



A PROJECT OF THE
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

**University of Nigeria,
Nsukka, Nigeria.**

*By reading we learn,
By knowledge we serve*

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

**ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009
(covering the period: October 1, 2008– September 30, 2009)**

The Children's Centre recorded significant achievements during the session. The University administration approved establishment of the Centre as a public service and teaching support unit of the University and construction of a multi-purpose asphalt ball court. The original playground pavilion was moved to the permanent site. The Centre also mounted its first ever Children's Day celebration.

Children's Centre Development

Proposal

After due consideration the University administration approved establishment of the Children's Centre as a public service and teaching support unit of the University. This new arrangement is intended to provide firmer foundation for the Centre and ensure that it is enabled to continue its contributions in furthering the public service and teaching functions of the University. Under this structure the Centre will be overseen by a Board of Governors made up of current stakeholders and managed by a Coordinator on parallel appointment from an academic department. The Centre looks forward to full implementation of this structure in the new session.

Multi-purpose asphalt ball court

The University has graciously agreed to enhance sports facilities at the Centre by constructing a multi-purpose asphalt court for basketball, tennis and other court games. The contract has been awarded and work is expected to begin early in the new session.

Playground Pavilion

This session saw the reconstruction of the original playground pavilion on the permanent site. First built in 1980 with sculpted panels by students of El Anatsui, the renovated structure features additions of a dwarf wall and thatched roof. It was financed by funds raised by our former art teacher Sue Ubagu and named in memory of her daughter, Uju Ubagu (1983-2006). The pavilion is proving to be a great favourite with children and adults alike.

Landscaping

The Committee embarked on additional landscape development by planting forty shade trees and flowers. Landscape officer, Mr. James Aboh, graciously volunteered his time in maintaining the shade trees for the first three months.

Painting of the Building

The University kindly painted the outside of the building and made provision to continue with the inside as part of campus enhancement for the 2009 NUGA games.

Furnishings

In order to better display the history of the Children's Centre, a committee headed by Ebele Maduewesi was set up to procure a custom-built display cabinet for photograph albums and other records in the library. This was financed with the donation of N25,000 given by our former member and UWA secretary, Kodili Ezeike, now resident in the United States. The library also added a piece of stitch-and-stuff artwork purchased at the exhibition of our Patron, Mrs. Ify Nebo. It features the nursery rhyme "Hey, Diddle, Diddle!" Mrs. Nebo also gave the Centre a piece depicting Noah's Ark as a farewell present.

Personnel

Staffing of the Centre suffered a setback in August 2009 with the disengagement of casual workers under the Vice-Chancellor's Office. These include a cleaner, two gardeners/groundsmen and two night guards. It is hoped that implementation of the new structure will provide for these as basic support staff. At the same time, we are most appreciative of staff developments in the Children's Centre Library in its capacity as teaching laboratory of the Department of Library and Information Science: the employment of a Higher Library Officer, Elizabeth Babarinde and conversion of Rose Asogwa to Assistant Chief Library Assistant.

Programmes and Events

Christmas Carolling 2008

The annual caroling was most successful, raising a total of N93,420.00 for the Centre. Our thanks go to Ngozi Mamah, the caroling coordinator and zonal coordinators Ifeoma Echezona and Amaka Okafor (zone I), C. L Dim and Ngozi Mamah (II), Chinwe Ezeani (IIIa), Ngozi Ekere (IIIb), Virginia Dike and Ngozi Osadebe (IVa), Oby Ikeme (IVb), Amaka Ejikeme (V).

Motto and Anthem for the Children's Centre

The Children's Centre gained a motto during the visit of our former member Joanne Ezeilo in May 2009. Children put heads together to come up with the motto: "By reading we learn; by knowledge we serve." The Centre also received a copy of the Children's Centre anthem, written by Teresa Mbakamma of the University Staff School and performed by the children on all our special occasions. Our thanks go to Joanne and Teresa for these contributions.

Children's Day Celebration

This was the grand event of the session, taking place on Saturday, May 30, 2009. The theme of the celebration was: The Nigerian Child in the Next Ten Years: Challenges and Prospects. Organized by a committee made up of Grace Anyanwu, Ngozi Osadebe, Amaka Ejikeme, Fidelia Asiegbu, Ezinne Njoku and Stella Nwadinobi and ably assisted by members of AIESEC, the celebration featured dance, music, drama, creative writing, art, and a quiz competition by fifteen primary schools in the Nsukka area. Prizes were awarded and the children entertained. This event was made possible by a number of generous donors, who are acknowledged in the donations section of this report.

Long Vacation Programme 2009

A very successful long vacation programme was held from August 17-31, 2009. This was organized by a sub-committee made up of Margaret Ngwuchukwu, Ngozi Osadebe, Ezinne

Njoku and Amaka Ejikeme. One hundred and five children registered for activities organized by age for 1-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-15 years. Activities included excursions to the fire station and UNN pharmaceutical laboratory, talks by Ebele Maduewesi on human development and AIESEC members on HIV/AIDS, crafts such as sewing, hat making and toy making, computer training, baking, and many others. The programme culminated in a show for parents and exhibition of the children's work.

AIESEC African Young Entrepreneurs Project YES!

The international students' organization AIESEC, which partners with UWA, held a free, four-week training on entrepreneurship at the Children's Centre beginning on July 15, 2009. Trainers included Prof. P. U. Nwangwu, Dr. M. O. Okeannyibe, Mr. Victor Iwuala, Dr. Goodhead Uchendu, and two AIESEC interns, business students from Hong Kong. Sixty participants were selected from the over 200 people attending the opening ceremony. Our congratulations go to AIESEC for this noteworthy and most successful initiative.

Newsletter

This session saw publication of two issues of the Children's Centre Newsletter, #12 of September 2007 and #13 of May 2009. These featured Easter and Long Vacation programmes, the women's book club, opening of the football field and pavilion, outreach to schools and many more events.

Children's Centre Library

Registration

In the 2008-2009 session there were 134 new registrations and 77 renewals by individuals and 7 new institutional members and 17 schools renewing their registration, for a total of 211 individual and 24 institutional registrations.

Personnel

The library was maintained on a daily basis by Margaret Ngwuchukwu, librarian; Elizabeth Babarinde, higher library officer; and Rose Asogwa, assistant chief library assistant, under the supervision of Virginia Dike. Invaluable assistance was also provided by Olisa Nnabugwu, a student on the work-study programme, and Olayemi Olawunmi Oriyomi, a student of home economics education on industrial training. Our former library attendant, Ngozi Ezenagu also volunteered her time to keep the library open during the strike.

Collection Development

Accessioned books reached 18,202 by the end of the session with 861 new books added in 2008/2009. Books were acquired from the Enugu Book Fair and Nigerian School Library Association Conference in Ibadan in October 2008, the Nigerian Library Association Conference in July 2009, and from Winny-M Books and ABIC Books in Enugu. The library also received book bags from the Traverse Area District Library, Indianapolis Public Library and People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA), all in the United States.

Circulation - Circulation statistics for the 2008-2009 session are shown below:

	Weekdays	Saturdays	Total
Oct.-Dec. 2008	165	171	336
Jan.-Mar. 2009	105	196	301
Apr.-June 2009	505	181	686
July-Sept. 2009	890	193	1,083
Total	1,665	741	2,406

Library Activities

Virtual Tour with *Amadi's Snowman*

The library opened the session with participation in a virtual tour centered on the picture book, *Amadi's Snowman* by Katia Novet Saint-Lot. Set in Enugu, the book describes one boy's discovery of the value of books and reading. Participation began with a story hour introducing the book on October 18, 2008, followed up by another session at Central School I. On Nov. 6th the Children's Centre was featured on the virtual tour via the Internet. Children answered questions from a school in India and posed their own questions on the blog. They also sent their artwork and reviews of favourite books.

School Library Outreach

The library continued its outreach to primary schools with a workshop for teacher librarians held on November 8, 2008. The workshop, attended by 50 teachers from 36 schools in the area, took up the theme of Library Periods in the Curriculum, exploring how library periods could be used to develop information literacy, promote reading, and encourage independent learning through project work. The Children's Centre also continued its cooperation with People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA) in developing school libraries. By July 2009 library collections of between 200 and 500 books had been distributed to 10 primary schools through PULA. Gifts were followed up by school visits to help organize collections for use.

Prison Library

The Children's Centre continued visits and donations to the Nsukka Prison Library, which we founded in 2000. Donations included requested textbooks, Nigerian novels and a large collection of comics donated by Chinweze Dike. The prison library is fortunate to have had a succession of dedicated staff and is very much valued by the inmates.

Women's Book Club

The book club initiated by PULA with a donation of multiple copies of seven books and coordinated by Chiazio Igboeli, continued with lively discussions of three books. These were: *The Price of Motherhood*, an examination of the problems faced by mothers in the United States by Ann Crittenden; *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a novel by Harper Lee exploring race relations in the American South of the 1930s; and *Pride and Prejudice*, the classic English Victorian novel by Jane Austen.

Milestones

Send-off for Mrs. Ify Nebo

One June 1, 2009 the Children's Centre sent off their much-loved Patron, Mrs. Ify Nebo. In parting Mrs. Nebo presented the Centre with a stitch-and-stuff artwork depicting Noah's ark, while also receiving souvenirs of a carved table and clock from the committee. Ify Nebo contributed mightily to the Children's Centre during the tenure of her husband, Prof. Chinedu O. Nebo, as Vice-Chancellor. She personally participated in vacation activities—teaching baking, embroidery and stitch-and-stuff and attending all the children's shows. She took special interest in the prison library as an extension of her own activities for prisoners' welfare. Moreover, she was our constant advocate with the Vice-Chancellor and as such was instrumental in approval of the proposal and multi-purpose court and the placement and welfare of Children's Centre staff.

Retirement of Mr. Greg Nwodo, Children's Centre Driver, 1988-2008

The Children's Centre sent off Mr. Greg Nwodo, our bus driver of twenty years, on Feb. 16, 2009, following his retirement from the service of the University. "Uncle Greg" was a very

capable and responsible driver, who carefully nursed our aging bus. But he was much more than that. Greg Nwodo was an active participant in excursions, visits to the Motherless Babies Home, and vacation activities, and an ever willing and able hand in the library. We wish him active and happy years as a senior citizen.

Obituary – Prof. Louis A. Agu (1930-2008)

The Children’s Centre was saddened by the death of our good friend, Professor Louis Agu in December 2008. As Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) during the Centre’s crucial formative years in the late 1980s and early 1990s, he was a friend we could always count on when we ran into trouble. As a voluntary organization without regular funding, we very much appreciated this reliable support from the DVC’s office. For his many contributions Louis Agu was awarded a certificate as a Friend of the Children’s Centre at our 25th Silver Jubilee Anniversary in 2004.

Obituary – Prof. Ogbu Uke Kalu (1942-2009)

The Children’s Centre regrets the sudden death of Prof. Ogbu Kalu, husband of the Children’s Centre Committee’s founding chair, Prof. Wilhelmina (Willi) Kalu. Among his many other notable accomplishments, Prof. Ogbu Kalu played a crucial role in the development of the Children’s Centre as a member of the University of Nigeria Governing Council from 1980-1984. There he gained the support of the University administration and connected sympathetic alumni, in particular Chief E. C. Iwuanyanwu and Prince Albert E. Koripamo, to the Children’s Centre. The result was the Madam Hulder Iwuanyanwu Building, the Centre’s first bus and basic library collection, and the original playground.

Donations

Children’s Day Celebration

Cash donations

Bonez Nig.Ltd.	N50,000	Jives Pure Water	N10,000	Chioma Bakeries	N5,000
UNN MFB	N40,000	Hilson Nig.Ltd.	N10,000	Prof. A.C.Anyanwu	N5,000
John Holt Nig.	N20,000	Albertina	N10,000	Prof. Uche Agwagah	N3,000
Jendicks Nig.Ltd.	N10,000	Lolo Okwor	N5,000	Ferdinand Asogwa	N2,000
Emyap Nig.Ltd.	N10,000	Lolo Mamah	N5,000	Prof. Nwadike	<u>N1,000</u>
					N186,000

Non-cash donations

University of Nigeria General Enterprises	50 pieces of meat pie
University of Nigeria water resources laboratories	20 bags pure water + 1 carton bot. water
Coca Cola Bottling Company	3 crates mineral
Anthony Obetta	3 crates mineral
Dr. (Mrs.) Ifeoma Echezona	2 cartons Beloxi cream cracker biscuits
Ecaison Pure Water	10 bags of pure water
Chitis Bakeries	500 kg chin chin
Mr. and Mrs. Umeano	100 chairs
M. C. Pure Water	20 bags pure water + 4 cartons bot. water
UBA Plc UNN branch	5 dozen 40 leaves exercise books
Prof. A. C. Anyanwu	2 cartons Beloxi cream cracker biscuits

Other Children’s Centre donations

Ejim Dike for sponsoring the website for the fifth year @ approximately \$100 per year;
 The Edith Ihekweazu Family for their 5th annual grant of N20,000 for the research collection;
 Chinweze Dike for donating his extensive collection of super hero comics;

Kodili Ezeike for N25,000, used to construct a photo album display case;
 Willi Kalu for a donation of \$70; Ify Nebo for stitch-and-stuff artwork depicting Noah's ark;
 Indianapolis Public Library, USA for 2 cartons of books donated in April 2009;
 Traverse Area District Library, USA for 5 cartons of books + postage of \$378;
 People United for Libraries in Africa for US \$1,500 to buy books for school libraries;
 Katia Novet Saint-Lot, author of *Amadi's Snowman*, for 5 copies of her picture book;
 Virginia Dike for \$200 for website & N12,000; Books from Ejim, Nkem & Chinelo Dike;
 Uche Agwagah for a 2008 caroling donation of N500.

Financial Account

Opening Balance (October 1, 2008)	Naira
(N462,302.09 bank + N13,309.00 library cash book)	475,611.09
Bank Deposits and Interest	
Christmas caroling 2008	93,420.00
Donation of 1,225 Euros from Ngozi Odenigbo and friends	209,800.00
Donation from Virginia Dike	12,000.00
Donation from Kodili Ezeike	25,000.00
Donation of \$70.00 from Willi Kalu	8,125.00
Edith Ihekweazu Family annual grant for 2009	20,000.00
Interest	6,763.80
Total deposits and interest	375,108.80
Income in Library Cash Book	
Withdrawals from bank (300,000 for pavilion & books + 68,000 for books + 90,000 for furnishings + 20,000 for patron's send-off + 20,000 for African research collection)	498,000.00
Library registration fees and fines	57,385.00
Long vacation fees	61,800.00
Rentals	15,500.00
Total Income	632,685.00
Cash Balance from 2007-2008	13,309.00
Total Funds Available	645,994.00
Expenditure	
Books and other materials	162,695.00
Stationery supplies and postage	6,840.00
Maintenance of equipment	16,700.00
Fuel for bus	39,091.00
Fuel for lawn mower	7,920.00
Vehicle maintenance and repair	18,445.00
Book preservation and repair	13,900.00
Payment for casual cleaner for 10 months	30,000.00
Long vacation programme expenses	58,900.00
Pavilion construction	258,650.00
Driver's allowances	3,500.00
Receptions	14,610.00
Souvenirs	14,000.00
Total Expenditure	645,251.00
Closing Cash Book Balance	743.00
Closing Balance (Sept. 30, 2009)	
(N327,470.89 bank + N743.00 cash book)	328,213.89

Children's Centre Committee

The Children's Centre Committee met nine times during the session, on October 7 and November 18, 2008; and January 15, February 9, April 6, May 7, May 28, June 23 and July 21, 2009. Final events of 2008-2009 were reported at the first meeting of the new session held on October 13, 2009. Members for the 2008-2009 session were:

Prof. Virginia Dike, Chair	Dr. Grace Anyanwu	Mrs. Chiazio Igboeli
Ms. Terri Emezi, Vice-Chair	Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde	Mrs. Oby Ikeme
Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe, Secretary	Mrs. Susan Echa	Prof. Ebele Maduewesi
Mrs. Fidelia Asiegbu, Asst. Sec.	Mrs. Ifeoma Echezona	Mrs. Ngozi Mamah
Dr. Nkadi Onyegegbu, Treasurer	Mrs. Amaka Ejikeme	Mrs. Marg. Ngwuchukwu
Mrs. Alice Okore, Chair Lib.Comm.	Miss Helen Eke	Mrs. Ezinne Njoku
Mrs. Ify Nebo, UWA Patron	Mrs. Ngozi Ekere	Mrs. Stella Nwadinobi
Prof. Uche Agwagah	Dr. Chinwe Ezeani	Miss Anthonia Ogbu
Dr. Jo Alumanah	Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ezekwe	Mrs. Charity Okide
Dr. Ogo Amucheazi	Dr. Ify Ezeorah	Dr. Vicky Onu
	Dr. Julie Ibiam	Ms. Kasie Ugwu

We are grateful to all Children's Centre supporters—our generous benefactor, Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu; the outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chinedu O. Nebo and UWA Patron, Mrs. Ify Nebo for their generous support of the Centre during their years in office; staff and students of the Department of Library and Information Science for continuing assistance in maintaining the library; People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA) for their cooperative support in developing school libraries in the Nsukka area; AIESEC members and other youth volunteers in our programmes; our many friends who supported the Children's Day Celebration; and all our other wonderful friends at home and abroad. We look forward to your continuing support of the Children's Centre.

Prof. Virginia Dike
Chair

Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe
Secretary

December 16, 2009