programs

2011 - 2013



RESIDENTIAL

Class of 6, Class of 8

ABAN began as a residential center for homeless young women living on the street. Young women lived at ABAN for two years while receiving services in health, education, livelihood, and psycho-social skills. Fourteen young women graduated from our residential program.

2013 - 2014



APPRENTICESHIP BASED

Class of 11

ABAN transformed in 2013 to provide specific vocational skills to the women in our program. Instead of providing in-house education, the women now chose a specific career path and participated in apprenticeship programs in the community. Eleven young women graduated from our apprenticeship program.

2014 - 2015



ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOCUS

Class of 18

The women in our entrepreneurship focused programs were given a basic education in a variety of business skills. They could apply these skills to a variety of jobs and even start their own businesses. Eighteen young women graduated from our entrepreneurship program.

43 WOMEN GRADUATED





Preschool

2011 - 2013



BABY CARE

In 2011, we opened a nursery for the young children of the women in our program. The mothers could focus on their studies knowing their children were well taken care of.

2013 - 2014



DAY CARE

As our campus expanded to include a sewing center, we opened up our nursery to include daycare for the children of our artisans. Now the children of our staff and beneficiaries could be together during the day, learning and growing.

2014 - 2015



PRESCHOOL

As the kids in our nursery grew up, we provided a jump start to their education through developing a preschool curriculum. The children in our care learned basic songs, letters, and had books for their mothers to read to them.

37 CHILDREN IN PRESCHOOL





ABAN Community Employment

2011 - 2012



WOMEN SEWING

For the first two years, the beneficiaries in our program sewed all the products we sold in the United States. This provided the young women an income and also taught them a valuable vocational skill.

2012



SEWING CENTER CREATION

In 2012, the demand for ABAN products outstripped our ability to produce, so we built a sewing center. We hired artisans from our local community as well as some of our graduates.

2013 - 2015



FULLY OPERATIONAL

Within a year we had a fully functional sewing center. Each of our artisans was paid a fair, living wage and had safe working conditions. In 2015 we joined the Fair Trade Federation to further uphold our commitment to treating our artisans fairly.

15 SEAMSTRESSES AND TAILORS EMPLOYED





Products

2011



FULL PLASTIC

Our first ABAN products were made completely out of recycled plastic. This plastic was collected off the streets and recycled into purses and other wallets.

2012 - 2014



HALF / HALF

We began adding traditional batik fabrics in 2012. This batik is a white cloth stamped with wax and dyed into different colors. We integrated the batik fabrics into all ABAN products to add a bright, beautiful flair.

2014 - 2015



FULL BATIK

In 2014, we transitioned to using batik on all our products and making the recycled plastic a lining. Instead of seeing the plastic, all products prominently featured the batik fabrics to keep up with current fashion trends.

550,000 WATER SACHETS RECYCLED





ABAN United States

2011 - 2012



JIM KITCHEN'S OFFICE

Our first US office was generously furnished by Jim Kitchen. His coveted space on East Franklin Street was just across the street from UNC's campus, which allowed our amazing UNC student interns to commute to our office easily each day. We shared the space with Community Empowerment Fund and Nourish International, and we can't think of two better UNC-born social impact organizations to have worked alongside in our early days.

2012 - 2014



LAUNCH CHAPEL HILL

ABAN US was delighted to be part of Launch Chapel Hill's first incubator class. Being a member of Launch afforded us convenient office space in Chapel Hill, valuable mentorship from entrepreneurs in residence and other local professionals, and the opportunity of working alongside other inspiring start-ups and Chapel Hill's greater entrepreneurship community.

2014 - 2015



CARRBORO OFFICE

In 2014, ABAN moved to Carrboro, just down the road from Chapel Hill and UNC. For the first time, we had our own cozy, dog-friendly office! The Carrboro community welcomed us with open arms, and we participated in lots of local events like the Carrboro Bazaar, the Carrboro Music Festival, and the Art Walk.

54 INTERNS AND 7 STAFF MEMBERS





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