



A PROJECT OF THE  
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION

**University of Nigeria,  
Nsukka, Nigeria**

[www.childrenscentreunn.org](http://www.childrenscentreunn.org)

*"By Reading We Learn  
By Knowledge We Serve"*

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

**ANNUAL REPORT 2010/2011**

**(Covering the period: October 1, 2010-September 30, 2011)**

The session recorded several notable events. It began with a party and football match to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nigerian Independence and the founding of the University of Nigeria. Mid-year came the celebration of Children's Day, and the session was brought to a close by the annual Long Vacation Programme. This and other activities feature in this year's Annual Report.

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

#### **Sandor Peri Memorial Art Prize**

The Centre was privileged to be recipient of the annual art prize established as a memorial to Sandor Peri, the architect of the Madam Hulder Iwuanyanwu Building. The sum of N119,750 was sent by his widow Liz Peri for development of artwork on the grounds. Plans are now under way for creating animal play sculptures with this donation.

#### **Visit by Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu**

While here for a conference in May 2011, our benefactor Chief Iwuanyanwu paid a surprise visit on the Children's Centre and expressed his pleasure at the level of activity in the library and the general appearance of the facility. In the conference hall he presented a check of N500,000 to the President of UWA to support further Children's Centre development.

#### **Meeting with Alumni**

The Alumni of the University Staff School, most of whom are also Alumni of Children's Centre, visited during the School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in August 2011. During a meeting with representatives of the Children's Centre Committee, the Alumni pledged their support for development of the Children's Centre, which had made such impact on their early years.

#### **Maintenance of the Building and Environs**

With the assistance of our Patron, Barr. (Mrs.) Nwanneka Okolo, the President of UWA, Prof. Kate Oreh, and Chair of the Children's Centre Committee submitted a report to the Vice-Chancellor on renovation needs of the building. These include, among others, renovation and repair of the roofing sheets and supports, solution of the problem of water seepage on some of the walls, and reconstruction of a fallen septic tank and soakaway pit. To solve an immediate danger to small children, the Committee arranged construction of an iron protector to cover the fallen soakaway pit just outside the main building entrance; this is pending a more comprehensive repair of the pit itself.

### **Maintenance of the Grounds**

The task force came periodically to cut the grass, courtesy of Chairman Prof. Nwodo, especially on request just before major events. This was a major assistance, since the Centre no longer has the two casual workers and a functioning lawnmower. Trimming and watering of flowers and shrubs was undertaken by our dedicated gardener, Mr. Boniface Ukwuaba until his untimely death in April 2011. Grounds maintenance remains a major area of concern, since the grass grows faster than it can be cut during the rainy season and there is no one to care for the flowers and shrubs.

### **Children's Centre Bus**

The 15-seater bus donated by Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu following the Children's Centre 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is serving us well, especially for children's activities, the schools and prison outreach programme, and official trips. After a brief experiment with occasional bus hires, the Committee decided to halt this activity in order to prolong the life of the bus and ensure its availability for the purposes intended by the donor.

## **Programmes and Events**

### **Nigeria @ 50 Independence Match**

On October 9, 2010 the Children's Centre mounted a football match to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nigeria as an independent country. The match was between the Cubs Reading Club of Children's Centre and the Shining Stars of Umeano Quarters. The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Barto Okolo donated a trophy for the match. The Patron of UWA, Barr.(Mrs.) Nwanneka Okolo, provided the entertainment for the event. The football match ended in favour of Shining Stars of Umeano Quarters, as they scored a single goal against the Cubs Reading Club.

### **Christmas Carolling, 2010**

Members of the Children's Centre went caroling in December 2010 and received donations totaling N80,370. These came from Mbonu Ojike/Murtala Mohamed Zone (38,850), Marg. Cartwright/Ikejiani/Fulton East (21,650), Umunkanka (10,420), Eze Opi/Alvan Loving (7,000), and Odim (2,450). Various problems encountered that year prevented caroling in Marg. Cartwright West and resulted in very limited caroling in the Odim area. Our thanks go to all our carolers and coordinators. These are Mrs. Ngozi Mamah and Dr. Ifeoma Echezona for Zone I; Mrs. Ezinne Njoku and Dr. Chinwe Ezeani for Zone IIIa; Dr. Ngozi Ekere for Zone IIIb; Prof. Virginia Dike, Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe and Dr. Alice Okore for Zone IV; and Mrs. Amaka Ejikeme for Zone V.

### **Children's Day Celebration, 2011**

The Children's Centre Committee organized a Children's Day Celebration on May 30, 2011 to mark Children's Day. Children turned out en masse for the celebration. Eight primary schools, including the University Staff School attended. Activities for the day included a football match between the Cubs of Children's Centre and Shining Stars of Umeano Quarters, music by the University Staff School band, dances by Model I and Owerre Obukpa primary schools, and drama. Organizers of the event were Alice Okore, Terri Emezi, Fidelia Asiegbu, Amaka Ejikeme, and Ngozi Osadebe. The celebration was funded by N40,000 from Committee funds, N20,500 remaining from the Patron's Grand Get-together for UWA, and through donations of N20,000 from UWA and others from members of the University community. (See donations and financial account.)

### **Long Vacation Programme, 2011**

This ran from August 29-September 24, 2011. Thirty children registered for the programme: seven between 3-5 years paid N500, while twenty-three between 6 and 15 years registered for N1,000. The low turnout can be attributed to the late start of the programme, the result of lack of volunteers. The sub-committee organizing the programme was made up of Mrs. M. N. Ngwuchukwu, Mrs. E. T. Babarinde, and Precious, a member of AIESEC. Activities included tailoring and piano classes, as well as talk shows, spelling bee and arts activities led by AIESEC. Of special note were the tailoring classes, where children learned to cut and sew clothes. Sewing machines were hired so as to make the children learn it effectively.

### **Book/Football Club**

Young adults within the University community are increasingly becoming aware of the Book/Football Club, led by Committee Secretary Ngozi Osadebe. Membership has been stretched beyond initial boundaries due to the popularity of this activity. From the recommended maximum of 20, membership now stands at 36, and more are indicating interest. During the period under review, the Book/Football Club was able to read the following books: *Something to Hide*, a Pacesetters title by Rosina Umelo, set in Kenya; *King Forever*, by Buchi Emecheta; *Bongani's Secret*, a South African story by Gail Smith, and *Nwogo the Witch* by Cheryl Ann Obele (Macmillan Winners Series). The Club also played two matches with Shining Stars of Umeano Quarters: the first on October 9, 2010 and the second on May 30, 2011 during the Children's Day celebration.

### **Children's Centre Library**

#### **Registration**

During the 2010/2011 session, there were 222 new registrations and 107 renewals, as well as registration by 6 schools as institutional members.

#### **Personnel**

The library was kept open and maintained by staff of the Department of Library and Information Science. These include Margaret N. Ngwuchukwu, Lecturer I, who is supervisor of student practicals; Elizabeth Babarinde, Higher Library Officer; and Asst. Chief Clerical Officer Rose Asogwa. Cleaning was carried out by Juliana Ugwuona and Mary Rose Ugwu.

#### **Collection Development**

Books accessioned increased from 18,505 to 18,735 during the session, with 210 new books added to the register. These were acquired through donations from Mrs. Chiagozie Nwokolo, a beneficiary of the library as a child and daughter of our former member Mrs. Bridget Nze; Mrs. Tochukwu Okpara of Fine and Applied Arts, and Mrs. Rebecca Nwude; and Chinweze Dike, among others. Several authors also donated their works: Prof. Françoise Ugochukwu, who donated books she authored in French and Igbo; Ojiaka Ekwelie, a former staff child; and Teresa Ameh, former student of Library and Information Science. Other titles were purchased with the Ihekweazu family annual grant and other funds.

**Circulation** - Circulation statistics for the 2010/2011 session are as follows:

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Weekdays</b>	<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>Total</b>
Oct.-Dec, 2010	370	57	427
Jan.-Mar, 2011	161	107	268
Apr.-Jun, 2011	449	247	696
Jul.-Sept, 2011	1,442	404	1,846
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,422</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>3,237</b>

## Library Activities

### Saturday Story Hour and Book Club

Regular activities during Saturday hours (9am-2pm) were story hour and a book club, both under the direction of Elizabeth Babarinde. The book club, which met two Saturdays a month, is made up of 11 members, mostly female, between the ages of 8 and 12. Its aim is to promote reading among children. Some books discussed were *The Village of Round and Square Houses*, *Without a Silver Spoon*, *The Origin of Life on Earth*, *The Blind Men and the Elephant*, *Sebugugu the Glutton*, and *Drummer Boy*. Discussion centered on the author, illustrator, setting and plot. Children were also advised to write out new words, find their meaning and use them to form sentences, thus increasing their vocabulary.

### Schools Outreach

Primary schools with libraries were visited by a team made up of Virginia Dike, Margaret Ngwuchukwu, Grace Onyebuchi and Elizabeth Babarinde. The team initiated a Best School Library Competition, guidelines for which were explained during a workshop at the Children's Centre Library. An aspect of the competition involves carrying out projects that develop information skills. Final evaluation of school libraries will be done early in 2012.

### Prison Library Outreach

Visits were made to the Nsukka Prison Library and donations of books and magazines made.

## Donations

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

### Children's Day Celebration

UWA	20,000.00	Dr. M. O. Okoye	1,000.00
Prof. El Anatsui	10,000.00	Dr. Alice M. Okore	1,000.00
Dr. Anthonia Uzuegbunam (on behalf of grandchildren)	10,000.00	Mr. Vincent Ekwelem	1,000.00
Ketochukwu & Nkimpka		Mr. Dim	1,000.00
Prof. Uche Nzewi	10,000.00	Dr. Mercy U. Nwegbu	1,000.00
Prof. Chinedu Nebo	10,000.00	Dr. Ezekiel O. Omeje	1,000.00
Prof. Kate Oreh	5,000.00	Dr. Victor N. Nwachukwu	1,000.00
Dr. Jo Alumanah	5,000.00	Mr. Cyprian I Ugwu	1,000.00
Dr. Nkadi Onyegebu	5,000.00	Mr. N. T. Imo	1,000.00
F. Jumoke Oloidi	5,000.00	Mr. E. D. Chigbu	1,000.00
Mrs. C. I. Ezekwe (on behalf of grandchildren Ike, Ugonna, Chimdindu, Somtochukwu)	5,000.00	Jerry Ezirim	1,000.00
Dr. Chizua Umeano	4,000.00	Mr. Ernest C. Onah	1,000.00
Anonymous	2,500.00	Prof. Vero Okeke (on behalf of granddaughter Obimdinachi)	1,000.00
Dr.(Mrs.) U.kwe	2,000.00	Maggi Acholonu	1,000.00
Anthony N. Eke	2,000.00	Mr. Chijioke Ugwuanyi	500.00
Anonymous	2,000.00	Dr. Amaka Okafor	500.00
Prof. Elsie Ogbonna	2,000.00	Mr. A. A. Ali	500.00
Ms. Terri Emezi (on behalf of grandchildren Chiwetara)	2,000.00	Mr. B. Asadu	500.00
Mandela & Adannaya Lonay)		Mr. C. C. Eze	500.00
Mrs. Nkechi Okeke	1,000.00	Mr. I. Ezema	500.00
		Mr. Brendan Asogwa	400.00
		Anonymous	300.00
		Uche Ukaegbu	200.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>120,400.00</b>

**Other Donations**

Sandor Peri Mem. Art Prize	N119,500	Francoise Ugochukwu, author	10 books
Audrey & Ugonna Ezeh (\$300)	N45,000	Peninsula Community Lib.	18 books
Ejim Dike for sponsoring website	\$100	Indianapolis Public Library	10 books
Chiagozie Nwokolo	76 books	USAID	2 books
Okpara Tochukwu Felicia	45 books	Nkem Dike	1 book
Rebecca Nwude	37 books	Kathy Elekwa	1 book
Chinweze Dike	56 comics		

**Financial Account****UNN Microfinance Bank Savings Account**

<b>Opening balance 1/10/10</b>	<b>93,240.89</b>
<b>Bank deposits</b>	
Christmas caroling 2010	80,370.00
Sandor Peri Memorial Art Prize	119,750.00
Audrey and Ugonna Ezeh	45,000.00
Bus hire	31,170.00
Anonymous	5,000.00
Interest	15,465.77
<b>Opening balance + total deposits</b>	<b>389,995.66</b>
<b>Bank withdrawals</b>	
To Library for salaries and routine expenses	52,000.00
To Library for books (Ihekweazu grant and Pius Udo donation)	30,000.00
To Secretary for Children's Day	40,000.00
<b>Total withdrawals</b>	<b>122,000.00</b>
<b>Closing balance 30/9/11</b>	<b>267,995.66</b>

**Library Cash Book**

<b>Opening balance 1/10/11</b>	<b>40,198.00</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Library registration fees and fines	73,310.00
Money withdrawn from bank for salaries and routine expenses	52,000.00
Ihekweazu and Udo donations from 2009/2010 withdrawn from bank	30,000.00
Long vacation registration fees	26,000.00
Balance from Children's Day funds of N40,000 from bank	2,345.00
Football Club registration fees	3,100.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>186,755.00</b>
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>226,953.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Books and other materials	47,670.00
Stationery supplies	19,310.00
Maintenance of equipment	13,880.00
Fuel for bus	37,400.00
Vehicle maintenance and repair	20,400.00
Salary for casual workers	54,000.00
Book preservation and repair	14,500.00
Long vacation expenses	25,460.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>224,620.00</b>
<b>Closing balance 30/9/11</b>	<b>2,333.00</b>

## **Obituary – Lady Eudora Iwuanyanwu**

We condole with our benefactor, Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu over the passing of his lovely wife, Lady Eudora Iwuanyanwu, on August 28, 2011. Lady Iwuanyanwu was a strong advocate of the Children's Centre over the years, ardently supporting its development along side her husband. We learned to count on her to relay any important communications from the Children's Centre to Chief Iwuanyanwu. She played a prominent role in the hand-over of the Madam Hulder Iwuanyanwu building in 1986 and Children's Centre Silver Jubilee in 2004; she graciously entertained the women any time we visited Owerri on Centre business. At the time of her death we were looking forward to a visit Lady Eudora promised the women when Chief Iwuanyanwu visited the campus in May 2011. May her gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

### **Children's Centre Committee**

The Committee met nine times during the session, on October 19 and November 2, 2010 and March 8, March 22, March 29, April 19, May 10, June 28 and September 6, 2011.

Members for the session included the following:

Prof. Virginia Dike, Chair	Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde	Mrs. Oby Ikeme
Ms. Terri Emezi, Vice-Chair	Dr. Ifeoma Echezona	Mrs. Ngozi Mamah
Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe, Secretary	Mrs. Amaka Ejikeme	Mrs. Meg Ngwuchukwu
Mrs. Fidelia Asiegbu, Asst. Sec.	Miss Helen Eke	Mrs. Ezinne Njoku
Prof. Nkadi Onyegegbu, Treasurer	Dr. Ngozi Ekere	Mrs. Stella Nwadinobi
Dr. Alice Okore, Chair Lib.Com.	Dr. Chinwe Ezeani	Miss Anthonia Ogbu
Prof. Uche Agwagah	Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ezekwe	Mrs. Charity Okide
Dr. Jo Alumanah	Prof. Julie Ibiam	Mrs. Grace Onyebuchi
Dr. Grace Anyanwu	Mrs. Chiazio Igboeli	Ms. Kasie Ugwu.

### **Conclusion**

We are grateful to all Children's Centre supporters, notably our generous benefactor, Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu. We are grateful to UWA Patron, Barr. (Mrs.) Nwanneka Okolo, for championing the cause of the Children's Centre and working for its progress and development. We appreciate the assistance of the University Administration of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Barto Okolo; Prof. Nwodo and his environmental task force; Engineer T. Osadebe, the Director of Works Services; staff and students of the Department of Library and Information Science for continuing assistance in maintaining the library; AIESEC members and other youth volunteers in our programmes; our caroling and Children's Day donors; Liz Peri, Audrey and Ugonna Ezeh, the Ihekweazu family and all our wonderful friends at home and abroad. We look forward to your continuing support of the Children's Centre.

Prof. Virginia W. Dike  
Chair

Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe  
Secretary

Prof. Nkadi Onyegegbu  
Treasurer

Mrs. Margaret Ngwuchukwu  
Financial Secretary