

News Release

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African Bicycle Contribution Foundation Presents its First, Free, Bamboo Bikes to Ghanaian Students, Parents, Transport-Dependent Small Farmers and Healthcare Workers, in Accra and Kumasi

Nearly 200 Community Leaders, Including Former Ghanaian President Kufuor, participated in Kumasi Luncheon Event

Kumasi, Ghana, 29 September 2016 - On 27 September, in Accra, and today, at the Golden Bean Hotel, here, the African Bicycle Contribution Foundation (africanbike.org), a U.S.-based 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation, presented two multi-stakeholder bicycle distribution events, wherein a total of 30 free, Ghanaian-made bamboo bikes were given to students, parents, transport-dependent small farmers and healthcare workers.

The events, in both cities, were hosted by Bright Generation Community Foundation (BGCF) and the Ghana Bamboo Bike Initiative (GBBI).

According to Bernice Dapaah, CEO and founder of GBBI, the Kumasi-based manufacturer of the “EcoRide” bamboo bicycles, the luncheon, here, was attended by luminaries such as the former president of Ghana, H.E. John Agyekum Kufuor, and representatives of embassies and ministers. Offering remarks at the event, in addition to Ms. Dapaah, were ABCF Executive Director Patricia Marshall Harris and ABCF Board Member Florence Torson-Hart, a Ghanaian-born senior financial advisor, Global Wealth Management, Merrill Lynch; Hon. Dzifa Gomashie, Ghana's Deputy Minister of Tourism, and founder of NGO Values for Life; Ebenezer Somiah, program coordinator, Village Bicycle Project; Solomon Owusu, BGCF; and Hon. John Alexander Ackron, the mayor of Kumasi.

The Ghanaian tradition, in most rural areas, places a disproportionate burden on women as the primary haulers of fuel, water and food, and as providers for the healthcare needs of their children. For most, walking is their only mode of transportation, and they routinely traverse many miles to get to critically important destinations. This is where ABCF, and its supporters, play a critically important role.

According to former president Kufuor, “Support of this kind is seen as a major driver of equitable social development and gender mainstreaming, while narrowing the wide economic gap.”

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Commenting on the Foundation's first program in Ghana, A. Bruce Crawley, chairman of ABCF, said: "The free distribution of these sturdy, world-class, bamboo bikes to under-resourced populations in Ghana, is just the first stage of our Foundation's program. While we recognize the importance of bicycles, we also realize that they represent a means to an end, the achievement of greater educational access and job creation. We, also, therefore, want to orchestrate technology-facilitated, inter-continental workshops and seminars between students and entrepreneurs, in Ghana, and their counterparts, in the U.S. We believe such exchanges will be culturally and economically broadening, and mutually beneficial.

"Finally," Crawley added, "We also want to do all we can, by increasing demand, through our contributions, for GBBi's iconic, African-made bikes, and by facilitating the establishment of new trade channels, in the U.S., to expand the company's size and workforce, and its capacity for export around the world."

Who Is ABCF?

African Bicycle Contribution Foundation is a corporation that is passionate about empowering people in need and improving human dignity. The African Bicycle Contribution Foundation (ABCF) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation whose mission is to generate funding to underwrite the distribution of bicycles to needy students, families and transport-dependent small business owners on the African continent. The Corporation has made a commitment to finance the free distribution of 2,500 bicycles, in Ghana, over its first five years of operation.

ABCF works in partnership, in Ghana, with the Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative, Bright Generation Community Foundation, Values For Life, The Respect Alliance, Village Bicycle Project, and the U.S.-Ghana Chamber of Commerce.

For further information about ABCF, please contact the ABCF office: info@africanbike.org

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