

# THE GEM PROJECT, INC. | NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2010

"WE CAPTIVATE TO EDUCATE"



FEATURING: A TGP MEMBER AT WEST WA  
COLLECTIVE'S EVENT: WEST FEST

THEGEMPROJECT.ORG | "Bringing Forth Positive Change"



## FOUNDER'S MESSAGE :

**(Note:** This document contains several photos, allow your browser to view them.)

Dear Amanda Ebokosia,

### Your 'Ah-Ha' moment:

Imagine a time where you witness that everything in the universe is working in your favor, while your goals are in perfect alignment, which allow you to reflect and bridge connections that **lead** you to your **AH-HA moment**. This is your Ah-Ha moment. Suddenly, everything you have done thus far makes perfect sense. There is no mistake that hasn't been accounted for your sudden success.



Life is but a maze full of doors, which are all waiting to be unlocked.

I'll make an addendum to the second to last statement and say, 'or failure.' I believe many have got it all wrong. Failure is a part of success, and it is to be expected. I have yet to meet anyone who has not found a door unlocked.

What are the driving forces that lead you to such a profound moment? There are many, ambition and a sense of empowerment are the key ones. At **The Gem Project (TGP)**, we wish to educate the youth, empower, and instill qualities of leadership through an innovative edge.

When you're empowered to do anything, the possibilities and life changing opportunities you make are limitless. It is our dream to educate the youth about issues in an innovative way, while **developing our nation's next great community organizers and leaders of our time**.

This is why we are devoting this month's focus on **empowerment**. We're hosting our Interactive Literacy programs again as well. We will be having a panel discussion for both young girls and boys, for that particular program. This Fall we will have plenty of exciting events planned for our high school, college, post graduate students and adults.

View our Youth Highlights feature for *Youth Who Lead* sections of this Newsletter.

**Toward the end of our newsletter read more information about:**

Forward this to a friend!



## Our Mission:

To educate the youth of our nation, of various issues that affect them and their communities, through the use of our innovative programs and enriching activities.

By providing the youth with the necessary tools to participate in our programs, we encourage personal growth and awareness about substantial issues that affect them.

The experiences that many youths attain from our programs, will help them become very healthy enlightened leaders, and community organizers for the future.

### Write US:

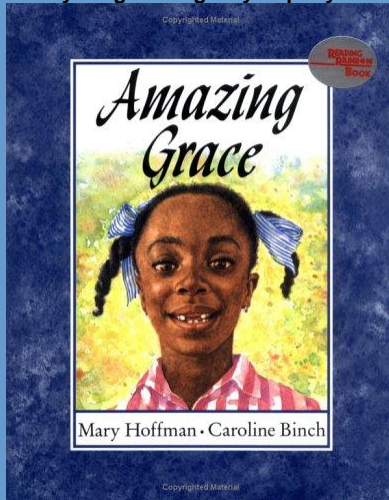
The Gem Project  
PO BOX 32322  
Newark, NJ 07102



**More on empowerment:**

The Gem Project is very thrilled to be doing the girl's and boy's empowerment series, in our interactive literacy programs. Please read on in that particular section. We encourage you to sign up your children, nieces, and nephews. In addition, we will be discussing and reading a book called, Amazing Grace. This book is so special to me. My mother read it to me as a child, it enforced an impenetrable belief within me,

**"You can do anything as long as you put your mind to it."**



Please send stories, comments, or suggestions that relate to this issue to [feedback@thegemproject.org](mailto:feedback@thegemproject.org). We're very interested in hearing from you. **The Gem Project, Inc is a Newark, NJ based Nonprofit; Meetings are in NY & NJ every 3rd Saturday.**

Sincerely,

*Amanda Ebokosia*, Founder/CEO

UMDNJ Grad Student

GSBS

RU NCAS Alum '08

**The Gem Project, Inc.**

973-506-9275 (TGP Main #)

866-582-5521 (Fax #)

[project@thegemproject.org](mailto:project@thegemproject.org)

<http://thegemproject.org>

@ebokosia @thegemproject

**Note:** You've received this message based on your relationship with Amanda Ebokosia, or The Gem Project, Inc. You're free to unsubscribe at any time. This message is also delivered to our media contact list. For questions regarding delivery of this message, please contact [project@thegemproject.org](mailto:project@thegemproject.org).

**MEMBER OF THE MONTH**



**TIFFANI ARTIS**  
Event Planner

**Division:**

Event Planning Division

**Excellence:**

Tiffani Nicole Artis is our newest member at The Gem Project. She has truly delved into her role as our event planner. She is in this division along with our member, Parul Punjani. Artis has showed commitment and determination, since she has applied for this position.

She is coming with experience and a trained eye. Artis owns her own event planning company, **Love'sTouch Designs.**

Her positive attitude and innovative ideas are what we need as a team to achieve our organizational goals. She has proven to be a great asset here at The Gem Project.

**Congratulations on a TGP JOB well done!**

**Past:**

June - 2010 Capri Lewis

July - 2010 Parul Punjani

August - 2010 Alonzo Yorke

## INTERACTIVE LITERACY PROGRAM



When: Every 3rd Wednesday/ Thursday (9/15/10 and 9/16/10)

Time: Between 3-6 PM EST ( After school )  
Between 11-12 PM EST( During school )

Volunteer: Call: 973-506-9275

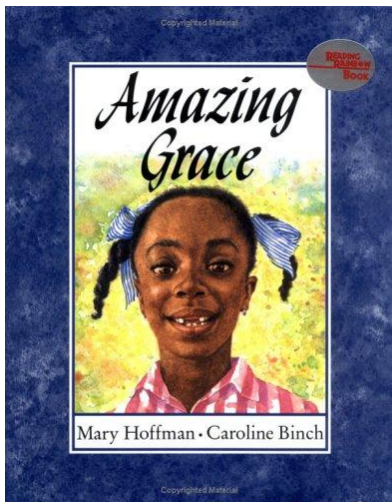
RSVP: [PROJECT@THEGEMPROJECT.ORG](mailto:PROJECT@THEGEMPROJECT.ORG)

Sites: Schools, Day Centers, Libraries, and recreational facilities.

Dates: The Gem Project is resuming the interactive literacy program September 2010.

Selected Locations: Bloomfield, NJ- Newark,NJ- & NYC,NY

### Book:



### Program Info:

College students/ TGP volunteers read to students from grades K-3 monthly: Themes vary from month to month. It is paired with an interactive activity.

### Upcoming theme:

Young Girl's Empowerment & Young Boy's Empowerment series.

### Book:

Amazing Grace

By: Mary Hoffman

### Activity:

After the reading, a discussion will take place about what it means to be empowered. The girl's session will start the 1st week, and the boy's session the second week.

Topics to be discussed:

Body Image

Bullying

Goals

Panel Discussion of career oriented young women/men

We will make an empowerment quilt, and our empowerment influenced bookmarks will be distributed. Program is FREE.

## SEPTEMBER'S UPDATES:

## MENU

## UPCOMING SEPTEMBER EVENTS

RSVP for all events by:

>973-506-9275

>[project@thegemproject.org](mailto:project@thegemproject.org)

><http://thegemproject.org>

SEE: Events Section

- 8/30/2010 - 11/30/2010:

### Community Organizer

#### Academy

A High School & College Freshman Social Entrepreneurial Competition. Know someone? Let them apply and get details in the "Get Involved Section < Events Option" over ([here](#))

- 9/1/10 - 10/30/10:

### The Gem Project Walk Now

Collecting our list of walkers for The Gem Project College Campus Walk for 10/30/10. Previous applicants will receive information and will be contacted soon. Register Today: ([here](#))

- 9/18/10: TGP Meeting-

Where:116 West 23rd Street 5th Fl

New York, NY

Time: 2:00 -2:30 PM

(Prospective Member)

Meeting: 2:30-3:00 PM

(All Members)

Three Gem Project staff members are going to be in attendance, including the Founder. We're every excited to be doing this program!



[\( VIEW TGP PHOTOS \)](#)

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT :

### **Innovative Upcoming Featured Fund-raising Event:**

**FRIDAY, October 15, 2010**

**7 PM - 12 AM**

**The Coffee Cave**

**45 Halsey Street**

**Newark, NJ 07102**

**Young Professional Networking Mixer**

**See Flyer: Click image to enlarge and see event site**

**Note: Assigned rooms are only given to those who RSVP! E-mail: [Project@thegemproject.org](mailto:Project@thegemproject.org)**

- **9/15/2010:  
Interactive Literacy Program - Empower Girls:**

This month's focus is about empowerment. We're going to do this program in 2 weeks. The first week will involve an empowerment session for young girls within ages 3-8. We will talk about issues from bullying, body image, and self-esteem. The next week we will do an empowerment session with boys. Each activity will include a reading of a children's empowerment book and an activity to support it.

- **9/22/2010:  
Visit to our  
Interactive Literacy Program- Empower Boys:**

This month's focus is about empowerment. We're going to do this program in 2 weeks. The first week will involve an empowerment session for young girls within ages 3-8. We will talk about issues from bullying, body image, and self-esteem. The next week we will do an empowerment session with boys. Each activity will include a reading of a children's empowerment book and an activity to support it.

#### **RSVP**

: You may do so by e-mailing: [project@thegemproject.org](mailto:project@thegemproject.org) or calling 973 506 9275

- **9/24/2010:The Autism Quilt** Time: 1:00-4:00 PM



\* Complimentary hor 'doeuvres and drinks provided by the

Coffee Cave Between 7-9 PM

- \* Open Kitchen All NIGHT
- \* Prizes awarded throughout the night
- \* Speed Networking games
- \* Talent Competition, for a trophy!

<http://thegemproject.org/NETWORK>  
SITE LAUNCHES FOR TICKETS 9/9/10

**OUR TOP INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR**

View Our Informational Seminar Online: Length- 12 minutes

We create Autism Quilts and distribute it to various participating schools as gifts.

\* **Must RSVP; This program is by appointment so we can book the necessary rooms to accommodate everyone who attends. Only those who RSVP get further detailed information.**

Selected Venues:

1) Science, Industry & Business  
NYPL 188 Madison Avenue @  
34th Street  
New York, NY 10016-4314

2)Ripley Grier Studios  
NEW YORK,NY  
(Room Location--**RSVP 1st**)

Time: 1:00-4:00PM

\*depending on the capacity, location is subject to change. Those who RSVP will get a final confirmation several days before the event. This will apply for all events.

**DONATE TODAY**

Mail Contributions to:  
The Gem Project, inc.  
P.O. Box 32322  
Newark, Nj 07102  
Checks made out to:

The Gem Project

Click Button Below to Donate  
Online and Read more  
information about Us:

[Donate](#)

call: 973-506-9275 for questions  
We Thank You For The Support

**CHAPTER START-UP**



[\(View 1/2 : Informational Seminar\)](#)

[\(View 2/2 : Informational Seminar\)](#)

View if you're interested in applying as a member, volunteer, staff, or board interest. After viewing, see the documentary film below & apply online

## THE GEM PROJECT DOCUMENTARY

### Featuring Clips of our Documentary: The Gem Project & Young People For Change

Two years ago marked my final year as an undergraduate student at Rutgers University (Newark Campus).

During that time, We filmed The Gem Project & Young People for Change documentary. It was filmed during April-May by the late Chas Johnson. Mr. Johnson passed away on January of the following year. He worked in productions at John Cotton Dana Library. Chas believed in The Gem Project, he devoted his time to ensure that we had something tangible to show the world what we are all about. He is greatly missed.



It was our hope to celebrate with him this past May, when we released the documentary footage at The Gem Project's Achievement Ceremony. Slight quality was lost from the original conversion of VHS to DVD. It is online now!

### FILM FOOTAGE: "The Gem Project & Young People For Change"

PART 1 OF 3: [\(LINK\)](#)

PART 2 OF 3: [\(LINK\)](#)

PART 3 OF 3: [\(LINK\)](#)

Enjoy.

## -Start Your Own Chapter Today-

The Gem Project is welcoming students to apply to start their own collegiate & high school chapters.

You may apply today:

[\[Get Involved Section: http://thegemproject.org\]](#)

Be a part of a close network. TGP main headquarters guides new chapters on the best ways to execute our programs. All members join us annually at a gala to celebrate our wins of the year. All chapters are given their own chapter website! They're now able to update the public on their upcoming news and events.

### "The Place Where Community Organizers Are Born!"



## THE GEM PROJECT SHOP

Shop for our cause?

## THE GEM PROJECT YOUTH WHO LEAD :

### Youth Who Lead.

This is a new section in our newsletter, first introduced June 2010. It is devoted in highlighting the achievements of youths within the area.

**You may nominate a youth or yourself:** [project@thegemproject.org](mailto:project@thegemproject.org)



**Name:** Olumayowa "Godsent" Okubanjo

**Business Name:**

*Cry Out Ink*

**Profession:**

Spoken Word Artist

Founder/CEO of Cry Out *INK*.

**Location:** NJ

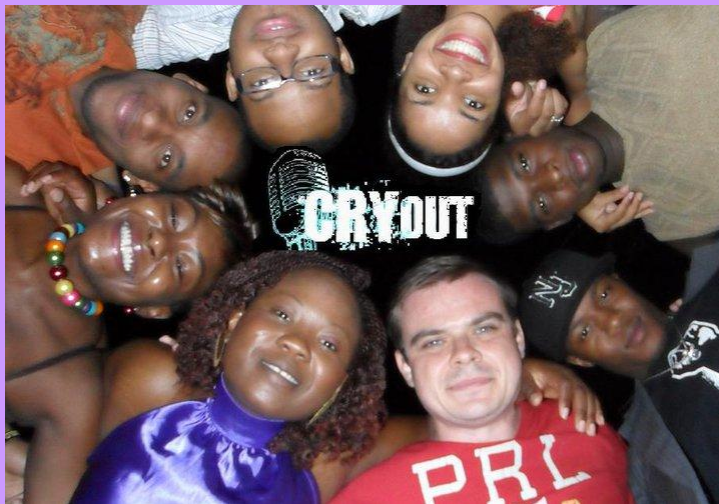
**Website:** <http://cryoutnj.org>

**Contact:** [therealgodsent@yahoo.com](mailto:therealgodsent@yahoo.com)

Cry Out *INK*//

Olumayowa "Godsent" Okubanjo is Founder/CEO of a faith-based organization called, CRY OUT *INK*. It is an organization that encourages the youth to express themselves through the arts. Every week they host a program in Newark-Nj, called Verses. Before you step into Verses you can be greeted with the joyful sounds of laughter and music almost a block away. It is not uncommon for artists to travel from all over New Jersey, just to perform at Verses. It is an every *week* occurrence. Olumayowa is a man who is leading the youth of Newark to be inspired, and use their talents for positive change.

Selected Samples of work:



The Gem Project has opened its online store. We have TGP T-shirts that can be purchased during the time we announce and have our "College Campus Walks"

Every product is given an initial base price to supply the merchandise. It works by way of a sell-by demand policy. **10 % has been added to all products to contribute to The Gem Project.** It will help with operational fees and our programs.

[ [Launch Shop Online](#) ]

## PARTNER NEWS

### News From Our Partners!

This is an update column from our partner organizations:

**Organizations & companies that provide mutual support.**

**Update:**

Those who sent us their partnership agreement forms will be in the newsletter. We are currently meeting with all former partners and interests to work out a new agreement. All current interests will be notified. To view our list, check our listing in former newsletter: ([here](#)).

\* All partners send in updates

[project@thegemproject.org](mailto:project@thegemproject.org)



**Name:** Ediom Utuk  
**Business Name:**  
 Converse 4 a Cure  
**Profession:** Founder/CEO of Converse 4 a Cure  
**Location:** NJ  
**Website:** <http://converse4acure.org>  
 Contact: [ediami@converse4acure.org](mailto:ediami@converse4acure.org)

Converse 4 a Cure//

## TGP COMMUNITY ORGANIZER ACADEMY

THE GEM PROJECT'S  
NEXT AMAZING  
NONPROFIT  
Fall Competition:

**Apply**  
 May 19- November 30

**Next Deadline:**  
 November 30, 2010  
Spring Competition:  
 March 13 - April 25

[\(Click to View Information\)](#) [\(Click to Apply\)](#)

**Prizes Include:** Start up Books:

- (Book) Effective fund-raising for nonprofits
- (Book) Starting & Building a nonprofit - Real- World Strategies
- A TGP Star Trophy
- A special surprise & much more

## LET A YOUTH KNOW!

**INFO:** This program is serving high school students and first year college students to help promote social entrepreneurship.

Ediomi Utuk is Founder/CEO of Converse 4 a Cure. It is a nonprofit organization that educates the community about Sickle Cell Disease (SCD). Converse 4 a Cure is able to do so through the arts, entertainment, and fashion. Converse 4 a Cure artists design Sickle Cell inspired Converse sneakers, which Ediomi often showcases. Ediomi is a young woman on a mission. We commend her efforts to raise awareness about this issue.

Selected Photos of Work:



## THE GEM PROJECT CAMPUS WALK



Become a **REGISTERED Gem Project Walker Today!**

We have walks and marches planned throughout the year.

[\(View & Submit Form Here\)](#)

Next Walk: October 30, 2010



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT :

# Volunteers Needed:

- Upcoming **College Campus Walk** for the **October 2010 & November 2010**
- Fundraising Division
- Autism Quilt Program -- **Monthly 4th Saturday**
- Interactive Literacy Program **September 2010-May 2011**
- Community Organizer Academy **September 2010-May 2011**
- Participants for our scheduled PSA **September 2010-December 2010**
- Showcase Displays - **September 2010-May 2011**
- Participant Event Coordinators - **September 2010-May 2011**
- Refreshment Committee - **September 2010- May 2011**

Please Contact: [project@thegemproject.org](mailto:project@thegemproject.org) or CALL 973-506-9275  
Call Anytime!

## T9P AWARENESS LUNCHEON

### SEPTEMBER'S UPDATES:

Please e-mail [project@thegemproject.org](mailto:project@thegemproject.org), if you can be of any help.

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- The Gem Project launched its awareness luncheons 2 years after being founded in 2006. Its purpose was to inform the community, of various issues, in a setting that would encourage friendly dialogue. We have been able to accomplish this with phenomenal speakers, talent, information, and great food.

**Our focus for the months of September through December 2010 are:**

- Violence among youth
- Autism
- Breast Cancer ; Our TGP advocate- B. Brown was diagnosed at **age 24**
- Empowerment

We're requesting the following:

- Talent
- Speakers
- Refreshments
- Contributors

**Let us know how YOU can HELP:**

Contact Us: [project@thegemproject.org](mailto:project@thegemproject.org) or call: 973-506-9275

Fax: 866-582-5521 **visit: [www.thegemproject.org](http://www.thegemproject.org)**

**THE AUTISM QUILT :**

## **SEPTEMBER'S UPDATES:**

The Gem Project featured the quilt, which was assembled by the employee's of Timberland, at our achievement ceremony. It was held on display for the entire program in May. We're looking forward in giving this quilt away to a special school, news on which soon.

[\( View More Photos Online \)](#)



*Photographer: Rob Haig*

Founder Amanda A. Ebokosia and Jason Khurdan- Founder of The Guardian Fellowship.

**We can continue to build it, if you lend a hand**

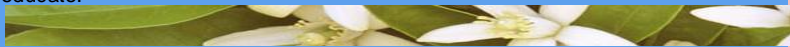
**The Gem Project** co-founded The Autism Quilt project with the **Guardian Fellowship organization** in March 2008.

**Goal:** To bring awareness of Autism through art, supplemented by a discussion about it.

**Photo:** Original Autism Quilt stretched 6ft by 5ft long, taken March 2008.



**INFO:** We create Autism Quilts and distribute them to participating schools as gifts. We believe that by having quilts hung at various institutions, we will be able to bring awareness of Autism. It fulfills our organization's 'motto', We captivate to educate.



# The A.E. Empire:

"A News Site For Women By Women"

-Empowerment events, workshops, and tips listed-

[www.amandaebokosia.com](http://www.amandaebokosia.com)



## Information:

The A.E. empire website, [amandaebokosia.com](http://amandaebokosia.com), is not a part of The Gem Project programs or nonprofit. It is a separate venture that Amanda Ebokosia, founder of The Gem Project, has made. It serves as a collection of all her projects and is a news and empowerment site for women by women.

She is including different women groups and empowerment workshops. It will launch with new writers and workshops September 30 2010. You may visit it today to take a glimpse: ([here](#)). There are several neat articles by women being posted daily.



## **SEPTEMBER'S EVENTS:**

For inclusion of any of events, contact [contact@amandaebokosia.com](mailto:contact@amandaebokosia.com)

*FRIDAY, September 10, 2010 1:00 PM -5:30 PM NY,NY*

**WOMEN'S DAY** - A meet and greet at **Fashion 40** Lounge and then venturing off to celebrate **Fashion Night Out**. The time of the year where all designers come out along with celebrities. Event is Free, however the group event planning fee to travel with us is **\$2.00**.

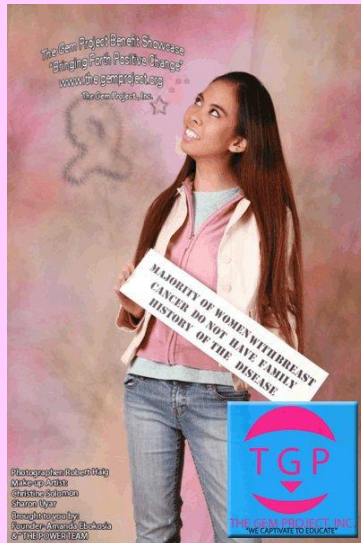
You may join the meet-up page: ([Click Here](#))

**THE GEM PROJECT SHOWCASES**

## **SEPTEMBER'S UPDATES:**

- We're looking for college students who wish to be community organizers for this project
  - Confirming 4 schools for our showcase tour.
- We need 4-8 volunteers for this program.**

////////////////////////////////////



**IMAGE INFO:** Featuring: NJIT student from a TGP College Campus Benefit Photo Shoot ('07)

Make-up Artist: Cathrine Solomon  
TGP Photographer: Rob Haig

## **New Breast Cancer Awareness Display Tour**

**October 2010**

**Let us know if YOU will like to HELP:**

Contact Us: [project@thegemproject.org](mailto:project@thegemproject.org) or call: 973-506-9275

Fax: 866-582-5521 [visit:www.thegemproject.org](http://www.thegemproject.org)



**"Bringing Forth Positive Change  
Within Your Community"**

## **THE GEM PROJECT GOALS**



*Photo Info: TGP EVENT at Rutgers- Newark's Paul Robeson Art Gallery*

As you may know, The Gem Project management has changed. Our main goal starting 2010 has been to strengthen our infrastructure. There are many elemental factors that can lead us to this goal.

- Expand our membership and welcome a new team: TGP conducts 30-45 minute informational seminars for prospective

members every 3rd Saturday in NY & NJ. Our next 5 are based in our meeting locations & offices in NYC.

- Spread our practices: We have since welcomed the applications to start collegiate and high school chapters for our organization. (SEE WEBSITE: <http://thegemproject.org> -- SEE: "Get INVOLVED" section.

**"An organization is only as strong as the members who support it" - Ebokosia**

**T G P**  
**FOLLOW US**

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[Myspace Page](#)  
[Twitter Page](#)

[www.thegemproject.org](http://www.thegemproject.org)