

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

(For the period October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005)

The Children's Centre continued development spurred by the 25th Anniversary as additional donations came in during the session. Notable contributions included the Edith Ihekweazu Memorial Alcove, computer equipment from Sue Ubagu and the Parkside School in England, and fundraising by University of Nigeria staff children resident in Lagos. To assist the committee, the University Women's Association (UWA) expanded and formalized three ad hoc committees—on equipment, landscaping and playground development.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

Equipment

The Equipment Committee, chaired by Judith Osuala and her deputy Chinwe Ezeani and actively assisted by Fidelia Asiegbu, Nkadi Onyegegbu and Virginia Dike, made substantial progress in equipping the Centre. A donation of 931 British pounds sterling from the Parkside School in England enabled the Centre to begin computerization. Moved by the Silver Jubilee appeal, Sue Ubagu, a former committee member now teaching art at Parkside and her students raised money through the exhibition and sale of art works. The funds were used to purchase and prepare space for two computers, a printer, scanner, and other accessories. One computer is for library reference use while the other is being used to set up a desktop publishing unit for local reading and learning materials. A third computer and a printer have been donated by Kelechi Ekezie of Eusomics Nigeria Limited; this is the first of the contributions promised by Nsukka Old Friends living in Lagos. In addition, the Centre has purchased a television, video and VCD player with Silver Jubilee contributions to the library from Ada Udechukwu, Bibiana Ukaegbu and Ejim Dike. Programmes for utilizing these acquisitions are a first assignment for the new session.

Landscaping

The Landscaping Committee, chaired by Nneka Onwubiko with active participation from Fidelia Asiegbu, Ngozi Osadebe and Ifeoma Echezona, worked out specifications and estimates for completing the walling of the Children's Centre premises. This was identified as a priority since it is a prerequisite for further landscaping and playground development.

Landscaping was enhanced by the approval of two part-time gardeners by the University Administration. We are grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C. O. Nebo, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. F. I. Idike, for their sympathetic attention to our appeal. We would also like to thank Engr. T. N. Osadebe, the Director of Works Services for assisting with walling estimates and leveling of the grounds, Dr. L. Orajaka for the assistance of the task force in cutting the field grasses, and Prof. L. Madubunyi for his advice on pest control.

Playground Development

The Playground Development Committee, led by Grace Anyanwu with assistance from Virginia Dike and Ngozi Osadebe, liaised with D. O. Dike of the Department of Health and Physical Education in preparing the football field donated by Dr. (Mrs.) Uche Azikiwe at the Silver Jubilee Celebration. In addition to this, the committee appealed to the Vice-Chancellor, through our patron Mrs. Ify Nebo, for the University to provide the Centre with a multi-purpose asphalt court for basketball, tennis and other games. We wish to thank him for the favourable response to our request and look forward to the first sports facilities being available to children in the coming session. Playground development is also an area of interest for the Nsukka Old Friends in Lagos.

Edith Ihekweazu Memorial Alcove

The children of late Prof. (Mrs.) Edith Ihekweazu, an active foundation member of the Children's Centre, have furnished an alcove for the African Children's Literature Research Collection in her memory. This was found to be appropriate because of her devoted service to the Centre and interest in African literature. The gift includes a bookshelf, display stand, table and chairs, and Hausa leatherwork poufs, as well as an annual donation of N20,000 for developing the collection. The alcove was presented by Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu during his visit to Nsukka in May 2005. On the occasion he expressed the debt he felt to the Children's Centre and urged other alumni to find ways of contributing to its further development.

Assistance from Nsukka Old Friends in Lagos

Following the Silver Jubilee appeal, Lagos-based UNN staff children and their friends, who benefited from the Children's Centre while growing up in Nsukka, initiated plans to assist. The planning stage culminated in a get-together hosted by Chinenye Mba-Uzoukwu at the Manhattan Restaurant in Lagos on September 16, 2005, during which Children's Centre Chair Virginia Dike presented development needs. Attending were Chinenye Mba-Uzoukwu, the convener and host, Martin Nwoga, Ifeanyi Ozoh, Okey Ezeilo, Alozie Nwoke, Osita Ike, Nnaemeka Amaefunah, Ken Ekezie, Joan Otaru (nee Ekezie), Mr. And Mrs. Uche Ogu, Kelechi Ekezie, Chiamaka Amaefunah (nee Ekezie), and the Egboh sisters. Kelechi Ekezie pledged two computers and the application software to manage the library; one computer and printer were delivered before the end of the session. Other pledges include a computer together with games and simulation CDs from Ken Ekezie; a set of books from Mrs. Uche Ogu; a set of encyclopedias and other books from Osita Ike. Emeka Amaefunah offered to facilitate a workshop to create play sculptures for the playground. The group also made useful suggestions for contacts with outside donors.

Donation by Wilhelmina Kalu to the Psycho-Educational Testing Services (PETS)

Prof. (Mrs.) Wilhelmina Kalu, an educational psychologist and the former chair of the Children's Centre Committee, made substantial donations of testing materials, books, journals and other papers in the area of special education and educational psychology during a visit to Nsukka in June-July 2005. This is in addition to the original reference library and toy collection which she donated when PETS was set up in 2000. During her visit, she also conducted a workshop and guided members on the use of the tests and toys in counseling. She has promised another workshop during her next visit.

PROGRAMMES

Christmas Carolling 2004

Children, youth and women went on their traditional Christmas carolling on behalf of the Children's Centre from December 12-18, 2004. The Centre realized the record sum of N70,185, even though only 5 out of the 8 zones were covered. Nneka Onwubiko served as carolling coordinator, while zonal coordinators included Ifeoma Echezona, Ngozi Mamah, Chibuzo Dim, V. Okafor for zone I; Nwanneka Nwala, Chinwe Ezeani, Ngozi Ekere, and Mrs. Aneke for zone III; Alice Okore and Pauline Agu for zone IV; Fidelia Asiegbu, Terri Emezi, and Nkadi Onyegegbu for zone V. Special thanks go to Ifeoma Aniakor and Nkemjika Onuoha for their organization of the caroling in zones III and VI. Donations were used to build library furniture and pay the salary of the Saturday library attendant.

Reception of UWA Patron, Mrs. Ify Nebo

Members of the University Women's Association welcomed their new patron, Mrs. Ify Nebo, the wife of the Vice-Chancellor in February 2005. At a reception held in her honour, the patron was given a guided tour of the Children's Centre and introduced to its programmes and plans. Mrs. Nebo, a religious counsellor with extensive experience in children's work and domestic arts, expressed delight in the Association's activities and pledged her support and active participation. Since that time she has provided welcome support to playground development, vacation activities and the prison library project.

Long Vacation Programme 2005

Fidelia Asiegbu, assisted by Ngozi Osadebe and Grace Anyanwu, coordinated a most successful vacation programme in August and September. For the first time in years the 84 children who signed up for excursions were able to go beyond Nsukka, thanks to the provision of buses by Patron Mrs. Ify Nebo and the University Librarian, Mr. Emenike Ikegbune. Places visited in Nsukka included the University zoological garden and archeology museum, motherless babies home and Holy Rosary Confectionary and Retreat Centre. Children went on two excursions to Enugu, visiting the airport and National Commission for Museums and Monuments the first day, and Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and Cosmo FM the second. In addition to the excursions, coconut rice was prepared during a cookery class conducted by the coordinators on August 21 and Mrs. Ify Nebo hosted a bakery class at the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge on August 25, 2005. As a grand finale, Grace Anyanwu organized a long-awaited talent show for the children. Prizes donated by Dr.(Mrs.) Anyanwu were awarded and a joyous time was had by all.

UWA Support for University Student Groups—AIESEC and NIA

UWA continued her supportive relationship with the international students group AIESEC, providing accommodation for training workshops while AIESEC members took charge of Saturday story hours and playroom activities. UWA President Nwanneka Nwala attended the 3rd graduation ceremony of NIA, an organization committed to empowering young women in Eastern Nigeria. UWA cooperates with NIA in mounting leadership institutes and programmes for university students held in Nsukka.

Children's Centre Newsletter #11

A double issue of the newsletter came out in July 2005. It covered the Silver Jubilee celebrated in May 2004 and subsequent developments through the first half of 2005. Members of the editorial committee for this issue included Virginia Dike, Alice Okore, Terri Emezi and Judith Osuala. Photo pages were provided by Ogonna Agu.

Children's Centre Website

An exciting development of the session was the posting of the Children's Centre website in January 2005. The site was designed with the assistance of webmaster Chinweze Dike and is being sponsored for the first year by Ejim Dike. We encourage our friends to go to www.childrenscentreunn.org for Centre information and news of recent developments.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE LIBRARY

The Library has completed 27 years of operation since its opening in 1978, 18 of them in the Madam Hulder Iwuanyanwu Building. Books accessioned stood at 15,467 at the end of September 2005. A total of 4,797 children have registered with the library since its inception in 1978. In 2004/2005 there were 140 new members and 120 renewals, or a total of 260 children registered for the session. There were also six primary schools registered as institutional members. Library fees were increased to N200 for initial registration and N100 for annual renewal; the fees for institutional members are N500 and N200 respectively.

Library Operations

Facilities

The session saw notable additions to library furniture. To accommodate increasing numbers of books, three new bookshelves were built with funds donated by our former member Elisabeth Odenigbo. Carolling donations provided two custom-built cabinets for the vertical file collection and a map display stand that also serves as a writing board. A Silver Jubilee donation from the Young family built a puppet stand and provided new toys for the playroom. The northwest corner of the library was developed as the Edith Ihekweazu Alcove, housing the African Children's Literature Research Collection.

Personnel

The library continues to rely on the services of our University staff, Rose Asogwa and Greg Nwodo, and the Department of Library and Information Science, whose staff and students provide technical assistance. Part-time library assistant Ngozi Ezenagu continued to keep the library open on Saturdays through the end of the session. In September 2005 the Centre received its first National Youth Service Corps member in several years. She is

Elizabeth Babarinde, a UNN graduate in Mass Communications. Committee members and AIESEC members conducted Saturday story hours. Martina Obeta gave welcome assistance in typing catalogue cards and Nkiru Okafor helped with the typing of committee documents.

Collection Development

A total of 597 books were accessioned during the session. These were primarily donations from the Traverse Area District Library and Indianapolis Public Library, both in the United States, and our former member Nancy Street. Additions to the audiovisual collection included toys, a set of tournament chess and a current map of Nigeria.

Circulation

Circulation statistics for the 2004/2005 session are as follows:

	a.m.	p.m.	Saturday	Total
Oct.-Dec.	397	--	548	945
Jan.-Mar.	372	--	651	1,023
Apr.-June	649	--	880	1,529
July-Sept.	<u>2,404</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>849</u>	<u>3,253</u>
Total	3,822	--	2,928	6,750

These figures again point up the importance of opening the library on Saturdays and the heavy use of the library during the long vacation. It is hoped that the proposed programme of library visits and story hours by the University Staff School will increase opportunities for children to use the library year round.

Library Sub-Committee

The Children’s Centre Committee has reconstituted the library sub-committee under the leadership of Alice Okore, a librarian with the University Library. Members include librarians Virginia Dike, Chinwe Ezeani, Ifeoma Echezona, Ngozi Osadebe, Fidelia Asiegbu and Ngozi Ekere, as well as Terri Emezi and Nneka Onwubiko. The sub-committee initiated monthly cataloging parties from February 2005 and so far they have successfully cleared the backlog of new books from the workroom. It has also started processing donations of books, journals, pamphlets, and toys from Prof. Wilhelmina Kalu to PETS. In addition, it held a book repair workshop and made recommendations on the purchase of furniture.

Activities

Library Workshop on Records Management and Story Hour Programmes

The second Children’s Centre Committee library workshop took place on November 2-3, 2004 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. each day. Conducted by Committee Chair Virginia Dike, the purpose of these workshops is to equip members for increasing participation and leadership in running the library. The first day took up the issue of records management, looking at library records concerning registration, circulation and the collection, as well as financial records and annual reports; the second day considered materials and methods for conducting story hour programmes.

Story Hour

Story hour continued throughout the session, coordinated by Ngozi Osadebe and conducted by members, the Saturday library assistant Ngozi Ezenagu, Margaret Ajogwu, and members of AIESEC.

Programme with University Staff School

In April 2005 the committee proposed a programme of cooperation to the University Staff School Board of Governors. It consists of library visits of groups of pupils for library orientation, story hour, user education and project work. The proposal has been approved and modalities are being worked out with the new headmistress, Mrs. Susan Echa, for its implementation in January 2006. The sub-committee charged with this assignment includes Ngozi Ekere, Oby Ikeme, Grace Anyanwu and Virginia Dike.

Schools Outreach in Cooperation with PULA

The schools outreach programme initiated by Virginia Dike and Ogo Amucheazi attained a new level during the session, with the donation of over 550 books by the U.S.-based NGO, People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA). These were distributed to six public primary schools in the Nsukka Central Local Government Education Authority that had provided library accommodation and furniture. The schools were identified with the help of Anthonia Ugwu, the LGEA library supervisor, who cooperates closely with us on this project. Workshops on the organization and use of the books are continuing in the new session.

Prison Library

The Nsukka Prison Library also received donations of books from PULA during the session. These included a set of Encyclopedia Americana, books, and recent issues of National Geographic. A new library warder, Joseph Onah, took charge of the library and continued the good work of former warder, E. Eziyi. The committee, accompanied on occasion by our Patron, Mrs. Ify Nebo and UWA President Nwanneka Nwala, made regular visits to monitor the progress of the library. Members of the Prison Library Sub-Committee include Virginia Dike, Nneka Onwubiko, Grace Anyanwu and Ngozi Osadebe.

DONATIONS

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

Indianapolis Public Library for books	Donna Summers \$40] for postage
Traverse Area District Library for books	Nancy Hunt \$40] of books to
Indianapolis Public School 140 for books	Kathy Jenkins \$10] Nigeria
Prof. Willi Kalu-books & magazines for prison	Virginia Dike \$90]
Mrs. Ify Nebo for Sunday school materials	Mrs. Edem Ikoku N2,000
Chimanda Ngozi Adiechie for autographed copy of her novel, <i>Purple Hibiscus</i>	Prof. A.C. Anyanwu N5,000
Prof. Ebele Maduewesi for 2 copies of a reference book on education of the girl child	Mrs. Jo Okereke for books

FINANCIAL REPORT

(Covering the period from October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005)

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Opening Balance (UNCB Acct. 1006.72 + Cash balance 28,857.00)	29,863.72
Income	
Christmas caroling 2004	70,185.00
Library and other registration fees and fines	64,520.00
Donation of \$400 from Elisabeth Odenigbo	54,400.00
Holiday programme fees	12,600.00
Interest from UNCB Bank	<u>469.04</u>
	Total Income
	202,174.04
	Total Funds Available
	232,037.76
Expenditure	
Library	
Books	3,440.00
Audiovisual materials	15,848.00
Stationery supplies	15,680.00
Book preservation	7,710.00
Maintenance of equipment	8,205.00
Workshop expenses	4,056.00
Public relations	6,750.00
Prison library	14,010.00
Transport	14,769.00
Vehicle repairs	<u>8,020.00</u>
	78,187.00
Furniture	54,300.00
Installation of equipment	10,000.00
To UWA for reception of Patron	17,000.00
Salaries of Saturday library assistant and gardener (4 months)	26,400.00
Holiday programme expenses	<u>24,050.00</u>
	Total Expenditure
	231,008.00
Closing Balance (UNCB Bank 660.76 + Cash balance 1,139.00)	1,799.76
 UWA CHILDREN'S CENTRE SPECIAL ACCT.- Intercontinental Bank	
Opening Balance (October 1, 2004)	333,727.62
Deposits	
Additional Silver Jubilee Donations	63,000.00
Donation from Parkside School	232,905.00
Interest	<u>13,243.90</u>
	Total deposits
	309,148.90
	Total Funds Available
	642,876.52
Withdrawals	
Reinbursement of UWA President for expenses	38,000.00
For computer equipment (Parkside School donation)	232,000.00
For video equipment (donations to library)	<u>60,000.00</u>
	Total withdrawals
	330,000.00
Closing Balance (September 30, 2005)	312,876.52

CHILDREN'S CENTRE COMMITTEE

The Children's Centre Committee held meetings on the following dates: November 30, 2004; and March 15, May 3, June 7, July 12, July 26, and September 27, 2005. Members of the committee for the session were:

Prof. Virginia Dike, Chair	Mrs. Oby Ikeme
Mrs. Terri Emezi, Vice-Chair	Mrs. Schola Inyama
Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe, Secretary	Mrs. Ngozi Mamah
Mrs. Fidelia Asiogbu, Asst. Sec.	Mrs. Nwanneka Nwala
Dr. Nkadi Onyegegbu, Treasurer	Dr. Azuka Obidoa
Dr. Jo Alumanah	Dr. Beatrice Okeke-Oti
Dr. Ogo Amucheazi	Miss Anthonia Ogbu
Dr. Grace Anyanwu	Mrs. Charity Okide
Mrs. Ifeoma Echezona	Mrs. Alice Okore
Mrs. Ngozi Ekere	Dr. Vicky Onu
Mrs. Chinwe Ezeani	Mrs. Nneka Onwubiko
Dr. Julie Ibiam	Dr. Uju Umo
Mrs. Chiazio Igboeli	

The committee also enjoyed the participation and assistance of Mrs. Ify Nebo, the Patron of UWA. We are thankful to all those who contributed in one way or the other to making the year a successful one. Our special thanks go to the Vice-Chancellor and his administration, the Department of Library and Information Science, Special Education Unit of the Department of Educational Foundations, University Library, Department of Works Services and Task Force on the Environment for their assistance with our various programmes. Our continuing thanks goes to Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu for providing the beautiful Madam Hulder Iwuanyanwu Building, assisting with our celebration of the Silver Jubilee and pledging his further support of the Children's Centre. We especially thank Dr. (Mrs.) Uche Azikiwe; the children of late Prof. (Mrs.) Edith Ihekweazu; Prof. (Mrs.) Wilhelmina Kalu; Sue Ubagu and the Parkside School; Chinenye Mba-Uzoukwu, Kelechi Ekezie and the Nsukka Old Friends in Lagos for their generous donations to our further development during the session. We look for your continuing support in the coming year.

Prof. Virginia Dike
Chair

Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe
Secretary

Dr. Nkadi Onyegegbu
Treasurer