

PELICAN NEWS

Blue Skies Newsletter | June 2023 | Issue 200 | www.blueskies.com



BLUE SKIES CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

BLUE SKIES

ANNIVERSARY

This year Blue Skies gather together to celebrate the 25th year. This anniversary is a special one, not just for the incredible milestone this company has reached, but for the impact the company has had across many communities. Blue Skies has poured all passion, love and expertise into their products since day one.

This newsletter marks the 200th edition of the Blue Skies Pelican News, so it seems fitting that the focal point should be on the 25th Anniversary!

Enjoy the updates across our sites to see what we've been up to over the last few weeks.



CELEBRATING OUR 200TH PELICAN NEWS: HOW THE NEWSLETTER HAS EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS

In our archives is a photo of the very first newsletter from Blue Skies, which was published in February 2006 by Simon Derrick. Originally named the 'Blue Skies Ghana Newsletter', you will notice the company's very first logo in the top left corner.

While the newsletter's name, company logo and appearance have undergone changes over the years, our culture has always remained strong and true to our values. The publication's debut article, titled 'LET'S ALL STAND TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE OF BLUE SKIES', highlights this culture in its call for unity and forward-thinking.

Though we cherish the past, we remain focused on the future, filled with endless possibilities.



Pelican News

Blue Skies Group Newsletter, April 2008

BLUE SKIES WIN QUEENS AWARD

Blue Skies has been awarded with a Queens Award for Enterprise in the Sustainable Development category. The award puts Blue Skies among an elite group of companies who achieve this prestigious accolade every year.

Anthony Pile said "This is a great honour for Blue Skies and is recognition of all that we have achieved over the past ten years. It is credit to everyone who has supported us; our suppliers, our partners, our shareholders, our customers and of course our incredibly loyal and dedicated staff. We could not have done it without you."

Anthony continued "Blue Skies is committed to adding value to products in the country of origin but in a way that brings maximum social, economic and environmental benefits to local communities. We know that we must be sustainable in every area and we are delighted to have had recognition for our efforts by receiving this prestigious award."

The award comes as Blue Skies compiles the results of its stakeholder surveys in Ghana. The results of these surveys will help the company identify how it can improve its sustainability further as it continues to grow.

MEET THE FACE OF AHOLD SUSTAINABILITY!

Amel Sabeh (AKA Bunny) is the new face of Albert Heijn's corporate social responsibility report! You can download the report and see Amel's picture at <http://csr2007.ahold.com/>



Above: Amel Sabeh as the new face of Albert Heijn's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)



CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF BLUE SKIES IN GHANA!

BLUE SKIES DEFENDS AIRFREIGHTED FRESH PRODUCE



Guy Muffitt, Mawunyo Puplampu and Deniz recently participated in a Media Round Table discussion about air freighted fresh produce from the developing world. The discussion took part in London and involved representatives from the Aviation Industry and producers from Ghana and Kenya. The outcome of the discussion will form the basis of the Aviation Industry's response to the Soil Association's second round consultation on airfreight. All the participants agreed that focusing on airfreight was unfair and did not take other aspects of sustainability into account.

EGYPT FACTORY TAKES SHAPE

The new factory in Egypt is making very good progress. In the photo below you can see that the roof is now being constructed and work has started on the water tanks and offices.



MORE BLUE SKIES NEWS INSIDE

Page 2 - Thanks and farewell Steve
Page 2 - Egypt NFD presentation
Page 3 - Monoprix in fashion!
Page 4 - Health and Safety Matters

SCAN HERE TO READ MORE OF THE NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES



THE BLUE SKIES EXPERIENCE - OUR CULTURE

BY ALISTAIR DJIMATEY

The Blue Skies Culture is a unique amalgamation of values, beliefs, and behaviours that guide the actions of the organisation and its employees towards creating a positive impact in the world. This culture is rooted in the Founders Beliefs which was captured in the company's core mission of sustainability and ethical business practices, and the result is a work environment that fosters creativity, fairness, respect for people, the environment, collaboration, and innovation. The wonderful culture is enshrined in our business model, the Joint Effort Enterprise (JEE) which is hinged on these three areas, Diversity, Culture and Positive Return.

The Joint Effort Enterprise (JEE) is a community-based initiative aimed at promoting collaboration and social responsibility. Our goal is to bring together organisations and individuals to work towards a common goal of creating positive change in the world.

We believe that by working together, we can achieve more significant impact and lasting change. We encourage people to share their resources, expertise, and ideas, promoting collaboration and cross-pollination of ideas across sectors.

One of the key principles of the Joint Effort Enterprise is social responsibility, and we strongly encourage our people to act ethically and sustainably. We believe that business and societal progress should not happen at the expense of the environment or social justice. Therefore, we facilitate a platform where organisations can find an equitable balance between economic, environmental, and social responsibility.

Through our initiative, we seek to provide a transformative experience for people by engaging in projects that create a meaningful impact on society. We encourage people to think creatively and explore new approaches and methodologies towards a common goal of achieving a better world.



We also recognise the importance of culture and its dynamism globally and the need for sustainable practices so we encourage our people to embrace a culture that values environmentally-friendly efforts which so seamless and respect everyone according to his or her strength. As a result, discrimination of any form is tantamount to higher crime which could attract even dismissal. We respect people equally irrespective of colour, creed, sex, education, form and beliefs. We promote cultural diversity and respect of the human dignity. This is the reasons why we do not have a spacious car part for our Directors or General Managers, this is the reason why we eat together the same kind of foods at our canteens. This is the reason why we prefer to call people by their first names and not titles. This creates some cultural discomfort in some areas but we learn to adjust for the greater universal long-term impacts.

Can you imagine with my upbringing, with the opportunity to work with my then Group Technical Director, he will prefer me calling him Stephan, with time I managed and it gave me the fantastic opportunity to engage and discuss anything with him which has added so much to my personality.

At Blue Skies, we believe in the power of the collective effort, and that everyone has a role to play in advancing progress for society. Our Joint Effort Enterprise initiative promotes collaboration, sustainability and social responsibility, inspiring action towards a better future. This model must be considered and studied at the higher levels of education for generational impact.

OUR BLUE SKIES, OUR FUTURE



The Blue Skies Ghana committee spent weeks organising a number of exciting events to take place in June, to celebrate the company's 25th anniversary. During the week of 5th June, Blue Skies Executive members, General Managers, employees and special guests from across the globe gathered together in Ghana where it all began to engage in a 3-day schedule of activities, including a wide variety of competitive sporting events, tours for international guests, and a special anniversary evening dinner with speeches and dancing. This celebration week paid homage to the humble beginnings of Blue Skies, and honours the incredible achievements that our Chairman, Anthony Pile and the business has had across many countries and communities.



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It's been an incredibly enjoyable journey for every one of us in Blue Skies. That's not to say it was easy, it was anything but.

It was possible because we believe in the “first person plural”. We did it. This was our journey, it's our milestone and it's our achievement because we stuck together, trusted each other, and covered for each other. That's what friends do.

- Anthony Pile

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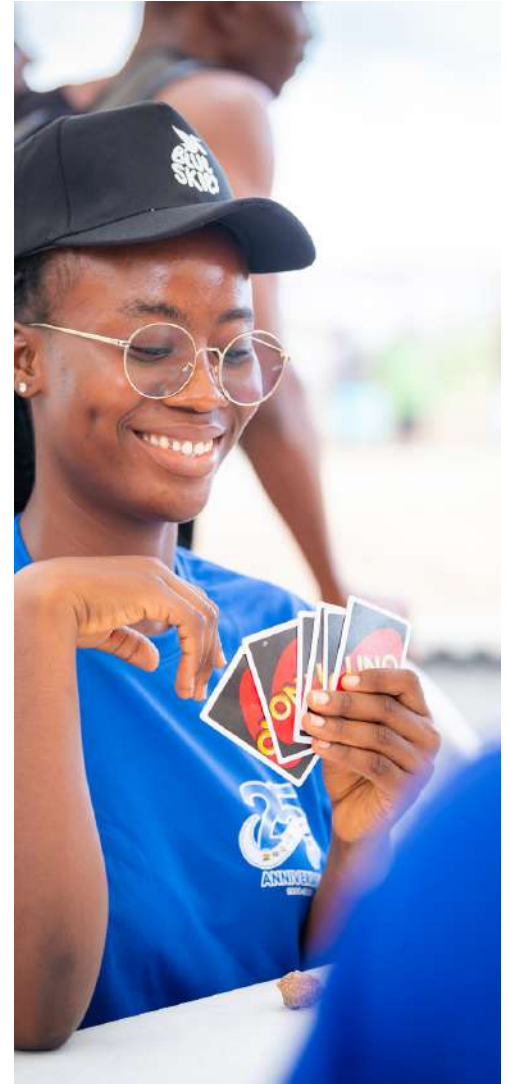


SPORTS DAY



The first day was kicked off with a sports day at the Blue Skies Pelican Stadium, where organisers had arranged a variety of competitive activities including football, volleyball, archery, table football, tyre rolling, 100m sprints, card games, and many more!

Blue Skies general managers, employees, and guests were able to compete throughout the day in their chosen activities, as well as support from the side lines! Staff from across our sites in Brazil, Egypt, Senegal, South Africa, U.K and Ghana brought the friendly competition, fun and plenty of laughs. And it wasn't only about the competition - food, drinks, and music accompanied this action packed day keeping the energy high, ending with a dance off and awards ceremony for the winners. A brilliant start to kick off the events and show off the skills on the field! A special mention to the fantastic Ghanaian team, our fitness champion Sampson Kwawukumey and our UK photographers on the day Guy Murfitt and Stephan Morris!



A FRUITFUL JOURNEY

On Tuesday, 6th June, exciting factory tours unfolded giving members the opportunity to learn more about the factory. The morning commenced with an organised split into groups, each embarking on an walk around the factory.

Under the guidance of Anthony, a team embarked on their inaugural visit to the factory, experiencing a captivating insider's perspective on the operations that power Blue Skies. They were introduced to the facilities on site, where every aspect of employee well-being is championed. Notably, the on-site clinic, an essential resource, serving as a safeguard for the health and care of Blue Skies staff. This remarkable clinic caters to various health services, providing a comprehensive range of care including vaccinations, tailored health advice, minor treatments, and even sexual health support. Additionally, the clinic serves as an invaluable source of information, providing vital knowledge concerning health and well-being campaigns managed by a dedicated team stationed on site. Truly a pillar of care and support, the clinic ensures that staff members have convenient access to this facility, complemented by weekly visits from a dedicated doctor.

These enlightening factory tours offered an exclusive insight into the meticulous operations behind Blue Skies, reaffirming our commitment to the holistic welfare and empowerment of our esteemed employees.



The 25th Anniversary logo signage was displayed on the entrance to the factory.



Anthony and Jenny Pile, stood underneath the tree that is protected under strict instructions!



Rose providing an overview into the intake area of the factory and our processes.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER: CELEBRATING MILESTONES, RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

Despite the torrential rain earlier in the day, an extraordinary anniversary banquet unfolded, filling the evening with a remarkable blend of celebration and recognition. The unwavering dedication of the Ghana team ensured that nothing could dampen the spirits of this unforgettable event, creating an atmosphere filled with inspiration and pure joy.

Throughout the evening, heartfelt speeches were delivered, paying tribute to our growth, achievements, and the exceptional individuals who have played a pivotal role in our success. Amidst the applause, Anthony, Jenny, and the Pile family were honoured with heartfelt gestures, symbolising their invaluable contributions that have brought the Blue Skies community closer together.

Guests were able to enjoy the delicious food and drinks available, and as the music beckoned, attendees took to the dance floor with unbridled enthusiasm, moving and grooving to the infectious beats that filled the air.

But the evening didn't stop there – it was a true spectacle that embraced captivating acts and performances. The soulful melodies of the saxophonist resonated deeply, while a dazzling fashion show unveiled the essence of style and elegance. And the incredible display of dance left everyone in awe, proving that talent truly knows no bounds.

A special gratitude must be extended to the remarkable team behind the scenes, whose tireless efforts and unwavering dedication made this evening an absolute triumph. With their hospitality and warmth, the team exemplified the true spirit of Blue Skies, showcasing the exceptional individuals who make our community shine.

This night will forever be etched in our memories as a testament to the spirit of celebration, recognition, and the unwavering camaraderie found within the Blue Skies family.



SCHOOLS RECEIVE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS IN GHANA

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, Blue Skies UK has donated educational materials to Basic School in Ghana, further enhancing the quality of education offered in the school. The donation included textbooks, workbooks, writing materials, tablets etc. and other materials that will significantly benefit students in their learning pursuits. The items were donated to three school in the Nsawam Adoagyiri Municipality. Alistair Djimatey, The Blue Skies Foundation and Corporate Affairs manager, "Supporting education is making a positive impact on the lives of the young people in the community. We're grateful to everyone who has been able to donate and share their support for the communities in Ghana"



PLAYTIME AT PITSFORD



The team at Blue Skies Pitsford marked the beginning of the summer celebrations by gathering on site on Wednesday 31st May. The team enjoyed some delicious South African food courtesy of NOW NOW Food, and participated in various games and activities throughout the day including an anniversary themed Bake Off and a competitive game of Bend Ball!

It's clear to see we have some very talented bakers amongst us as you will see below from the incredible bakes, and the level of competitive spirit was fierce from the teams on the field during their game of Bend Ball, so much so that the team are looking to make it a regular game! A brilliant day which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



PITSFORD BAKE OFF!



Congratulations to Maria Maslyk on being crowned the Pitsford Bake off Champion! The competition was strong but the judges concluded her cake should take the crown. Maria's cake consisted of four layers of sponge cake - two chocolate and two vanilla. They were layered with two creams - one flavoured with white chocolate with fresh blueberries and strawberries, while the other was raspberry flavoured with white chocolate crunch and freeze-dried raspberries. The whole cake was covered with white chocolate buttercream. The ornaments were handmade with sugar mass. Maria won a cake decoration kit for coming 1st in the challenge.

Congratulations to all of our other bakers who entered the challenge. Shiv Krishnan, Claire Manton's daughter Georgia, Simon Northcott and Kirsty Haynes each participated in the anniversary themed bake off. As you can see below the competition was strong and the cakes were incredible, and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone at Pitsford!



TEAM CELEBRATIONS AT PML

A few photos from the celebrations at Heathrow with the team and also with the Unit 1 team. The cake was specially made for the occasion, which featured the 25th logo. A shout out to Gulam, Sywia, Maria and Nana for managing to take time out from their days to enjoy some time together for the celebrations!



#OurBlueSkiesOurFuture

CORBY CONGRATULATE LONG SERVING EMPLOYEES AND RAISE THEIR HANDS TO BLUE SKIES

Blue Skies Corby celebrated the anniversary on site. The team took a 1-hour break from their factory duties to celebrate this special milestone. The teams gathered in the summer garden where the bunting, balloon arches, and banners had been set up to honor the event. The company recognised 4 of its team members, Aneta Piwowska, Inga Broka, Andrzej Krzemenewski, and Andrzej Sobocinski, for their 10 years of service with Blue Skies Corby. We extend our congratulations and express our appreciation for their continued dedication.

The team also planted three flamingo trees outside, symbolizing their uniqueness and fascinating nature. The celebration included the Blue Skies ice cream cart stocked with our ice cream for all the staff to enjoy, and for everyone to leave their best wishes for Blue Skies Corby in a creative way, staff put their painted hands on a 4.5-meter wallpaper, which will later decorate the canteen area. And what is any celebration without cake? Raimonda Repsyte baked and presented a 12kg cake, enjoyed by everyone. It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all.



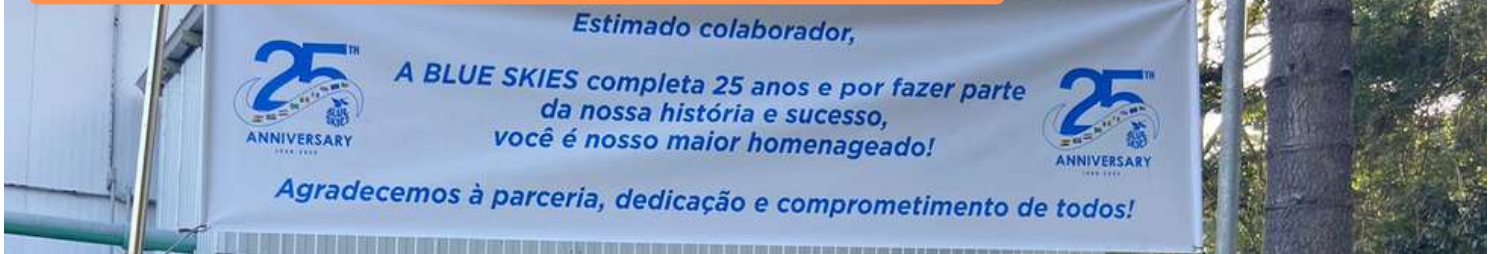


BRAZIL CELEBRATE IN STYLE



The team in Brazil celebrated their anniversary in style. They organised a few activities to honour the special occasion. On 7th June, there was an anniversary lunch that was held for all employees. During the lunch, a musician performed, and a special lunch was served along with a birthday cake to mark the day. Additionally, daily curiosities about Blue Skies were shared in the team's WhatsApp group between 5th - 11th June, keeping the excitement levels high. The company recognised the efforts of employees who have been with the company for a decade or more. During the celebrations, the team gathered together and enjoyed watching a video of Blue Skies for 25 years. The employees also shared testimonials, where they spoke about their personal and professional growth during their tenure with the organisation. A special coffee was served, and a plaque was delivered as a token of appreciation for the employees' years of dedication to the company. The team also enjoyed a delicious and popular chocolate delight that is typical in Brazil. It was an excellent celebration that honoured the hard work and contributions of employees.

A banner was put up at the entrance of the company, in honour of our employees, thanking them for the effort that made us reach 25 years of Blue Skies.



We made the video that was broadcast in the canteen while the staff were having lunch and many people, like me, were moved to tears. By Angelo Silva, HR Coordinatory Brazil

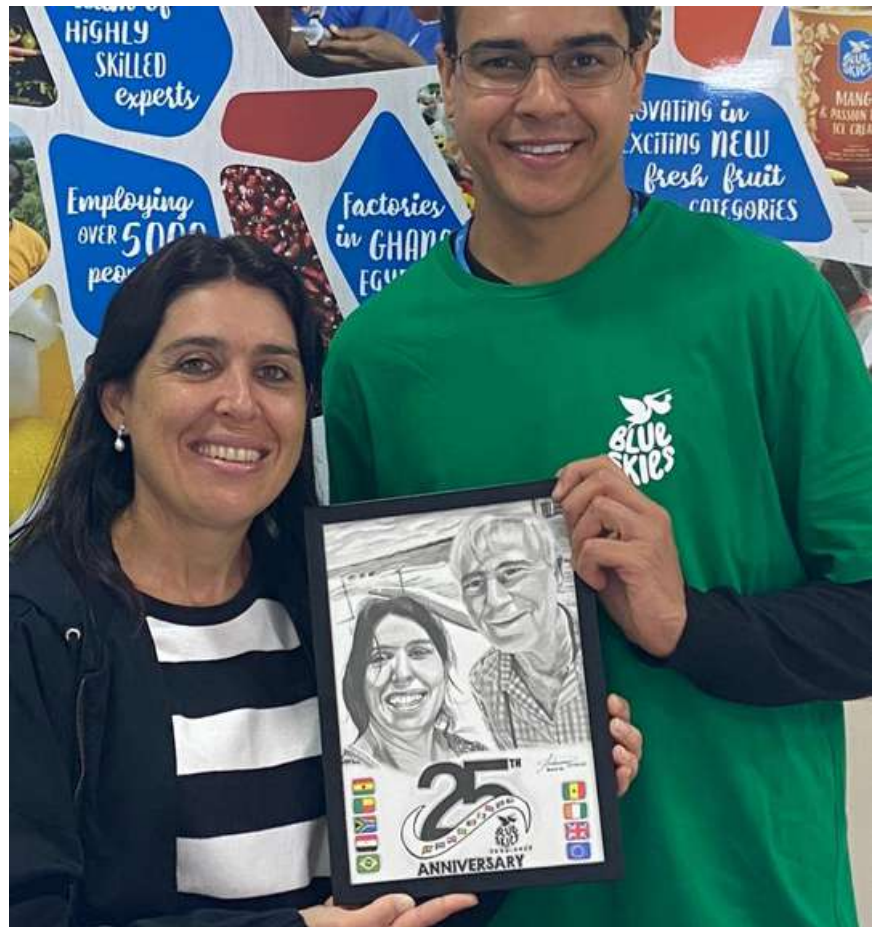


L-R: Angelo Silva, Giovana Vilela, Flávia Mometti, Gisélem Dias, Maria de Lourdes, Tamires Souza, Jaqueline Gomes, Vanusa Carvalho and Elias Esteves who were all honoured.



Following the group 25th celebration, in Brazil we have tried to promote the job of an artist we have in our Low Risk Team. Anderson Oliveira is our Low Risk Inspector, he has the ability to portrait photos in realistic drawings. His job is available in Instagram @arte.40 . He has produced a realistic drawing from a photo I haD taken with Anthony when he visited us later last year. Picture was taken in Petrolina, by the São Francisco River.

-By Flavia Mometti



CELEBRATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA



BSSA finance team honouring the 25th year anniversary.

ANNIVERSARY ARCHIVES

A throwback to the 1st year anniversary of Blue Skies. This is a photo of Andre Veldsman at Blue Skies South Africa, held in January 2005. Andre became General Manager 4 months prior to this date.

