

S.E.E.D.S., Inc.
110 West End Avenue Suite 19 B * New York, NY 10023
212-362-6021 * jaydub16@aol.com * www.seedswork.org

S.E.E.D.S. In Brief

S.E.E.D.S., Inc. is a small international non-governmental organization (NGO), co-founded in the early '90s by Jacqueline Wright, its chairperson, and Akinlabi (E. Anthony) Mackall. *S.E.E.D.S.* is an acronym for *Service, Education, Economic Development and Science*. Originally known as the *ASeeds Program*, the NGO began with Jacqueline and a few teacher colleagues, bringing small quantities of books and school supplies to people in rural areas of Ghana, West Africa. *S.E.E.D.S.* has evolved from an ad hoc single-project effort, into an on-going, tax-exempt, volunteer organization.

Principal Accomplishments: From 1993 through 2005, *S.E.E.D.S.* volunteers and partners:

(1) Distributed over one hundred thousand quality books for all ages, to over one hundred fifty schools, communities and villages in all of Ghana's ten regions; and to schools and community libraries on St. Vincent Island. (2) Developed *CRAFTS FOR FAIR EXCHANGE (CFFE)* and the *Pan AFRICAN COMMUNITIES EMPOWERMENT (P.A.C.E.) NETWORK*¹, African-centered economic justice and political organizing *action models*, respectively. **Principal Goals:** In 2006-07, *S.E.E.D.S.* will *extend CFFE and the A.C.E. Network*, establishing productive working relationships with at least 40 Black Community churches and organizations. *S.E.E.D.S.* also intends to match its 13-year book donation total in 2 years; by sending and distributing 100,000 books to five countries. *Valued at about \$3 million*, these books will supply an additional 200 schools, communities and villages with Astarter library collections. A portion of each shipment will be used to establish regional *Library Resource Centers (LRCs)* -- one each in Ghana, Gambia, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe². By providing "small" and "micro" loans for a variety of locally-based, sustainable development projects, LRCs will address more than literacy. Each LRC will also provide AIDS relief and useful health & nutrition information. There are very real costs in doing all of this. A total of \$50,000 is required --when costs attributable to storage, sorting, packing, transshipping and country-wide distribution of books are all factored in. The benefit of \$50,000 providing \$3 million in books to hundreds of thousands of people, along with health and development services, is incalculable. Furthermore, beyond *dollar value* and *numbers of people reached*, we have realized that the *service* and *goodwill* generated through this work are priceless as well. The plan is to mobilize and engage >average= people and community institutions. Locally, the *S.E.E.D.S.* Board of Directors has also identified elders and youth programs for funding support. Specifically, Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center and the Brownsville Youth Association will receive assistance for their critically needed education, employment, and enrichment work. As *S.E.E.D.S.* organizational capacity has increased over the past decade, so has its ability to be a catalyst for strategic, community-based societal change. Increasingly, *Aseedswork* will focus on facilitating empowering relationships between and among African peoples, organizations and communities.

¹These potentially transformative initiatives promote *collective work & responsibility, cooperative economics* and *community empowerment* locally, nationally and globally. In 2005, *S.E.E.D.S.* achieved milestones through CFFE's *Lifeforce IV Shona Sculpture Exhibit*; the first *Elliot Mhlanga Leadership By Example Awards*; and the launch of the *PACE Network's Empowerment Forum Series* at Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center, Corona, NY. *ACE* day-to-day work will focus on engaging the Black Church; "Education for Liberation; embracing *Our Youth*."

² In December 2005, a small, special book shipment cleared Customs. It has been used to establish a second *S.E.E.D.S.*-sponsored LRC in Ghana (this one is at St. Gina School, in Ashaiman, near Tema).

Service * Education * Economic Development * Science
ACommunity is local and global. @