



A PROJECT OF THE
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

**University of Nigeria,
Nsukka, Nigeria**

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 2012/2013

(Covering the period: October 1, 2012-September 30, 2013)

This session was an exciting one, marked by the introduction of comic book writing as a way of developing literacy, lively and varied long vacation activities attended by 214 children, the culmination of the Best School Library Competition for primary schools in the Nsukka area, and reading promotion through book club activities.

Children's Centre Development

Construction of Septic Tank and Soak Away

These broken facilities were reconstructed by the University in February 2013 through the good offices of our Patron, Barr. (Mrs.) Nwanneka Okolo, and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Bartho N. Okolo. We are very grateful for this kind gesture, which remedied a major hazard to children at the Centre.

Maintenance of the Building and Grounds

Thanks to the intervention of our Patron, Barr. (Mrs.) Nwanneka Okolo, the perimeter wall was repaired and heightened to discourage trespassing. The Children's Centre grounds were maintained during the session by the task force on environment at the instance of Prof. Nwodo, Chairman, and Engr. T. Osadebe, Director of Works Services. The Works Department also supplied water in tankers, since water has not been running at the Centre for some years. Cleaning was carried out by Mary Rose Ugwu and Juliana Ugwuona, while the plants were maintained by gardener/groundsman C. Ukwuaba; however, the Committee reluctantly accepted inability to pay salaries of any workers from July 2013.

Construction of Sandor Peri Memorial Art Prize Play Sculptures

Students of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, under the direction of Dr. Chijioko Onuora, constructed two tortoise play sculptures as part of the Sandor Peri Memorial Art Prize given by Liz Peri in 2011-2012. We look forward to their forthcoming installation.

Programmes and Events

Children's Christmas Party, 2012

This annual event is provided by the Vice-Chancellor's wife and UWA Patron, Barr. (Mrs.) Nwanneka Okolo. The Christmas party took place on December 15, 2012 at the Children's Centre grounds and featured Little Baby of Bethlehem, a play directed by Dr. Grace Anyanwu; masquerading dance by St. Peter's altar boys; and dancing and merry-making of the children with Santa and Barney.

Christmas Carolling

Due to various circumstances, it was not possible for the Children's Centre to go carolling in 2012. We intend to resume this important cultural and fundraising activity in 2013.

Election of a New UWA Executive

In February 2013 new executive officers were elected by the University Women's Association (UWA) at a grand event and annual general meeting held in Princess Alexandra Auditorium with the assistance of our Patron, Barr. (Mrs.) Nwanneka Okolo. Elected officers are: Prof. Ify Achike, President; Dr. Nkechi Okebunor, Vice-President; Mrs. Ngozi Nwoye, Secretary; Mrs. Stella Okonkwo, Asst. Sec.; Mrs. Anthonia Aneke, Fin. Sec.; Mrs. Ada Nwodo, Treasurer; Dr. Nkiru Ohia, Soc. Sec.; Mrs. Ifeoma Nwufo, Asst. Soc. Sec.; Dr. Bibian Phil-Eze, PRO I; Mrs. Nkiru Okolo, PRO II. We congratulate them and promise our cooperation in working for a most successful tenure.

Children's Day Football Match

The Children's Centre sponsored a football match between the Cubs and University of Nigeria Secondary School on May 29, 2013. This was attended by Prof. Ify Achike and other members of the UWA Executive, Children's Centre Committee members, and the Principal, teachers and youth from the Secondary School; the University Staff School band provided music for the occasion. The match ended in favor of the secondary school team 2-0.

Comic Book Writing for Literacy Workshop

Prof. Obiajulu Emejulu, a visiting professor on sabbatical in the Department of Library and Information Science, led a training-the-trainers workshop that introduced comic book writing as a way of encouraging literacy for people of all ages. Trainees included members of the Children's Centre Committee, lecturers from the Department of Library and Information Science and other departments, teacher-librarians from award-winning primary schools, and warders from Nsukka prison. Participants met at the Children's Centre in February-March, 2013 to plan and create original comic books. This was in preparation for the long vacation programme and anticipated teachers' workshop preceding the Reading Association of Nigeria (RAN) Mid-term Conference being hosted at UNN in October.

Long Vacation Programme, 2013

Holiday programme activities commenced on 5th August and extended to 4th September. The programme was organized by the Children's Centre Committee members, some AIESEC members and volunteers. Prof. Obiajulu Emejulu played a special leadership role and introduced exciting new creative writing activities. Two hundred and fourteen (214) children registered for the programme. The children were divided into four tiers: nursery-kindergarten, primary 1-3, primary 4-6, and secondary. The children participated in reading promotion programmes such as Uninterrupted Sustained Silent Reading, story hour, puzzles and games, and spelling bees; creative writing activities, including using big books to tell stories, writing stories and biographies in pocket books, and comic book writing; performing arts like dance (both traditional and ballet), piano lessons, and drama; as well as computer training in the MTN Digital Library. The holiday programme ended with excursions: the nursery-kindergarten group going to the Staff Club recreation centre, the primary pupils to Fine and Applied Arts, and the secondary students to Shoprite Mall in Enugu. Finally, children presented a programme of their drama, music, essays and dance for parents and friends. Special thanks go to our organizers and resource persons, Prof. Obiajulu Emejulu, Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe, Mrs. Amaka Ejikeme, Mrs. Grace Onyebuchi, Dr. Meg Ngwuchukwu, Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde, Mr. Tony Izuchukwu, Mr. Kingsley Ihejirika, Mrs. Rose Asogwa,

and members of AIESEC, as well as a big thanks to Dr. Charles Omekwu, the University Librarian, for providing the MTN Digital Library for ICT training.

Excursion to the National War Museum, Umuahia

On September 11, 2013 the Cubs Football Team went to the National War Museum at Umuahia. This was made possible by members levying themselves N1,000 and donations of N10,000 by Prof. Nkadi Onyegegbu and N1,000 by Dr. Goodhead Uchendu. Members were so excited by the exhibits of war equipment, both ancient and modern, that they were reluctant to leave. Memories of this enjoyable and educative excursion will stay with the Cubs for a long time.

Children's Centre Library

Registration

During the 2012-2013 session, 137 children registered as new library users, while 88 renewed their membership. One institutional member joined the library.

Personnel

The library was maintained by staff and students of the Department of Library and Information Science. These include Margaret N. Ngwuchukwu, Lecturer I, supervisor of student practicals; Elizabeth Babarinde, Higher Library Officer; and Asst. Chief Clerical Officer Rose Asogwa. Special mention must be made of the dedicated service of volunteer Olisa Nnabugwu, who kept the library open on Saturdays and also coached the football team. Some outreach and other programmes were hindered by unavailability of a driver for the bus.

Collection Development

Books accessioned increased from 18,940 to 19,086 during the session, with 146 new books added to the register, these being acquired through donations and purchase.

Circulation - Circulation statistics for the 2012/2013 session are as follows:

Quarter	Weekdays	Saturdays	Total
Oct.-Dec, 2012	171	61	232
Jan.-Mar, 2013	204	42	246
Apr.-Jun, 2013	385	88	473
Jul.-Sept, 2013	929	125	1,054
Total	1,689	316	2,005

Library Activities

Saturday Library Hours and Story Hour

The library was kept open for reading, borrowing and story hour by Elizabeth Babarinde and Olisa Nnabugwu. During the second semester LIS students Prince Jacon Igwe, Obinna V. Omeje, Iduehe An iesime Udom, Emmanuel O. Commander, and Moses I. Ekeruo organized vibrant library activities, including making puzzles and construction with lego blocks.

Cubs Reading/Football Club

The Cubs reading club met for two book discussions during the session. In March they discussed *Birds of Our Land*, a guide to West African birds by Virginia Dike. Members tried to identify the birds that are available in their villages and Nsukka. They also classified them of the basis of the type of food they eat, whether day or night birds, their colours and habitat. The April meeting brought discussion of *A Taste of Injustice*, by A. O. Faniran. Members discussed key occurrences in the book, new vocabulary acquired, and lessons learned, among them the evil of injustice and being mindful of what you say about other people.

Junior Reading Club

The Junior Reading Club was formed in February 2013 by Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe and Dr. Ijeoma Udegbonam and has eight members. The club meets every second Wednesday of the month and has discussed eight novels since inception. These are: *The Beautiful Little Tree* by Olamide Bamtete; *The Invisible Eye* by Olajire Olalodun; *The Clique and Notorious Three* by Jane Agonabor; *The King's New Cloth and other stories* by Ore Olunloyo; *The Wicked King* by Olatunji Rashadite; *Chike and the River* by Chinua Achebe; *The Leper and the Princess* by Tahiru Mahama; and *The Honest Girl* by Uchenna Nze.

Best School Library Competition Awards Ceremony

The awards ceremony for the Best School Library Competition, conducted by team members Prof. Virginia Dike, Mrs. Grace Onyebuchi and Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde, took place on October 23, 2012. Twenty-three schools that registered with a fee of N500.00 were assessed on the basis of accommodation, collection, personnel, use of the library, and project work. Four of the 14 established school libraries stood out on all the criteria: Community Primary School II, Nru; Agu Achara II, Agu Achara I, and Community Primary School I, Nru. The best new school library was C.P.S. Amogbo, with Urban Primary School coming second. Winning schools received 10-50 books, while all participants received book gifts.

Prison Library Outreach

The Nsukka Prison Library was not left out in terms of provision of reading materials and use of the library. The inmates still borrow books to read, although the size of the collection needs to be increased. Another problem is the falling library roof, which has recently prevented inmates from coming to the library to read. Major donations were of comic books given by Chinweze Dike and books from Nigerwives Enugu Branch.

Donations

The Children's Centre is grateful for the following donations received during the session:
 Mrs. Nnenna Okore-Okeke, daughter of our member Dr. Alice Okore, for 36 books
 Mrs. M. N. Awachie for 11 books
 Dr. Nancy Achebe for 8 reference books
 Indianapolis Public Library for a carton of 32 books
 Peninsula Community Library, Traverse City, Michigan for a carton of 21 books
 Prof. Virginia Dike for postage of US\$137.90 to convey books from the U.S. to Nsukka
 Ms. Ejim Dike for US\$100 for continuing sponsorship of the website
 Mr. Chinweze Dike for 2 cartons of comics for prison libraries and postage from U.S.
 Prof. Nkadi Onyegegbu for NGN10,000 to football/reading club for excursion to Umuahia
 Dr. Goodhead Uchendu for NGN1,000 to football/reading club for excursion to Umuahia
 2011 Carolling donations from Ms. Terri Emezi (N1,000) and Mrs. Amaka Ejikeme (N500)

Landmarks

Obituary – Elizabeth Obiageli Ikeme

The Committee mourns the sudden death in 2012 of our member Oby Ikeme. From her joining in 2000, Oby was a very active and dedicated member, especially known for her inspirational role in promoting reading and liaising between the University Primary School and Children's Centre. Members attended her funeral in Onitsha on Jan. 18, 2013.

Obituary - Edem Chimere Ikoku, 1936-2013

Members were saddened by the passing on June 22, 2013 of our beloved former Patron and Member, Edem Ikoku, who played a decisive role in UWA and its Children's Centre project during her husband's tenure as Vice-Chancellor from 1986-1993. Edem revitalized UWA

and participated in numerous Children's Centre activities, including volunteering at the library on Wednesday evenings and organizing cooking and sewing lessons during vacation programmes. May her soul rest in peace!

Wedding of Patsy Kalu

The Committee attended the traditional marriage ceremony of Patsy Kalu, one of our most active youth volunteers and daughter of our long-time Chair, Prof. Willi Kalu. Patsy and Okechukwu Uwakwe were wed traditionally in Ohafia on June 15, 2013 and in a white wedding in Abuja on June 13. We wish them every happiness in their married life.

Visit to Prof. Ebele Maduewesi

Members of the Children's Centre Committee were joined by the President of UWA and Academy of Education in visiting former UWA President and Children's Centre Committee Chair and Member, Ebele Maduewesi and her husband at their home in Nnewi, where we were most graciously received.

Financial Account

UNN Microfinance Bank Savings Account

Opening balance 1/10/12	163,185.66
Interest	13,933.95
Total funds available	177,119.61
Withdrawals	
To Library for expenses 1 on 02/11/13 for repair of bus	20,000.00
To Library for expenses 2 for play sculptures and maintenance	60,000.00
To Library for expenses 3 on 28/05/13 for football match & other expenses	50,000.00
Total withdrawals	130,000.00
Closing balance 30/9/12	47,119.61

Library Cash Book

Opening balance 1/10/12	40,657.00
Income	
Library registration fees and fines	40,960.00
Money withdrawn from bank	130,000.00
Donation from visiting librarian Ann Easterly	3,200.00
Long vacation programme registration fees	107,000.00
Rentals	11,000.00
Late caroling donations from Terri Emezi and Amaka Ejikeme in 2011	1,500.00
Loan from Virginia Dike for June salaries	8,000.00
Total income	301,660.00
Total funds available	342,317.00
Expenses	
Books and other materials	8,000.00
Fuel for bus	29,500.00
Vehicle maintenance and repair	17,000.00
Maintenance of equipment	22,200.00
Cleaning materials	5,450.00
Salaries	80,000.00
Long vacation expenses	106,420.00
Football match	25,000.00
Play sculptures by Fine and Applied Arts students	38,000.00
Total expenses	331,570.00
Closing Balance on September 30, 2013	10,747.00

Children's Centre Committee

The Committee met six times during the session, on Oct. 16 and Dec. 11, 2012; and Mar. 26, May 14, June 11, and June 25, 2013.

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	

Conclusion

We are grateful to all Children's Centre supporters, notably our ever 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; Dr. Victor N Nwachukwu, Acting Head, and staff and students of the Department of Library and Information Science for continuing assistance in maintaining the library; Prof. Obiajulu Emejulu for his many contributions to programmes during his sabbatical year at UNN, Dr. Charles O. Omekwu, the University Librarian during the period for making available the MTN Digital Library; AIESEC members and other youth volunteers in our programmes; 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

Dr. Margaret Ngwuchukwu
Financial Secretary

Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde
Higher Library Officer