



A PROJECT OF THE  
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION

**University of Nigeria,  
Nsukka, Nigeria**

**COMMITTEE CHILDREN'S CENTRE  
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007  
(for the period: October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007)**

The 2006/2007 session was marked by a number of activities, including vibrant Easter and Long Vacation Programmes and a Reading Picnic filmed by NTA.

### **Children's Centre Development**

#### **Grounds Development**

This session saw completion of the walling of the premises, which will allow for landscaping and playground development. This was made possible by part of the two million naira donated by Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu in 2006. Trees and shrubs were also planted and a sandbox constructed. Plans for further playground development are underway. Two new gardeners, Boniface Ukwuaba and Tobias Eze were employed as casual workers paid by the University following an interview on March 6, 2007.

### **Programmes and Events**

#### **Christmas Caroling 2006**

The Centre's traditional Christmas caroling took place in December 2006, with a total of N74,360.00 realized. Funds were used primarily for landscaping and purchase of books.

#### **Easter Vacation Programme**

One hundred children participated in an exciting one-week programme organized by Dr. Goodhead Uchendu and his volunteers from Monday, April 9 to Saturday, April 14, 2007. Youth Corper Ayo Ekun assisted in conducting the programme and attracting additional volunteers. Activities included computer training (Benson Akindugbagbe), video shows (Ayo Ekun, Goodhead Uchendu), Beadmaking (Blossom Onwuka, Felicia Oyedeji, Ngozi Nwaegbu-Nzeocha), poster making (Chuka Iwundu), tie-and-dye and batik (Okezie Chima, Ebere Julispel), music (Bro. Gogo Nnubia, Sowechi Ebi), songs (Chinemere Anyaoha, Nwanne Uchendu), miming (Onyekachi Kalu, Nwanne Uchendu, Ngozi Nwaegbu-Nzeocha), leadership training (Ikay Mbah Mmecha), football, table tennis, chess (Kelechi Orji), crocheting (Mrs. Ify Nebo, Ola Ogban). The closing ceremony and exhibition held on Saturday, April 14th included performances by the junior and senior choirs, miming group, and drama. The grand finale was a football match graced by the presence of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chinedu O. Nebo, and UWA Patron, Mrs. Ify Nebo.

#### **NTA Reading Picnic**

A reading picnic arranged in conjunction with Tony Alum of the Ivory Readership Club and NTA Enugu took place on Saturday, May 19, 2007. The NTA crew filmed children enjoying games and storytelling, playing table tennis, and discussing books and reading.

### **Long Vacation Programme**

The 2007 Long Vacation Programme took place from August 13 to September 14, 2007. The programme was coordinated by Fidelia Asiegbu, assisted by Ngozi Osadebe. Fifty children registered for the programme at N500.00 while 34 children paid an extra N100.00 for the excursions. Activities included cookery classes on preparing fishroll (Ezinne Njoku) and meat pie (Adaeze Chukwukelu); cardmaking with Idom Ogban-Iyam; beadmaking with Chibuzo Eze; a health talk on HIV/AIDS and youth given by the Youth Friendly Centre; computer training in the Department of Library and Information Science; sports activities like football and table tennis; and excursions to the Motherless Babies Home, Lion Bread and Lion Water, and Coca Cola Bottling Company at 9<sup>th</sup> Mile Corner. The closing ceremony took place on Saturday, September 14, 2007.

### **Story Hour Art Activity with Joanne Ezeilo**

Joanne Ezeilo, one of our founding mothers now resident in England, visited Nsukka and gave a story hour with art activities at the Children's Centre in November 2006. She presented prizes and donated a number of art supplies for future use.

### **Visit by Elisabeth Odenigbo and Liz Peri**

The Centre held a small reception for two old friends in September 2007. Elisabeth Odenigbo and her family visited Nsukka from their present home in Germany. An active member in the 1980s, Lis led the Motherless Babies Project and such vacation activities as Baking for Juniors. During her visit Lis donated 400 Euros to the Children's Centre. Our second visitor, Liz Peri, is the widow of Sandor Peri, the architect who designed the Children's Centre Madam Hulder Iwuanyanwu Building. Liz visited the Children's Centre with a view to commemorating his contribution to its development.

### **Send Forth for Youth Corpers**

The Children's Centre enjoyed the services of two wonderful youth corpers in 2006 and 2007. Elizabeth Babarinde, who was sent forth on June 19, 2007, is a staff wife and has joined the Committee. Ayotunde Ekun was sent off at the end of his service year in August. We wish both Elizabeth and Ayo every success in their future endeavours.

## **CHILDREN'S CENTRE LIBRARY**

### **Registration**

In this session, there were 108 new registered members and 107 renewals, making a total of 215 registered users for the session.

### **Personnel**

The library was maintained by Margaret Ajogwu (librarian), Rose Asogwa (library assistant and cleaner), Gregory Nwodo (driver) and Ayo Ekun (corper), all under the supervision of Prof. Virginia Dike. Students and staff of the Department of Library and Information Science assisted in maintaining the library.

### **Collection Development**

Accessioned books reached 16,922 by the end of the 2006/2007 session, with 688 new books accessioned. African children's literature titles were acquired with two annual grants of N20,000.00 each from the Prof. Edith Ihekweazu memorial fund; these titles were purchased at the October 2006 National Book Fair in Enugu and the Pan African Reading for All Conference in Accra, Ghana in August 2007. Other book purchases were made at the Nigerian Library Association Conference in Uyo in September 2007. CD-ROMs and games

were acquired in Abuja at Children’s Affairs and Nu Metro Media. The library also received book donations from the Indianapolis Public Library.

### **Circulation**

Circulation statistics for the 2006/2007 session are shown below.

	a.m.	p.m.	Saturday	Total
October – December 2006	160	-	42	202
January – March 2007	131	-	237	368
April – June 2007	667	-	300	967
July – September 2007	1,685	-	284	1,969
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,643</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>3,506</b>

### **Library Activities**

#### **Story Hour**

Saturday story hour and library hours continued throughout the session, led by our librarian Margaret Ajogwu and youth corper Ayo Ekun. Students of Library and Information Science also conducted story hour as part of their practical experience.

#### **Support for Abuja Workshop on School Libraries in the Basic Education Programme**

The Children’s Centre Library provided 500 books for a mini-library and materials for 8 bulletin board displays at a national workshop organized by the Department of Library and Information Science for the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC). The workshop, held at NERDC, Abuja from September 25-27,2007, trained supervisory personnel from all over the country on the role of school libraries in attaining the objectives of basic education. Attention was focused on expanding resources for teaching and learning, developing information skills through project work, and promoting reading through the school library.

#### **School Outreach in Cooperation with PULA**

This programme continued with more book distributions to participating schools. In addition to the original six schools (Agu Achara and Model Primary School II in Nsukka town, three schools in Nru, and one in Obimo) and three schools with government-provided library collections (Model Primary School I; C. P. S. I Nru; and Hilltop Primary School Ajuona Obimo), three additional schools developed library accommodation and began to benefit from the programme. These are Township Primary School II, Nsukka; J.P.S. Umakashi and C.P.S.Nguru. The programme faced some challenges during the session. The United States postal service discontinued all international surface mail, increasing the cost of book postage fourfold. This turned new attention to acquiring books locally. A serious windstorm blew off many roofs in the area, with the result that funds intended for developing the school library had to be diverted to roof repair. At the same time the Enugu State education authorities banned all primary school levies and fundraising efforts, again stopping ongoing library development. We are hopeful that solutions will be found in the new session.

#### **Bookmark Programme for International School Library Day**

The Children’s Centre participated in sharing child-made bookmarks through an activity organized by the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) for International School Library Day on October 23, 2006. Children from Saturday story hour, the University Staff School, and four participating Nsukka public schools made bookmarks with a picture and brief review of a favourite book and exchanged them with American schools in Michigan, South Carolina, and Alabama. The children also exchanged information about their schools and way of life.

### Story Hour Programmes with Schools

A series of story hour programmes was held in the library for second grade classes of the University Staff School and fourth grade classes of C.P.S. Onuiyi.

### Prison Libraries

Libraries initiated by the Children's Centre in the Nsukka and Awka Prisons continued to offer vital services to inmates. The Awka Prison has begun to offer examination preparation classes based in the library for junior secondary school and primary school examination candidates. The two library services featured in a paper presented by Virginia Dike and Margaret Ajogwu at the 4<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Reading for All Conference held in Accra, Ghana in August 2007.

## FINANCIAL REPORT (covering the period from October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007)

Item		Naira
<b>Opening Balance (October 1, 2006)</b>	UNCB 3,825.62 + Cash 70,931.00	<b>74,756.62</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Library registration fees and fines		66,695.00
Christmas caroling 2006		74,360.00
Easter vacation programme (fees, donations, sales)		20,030.00
Long vacation programme fees		28,400.00
Ihekweazu memorial fund annual gift 06-07		20,000.00
Other donations (M. Meagher, T. Nwala, etc.)		16,000.00
<b>Total income</b>		<b>225,485.00</b>
<b>Total available</b>		<b>300,241.62</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Books and other materials		93,689.00
Stationery supplies and postage		8,215.00
Public relations and receptions (send forth, etc.)		13,100.00
Maintenance of equipment		1,000.00
Fuel and transport		28,655.00
Vehicle repairs		8,410.00
Payment of casual cleaner		21,000.00
Landscaping		19,320.00
Construction of sandbox		15,000.00
Refurbishing of furniture		17,300.00
Easter vacation programme expenses		17,250.00
Long vacation programme expenses		26,850.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>269,789.00</b>
<b>Closing Balance (September 30, 2007)</b>	UNCB 28,255.62 + Cash 2,197.00	<b>30,452.62</b>
<b><i>UWA Children's Centre Account – Intercontinental Bank</i></b>		
<b>Opening Balance (October 1, 2006)</b>		<b>2,331,466.48</b>
Withdrawals (for walling premises)		869,900.00
Interest		30,769.11
<b>Closing Balance (September 30, 2007)</b>		<b>1,492,335.59</b>

## **Donations**

The Children's Centre is grateful for the following donations:

Indianapolis Public Library for books

Postage of US \$122.00 paid by Virginia Dike to transport these books to Nigeria

Rebecca Nwude for 15 books and 20 magazines

Margrit Meagher for US \$50.00 used to buy two educational CD-ROMs

Prof. T. Nwala for N5,000.00

Ada Ihekweazu for the Ihekweazu family N20,000 for 2006/2007

Ejim Dike for sponsoring the Children's Centre website

Max Krumbach, Germany for 20 Euros (Subscriptions to the Newsletter

Claus and Antje Marcus, Germany for 20 Euros by colleagues of Prof. Willi Kalu)

Marina Riemslag, Belgium for 10 Euros

Tony Alum of Ivory Readership Club for 3 books

## **Obituaries**

The Children's Centre was saddened by the loss of some dear friends during the session. These include the following.

### **Uju Ubagu (1983-2006)**

A child of the Children's Centre and daughter of our friend and former member Sue Ubagu, Uju died suddenly in England on October 19, 2006 after a brief illness. At a celebration of her life on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, her mother requested that any donations be given to the Children's Centre, which had played such a positive role in Uju's childhood. Because of her love for music and talent as a young musician and composer, the donation of 530 pounds sterling will be used to develop music programmes as well as to beautify the Centre and playground with artwork in Uju's memory.

### **Judy Osuala**

The Children's Centre Committee lost one of our most active members on December 2, 2006. Judy Osuala's record of service began with her arrival on campus in 1980. She was among the first to join the library committee and helped organize long vacation activities in sewing, art, caring for others, and learning skills, as well as the annual Christmas caroling. More recently, Judy chaired the equipment sub-committee responsible for procuring computer and audiovisual equipment for the Centre. At the time of her last travel to the United States, she was actively involved in planning the 2006 long vacation programme, playing her usual motherly role in bringing people together. A professor of adult education, Judy offered to donate her materials on women's studies as a special collection of interest to women, a collection that is now being developed as a memorial to our beloved member.

### **Jo Okereke**

The Children's Centre Committee notes with sorrow the passing of Jo Okereke in July 2007 after a long illness. Jo Okereke served both as an active member of the Children's Centre Committee and as President of UWA from 1995-1997. A nurse by profession, she was especially active in programmes promoting reproductive health and use of herbal medicine, as seen by her organization of a seminar by Elizabeth Kafaru during her tenure as UWA President. Jo was also an active library volunteer and member of the Motherless Babies Project. Every Christmas, she helped organize the caroling in Mbonu Ojike Zone, lending her lovely alto voice to the harmony. She also encouraged the participation of her sons, who were active volunteers in the library and long vacation programmes.

### **Sandor Janos Peri (1926–2007)**

The Children’s Centre acknowledges with gratitude the contribution of Sandor Peri, who died in England on February 21, 2007. As the University architect from 1975 to 1987, Sandor had responsibility for implementing many projects within the UNN master plan. A good friend of the Children’s Centre, he freely gave his unique and beautiful design for the Madam Hulder Iwuanyanwu Building as a personal contribution. He also later donated a plan for landscaping of the grounds. His contributions to the arts are being remembered in the Sandor Peri Memorial Art Prize instituted by his wife Liz and friends in the Department of Fine and Applied Arts.

### **Maria Chukwumah (1931–2007)**

The University Women’s Association (UWA) deeply mourns the passing on September 2, 2007 of our beloved Mama, Maria Chukwumah. Mama was President of UWA from 1977 to 1987, during the crucial formative years of the Children’s Centre. It was Maria who suggested the name “Children’s Centre” as an expression of what we were trying to accomplish—a comprehensive child and youth advocacy facility providing a range of educational, developmental and recreational programmes. She participated actively in the preparations leading up to the opening of the library in 1978 and continued involvement throughout her tenure as President. She made a lasting contribution to the University Women’s Association and indeed to the University of Nigeria through her role in developing the Children’s Centre.

### **Children’s Centre Committee**

The Children’s Centre Committee met seven times during the session, on November 21, 2006, February 13, April 17, May 8, June 19, July 17 and September 7, 2007. Three new members joined: Ify Ezeorah, Ezinne Njoku, and Elizabeth Babarinde. Members for the session were:

Prof. Virginia Dike, Chair	Dr. Grace Anyanwu	Mrs. Oby Ikeme
Ms Terri Emezi, Vice-Chair	Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde	Mrs. Ngozi Mamah
Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe, Secretary	Mrs. Susan Echa	Mrs. Ify Nebo, Patron
Mrs. Fidelia Asiegbu, Asst. Sec.	Mrs. Ifeoma Echezona	Mrs. Ezinne Njoku
Dr. Nkadi Onyegegbu, Treasurer	Mrs. Ngozi Ekere	Mrs. Stella Nwadinobi
Mrs Alice Okore, Chair Lib.Comm.	Dr. Chinwe Ezeani	Mrs Nwanneka Nwala
Ms Margaret Ajogwu	Dr. Ify Ezeorah	Miss Anthonia Ogbu
Dr. Jo Alumanah	Dr. Julie Ibiam	Mrs. Charity Okide
Dr. Ogo Amucheazi	Mrs. Chiazio Igboeli	Dr. Vicky Onu

We are grateful to all our supporters—our generous benefactor, Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu, our Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chinedu O. Nebo, and UWA Patron, Mrs. Ify Nebo, staff and students of the Department of Library and Information Science, Goodhead Uchendu and our youth volunteers, People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA), and all our wonderful friends at home and abroad. We look forward to your continuing support in the new session.

Prof. Virginia Dike  
Chair

Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe  
Secretary

Dr. Nkadi Onyegegbu  
Treasurer