



A PROJECT OF THE
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

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

*By reading we learn,
By knowledge we serve*

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 18

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In This Issue

This was an exciting year for Children's Centre, marked by many auspicious developments. Thanks to a generous donation from our benefactor Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu, we were able to renovate the library and grounds by revitalizing the space for younger children, developing a beginning computer lab, giving a new look to the playground pavilion, and repairing perimeter walling. Another exciting development was bringing out a new edition of our website and engaging more actively with social media. The year also saw another round of lively library and reading promotion programs with schools in the area. On October 17, 2018 we reached another milestone—the 40th Anniversary of the opening of the Children's Centre Library. Read on for the details of our 2018 news.

Visit to Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu



Renovation of Children's Centre facilities began with a visit by the women to Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu early in the year. A delegation of seven members from the University Women's Association (UWA), led by President Dr. Amaka Ejikeme, and outgoing Children's Centre Committee Chair Prof. Jill Dike, visited Chief Iwuanyanwu in Owerri on Feb. 2018. Other members of the delegation were Prof. Nwaozuzu, Prof. Jo Alumanah, UWA Secretary, Mrs. Grace Onyebuchi and Mrs. Ify Evangel Obim. As always, we were given a most gracious reception by our donor and were afforded the opportunity to share our achievements, concerns and hopes for Children's Centre. Chief Iwuanyanwu responded by assuring us of his support, encouragement and advice, beginning with an on-the-spot donation of 500,000 naira to UWA for Children's Centre development. Contacts continued throughout the year and are extending into the new one.

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Renovation of Children's Library

The Committee immediately went to work on a plan to revitalize the area for younger children: rearranging shelves and seats, refurbishing furniture and adding color in tables, storage and throw pillows. A play area was added with toys arranged in colorful baskets and miniature kitchen, dining and living areas

The collection was expanded to include more blocks; small figures and vehicles; puppets, jigsaw puzzles, and picture books.



Enjoying Lego and train set



Puppet tree



Making a puzzle of the solar system



Toy coputer & stethoscope

Workroom and Computer Lab

Another innovation was reorganizing the workroom area for greater efficiency and to create space for a small computer lab with desktops, printer, scanner and external hard drive. This will serve both administrative uses and user services. The library is now poised to digitize its records and catalog, with the help of students of the Department of Library and Information Science during their practical exercises.

Playground Pavilion and Climbing Gyms

Part of the renovation fund went to re-roofing the Uju Ubagu Memorial Pavilion and repainting that and our climbing gyms. These three gyms were part of the original Children's Centre playground opened by Anambra State Gov. Jim Nwobodo (right) during the launching of the Children's Centre project in 1980.



The original pavilion (shown left) was also part of our first playground at the old library site next to the Gymnasium. The sculpted panels, made by students of Fine & Applied Arts under the direction of famed sculptor El Anatsui, were moved to the permanent site in 2008 and incorporated into a renovated pavilion named in memory of Uju Ubagu.

Website and Social Media

This year we brought out a redesigned Children's Centre website, the work of Stanley Mbah, who we thank for a job well done. At this point we also wish to express our appreciation to Chinweze Dike, who designed our original website in 2003 and managed it for ten years free of charge. The new website has incorporated and updated the content of the former one in a more contemporary style. We urge all our readers to check out the new website at www.childrenscentreunn.org. The Children's Centre Library Facebook page also received renewed attention, with posts both commemorating our 40th Anniversary and highlighting current events. This is helping us keep in contact with old friends and users.

Long Vacation Program

The 2018 program was handled by Zionet Techology. It featured such varied activities as dance, both ballet and Indian dance; games like chess, Scrabble, Monopoly, blocks, and outdoor games; sports; and creative activities like bead making, pastry making, spelling bee, and quiz competition. The idea was to offer varied activities rather than focus only on academics. The program for upper primary school children was judged the most successful.

Literacy and Reading Promotion: A major focus throughout 2018

World Book Week – Celebrated by school libraries on March 7th each year, our 2018 edition involved a whole week of activities. Highlights were:

- * a seminar on the benefits of books and reading attended by 250 students at Anglican Grammar School, Nsukka, with presentations by Elizabeth Babarinde, Grace Onyebuchi and Kenneth Ugwu, a comedian and old boy of the school;
- * a workshop for primary school pupils held at Children’s Centre on the theme Developing Reading Culture, attended by pupils and teachers from 16 primary schools, with talks by Elizabeth Babarinde, Grace Onyebuchi, Amaka Ejikeme, and Evangel Obim, and personal stories by Victoria Fagbemi, Stanley Chukwuemeka and Kenneth Ugwu;
- * story hour visits to primary schools in Nsukka, led by Amaka, Grace, Evangel Obim, Evangel Nwankwo and Chika Madumere;
- * literacy promotion visits to the Motherless Babies Home, a school for children with special needs, and Nsukka Prison.

International Literacy Day – Children celebrated International Literacy Day on September 12, 2018 with reading activities in the library and playground pavilion. Facilitators were our new committee chair Ngozi Osadebe, and library worker Florence Nwachukwu.

International School Library Month (ISLM) – October 2018 saw a round of activities on the theme: Why I Love My School Library. We began with a series of story hour visits to five public primary schools. A team of four—Grace Onyebuchi, Elizabeth Babarinde, Evangel Obim and Judith Ezegwu— shared books and knowledge about cultures of East and Southern Africa, Europe, Asia and South America with primary grades 3-6. This introduced the children to varied cultures while exploring universal themes relevant to children everywhere; the program also stimulated love of reading and introduced varied library resources.

ISLM culminated in a Grand Finale at the Children’s Centre on Nov. 5, attended by 100 pupils (twenty from each school) and their teachers. A welcome address by Ngozi Osadebe urged children to share reading experiences and make friends with pupils from other schools. Elizabeth Babarinde shared a Nigerian folktale and led singing activities. Evangel Obim talked on Developing a reading culture; while Grace Onyebuchi discussed Why I love my school library. After a lively musical interlude led by Florence Chukwurah, Grace introduced children to educational use of social media. Ngozi Osadebe concluded with introduction of the bookmark program, a way of sharing Nigerian culture with children in other lands.

Donations

Our major donation of the year was the N500,000 gift from Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu. Outgoing Chair Prof. Jill Dike and her family donated a desktop computer, color printer and accessories; Nigerian novels and children’s books; 16 puppets, puzzles, and other toys. Our friends at Peninsula Community Library and Indianapolis Public Libraries in U.S. donated books, with postage paid by Old Mission Congregational Church and Nkem Dike Chineme.

New Officers for Children’s Centre Committee

We are pleased to announce our new officers elected on March 14, 2018. They are: Dr. Ngozi Osadebe, Chair; Prof. Jo Alumanah, Vice-Chair; Dr. Grace Onyebuchi, Secretary; Dr. Amaka Okafor, Treasurer; and Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde, Asst./Fin. Secretary. UWA also gained a new President during 2018, our own Dr. Amaka Ejikeme. Another member, Prof. Nancy Achebe is the current Head of Library & Information Science.

Rt - Seminar on reading at Anglican Grammar School



Below – Amaka on primary school visit



World Book Week

Below – F. Nwachukwu & children in CCL



Intl. Literacy Day

Rt – Y. Fagbemi addressing workshop of primary school pupils at Children's Centre



Above – N. Osadebe reading to children in pavilion



ISLM in schools

Literacy Promotion 2018



ISLM Grand Finale



G. Onyebuchi telling story to school children at Isiakpu



Above – E. Obim & pupils discussing in CCL
Left – E. Babarinde leading songs during Grand Finale



Above – N. Osadebe welcoming children to CCL

Below – Children w committee members: G. Onyebuchi, E. Obim, J. Dike, J. Ezugwu, N. Osadebe, E. Babarinde

