

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

**ANNUAL REPORT 2005/2006
(for the period: October 1, 2005- September 30, 2006.**

The Children's Centre had a number of activities during the year but the biggest events were the Easter Vacation Programme, the first of its kind, and Long Vacation Programme, which saw the commissioning of the Chukwudi Tobenna Douglas Azikiwe football field. Other activities included purchase of a lawn mower to keep the grounds well cut, outreach to schools and prisons, and computer training for the children. In August our illustrious donor Chief (Dr.) E.C. Iwuanyanwu presented a gift of two million naira, which will be used for two vital projects: walling of the Centre and purchase of a bus.

Children's Centre Development.

Equipment.

The Equipment Committee, chaired by Judith Osuala with assistance from Chinwe Ezeani and other members, consolidated efforts begun last session. The computers donated by the Parkside School and Kelechi Ekezie made it possible to introduce computer training and offer digital reference sources, while video and VCD players were utilized during story hour activities.

Landscaping/Playground Development

The Landscaping and Playground Committees joined hands to come out with practicable results. A lawn mower was bought through caroling donations and donations from parents and friends (see Donations). This has helped to keep the field well cut. Estimates for completing walling of the Centre were facilitated by the Director of Works, Engr., T.N Osadebe, and work was in progress by the end of the session. Contacts on further playground and sports development were continued with the University Administration and our old friends in Lagos

Commissioning of the Chukwudi Tobenna Douglas Azikiwe Children's Football Field

Another highlight of the session was the commissioning of a children's football field developed through a N50,000 donation by Prof. Uche Azikiwe. The field is named in loving memory of her grandson, Chukwudi Tobenna Douglas Azikiwe. The commissioning took place during the closing ceremony of the long vacation programme and was followed by a football match between the Azikiwe and Nebo teams.

Programmes

Christmas Caroling 2005

The traditional Christmas caroling took place in December 2005, with a total of N71,070.00 realized. The greater part of this was put toward purchase of the lawn mower.

Easter Vacation Programme.

The first ever Easter Vacation Programme was held from April 18- May 1, 2006. A total of 126 children registered with a fee of N100 each; an extra N50 was paid for the picnic. The programme was organized by Goodhead Uchendu and his team of volunteers; staff of the Department of Library and Information Science led by Margaret Ajogwu; and Children's Centre Committee members Ngozi Mamah and Stella Nwadinobi. Activities included computer training led by Ndidi Ugwoke and Martina Obeta; creative writing and debate led by Ngozi Mamah, Stella Nwadinobi, Margaret Ajogwu and Elizabeth Babarinde; drama and singing led by Goodhead Uchendu; dance led by Helen Eke; sports led by Mike Okeke; video organized by Uju Chikezie; beadwork taught by Chioma Umezurike; excursions led by Ngozi Mamah, Fidelia Asiegbu and Ngozi Osadebe; and a picnic organized by Goodhead Uchendu, Margaret Ajogwu, Mike Okeke, Uzoma Oluaku, Chesa Okereke and Uju Chikezie, with assistance from Virginia Dike and Mrs. Okebunor. The closing ceremony, chaired by UWA Patron Mrs. Ify Nebo, featured drama and debates. Mrs. Susan Echa gave an appreciation of N1,000 on behalf of the University Staff School.

Long Vacation Programme.

The Long Vacation Programme started on August 21 and ended on Sept. 16, 2006. Over 150 children participated for a registration fee of N250 and extra N150 for excursion. Members of the organizing committee were Alice Okore (convener), Chinwe Ezeani (secretary), Ify Nebo, Judith Osuala, Fidelia Asiegbu, Ngozi Osadebe, Stella Nwadinobi, Ngozi Mamah, Margaret Ajogwu, Goodhead Uchendu (programme director) and Uju Chikezie. Activities included quiz and debate, computer training, choreography, stitch-and-stuff, card making, tie and dye, story hour, talks on HIV/AIDS, and football matches. During the excursion the children visited NTA and Cosmo FM in Enugu. Another important event was the commissioning of the Chukwudi Tobenna Douglas Azikiwe children's football field by donor Prof. Uche Azikiwe during the closing ceremony.

Our thanks go to Alice Okore and the capable members of her committee for planning the programme. We give special thanks to Goodhead Uchendu and all the volunteers who contributed to the programme: Aunty Ola (knitting, HIV/AIDS), Uncle Udom (sports, tie and dye), Uncles Onyeka and Uzodimma (sports), Uncle Derek (miming, drama, choreography, Aunty Uju (miming, drama, excursion). Thanks are also due to the members of the Department of Library and Information Science--Librarian Margaret Ajogwu, and computer trainers Ndidi Ugwoke and Martina Obeta—and Children's Centre Committee member Chiazio Igboeli, who assisted with instruction on HIV/AIDS. The activities were facilitated by the Vice-Chancellor, who donated N20,000 to provide buses for the excursion to Enugu and money for hiring football jerseys. We must not forget to thank UWA Patron, Mrs. Ify Nebo for making time to teach bakery activities at her home and taking the children in stitch-and-stuff. We are grateful to UNN Lion Water for 10 bags of sachet water and to Mrs. Saddiq, who gave N3,500 for video coverage, and Goodhead Uchendu, who gave N1,500.

Women's Reading Club

A women's reading club was introduced this session, made possible by a donation of books from People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA). Chiazio Igboeli was asked to organize the club, which has about eight members. The first books to be discussed are three novels by young Nigerians: *Beasts of No Nation* by Uzodinma Iweala, *Graceland* by Chris Abani and *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Adichie.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE LIBRARY

The library has operated for 28 years since opening in 1978, 19 of them of the Madam Hulder Iwuanyanwu Building. In this session, there were 220 new registered members, including institutional members, and 184 renewals, making a total of 404 registered users for the session.

Library Operations

Facilities

Our former secretary, Ada Udechukwu, donated N30,000 for office furniture during a visit to Nigeria in January 2006. This was used to construct three computer tables, a printer stand, and office file cabinet. Computer and video equipment purchased last year was put into use. Application software has been installed in the computers, for example CD-ROMs of encyclopedias, dictionaries, secondary school learning programmes, and information on animals. The computers are accessible to all registered users.

Personnel.

The library was maintained by Margaret Ajogwu (librarian), Rose Asogwa (library assistant and cleaner), Gregory Nwodo (driver) and Elizabeth Babarinde (corper), all under the supervision of Prof. V.W. Dike. Students and staff of the Department of Library and Information Science also assisted in maintaining the library through their library practice.

Collection Development.

A total 767 books were accessioned during the session. Books were donated by the Traverse Area District Library and Indianapolis Public Library in the United States, and by individuals such as former members Nancy Street and Bibiana Ukaegbu and US-based librarians Janet Claassen and Rebecca Peace Nwude. Other books were purchased in the market and at conferences.

Circulation

Circulation Statistics for the 2005/2006 session are as follows:

| | a.m. | p.m. | Saturday | Total |
|--------------------|--------------|------|--------------|--------------|
| October - December | 330 | - | 521 | 851 |
| January -March | 323 | - | 454 | 777 |
| April - June | 998 | - | 982 | 1,980 |
| July - September | 2,489 | - | 949 | 3,438 |
| Total | 4,140 | | 2,906 | 7,046 |

It is evident from the table that more books were borrowed during the long vacation and on Saturdays, the times children have more opportunity to visit the library.

Activities.

Story hour

Saturday story hour continued throughout the session. Storytelling was done by Margaret Ajogwu, students of Library and Information Science, Goodhead Uchendu and some members of the Children's Centre Committee.

School Outreach.

The Children's Centre continued its outreach to primary schools in the Nsukka area. Six schools were given initial collections of about 150 books from People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA) through its cooperative project with the Children's Centre. By the end of the session fifteen schools had started libraries and were participating in workshops. Workshops were held to teach teacher librarians how to process the donated materials and develop learning skills through library projects. Pupils' projects were evaluated and book prizes awarded to participating schools.

Programme with University Staff School

Story hour activities were held for pupils of the University Staff School. Second grade classes came to the library for orientation in the use of books and libraries, while story hour programmes for first grade classes took place in the school.

Prison Library.

The Nsukka prison library received donations of materials from PULA in the form of National Geographic Magazine, Encyclopedia Americana, novels, and magazines. The session also saw extension of library services and donation of materials to Awka prison in neighbouring Anambra State, where Mr. T. Ndukwu, the former head of Nsukka prison, is now in charge. Several visits have shown that the inmates make use of both libraries.

Donations

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

Library Donations

Traverse Area District Library for books
 Indianapolis Public Library for books
 Nancy Street for books, including
 World Book Encyclopedia, 2003
 Bibiana Ukaegbu for 158 books
 Rebecca Peace Nwude for books
 Janet Claassen for books and library supplies
 Esther Uchendu for 10 books
 Willi Kalu for a collection of books for PETS
 PULA – books for schools and prisons

Christie Achebe for \$100
 Susan Gillespie, Vice Pres. of Bard
 College, on her visit to CCL, \$50
 Ada Udechukwu for office furniture
 worth N30,000
 Ada Ozoemena for Ihekweazu family,
 N20,000 for African children's books
 University Staff School for N1,000
 Ejim Dike for sponsoring the website for
 two years (\$200)

Lawn Mower Donations

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Engr. B.O. Anyaka | 500.00 | Mrs. Alice Okore | 1,000.00 |
| Dr. & Dr (Mrs.) E.O. Ezeani | 1,000.00 | Mrs. Scholastica Igwe | 200.00 |
| Mrs. Ify Nebo | 10,000.00 | Prof. & Dr. (Mrs) P.I. Akubue | 500.00 |
| Mr. Paul Ugoji | 5,000.00 | Miss M.N. Ajogwu | 500.00 |
| Dr. (Mrs.). Ogo Amucheazi | 2,000.00 | Prof. Charles Igwe | 1,000.00 |
| Prof. Virginia Dike | 2,000.00 | Dr. (Mrs.) Chinwe Nwagbo | 3,000.00 |
| Mr & Mrs, E.O. Izukanne | 500.00 | Prof. & Mrs. P.A. Nwachukwu | 2,000.00 |
| Prof. Judith Osuala | 2,000.00 | Miscellaneous sales | <u>1,000.00</u> |
| Mrs. Ngozi Ekere | 500.00 | | |
| | | | N32,700.00 |

FINANCIAL REPORT

(Covering the period from October, 2005- September 30, 2006)

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | | | N |
| Opening Balance (UNCB Acct. N600.76 + cash balance N1,139.00) | | | 1,739.76 |
| Income | | | |
| Library and other registration fees and fines | | | 105,225.00 |
| Christmas caroling 2005 | | | 71,070.00 |
| Easter vacation programme | | | 16,250.00 |
| Long vacation programme | | | 61,890.00 |
| Lawn mower donations | | | 32,700.00 |
| Ihekweazu memorial fund | | | 20,000.00 |
| Other cash donations (Achebe, Gillespie, Univ. Staff School) | | | 20,500.00 |
| Interest from UNCB Bank | | | <u>2,094.86</u> |
| | Total Income | | 329,729.86 |
| | Total Funds Available | | 331,469.62 |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Library | Books and other materials | 11,760.00 | |
| | Stationery supplies | 8,903.00 | |
| | Book preservation | 1,750.00 | |
| | Maintenance of equipment | 13,490.00 | |
| | Public relations | 7,810.00 | |
| | Transport | 20,730.00 | |
| | Equipment | 11,800.00 | |
| | Vehicle repairs | 14,670.00 | |
| | Postage | <u>3,950.00</u> | |
| | | | 94,863.00 |
| | Easter vacation programme expenses | | 21,945.00 |
| | Long vacation programme expenses | | 54,905.00 |
| | Lawn mower | | <u>85,000.00</u> |
| | Total Expenditure | | 256,713.00 |
| Closing Balance (UNCB Acct. N3,825.62 + cash balance N70,931.00) | | | 74,756.62 |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| UWA Children's Centre Special Acct: Intercontinental Bank | N |
| Opening balance (October 1, 2005) | 312,876.52 |
| Donation from Lemeke Mere (April 2006) | 10,000.00 |
| Donation from Chief (Dr.) E.C. Iwuanyanwu (August 2006) | 2,000,000.00 |
| Interest | <u>8,589.96</u> |
| Total deposits | 2,018,589.90 |
| Closing Balance (September 30,2006) | 2,331,466.48 |

Children's Centre Committee

The Children's Centre Committee met on Oct. 25, Dec. 7, 2005, and Jan. 1, 17, 24, April 4, 14, June 6, July 11, Sept. 26, Nov. 21, 2006. Members for the session were:

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

This session witnessed the send-off for Prof. Wilhelmina Kalu, long-time chairperson of the Children's Centre Committee and one of those most responsible for the heights the Children's Centre has achieved. As secretary of UWA in 1978, Willi played a pivotal role in the founding of the Children's Centre. She spearheaded the International Year of the Child Festival and initial playground development in 1979 and chaired the Children's Centre Committee for all but two years from 1980 to 2002. She was instrumental in attracting crucial support from the university administration, alumni and state government. In addition, Willi made outstanding contributions to the International Youth Year Forum, Children's Centre Theatre, Motherless Babies Project, and Ecumenical Religious Activities Programme. In 2000 she initiated the Psycho-Educational Testing Service (PETS) and donated her valuable collection of books, journals, toys, and testing materials. We miss her but are confident of her continued commitment to the Children's Centre from her home in the US.

Appreciation

We are grateful to our generous benefactor, Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu, our Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chinedu O. Nebo and UWA Patron, Mrs. Ify Nebo, Prof. Wilhelmina Kalu, Prof. Uche Azikiwe, the Department of Library and Information Science, Goodhead Uchendu and his wonderful team of volunteers, and all our wonderful donors, mentioned herein and past and present, who have helped make the Children's Centre what it is today. We look forward to your continuing support.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Prof. Virginia Dike Chair | Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe Secretary | Mrs. Alice Okore Chair, Lib. Comm. | Miss Margaret Ajogwu Member |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

