

February 27, 2024

RE: International Trends and Services Committee

Next Meeting: March 28th, 2024

Members Link Stephanie McGriff, Co-Chair, Link Joan Ray, Link Iris West, Link Dorothy Williams, and Link Barbara J Lane,

➤ **Education Across the Miles Initiative (1):** Jamaica Bright Tomorrow Program – ITS on behalf of our Chapter has donated \$100 to Mt. Carey Baptist Basic & Infant School in Montego Bay, Jamaica. **Ask** collectively Chapter members match an additional \$100 (totaling \$200) to this school. Chapter's donating more than \$500 will receive special recognition. The **goal** is to raise a minimum of **\$12,200** from **March 9 to April 27**.

➤ **Education Across the Miles Initiative (2) ITS Collaboration:** Tacoma (WA) ITS received an invitation from Seattle ITS Chair (Francisca Engmann) to participate in a **three-year** project along with other WA Chapters, to provide educational material to Assin Kushea, a Rural community in Central Region, Ghana.

This project will be supporting 3–12-year-old; 5 basic schools; a total of 1156 students. Why? Because in this deprived area with a 37.9% poverty level, and limited access to educational resources, thereby adversely affecting the literary skills of students. The **goal** is to provide/fund 2000 books over three years, procure five cupboards to store and display books and fund a training workshop for teachers. Budget attached.

Background:

In 2023, the Greater Seattle Chapter of the Links (GSCL) International Trends and Services (ITS) launched its first pilot Education Across The Miles (EATM) project by partnering with Biblionef Ghana. GSCL provided 160 books, 10 puzzles, 15 sets of educational posters, 2100 packs of crayons, and 5 storage cupboards to KG1 and KG2 schools in Adenta, Ghana.

2024 Vision

Break the cycle of illiteracy and poverty by opening the world to children through books and by helping them discover the joy of reading. **Mission:** Partner with Biblionef Ghana in a three-year project to train teachers in reading skills methods and improve the literacy skills of students. **Sustainability:** Build the capacity of local teachers and establish effective library management systems. Collaborate with local education, authorities, and community members to ensure long-term viability.

Education Across the Miles Initiative (3): I Can Fly International, Butterfly House High School – sponsorship of Elizabeth Weisko from ninth grade to twelve. (letter read in January meeting from Elizabeth and posted on our website, thank us for our financial support)

Respectfully Submitted, Link Barbara J Lane, Chair
International Trends and Services, Tacoma (WA) Links, Incorporate