

# BLUE SKIES PELICAN NEWS

Blue Skies Newsletter | August 2024 | Issue 215 | [www.blueskies.com](http://www.blueskies.com)



## THE BLUE SKIES FOUNDATION INAUGURATES WOMEN'S PRISON DAY CARE CENTRE

BLUE SKIES

FOUNDATION

The inauguration of the Day Care facility at the Nsawam Female Prison, a collaborative effort between the Blue Skies Foundation and the Service. This momentous occasion marks a significant milestone in our shared commitment to supporting women in incarceration and providing a nurturing environment for the children who by law ends up in Prison their mothers in the Medium Security Prison. The Blue Skies Foundation intervened and completed the Project which was started by the Prison Ladies Association (PRILAS) and a Women group called Woman Rediscovered. The Program was attended by Senior Seniors Service Personnel from National and Regional Offices of the Service as well as Sister security services Representatives. Also, in attendance were Amanda Frisby from the UK office, Rep from Equality Law, Management, staff and people from eth Prisons Community. Read more over on page 7.

### BLUE SKIES ARE SHORTLISTED IN THE FPC AWARDS 2024

Blue Skies have been shortlisted as a finalist within 'Sustainability Excellence', and 'Supermarket Fruit & Veg Supplier Of The Year' at this year's FPC Fresh Awards. The awards evening will take place on Friday 27th September in London at the Iconic JW Marriott Grosvenor House.





## BLUE SKIES KEEP FIT INTRODUCES OFFICE ERGONOMIC MASSAGE PROGRAM

KEEPPFIT IN GHANA

WORKPLACE WELLNESS

In a bid to enhance workplace wellness, the BS Keep Fit Club, led by Sampson Kwawukumey, a dedicated fitness expert, who is also the Occupational Health and Safety Officer at Ghana Branded, has introduced an office ergonomic massage program specifically for the staff at Blue Skies. The initiative aims to alleviate common musculoskeletal issues and reduce stress, problems often faced by employees who spend long hours sitting and working at their desks. By providing these ergonomic massages, Sampson seeks to improve the physical comfort and mental well-being of his colleagues

To ensure the program's effectiveness and reach, Sampson has also trained several of his colleague instructors to assist in delivering these massages. This collaborative effort allows the service to be more accessible to the entire office staff, offering much-needed relief during the workday without disrupting their schedules. For a start, this program will be done once every month. This program is our way of contributing to a healthier, more comfortable work environment. The initiative has already received positive feedback, with many employees noting significant improvements in their overall comfort and stress levels.



## BLUE SKIES SUPPORTS GHANA REVENUE AUTHORITY WITH HEALTH INITIATIVE

Blue Skies recently had the opportunity to support the Ghana Revenue Authority by conducting a health talk for members of the Customs Service Authority at their headquarters in Accra. The session was led by the company's Fitness Lead, Sampson Kwawukumey, who emphasized the importance of regular exercise and a diet rich in fruits. He also provided valuable advice on stroke prevention. To further promote healthy living, Blue Skies generously supplied attendees with an assortment of their fresh fruits and juices.





# CULTURAL HERITAGE: HOMOWO FESTIVAL

Ghana is home to a variety of rich festivals which are unique to the various ethnic groups. Homowo is a notable festival celebrated among the Ga people. The Ga people comprise of traditional areas of Gamashi, Osu, La, Teshi, Nungua and Tema. Homowo derives from two Ga words homo meaning hunger and wo meaning to hoot at. Homowo means hooting at hunger. Legend has it that, during the process of migration, the Ga people experienced famine and severe hunger. However, they marshalled courage to till their land, planted corn and called upon their ancestral spirits to bless their farms with rains. Also, being expert fishermen, they caught fish in abundance which included giant red snappers called tsile and giant tunas called odaa. They celebrated this abundance and victory over hunger with a specially prepared diet from unfermented corn powder called 'kpokpoi' and palm nut soup with fish (locally called tsile and odaa). Homowo is celebrated annually typically between August and September. The festival symbolises resilience and community spirit.



Prepared kpokpoi made from unfermented corn, a staple for the celebration of Homowo by the Ga people

The Blue Skies Community in Ghana as part of an initiative to celebrate culture and heritage brought the Homowo experience to the factory on the 15th August. The traditional meal was served at the canteen, and we received history lessons about Ga traditions from a Staff member, Francis Armah Ashitey (Nii Armah Oshiapem I) who is a member of the ruling family of Teshie, a traditional area in Accra.

## MEDICAL OUTREACH FOR COMMUNITIES

### HEALTH & WELLBEING

Blue Skies, in collaboration with the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and other partners, as part of our PPP project has undertaken a community health initiative aimed at improving access to healthcare services in local communities across Ghana. The project involves providing free medical screening and National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) registration to residents, with a focus on preventive care and early detection of health conditions. Together, through initiatives like this, we can create lasting positive change and contribute to building healthier, and more resilient communities for the future. Focus areas included BMI, BP, Sugar, HB, Malaria, ENT, Eye and Dental Checks. The target was to reach out to 20,000 students and community members across the four regions with comprehensive health screening and health education. The intervention reached out to a total of 28,443 persons, thus exceeding the target (20,000) by 42%.





## CONGRATULATIONS TO MR & MRS MTHETHWA

Congratulations 🎉 to Mr & Mrs Mthethwa Love conquers all and we are so excited to celebrate your love as you say I do in the presence of God. May each day of your marriage be a celebration of your love for each other.



## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & WELLBEING

At Blue Skies, Culture makes up our core beliefs in our everyday actions. This was recently demonstrated by teams in South Africa, who have shown compassion and support to the local communities, through care for our elderly citizens and taking social responsibility towards them, especially during challenging situations like long queues for grants. The teams have made a positive impact by:

- Offering seats or shade to ease their wait
- Assisting with paperwork or application processes
- Providing emotional support and conversation
- Helping them access amenities like water or restrooms
- Advocating for priority service or specialised facilities

By doing so, these actions demonstrate compassion, empathy, and commitment to their well-being. 'Let us prioritise their comfort, dignity, and needs, ensuring they feel valued and supported in our community. Remember, small acts of kindness can significantly improve their experience!'

We would like to thank Balfour Spar Supermarket for offering food to our elderly while queuing for their grant.







## CELEBRATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In an inspiring happy day, Blue Skies Egypt has gathered to celebrate the completion of yearly competitions, the Holy Quran competition, cultural competition and recycling competition. Awards were also given to the outstanding participants. Out of the Blue Skies Egypt vision of raising health care and individuals' capabilities, management has provided a physician to analyse work environment and minimise work hazards. Physical therapy sessions were also available for employees.

The celebrations also included the 21st anniversary for Blue Skies in Egypt which were delayed from May due to the high melon season. We took the opportunity to hold it a few days before the team were very busy for the mango season. It was wonderful to share the celebrations with the team in this special anniversary, and recognise the achievements of Blue Skies Egypt.

BLUE SKIES ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATIONS



## BLUE SKIES HEROES

Tamer and Mahmoud, hailed as heroes in Egypt, faced numerous challenges and bureaucratic hurdles at the port during their week-long visit in late August. Their successful efforts in swiftly clearing pom containers surpassed expectations, aiding in the smooth operation of the factory and ensuring our customers continue to delight in our exceptional products.



## SUCCESSFUL AUDITS IN EGYPT

After three days of auditing, Blue Skies Egypt has passed the two recent customer audits successfully, with scores of good in food safety and outstanding in integrity. Congratulations to all of the team who have worked to achieved these great results!



# FOUNDATION UPDATES

## FOUNDATION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME

FOUNDATION

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT



The Blue Skies Foundation in our bid to empowering women through skill development programmes, recently organised a comprehensive financial management training for 300 market women in the local communities in the Nsawam Adoagyiri Municipality. This initiative aimed to equip these women with essential knowledge and tools to enhance their financial literacy, budgeting skills, and overall financial well-being.

The training programme utilised a combination of interactive workshops, group discussions, case studies, and practical exercises to engage the participants actively. Experienced financial experts and trainers facilitated the sessions, providing real-life examples and personalised guidance to ensure effective learning outcomes.

The market women who attended the financial management training expressed their gratitude for the valuable knowledge gained during the programme. They highlighted the practical relevance of the training in helping them improve their financial decision-making skills and secure their economic stability. Many participants shared how they planned to implement the budgeting techniques and savings strategies learned to manage their finances more effectively.

The financial management training organised by Blue Skies for 300 market women has been a resounding success in empowering these women with essential financial skills and knowledge. By enhancing their financial literacy and equipping them with practical tools, the program has laid a foundation for improved financial well-being and stability among the participants. Blue Skies remains committed to supporting the economic empowerment of women in the community through such impactful initiatives.





# THE FOUNDATION INAUGURATES A DAY CARE IN PRISON CONTINUED..

Representing the Foundation Board at the occasion, Dr Abena Asomaning said the Blue Skies Foundation, is honored to have played a major part in the realization of this vital project. We believe that every individual deserves to be treated with dignity, compassion, and respect, regardless of their circumstances especially children. The presence of children living with their mothers in prison underscores the need for holistic support and care, and it is our collective responsibility to support the Service to address this need with empathy, understanding, and action.

Speaking to the Media, the Foundation Manager, Alistair Djimatey stated the establishment of this Day Care facility is to meet SDG goal 16 which is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. It also stands as a testament to our unwavering dedication to creating a better future for the women in incarceration, their children and children in the Prison community. This space is not just a physical structure; it is a symbol of hope, resilience, and the transformative power of collaboration and community support. Our hope is that this Day Care facility will not only offer practical support but also serve as a beacon of hope and possibility for the families within the prison walls.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our partners, supporters, and dedicated staff members of the Prison Service, The Prisons Ladies Association – PRILAS, Nsawam Medium Security Prison, who have worked tirelessly to bring this project to fruition. Your unwavering commitment and unwavering spirit of service inspire us to continue our mission of making a positive impact in the lives of those in need. God bless you all.

Thank you all for being part of this journey towards a brighter future for the women, children, and families we serve. Together, we can make a difference. By Alistair Djimatey



# HERE FOR GOOD

## PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

BLUEPRINT

BIODIVERSITY

On August 29th, we held a biodiversity webinar bringing together 70 people from across our sites. The focus of the event was to get a better understanding on agricultural biodiversity, with two external experts leading the conversation: Alessandro Moscuza from the UNEP Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel and Dr. John Donaldson who is a biodiversity scientist and conservation biologist. They shared their knowledge on the importance of protecting and increasing biodiversity, the challenges companies face in taking action, and the perspectives of farmers. These insights sparked a great discussion. The webinar gave us new insights for our Biodiversity Strategy but also revealed the complexity of taking action on agricultural biodiversity.

It's clear that we need to further integrate biodiversity actions into daily operations so we can mitigate risks associated with environmental degradation and promote a more resilient and sustainable future. A big thank you to all who attended the Biodiversity session. Keep an eye out for future talks across our Blueprint topics.

## EMBRACING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Teams in RSA have been adopting renewable energy by utilising solar power, as depicted in the attached photos. China Mokoena, our Energy lead in South Africa, is dedicated to supervising the installation of these solar panels. It is inspiring to witness the progress at our various sites as we work towards achieving 50% of our energy from renewable sources, whether self-generated or from the grid. A big thank you to all of our site leads and sponsors who are making steps everyday towards a more sustainable future.



# HERE FOR GOOD



Happy and Healthy People

We will benefit communities and give people the opportunity to reach their potential



In Harmony with Nature

We will protect natural habitats and create opportunities for nature and wildlife to thrive



Conserving our Resources

We will ensure nothing is wasted and whatever is left is either reused or recycled



Protecting the Climate

We will reduce our impact on the climate and follow a path that leads us towards net zero emissions