



Child Health Improvement Program International

AUTISM IN AFRICA

Newsletter

August 2025



Welcome to the CHIP International newsletter highlighting our mission to support neurodiverse children with autism and special needs in Africa.

Since 2011, we have been hosting awareness events and providing essential training to equip educators, parents/caregivers, and healthcare professionals in Senegal and Ghana with the knowledge and resources they need to ensure that these children receive the care and support they deserve.

We collaborate with local institutions and organizations in Senegal and Ghana, and have associates across the continent in Nigeria, Guinea, Cameroon, Uganda, Kenya, and Burundi. CHIP-I is a part of the Cultural Autism Studies at Yale program, where we initiated the 'Autism in Africa' series.

Together, let's shine a spotlight on neurodiversity in Africa and make a difference in the lives of these incredible children!



In Memoriam



A TRIBUTE TO

BARRY SEGAL

1935 - 2025

CHIP International sponsor since 2011

Barry Segal has passed, but his legacy remains – a strong advocate for autism and health, he was our sponsor for over 14 years. CHIP International met Barry on a fluke – at a cocktail for Architects for Humanity, and met someone who put us in touch. He invited my sister of CHIP New York and me to his home. We met over brunch, and he decided to donate \$20,000.

Since then, in 2011, Barry of Focus for Autism, which then became Focus for Health, began to sponsor CHIP International annually. Over the years, we would visit Barry in New Jersey from time to time to give an update and fill in the Minutes from the Board, which we sent to him regularly as Honorary Chair. (He used to tell us the meetings were “not his thing”.)

Barry was always the gracious host and eager to hear about what we were doing. His questions were direct, with no hidden agenda. I appreciated his character and continued loyalty to our program. He had a gruff kindness that was heartfelt.

May he now rest in tranquility, satisfied with all his efforts to help others in need. Certainly, with CHIP International, we will never forget his generosity.

Mary Diop
CEO, CHIP International



Awareness Updates

Historic Special Needs Congress

The first-ever Congress for the Inclusion of Children with Special Needs held in Dakar, Senegal in July 2025, took on the challenge of reducing the imbalance in education for children with special needs in the country.

The conference focused on experiences, best practices, programs, and policies for the inclusive education of children with special needs. It also provided a networking platform for individuals and associations involved in the care of children with special needs.

In attendance were the Minister for Education, as well as other government officials, and a cross-section of parents, teachers, advocates, and civil society organizations. The special guest of honour was the first lady of Senegal.



“From Awareness to Action: Advancing Autism Inclusion”



Autism awareness, acceptance, and action are gaining traction in Africa. CHIP-I was present at GT Bank Ghana's 2025 Autism Workshop and

Consultations program, with over 800 parents, caregivers and teachers. It consisted of a workshop, presentations and panel discussions by specialists in health, education, speech and behavior analysis and management.

The 4-day program also included free one-on-one consultations with over 28 specialists across various disciplines who provided personalized support for parents and caregivers.

One wonderful outcome of the workshop was the news that the governmental Ghana Health Service is finalising a plan to introduce practical, enhanced community-based solutions to support autistic persons by training frontline community health workers to facilitate early intervention for children with autism.





Cultural Autism Studies at Yale

'Autism in Africa' Series

Cultural Autism Studies at Yale

With special guest

**AUTISM IN AFRICA WITH
CHIP INTERNATIONAL**

The Economic Impact of
Autism Inclusion in Africa

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025
12-1 P.M. EDT | 9-10 A.M. PDT
5-6 P.M. BST | 4-5 P.M. GMT

Lynn Dadzie-Yeboah, MPA
LEND Fellow

CTCDD CASY Sparks

CHIP International's 'Autism in Africa' series with the Cultural Autism Studies at Yale (CASY <https://culturalautismstudiesat Yale.space>) continued in May and June with presentations on 'The Economic Impact of Autism Inclusion in Africa' by Lynn Dadzie-Yeboah, Founder, President, and Board Chair of the Alexis Miranda Foundation in the USA and Ghana; and 'Education for People Living in Autism in Nigeria: Barriers and Community-Driven Solutions' by Mrs. Dotun Akande, the founder and Director of Patrick Speech and Languages Centre in Nigeria.

The series will continue in the Fall semester, with parents and/or practitioners in the field of autism from various countries in Africa. CASY has been a success and is expanding globally, at the forefront of championing a shift in perspectives concerning autism. CHIP International continues to showcase the realities, successes, and possibilities for progress in autism in Africa.

[Watch previous episodes:](#)

Cultural Autism Studies at Yale

Mrs. Dotun Akande

**AUTISM IN AFRICA WITH
CHIP INTERNATIONAL**

Education for People Living
with Autism in Nigeria:
Barriers and Community-Driven Solutions

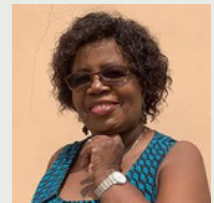
THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025
12-1 P.M. EDT | 9-10 A.M. PDT
4-5 P.M. GMT | 5-6 P.M. WAT

Founder and Director,
Patrick Speech and
Languages Centre

CTCDD CASY Sparks



Center Profile



Autism Awareness Care and Training Centre



The Autism Awareness Care and Training Centre (AACT) is the first special needs Centre in Ghana dedicated to individuals with autism. The Centre was founded in 1998 by Mrs. Serwah Quaynor, the mother of an autistic son, Nortey. In the words of 'Auntie Serwah':

"Sometimes it takes what seems to be a misfortune to show us the real blessings in our lives. Having sojourned through the phases of denial through to acceptance of a son's autism and finally being able not only to smile at the progress he has made but be able to reach out to others; to encourage them too to be accepting and seek help; and to reach out to the society at large is nucleus of the story of AACT and Autism in Ghana."

AACT is dedicated to fostering meaningful education and independence for each child.

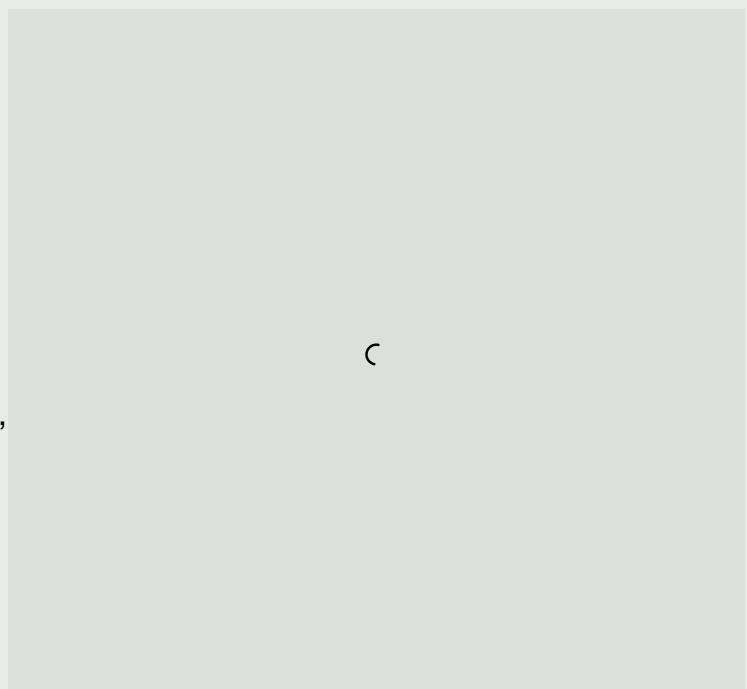
News articles

Nigerian autistic teenager breaks Guinness World Record for largest art canvas

A Nigerian teenager with autism, Kanyeyachukwu Tagbo-Okeke, has broken the Guinness World Record for the world's largest artwork on canvas.

The painting measures 12,304 square meters, larger than a standard football field. It features a multi-colored ribbon, a symbol for autism, surrounded by emojis, and was created to raise awareness about autism.

The artwork was unveiled in Abuja, Nigeria, on World Autism Acceptance Day.





Get in Touch

Children with autism and developmental disabilities in Africa, like everywhere else, deserve the opportunity to live up to their potential. Your contribution helps to make this possible. Come join us in our mission!

[SUBSCRIBE](#)



[DONATE](#)

CHIP International is a
501(c)3 tax-exempt organization

USA

215 W 95th Street
Suite 16F
New York, NY 10025

SENEGAL

Immeuble Rokhaya
67 Cite Sagef 1
Dakar, Senegal

GHANA

17 A. Nkwatabisa Lane
East Airport
Accra, Ghana

E: info@chipinternationalusa.org
PH: 646-329-4947 (WHAT'S APP)
www.chipinternationalusa.org