

***Prince George's County District Five Supports Dehkontee Artists Theatre's
Peace Education and Cultural Awareness Program and Fund Raiser!***



Honorable Andrea Harrison

Council Member of PG County District 5

This week has been a progressive and inspiring one for Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. (DATI) through a series of positive and supportive events! This indeed fulfills the true meaning of the African word or expression “Dehkontee”, which means, **“There is time for everything.”** It derives from the Kwa speaking languages of Liberia (Krahn, Kru, Grebo, Bassa, Sapo, Gbi).

Similarly, it appears from all indications thus far that prominent citizens and officials of Prince George’s County and the State of Maryland are in agreement that it is time not only to showcase the rich and diversified history and cultures of Africa in particular but also to generally promote multiculturalism, peace, and non-violence in society through the performing and visual arts. Honorable Andrea Harrison of PG County District 5 is the latest County official to lend her support by making a donation to this worthwhile and patriotic cause to support the cultural awareness and peace education programs of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. The grant donation will enable DATI to provide services to children and their families specifically in District 5 at a date and time to be announced in close consultation with the Councilwoman and her staff. DATI is a 501 © (3) non-profit Bowie-based African-centered theatre and educational organization located in PG County District 4.

Earlier this week DATI participated in the Principal for a Day program on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 and its Executive Director, Dr. Joe Gbaba, was assigned to the Apple Grove Elementary School located in Fort Washington, Maryland. Dr. Gbaba stated that “The experience was great and overall, the faculty and students exhibited great enthusiasm to learn

more about the history, cultures, and languages of Africa. Also, what transpired during the course of that day truly speaks to the need to introduce more African centered materials in the school curriculum of Prince George's County and the State of Maryland. Consequently, this may provide a more balanced type of education for children of color and children of other races with the ultimate goal to promote multiculturalism in our society", the renowned pedagogue and theatre director, actor, and producer concluded.



Children participating in the DATI Chiandeh Afrocentric Literacy and Peace Education under the guidance of Dr. Joe Gbaba, Executive Director of DATI

DATI's Chiandeh and Afrocentric Literacy and Peace Education Program is research-and-performance-based and is indeed a perfect match to partner with the PG County Board of Education to jump start an after school literacy program. Further, it is hoped this article will draw the attention and support of PG County and Maryland educational leaders and policy makers for DATI's Afrocentric and literacy and peace education programs, in order to adequately address the learning needs of children in PG County and the State of Maryland. Later during the evening DATI was also one of the winners of a raffle draw that was held at the VIP reception for participants at the Henry A. Wise, Jr., High School. Hats off to the PG County Board of Education and Chamber of Commerce and all those who engineered this culturally invigorating and community outreach program.

Second, the donation that was received yesterday (April 13, 2016) from Council Member Andrea Harrison of District 5 could not have come at a more appropriate time than when DATI is launching its fundraiser campaign. The purpose of DATI's fundraiser is to purchase much needed production props, equipment, van, and to raise funds to establish an office space and maintain a skeleton staff in order to provide African-centered literacy and cultural programs for children and their families in PG County and the State of Maryland.

Against this backdrop, the Management and staff of DATI salute the Councilwoman and her wonderful staff (including her Chief of Staff, Mr. Rodney Streeter and Mrs. Tate) for their patriotic gesture to spear-head DATI's fundraising campaign that is aimed at providing county-and-state-wide African-centered cultural and educational activities that may immensely benefit children and their families, as well as all citizens and residents of the City of Bowie, PG County, Maryland, and the entire United States of America. Also, it is expected that many other prominent citizens and business entities in PG County and State of Maryland will emulate the fine example of our outstanding stateswoman and compatriot, Honorable Andrea C. Harrison!

DATI's Services Are Children and Family Focused and Culturally Relevant



Members of DATI's Children's Peace Theatre consists of children between the ages 9-13 who participate in its research-and-performance-based Chiandeh Afrocentric literacy and peace education program.

DATI provides several culturally relevant educational services that include Afrocentric literacy activities in reading, writing, speech, actors training, live African-centered theatrical performances, African fireside storytelling techniques, role play, as well as programs that educate children how to promote peace and non-violence in society. During the summer months DATI runs a children's peace theatre consisting of children from ages 9-13 that perform monologues, dramatic skits, songs, and dance that focus on the need for peace and reconciliation, and literacy to help children improve their writing, speech and self-expression skills. This program may be extended during the regular school year if the requisite funding is provided to meet the learning needs of children who are lacking in reading and writing and that have speech impediments.



A scene from DATI's Adult theatre production of "The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville" at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.

The DATI Adult Theatre caters to individuals 18 years of age and above who are interested in learning about genuine African arts, culture, and history, as well as developing their skills in the performing and visual arts. DATI has a qualified staff that consists of creative individuals (playwright, artists, criminal justice and behavior modification specialist), and persons with experience in providing social services to children and their families in the classroom and the community.



DATI's programs are children and family focused and entertaining and educational in nature. Above parents and their children are being educated through a demonstration conducted by its Executive Director, Dr. Joe Gbaba during a cultural extravaganza hosted by the Embassy of Liberia near Washington, D.C.

How to Donate to DATI's Programs

Members of the general public that would like to make a financial donation to DATI's Afrocentric literacy and peace education programs may do so in financially by logging on to our

official website and to click on the “Donate” button: www.dehkonteeartists theatreinc.com to donate through our **PayPal Account** or through **DATI’s Corporate Checking Account #:** **3931972677**. In-kind donations such as a 24 seater van to transport DATI performers on performance tours, office supplies, or office space, can be made by contacting us via e-mail: gbaba5@aol.com or telephone: **(267) 973-1709**. Help support a worthy cause by donating to the DATI fundraiser today! **Remember your taxes are tax deductible!**

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