

NOVEMBER 21, 2020

The African Community Center of Lowell

4TH ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WITH GIVING 2020



Mission Statement

"To equip African immigrants and refugees in the Greater Lowell area with resources to be actively engaged community members, through educational, social and cultural initiatives."



STATEMENT FROM ACCL, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This year the ACCL Board has worked together to define our mission and broaden our communication with each other, as we move towards becoming an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. We are appreciative of CTI's guidance, leadership, and fiduciary support. We also have deep appreciation for the Parker Foundation and the consultants, NextStep Inc, that they funded to help us strategize on the Center's work. We hope to grow and strengthen our board in order to support ACCLs programs which include supporting African visitors, educating students, encouraging community conversations, and helping during crises. These programs continue to benefit Africans in the Greater Lowell community as well as the community at large - through the exchange of culture and dialogue, and active responses to community needs.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, interns, and donors. A huge thank you to Boston Foundation, Eastern Bank, and Enterprise Bank for your very generous donations. We love our Executive Director's energy and engagement in the community. His passion for serving the African community of Lowell and surrounding areas is contagious and has spurred us to be ever more diligent in our work to secure funding and space for all the programs he creates for ACCL. We look forward to another exciting and productive year ahead, and hope to see you involved in our programs virtually or in person in 2021!

Dr. Samuel Beh, Dr. Shannon Butler-Mokoro, Elizabeth Wando, Fundi Bisoka, Tobie Amani, Dr. George Joseph, Susanne Curry



ACCL Director Statement

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Trustees of the African Community Center of Lowell (ACCL) and on my own behalf, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to you for your partnership and continued support particularly, during our 4th Anniversary Celebration. The year 2020 has been daunting for all humanity. For the first time in our Center's history, we are faced with a global pandemic which has affected all spheres of life as we know it. Our community continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment, homelessness and the death of George Floyd among others, however, ACCL has prevailed. We were able to run our six-week long summer program which was published in the Harvard School of Education journal. This could not have been possible without your assistance and once again I thank you profusely for your support.

To continue to improve our community by staying focused on our mission of "Equipping African immigrants and refugees in the Greater Lowell area with resources to be actively engaged community members, through educational, social and cultural initiatives", we are humbly appealing to you to stay involved and get involved. Please visit our website at www.acclowell.org and from the Volunteer Section, select an option to provide your assistance. Last year's event was a big success attracting over 200 guests and supporters. We hope to earn our 501 (c) (3) status next year and also reach our target capital campaign of \$50,000.00 to acquire our own space. If we can dream it, we can do it. Thank you and may God bless us all.

Gordon Halm Director-ACCL



Chidi Chike Achebe MD, MPH, MBA

Achebe MD, MPH, MBA is a physician executive. He is currently the Chairman and CEO of AIDE - African Integrated Development Enterprise. He has served as the President and CEO of Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center as well as Medical Director of the Whittier Street Health Center and as Assistant Professor at Tufts University School of Medicine. Dr Achebe currently serves

as

a medical consultant; Clean water for kids - an NGO that brings fresh water to under served communities in Liberia; and advisor for Tesfa Health, Bahirdar, Ethiopia. Achebe is the third child of Professor Christie Chinwe Okoli-Achebe and the late Chinua Achebe- Nigerian politician, diplomat, novelist, poet, critic, and David and Marianna Fisher University professor emeritus at Brown University - widely regarded as the "father of modern African literature" and best known for the trilogy of classic African novels Things Fall Apart (1958); "No Longer at Ease" (1960); and "Arrow of God" (1964). Dr. Chidi Achebe is married to Dr. Maureen Okam-Achebe who is a Hematology/Oncology specialist at Harvard University's Brigham and Women's hospital. They have three boys.

JAN. 2020
SOUTH AFRICA VISIT

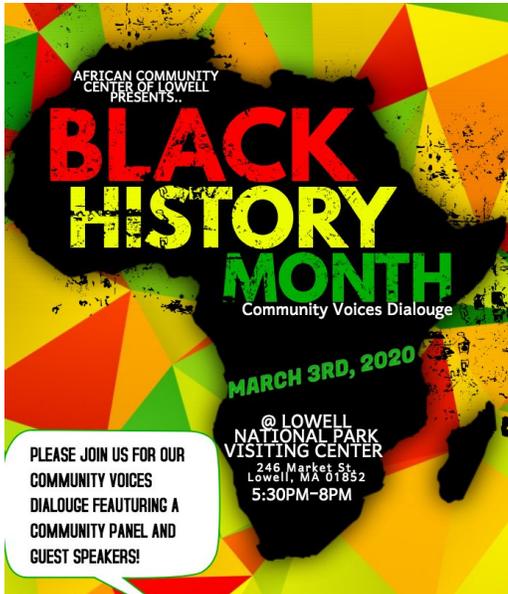


In collaboration with UMASS Lowell Education department, we hosted teachers from South Africa for the community voices meeting. The meeting with our guests from South Africa was extraordinary. We gave them a buffing traditional welcome and shared the work of the center with them. Please stay tuned for more updates with photos, videos and reports.



FEB. 2020

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH LOWELL
NATIONAL PARK SERVICES**



Service "Community Voices Event"

Each year, ACCL hosts an event to recognize Black History Month with community members and leaders. This month enables members of the community to learn about the history of important and inspiring leaders who have left an indelible mark in history. As always, we invite everyone to attend to join in honoring those who have paved the way for us.

Black History Month Community Voices dialogue

March 23, 2020

ACCL third annual community voices dialogue was held on March 3rd in partnership with the Lowell National Park service. The event was well attended. It was a night with a guest speaker and a panel discussion with questions and answers from the audience.



MARCH. 2020

NATIONAL READ ACROSS

AMERICA DAY



LAST DAY @ READ- A - THEN ROBINSON SCHOOL & GHANA IND. DAY CELEBRATION

As part of community reading for National Read Across America Day to honor Dr. Sue's 116 birthday, ACCL director was invited to read to first grade students at Abraham Lincoln School in Lowell and signed a copy of ACCL children's book to the school.



2020 Flag Raising Event

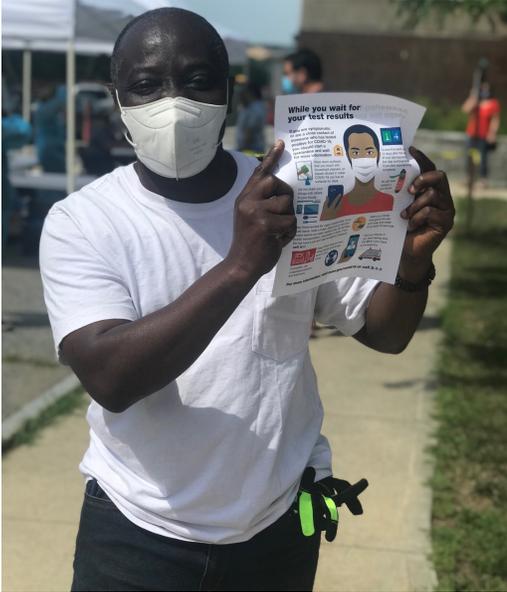
On March 7, 2020, ACCL director, volunteers and interns from the center helped coordinated Ghana's 63rd Independence Day. The city mayor and the the council members graced the occasion and encouraged every member to be law-abiding citizens. We thanked everyone that showed up to celebrate this day with us.



APRIL. 2020

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

LOCKDOWN



REACH Covid-19 Resources

REACH is an organization committed to exploring effective strategies to support the community. Below is an information about this organization and their mission. "REACH collaborates with educators, policymakers, and researchers to ensure that all young people have access to inclusive and quality learning, the chance to develop relationships of belonging, and the ability to create future opportunities.

We engage in Research, Education, and Action to create Change and Hope. We believe this mission is a collective responsibility and seek to bring together individuals, communities, and institutions in working together to realize it."To find out more about this organization, please click on the link

below:<https://reach.gse.harvard.edu/covid19-resources>

"African Community Center Tele Community Meeting w/ Rep. Trahan"

ACCL hosted a townhall meeting with Congresswoman Lori Tahran where community members called in with questions about covid-19 testing and other resources.

MAY. 2020

**"A MONTH OF REFLECTION AS THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC INTENSIFIED"**



JUNE. 2020

'CAN NO LONGER BE SILENT'



By aaron curtisacurtis@lowellsun.comLOWELL »

LOWELL – Gordon Halm, the executive director and founder of the African Community Center of Lowell, describes the first half of 2020 as “a bad time for humanity.”

Halm references the death of tens of thousands worldwide from the coronavirus pandemic. He then highlights the death of George Floyd, a 46- year- old black man prosecutors say was killed by a white Minneapolis police officer while in custody for accusations he used a fake \$ 20 bill at a grocery store.

Floyd’s death never should have happened, though Halm said it’s a story that is not uncommon.

“I know people are angry,” Halm said. “It’s something that has been there for quite a long time. My hope is that we will find a peaceful solution to what is happening.

“The changes the people want to see,” he said, “it has to come from us.”

With that in mind, the ACCL led a conversation outside Lowell City Hall on Sunday, providing community members a peaceful platform to voice their thoughts on what changes they want to see that might “lead to peace, equality and justice for our next generation to build upon,” Halm said.

Please use the link below to read more about the event:

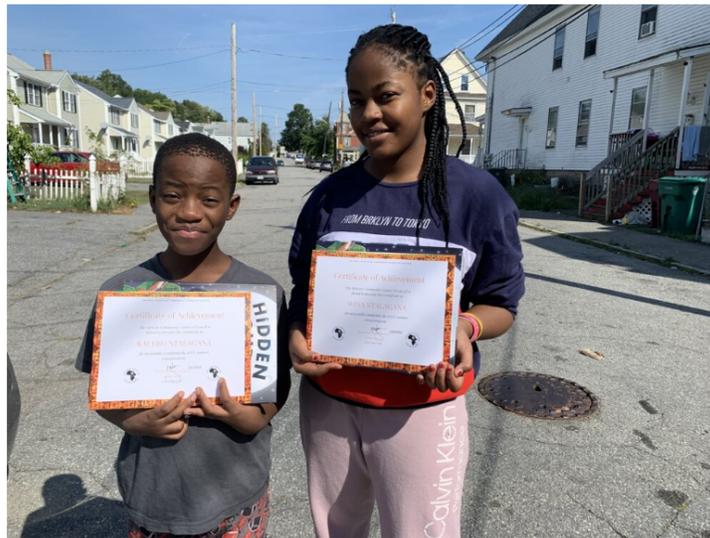
<https://www.lowellsun.com/2020/06/14/we-can-no-longer-be-silent/>

JULY. 2020

ACCL SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Learning Continues: Virtual but Community-Connected

MASSACHUSETTS, COVID-19, COMMUNITY EDUCATION, SUMMER PROGRAMS, INCLUSION, BELONGING, REFUGEES



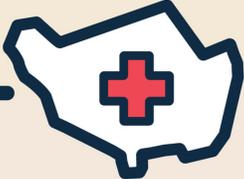
By Gordon Halm. Photo provided courtesy of author.

Every year the African Community Center of Lowell (ACCL) hosts a free summer school program for immigrant and refugee children living in the Greater Lowell Area, a small city in Massachusetts, United States. Through our long-standing partnerships with a local church and school, we have been able to provide every child with free food, transportation, access to technology, and a quality summer experience through mentorship and teaching by volunteer teachers coming from many different disciplines. This program has been running for four years, and we were excited about our plans for the summer of 2020.

<https://reach.gse.harvard.edu/blogs/covid-19/series/learning-continues-virtual-but-community-connected?fbclid=IwAR2oXEcMSHa9AwDYbG2IkPXcDvaTPmFwJKd0TS67k8eH5-J5j7YwxLqWqro>

AUGUST. 2020

COVID-19 TESTING



**FREE COVID-19 TESTING
AVAILABLE TO LOWELL RESIDENTS**
In partnership with the African Community Center of Lowell
AUGUST 3-7

 **ROBINSON MIDDLE SCHOOL**
110 June Street

 **TESTING HOURS**
Mon-Tues - 3pm-6pm
Wed-Fri - 9am-12pm

Drive-thru and walk-up testing available.
Interpretation services available at site.

In partnership with Lowell Health Department, ACCL hosted a one week free covid-19 testing where 1,168 people received free testing. ACCL volunteer and a former graduate of UML Olayemi Musa assisted ACCL Director with the effort.



**SEPTEMBER 2020 TO
FEBRUARY. 2021**

ACCL BOARD
DEVELOPMENT AND
STRATEGIC PLANNING
STILL IN PROGRESS TILL
FEBRUARY 2021



ACCL

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

*United States
House of Representatives*



*Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition
presented to the
African Community Center*

*Upon celebrating the occasion of your 4th Anniversary. Your dedication to celebrating
the spirit of the African community in Lowell will forever have a positive impact
on the residents of the Merrimack Valley.*

Lori Tolson

MEMBER OF CONGRESS (MA-03)

November 22, 2020

DATE

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Eastern Bank is committed to partnering with organizations that are doing good in our community.

That's why we're proud to support

THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY CENTER OF LOWELL

in their mission of helping new immigrants and refugees become successful citizens and leaders.

We are honored to be recognized with these inspiring leaders, Daniel Howell and Ron Dossa.

**Congratulations on your
4TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!**

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Changing Lives*

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ASIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO
AFRICAN COMMUNITY CENTER OF LOWELL!
GO ACCL!
THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY!
CONGRATULATIONS
TO
GORDON HALM
FOR YOUR GREAT LEADERSHIP!**

Ye Edward Huang, Esq.
President and Chairman
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vehuang@lawveh.com

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ELIOT CHURCH



Eliot Church

A Diverse Family in Christ
Come and See

Eliot Church congratulates

**Gordon Halm
and the ACCL**

for four excellent years
of community service

273 Summer St., Lowell

www.EliotLowell.org

Facebook/EliotPres

Eliot Church events are online through March 2021

STATE REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS A.
GOLDEN CONGRATULATES ACCL

Congratulations To
The African Community Center
of Lowell
As You Celebrate

Your 4 Year Anniversary



*State Representative
Thomas A. Golden, Jr.*



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GREATER LOWELL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



 **Helping People,
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Greater Lowell Community Foundation improves the quality of life in Greater Lowell and the Merrimack Valley. We partner with donors to support the work of local nonprofits and students through grants and scholarships.

*GLCF is proud to support the
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• www.glcfoundation.org • 978-970-1600 •

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INNOVATION ACADEMIC CHARTER SCHOOL



**Innovation Academy Charter School
is proud to partner with the
African Community Center of Lowell
for their annual summer program.**



Congratulations on your 4th Anniversary!

**For more about Innovation Academy
Charter School
please visit our website:
www.innovationcharter.org
or follow us on social media:**



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ACCL 2020 AWARD RECIPIENT

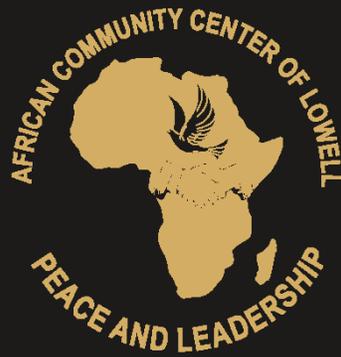


Ronald Dossa

Thank you for being
ACCL Summer School
candidate of excellence.



ACCL 2020 AWARD RECIPIENT

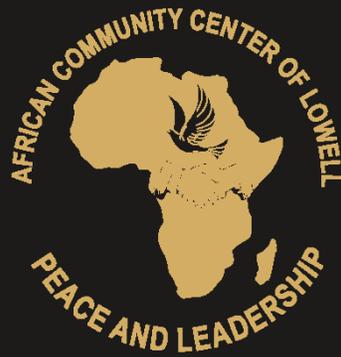


Daniel Howell

Thank you for dedicating
your time and effort to help
Stop the Spread of COVID-19
in our community.



ACCL 2020 AWARD RECIPIENT



Eastern Bank

Thank you for being
the highest contributor
in the Greater Lowell Area
to the Community Center
for it's mission.





List of ACCL 4th Anniversary Donors and Supporters 2020

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The Saab Family Foundation
Community Teamwork, Inc.
The Boston Foundation
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Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
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Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA)
City of Lowell
Lowell Public Schools
University of Massachusetts – Lowell
UMASS Lowell, Peace and Conflict Studies Program
City of Lowell Police Department
Volunteers & Interns

All friends and those who support our mission and wish us well.

Felix, a grandson of Newell Flather, is seen here reading ACCL children's book, Parsley's Big adventure!

Please contact us if you would like to purchase a copy by visiting our website at www.acclowell.org

