

NEWSLETTER

WEWOT.ORG

THURSDAY 06/15/2023



TOP NEWS

- WELCOME MESSAGE FROM KHADY GAYE
- WEWOT OUTREACH TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
- WEWOT 2023 SNAPSHOT
- WHAT'S NEXT...

OUR MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

- Be a beacon of hope as we share our stories and inspire the next generation of African youth through science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM);
- To inspire, motivate and empower the next generation of aviation professionals and business leaders, especially young women;
- To provide STEM education awareness with a focus on the aviation and space industry;
- To contribute to the transformation of the aviation industry across Africa and the Caribbean.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!



My name is Khady, and we are looking forward to communicating and sharing news with all of you. Months ago, my brothers Jean Olivier Mbog and Anthony McGee unexpectedly nominated me as President of We Were Once Them (WeWOT)

They did not give me the opportunity to say no. Blessed and grateful for the trust, I blindly embarked on a fabulous journey of giving back, inspiring and empowering the current and next generation of kids and youth in Africa and the Caribbean, and I anticipate we will go big in other countries.

Our team is committed to supporting African and Caribbean children and young people to realize their potential and give them a better future of opportunities and possibilities in STEM.

"As volunteers, we do not necessarily have the time, we have the heart."

Enjoy reading! And do not hesitate to contact us for more info.

Sincerely,

Khady Gaye – President WeWOT



When we interviewed the students after the flight, they said it was so beautiful and relaxing to see the island from above. One student enthusiastically said that the water was tranquil and beautiful that she felt compelled to go to the beach. One by one each student came back with a different view of aviation and left with a new sense of purpose stemming from their experience with us.

In total we took 10 students flying 5 girls and 5 boys. The students were exposed to different aspects within the Airports Authority as some of the managers also stopped by to share their roles and how they got to their status. Overall, the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and the mission was a success.

Jerome Lawrence
First Officer - Regional Director WeWOT

WEWOT IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

The day began with the team congregating at the airport for the penultimate day of our visit, with the last day being a tour of the island. While we were excited to see the children, there was an air of nervousness and uncertainty that it was almost palpable.

The teachers were as anxious as the students. Some of the children have never flown before much less in a smaller aircraft (Cessna 172). After speaking to a few of the students I learned that the uncertainty was more so one excitement rather than fear. Once the introductions were complete and the aircraft arrived it was time to go flying.

The first two slightly reluctantly volunteered to go but with every step towards the aircraft you can see the excitement building. Once they returned, they came back with faces of fulfillment, joy, enthusiasm and every other adjective that can be used to describe joy in children. They were able to take pictures, videos and make a memory that will last a lifetime.

2023 IN A SNAPSHOT!

We are always available to create impact



In May, we delivered food to an orphanage we visited last year in Kenya. Kudos to our members Frederica Roldan and Gassim Mbogo for coordinating this action. It is important to keep connected with the local organizations and continue building sustainable relationships.

Summer is around the corner, and we will be focusing our efforts on finding sponsors and getting donations. If you want to support the cause, reach out to our fundraising team.

And finally, we are extremely excited about our upcoming trip to Rwanda in September. The Youth Outreach team is doing phenomenal behind-the-scenes work.

Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks!

The past months, a lot of activities and behind-the-scenes work happened.

Earlier in March, we had our first trip of the year to Trinidad and Tobago. Jerome Lawson has been instrumental in leading this project, supported by several members. A terrific opportunity to create an impact and have influence in the children's lives. Check out the snapshot and some of the videos on our social media.

In April, the team worked tirelessly to get our website up and running. We finally launched it, if you have not checked it out, take a peek and get inspired.

Be patient with us as we keep improving it.

OUR MATRIX

We have connected with **4500** students, visited **43** schools, **15** orphanages and **6** countries.

DONATE

Your donation will help us achieve our mission. We will be able to support the African and Caribbean youth to realize their potential and, in the process, provide them with a better future.



If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together" Our journey started back in 2017 with three pioneers, friends and throughout the years the word of mouth resulted in a bigger team.

Today we are a group of **100** individuals, professionals in the aviation industry, willing to volunteer and be part of a movement for change.



Jerome Lawson, first officer United Airlines, gives a motivational talk to the students of St. Ignace Secondary School on Tuesday, 14th June 2023.

Aviation team tells Tobago students:

The sky is the limit

BY JEROME LAWSON
 "Believe in yourself!" This was the advice of United Airlines pilot Jerome Lawson, 38, when he brought his child's dream to life.
 Lawson and a team of aviation professionals visited Tobago schools on Monday and Tuesday to bring messages of hope to the children.
 Lawson is currently a first officer on United's Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft, flying routes between New York and London.
 "I always wanted to be a pilot," he said. "My parents said that the sky is the limit, it's always there."
 He also has a master's in Human Factors in aviation.
 Now based in Washington DC, he plans a sabbatical in 2024 to spend time in Tobago.
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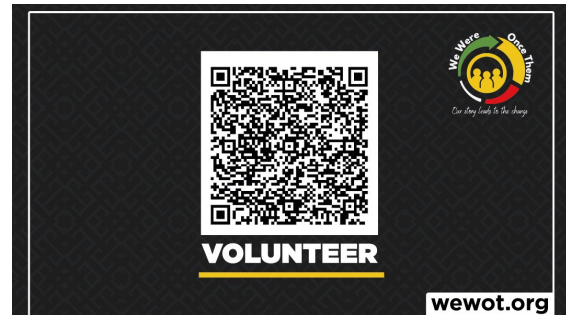


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WHAT'S NEXT*Kigali here we come*

Rwanda is calling you! Have you been to our website yet? www.wewot.org Check out our gallery to see past trips and sign up as a volunteer if you haven't already done so. You are a special group of volunteers with exciting careers in aviation to share with the young minds that will shape our future. To see the joy in the hearts of kids that are already doing amazing things with less such as robotics and programming, will CHANGE you. You think you are going for charity; but will be coming home with much more than you can ever give. Stay tuned for our all-members virtual meeting coming end of June!



STAY TUNED!

- >> MEMBERSHIP MEETING END OF JUNE
TIME: TBD
- >> 'GAME CHANGERS FUNDRAISING GOLF TOURNAMENT'
DATE: AUGUST.7TH
TIME: TBD
LOCATION: HOUSTON