

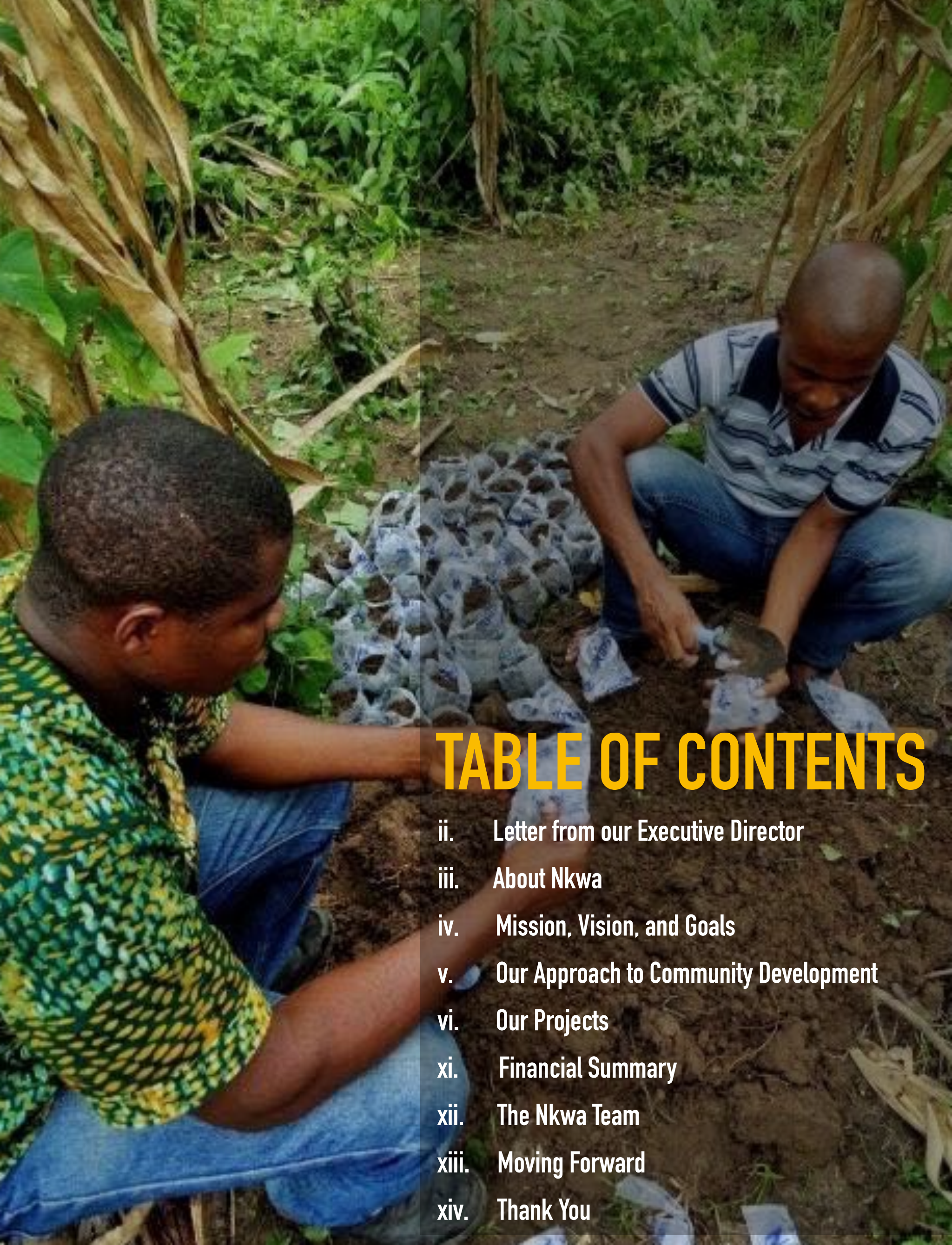


**NKWA FOUNDATION**  
*Community Development, Our Concern*



# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT





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# LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Exactly two years ago, a few like-minded individuals including myself, joined together with a vision of providing unimagined possibilities for rural populations of Ghana that was struggling to prosper. As a result, Nkwa Foundation was established in 2013.

As 2014 ended, we reflect on our progress in providing quality services and security to communities around the Cape Coast metropolitan area. Nkwa Foundation started first with community health outreach programming in Breman, Eguafo and Ponkrom in the Komenda Edina, Eguafo, Abirem District in the Central Region of Ghana. As the year progressed, we grew to include projects that tackled education, water access, and economic empowerment.

Nkwa Foundation is proud of our growth. However, the true measure of success is not in what we have built, but in the success achieved by the rural communities we support. For the children and adults alike that Nkwa Foundation supports, we see all kinds of success each and every day. These successes take many different forms for different people. For some, success is being able to provide for their families. For others, it could be being able to stay dry and continue to attend class at school during the rainy season. Success could also be defined to others as having the resources and platform to pursue your own interests and dreams.

The commitment I have seen from the Nkwa staff, our community representatives, and volunteers is one of the reasons that success outcomes such as those I've mentioned can be realized through the work Nkwa Foundation does. Those committing to our organization strongly believe that communities facing development hardships should have access to services and support in order to live lives characterized by happiness, dignity, health, and the highest degree of social responsibility and productivity. We strongly believe that success is attainable for everyone.

Together, we can ensure that the future is full of possibilities for both Nkwa Foundation and the communities we serve in. I would like to thank everyone who has supported Nkwa Foundation since its inception and for those that will support us in the years to come.

Sincerely,



**Ramzy Okyere**

Executive Director and Founder



# ABOUT NKWA

Nkwa Foundation is a Ghanaian non-profit organization that focuses on sustainable community development, health promotion, and rural education support in Cape Coast, Ghana. Founded in 2013, Nkwa works primarily in rural communities in the Komenda, Edina, Eguafo, and Abirem District of Cape Coast to advocate for and empower communities to achieve development by providing a variety of opportunities to help sustain livelihoods and the wellbeing of community members. The foundation currently focuses all of its community-based projects in the neighboring villages in the Central Region, including Breman, Eguafo, and Ponkrom. By concentrating all our work in one particular region, we are able to have a greater, more meaningful impact in the communities we serve. In addition, Nkwa Foundation provides a wide range of accounting & management consulting services to other non-profit organizations, private business, small and mid-size businesses in the Central Region.

Nkwa also recognizes the importance of global education and collaboration; therefore the foundation provides academic internships to inspire and educate international students to create change on a global scale. We partner with university institutions here in Ghana and internationally to provide opportunities for students seeking practical experience to supplement their studies at their respective institutions.

2014 being our first official operating year, we have been able to achieve many milestones, including obtaining 501(c)3 federal tax exemption status from the United States, hosting international interns and the successful first year operation of all our projects in Breman, Eguafo, and Ponkrom.



# OUR MISSION

To support and encourage increased community involvement through innovative community-based projects that will address developmental and environmental concerns within both the local and global sphere, while continuing to be at the forefront of volunteer and internship programs.

# OUR VISION

To create a better future for local and global communities by providing continual understanding and training of expertise and technological advancement to meet local and global development and environmental challenges, while providing sustained community-based internship projects.

## OUR GOALS

**1.** To enable communities to benefit from cultural exchange programs through teaching and other educational programs

**2.** To help create public awareness, both locally and globally, of the importance of community work as a social tool

**3.** To promote sustainable community development while prioritizing community needs

**4.** To increase the level of community engagement in our targeted communities and to assist individuals to develop skills and attitudes to empower them to actively participate in solving the problems of their communities, their countries and the world at large







# OUR APPROACH TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## **Collaborate with key local stakeholders.**

We strongly believe that development cannot happen alone; one must cooperate with other players in the community and of the project to ensure maximum results. That is why we prioritize collaboration and partnerships with local stakeholders, as both are important to ensure project success.

## **Monitor and evaluate community needs and project progress.**

We continuously aim to improve our services and outputs in the communities. By monitoring and evaluating community needs, and our own progress, we are able to safeguard the interests of local community members and stakeholders, while achieving maximum results. Nkwa Foundation prides itself on using academic research methods, such as surveys and questionnaires and focus groups, to assess needs and monitor our impact.

## **Provide expertise technical consultation while prioritizing community needs.**

Through our consultancy services, we ensure that system, regulatory framework and individual projects can be designed and managed in ways that achieves communities and national success without compromising the environment or the welfare of local communities and the nation at large.



A high-angle photograph of a person with their back to the camera, leaning over a circular stone well. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt with dark vertical stripes and blue jeans. Their right hand is resting on the stone rim of the well. The well is built with large, light-colored stone blocks. The water inside the well is dark and still. The surrounding area is lush with green foliage.

# OUR PROJECTS

This was our first year of operations as a non-profit organization, and majority of our resources, time, and effort was spent on initiating several community-based projects targeting important issues brought to our attention by local community members. We are proud to take a holistic approach to community development, thus targeting economic empowerment through agriculture, education, water access, and health promotion.

The villages of Breman, Ponkrom, and Eguafo in the central region were chosen to be Nkwa Foundation's target communities for a variety of reasons. They are a considerable distance away from a health center and have very little government social services and resources allocated to them. Because these communities are rural, economic opportunities are also limited.

Though we faced some challenges due to the rising inflation of the Ghanaian economy and thus the economic resources available to us, we are proud to have been able to initiate these impactful projects that will benefit rural Ghana in the years to come.





# HEALTH OUTREACH

**LOCATION: Breman, Eguafo,  
Ponkrom**

**PARTNERS: Ghana Health  
Service, University of Cape  
Coast Hospital, Agona Health  
Centre**

## 2014 Impact in numbers:

9 health outreach campaigns

77 people attended regularly in Ponkrom

81 people attended regularly in Eguafo

131 people attended regularly in Breman

Nkwa's Health Outreach project objective is to educate community members about prevalent health issues common in Ghana and to empower them to take ownership of their health at home. Outreach talks often attract 80 to 100 men, women, and elders and provide an important opportunity for Nkwa to find out about health problems within the community and refer those needing treatment to appropriate medical care. Topics covered include: family planning methods, HIV/AIDS education, proper nutrition, diabetes diagnosis and symptoms, hypertension, asthma diagnosis and symptoms, malaria diagnosis and symptoms, drug abuse, nutrition, and other communicable diseases (ex. Ebola).

Community health nurses and health professionals through the University of Cape Coast, University of Cape Coast Hospital, and Agona Health Centre presented these topics with assistance from interns. After outreaches, mobile clinics were run with the nurses to obtain basic health indicators (ex. weight, blood pressure, basic testing). Any outstanding cases were counseled and referred to Agona Health Centre for further treatment.

Moving forward, we are hoping to develop an extensive health database for each of the villages to have a better understanding of the demographic, health, and economic statuses of the families. This information will be obtained through the completion of surveys and provide us with valuable insight into our progress within the village and future needs that need to be addressed.





# ORGANIC FARM

**LOCATION:** Breman

**PARTNERS:** Organic Farmers Market Association

## 2014 Impact in numbers:

4 employed widowed women

1500 seeds planted

2 acre farm

0 chemicals used

The organic farm project seeks to unite local knowledge and modern agricultural techniques to offer economic sustainability for women in the community of Breman. With increasing demand for organic produce, both in Ghana and globally, skills-based learning of organic agricultural techniques will enable communities to create environmentally and economically sustainable livelihoods. Nkwa Foundation provides this skills-based learning through the facilitation of workshops on organic farming.

On the 2 acre farm, we initially decided to grow green pepper, carrots, beans, cassava, and maize. However due to the stark climate difference between rainy and dry season affecting crop growth, we have chosen to continue with drought-resilient crops on the farm to increase our output, specifically maize and cassava. The first seeds were planted with the help of our summer interns. Currently, four widowed women from Breman are employed on the farm and are supervised by Kwame Afful, an experienced farmer from the same village. No chemicals are used to maintain the farm. The cassava and maize will be harvested during the spring of 2015.





# PONKROM PRIMARY SCHOOL

**LOCATION:** Ponkrom

**PARTNERS:** Ministry of  
Education (Komenda Edna  
Eguafo Abriem District),  
Ponkrom Primary School

Currently, Nkwa Foundation is constructing classrooms for the pupils of Ponkrom by providing a new school building with the necessary items (books, uniforms, chalk boards and furniture). As of now, the Government of Ghana provides primary education up to grade six, however, due to a lack of available space, Ponkrom has only been able to provide up to grade four. This means that, the children must either walk to the next village or quit school and start working (usually the latter). Upon the completion of the structure, the Ministry of Education will provide teachers and other necessary teaching materials to facilitate the expansion of the school.

During 2014, we were able to donate exercise books, chalk, and the necessary building construction materials to the headmaster to improve the infrastructure and resources available at the school. The project was started with a 4000 Ghana Cedis donation from Kwantlen Polytechnic University student interns, from the School of Social Justice led by Professor Charles Quiste-Adade. Because we want the village of Ponkrom to take ownership and pride in the project, Nkwa Foundation only provides the materials and not the labour associated with constructing the extra classrooms. The headmaster of the school serves as the project coordinator.

The construction of the school was significantly hampered by Ghana's rising inflation and depreciating currency. The original amount of funds we had budgeted for the school proved to be insufficient and thus we were only able to provide enough materials to finish one classroom. Therefore, the school teachers have been forced to build a makeshift roof with roofing sheets and wooden stilts (as seen in the picture above) to utilize the newly built classroom space.

## 2014 Impact in numbers:

400 exercise & reading books donated

35 bags of cement donated

22 roofing sheets donated

15 wooden boards donated





# WATER ACCESS

**LOCATION: Ponkrom, Breman, Eguafo**



Nkwa seeks to provide safe and portable drinking water for rural communities in the Komenda Edina Eguafo Abriem District in the Central Region. The inaugural site for this project was the village of Breman, where we were able to construct one well that provides water for the community as well as the organic farm. Currently, the community of Breman accesses water from a contaminated water source, as they primarily walk to a nearby slow-flowing stream (as seen on the left).

We hope to further develop this project in the years to come. Considering the lessons learned from our pilot project in Breman, we aim to build boreholes rather than wells in the future due to their greater stability and lower maintenance.



# 2014 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE	Amount (GHC)
Intern Program Fees	19644.00
Donations	4500.00
Private Donors	51139.00
Startup Loans	21400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96703.00</b>

EXPENSES	Amount (GHC)
Staff Stipends	14750.00
Establishment	34,833.00
Finance	350.00
Administration	2330.00
Operational Costs	44280.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96593.00</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>110.00</b>



# 2014 NKWA TEAM

## **Executive Director & Founder**

Ramzy Okyere

## **Deputy Director**

Sarindi Aryasinghe

## **Logistics Coordinators**

Kofi Effah  
Jonah Ennin

## **Health Outreach Coordinator**

Isaac Korang Sintim

## **Organic Farm Coordinator**

Kwame Afful

## **Ponkrom Primary School Coordinator**

John Kwame Mensah

## **Nkwa Volunteer House Manager**

Adwoa Adobea Otu

## **USA Nkwa Office President**

Isaiah Okyere

## **Advisors**

Sam Debrah, MD  
Derek Anamaale Tuoyire, B.Ed, M. Phil  
De-Valera N.Y.M. Botchway, PhD

## **2014 Interns**

Lesa Astifo, Canada  
Caleb Lloyd, USA  
Justine Nelson, Canada  
Elmer DySalvador, Canada





# MOVING FORWARD

The background of the page is a photograph of a rustic interior. It shows several wooden benches made of dark wood, arranged in a row. The floor is made of reddish-brown earth. In the background, there is a large opening or doorway that looks out onto a lush, green, tropical-looking landscape with many trees and plants. The lighting is natural, coming from the opening, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere.

With only one year of operations completed, we are excited for the future that Nkwa Foundation holds for our partner communities.

In the future, we hope to strengthen our development model so that we are able to maximize our impact. This includes not focusing on one source of income, such as grants, but as well as other income-generating activities for the organization that still aligns with our mission. The importance of financial stability was highlighted this year with rising inflation in the country, and it is crucial that we explore ways to become financial stable and sustainable.

In the next year, we also aim to bring upon three new staff positions: Fundraising Director, Communications Director, and Intern Coordinator. These positions will help ensure Nkwa Foundation is run as efficient as possible while simultaneously maximizing our progress in the communities.

In addition, we hope to spend 2015 strengthening our projects and putting in place stronger needs and impact assessments to better evaluate our progress. This is crucial to better track the health of our communities through our outreaches, as well as develop our water access projects.

As we move forward, Nkwa Foundation and all our staff will continue to develop and strengthen our relationships with our community stakeholders and our partners. They are crucial to the success of our work and prioritizing these relationships will allow the communities of rural Cape Coast the best possible chance of achieving sustainable development.



# THANK YOU.

We want to recognize all our staff members, interns, donors, advisers, and community volunteers for all their hard work during our inaugural year of programming. Your dedication to Nkwa's mission and empowerment has brought and will continue to positively contribute to the communities we work in.

## CONTACT US:

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From all of us at Nkwa Foundation, medaase pa!



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