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| 2020-2021 Annual Report |
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# Mission and Vision

*Butterflies With Voices, Incorporated mission is to actively serve at risk youth through empowerment, knowledge, and sisterhood.*

**7 Visions**

It is our vision to have our futures understand the importance of their education, their role in public service and the importance of standing up for what she believes in; to help our futures become the women they wish to be by living out their dreams while remaining modest and admirable; to assist our futures in making healthy, positive and progressive choices; to teach our futures all about compassion, generosity, love and respect; to build lifelong friendships that our futures can rely on while constructing their dependability in order to understand their values and morals; to learn from our futures and allow them to be an inspiration in our lives; and to be devoted, consistent, and positive role models

On July 1st, 2020 nine ladies started the seventh year of Butterflies With Voices, Incorporated. The nine members consisted of Olivia Dudley, Brittany Fisher, Veronica Fisher, Jaydee Betances, Melitza Rivera, Ebone Williams, Franshelly Duarte, Maya Vasquez, and Akeisha Latch. Two members from the previous year decided not to continue: Celina Gomes and Ariana Jefferson. Olivia took the role as President of the board and First Vice President of the Connecticut Chapter. Brittany took the role as First Vice President of the board and President of Virginia Chapter. Jaydee took the role as Second Vice President of the board and President of Connecticut Chapter. Veronica took the role as Financial Advisor of the board. Melitza took the role as Event Coordinator of the board. Ebone took the role as Secretary and Vice President of Virginia Chapter. Franshelly took on the role as Connecticut Chapter Treasurer. Maya Vasquez took on the role as Sisters’ Closet Chairwoman for the second year in a row. Akeisha started her first year as a member leading the canned drive for the food pantry. The Connecticut Chapter decided to continue services including a Mother and Daughter Bonfire, Vision Board Party, and Sisters’ Closet. The Virginia Chapter decided to continue the service of Adopt A Classroom. All nine members decided to keep Life Skill Workshops also known as Spa Talks, an Embracing Me Workshop, an Annual Convention, and one-to-one mentoring once board re-establishes the criteria and role of mentors and mentees.

## *BWV 2020-2021 year includes dates July 1st 2020-June 30th 2021*

## **Services**

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| A Mother and Daughter Bonfire was held that included seven mothers and daughters. Sisters Closet was scheduled for August 2021, which was after the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Embracing Me Workshop was held virtually on the Zoom Platform. 10 women-owned businesses participated: Cased Accessories, True Counseling Services (Business Owner, current First Vice President and Secretary of Board), The Essence of Jaz, J & M Parties and Events, Jenna Line Customs, Bijoux By V, Alba Yesse Wholesome Lifestyle, KellzGotItOnLoc, Pure Romance By Stephanie, and Top Ace Cleaning Services (Business Owner, past member Celina Gomes). There were two keynote speakers: Jessica Ervin and Stephanie Allen (past member). Adopt A Classroom was held and $175, ten backpacks full of supplies, and 18 bottles of microbial soap were given to 2 schools, Linwood Elementary School and Curtis Elementary School. That’s a total of $300, 20 backpacks, and 36 soaps collected for two schools! Two Life Skill workshops were held, which was titled “Spa Talks”. Jaydee partnered with Atneciv Rodriguez from Family Leadership Center for the first spa talk centered on Domestic Violence and completed the second spa talk “Making It Out of 2020” independently. There were 111 views on the Domestic Violence spa talk and 81 views on Making It Out of 2020 spa talk. The Annual Convention was held virtually on August 16th via the phone app House Party. 7 of the 9 members attended. They played games such as virtual Uno and Pictionary. Two new impactful services were held: Adopt A Senior and College Week. Five seniors participated in the Adopt A Senior. This initiative allowed for seniors to share their stories with BWV and to be provided with a college basket that included school supplies, dorm accessories, and hygiene products. The idea was brought to fruition due to the lack of senior activities because of the pandemic. It allowed members to celebrate the seniors for their achievements and to encourage them to keep pushing forward. College Week was a huge success for BWV. College Week consisted of four days of college readiness plans for juniors and seniors. The event was held virtually via Zoom on the days leading up to Thanksgiving: November 22nd-26th. The event kicked off with a session on Campus Life in collaborations with Ra’meer Roberts, Coordinator of Student Conduct and Jonelle Reynolds, Director of Diversity and Inclusion. This was moderated by Brittany Fisher. The first day was followed by a presentation on Admissions and Financial Aide moderated by Ebone Williams. The presenters were Carolyn Freer representing the University of Connecticut and Jalen Thomas representing Virginia State University. The next session titled “Who I Want To Be” included a student panel of two current students: BWV Member Akeisha and a student by the name of Dannay. There were two alumni members: BWV Member Brittany and alumni Jennifer. Olivia was the moderator. The final day was titled “HBCUs & The Culture” and the keynote speaker was Dr. Canela Eatman and Maya was the moderator. Butterflies With Voices, Incorporated has an active webpage. The Instagram page has 486 followers and follows 867. This is an increase in last year’s 427 followers and 821 followed. There are 447 posts which means 56 posts were created this year. The Facebook has 276 likes which is 19 more from last year. Both Facebook and Instagram are set to run for the 2021-2022 year. Both social networks ran a virtual Scholarship Week which provided information of several scholarships that were local and national. The Greater Waterbury Area of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Knowledge is Key, and KLM Scholarship Foundation participated. It also included tips on obtaining a letter of recommendation, writing an essay, and organization. There was also posts’ for Black History Month, Juneteenth, and Women’s History Month. BWV also has a YouTube video page, which includes 5 videos, 4 of which are new this year and are of the 4 college week sessions.Connecticut Chapter consisted of six members, Olivia Dudley, Jaydee Betances, Melitza Rivera, Maya Vasquez, Franshelly Duarte and Akeisha Latch. Both Ariana Jefferson and Celina Gomes resigned this year. Celina left to start her own business Top Ace Cleaning Services, which was featured in the Embracing Me Workshop, and Ariana Jefferson left for personal matters. Virginia consisted of two members, Brittany Fisher and Ebone Williams. Out of the 9 members, 9 members will return for the 2021-2022 year.  |  |  |

## futures/MENTEES

* There were no futures/mentees this year

## Finances

BWV started with $65.81 and ended with $553.87. The Connecticut Chapter started with $4907.77 and ended with $1,108.83. Finances went towards the webpage, email, bank account fees, life skill workshops, bonding activities, events, sister’s closet, storage fees, and a new account on Zoom. Money was transferred from CT Chapter to main account to cover overhead expenses.

## Meetings

The board held a meeting every month of the Fiscal Year besides in February. Meetings lasted between 60-90 minutes. Connecticut also ran meetings and/or phone conferences.

## HIGHLIGHTS

* Jaydee launched her own business “Jaydee B LLC” in January
* Ebone graduated with her MSW in May
* Brittany gave birth to a baby girl on July 13
* Ebone launched her own business “True Beauty” in August

## Goals

* + Butterflies With Voices completed the first year of the two year strategic plan (July 2020-June 2022). There is a standing document that includes a revised vision and five SMART goals as seen below. This will continue to be worked on in the second year to continue a successful program. Each member signed on for a two-year membership to execute the plan. There will also be all member meetings to enhance the sisterhood and to review the strategic plan every quarter.
		- MISSION & SERVICES
			* To actively serve young ladies through empowerment, knowledge, and sisterhood
		- VISION
			* An organization that provides an enterprising sisterhood that assures success within realistic reach of every young lady who it serves and that teaches seven guiding principles-motivation, humbleness, loyalty, kindness, faithfulness, wisdom, self-awareness.
		- GOALS/OBJECTIVES
			* Goal 1: Youth to graduate high school
				+ Access to achieve their goals and have the supplies that are needed
				+ Offer one to one mentoring where the mentee also has the opportunity to become a mentor- emotional support
			* Goal 2: Strengthen leadership skills, self care, and inner confidence.
				+ At least 30 life skill workshops over the next two years
				+ Mental health webinars including cyber bullying
			* Goal 3 :Create a community of resources
				+ Organize four events (Sisters Closet, Embracing Me Workshop, Mother and Daughter Bonfire, Father and Daughter BBQ)