



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 2013/2014  
(covering the period Oct. 1, 2013-Sept. 30, 2014)**

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

#### **Acquisition of Equipment**

The Centre was able to acquire several pieces of equipment during the session from a fund of 500,000 naira donated by Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu. These include an electric generator, LG 22-inch television, DVD Sony player, public address system and desktop computer. Purchases were made by Amaka Ejikeme of the Children's Centre Committee and Ngozi Nwoye, Secretary of UWA, with the able assistance of Emmanuel of CUDIMAC.

The Centre also benefitted from donation of a photocopier machine, given by the Reading Association of Nigeria (RAN) in appreciation of the Centre's role in hosting their mid-term conference in October 2013.

#### **Maintenance of the Building and Grounds**

The Children's Centre grounds were maintained during the session through the assistance of the Task Force on Environment and Engineer T. Osadebe, Director of Works Services. The Centre is still appealing for assignment of a groundsman to undertake day-to-day maintenance of the environment. In addition to a groundsman, the Centre is also yet to get replacement of the casual cleaner formerly provided by the University. In the interim, the Centre was attended to once or twice a week by a cleaner sent from the Department of Library and Information Science.

#### **Fire Incident Involving Children's Centre Bus**

The Children's Centre bus was among the two vehicles damaged by the fire that gutted the official car of the Director of Academic Planning in the Department of Works Services compound. This and the lack of an assigned driver severely crippled certain activities during the session, including outreach to schools and the prison, vacation activities such as excursions, transport to purchase materials and other official purposes. Funds are still sought for restoration of the bus.

#### **Christmas Caroling 2013**

A total of N128,000.00 was realized from the 2013 caroling. For the first time in some years, the Centre was able to cover all zones within the campus. This was made possible by our tireless zonal organizers and the help of the Cubs Reading/Football Club, who were essential to the coverage of the whole of Odim Zone, including Eze Opi and Alvan Loving, and

Umunkanka Zone. The enthusiasm and selflessness with which the Cubs carried out this activity was commendable.

### **Programmes**

#### **Comic book writing workshop for teacher-librarians**

The Centre hosted a workshop for teacher-librarians from October 13-16, 2013 as a prelude to the mid-term conference of the Reading Association of Nigeria (RAN). This workshop was made very special by the presence of Dr. Michael Bitz, an American educator who has pioneered the use of comic book writing as a way of developing literacy skills. Dr. Bitz was assisted in the workshop by his research partner Prof. Obiajulu Emejulu and a team made up of Prof. Virginia Dike, Mrs. Grace Onyebuchi, Dr. Margaret Ngwuchukwu, Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe, Mrs. Amaka Ejikeme, Dr. Ngozi Udengwu and Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde. Participants were teacher-librarians from primary schools in the Nsukka area and secondary schools in Enugu State. The central focus of the workshop was comic book writing, with teachers being guided step-by-step through the process of selecting a theme, acquiring drawing skills and developing story line and characters. In addition to the writing workshop sessions, there were sessions on using drama and drawing on diverse library resources in teaching and learning. Participants were successful in creating original and effective comic books on themes of their choice and pledged to apply these skills in their classrooms.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> mid-term RAN conference October 17-20, 2013**

The Reading Association of Nigeria (RAN) held its 3<sup>rd</sup> mid-term conference at the University of Nigeria on the theme “Literacy learning spaces, strategies and opportunities in the Information Age.” The conference was organized by the Department of Library and Information Science and the UNN branch of RAN, with the Children’s Centre as one of the venues. The opening ceremony took place at the Niger Room C.E.C. on October 17 with the keynote address given by Prof. Promise Nwachukwu Okpala, Registrar/CEO of the National Examinations Commission (NECO). The lead paper was presented by Dr. Michael Bitz from the Centre for Educational Pathways in New York, U.S.A. The conference was attended by many participants from diverse disciplines and all parts of Nigeria but all concerned with finding ways to foster literacy development.

#### **Send forth for Olisa Nnabugwu**

Olisa Nnabugwu, who first arrived in 2006 as a student on work aid, worked at the Children’s Centre during his undergraduate studies and continued as a dedicated volunteer after graduation and throughout his Master’s degree programme. He featured in all Children’s Centre programmes, especially Saturday activities, computer studies and long vacation programmes. He was also the coach of the Cubs football team. The Centre sent him forth at a party held on May 19, 2014. We thank Olisa for his long and faithful service and wish him well in all his future endeavours.

#### **Farewell reception for UWA Patron, Barr. (Mrs.) Nwanneka Okolo**

UWA members paid a fond farewell to our outgoing patron, Barr. (Mrs.) Nwanneka Okolo, at a grand reception held at PAA in May 2014. The Committee wishes to thank Barr. (Mrs.) Okolo specially for her enduring interest in the Children’s Centre throughout her tenure as patron, especially for facilitating essential structural repairs.

### **Proposed long vacation programme, 2014**

A long vacation programme with a line-up of exciting activities was planned in liaison with the Departments of Health & Physical Education and Home Science and Nutrition. These included sports activities such as table tennis, lawn tennis, cricket, swimming, volleyball, and crafts such as flower vases, bags, beading, as well as sewing machine skills. Talks were also prepared on drug abuse, Ebola virus, family life education, helping at home, etc. The programme was scheduled to hold from August 8 – Sept. 12, 2014. However, it was cancelled as a result of the Ebola crisis, first due to low initial turnout because of parental fears of public functions and then the Federal Government announcement that no children's activities should hold during the 2014 vacation. The planned programme was therefore postponed to 2015. However, an instructor was hired to teach table tennis to the few children who turned out at the Centre daily. Afterwards, the table loaned from the Sports Council was left for the children to try their hands on.

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

The Children's Centre commissioned a play sculpture artwork from the Department of Fine and Applied Arts with funds from the Sandor Peri Art Prize. Two giant tortoises are now waiting for collection at the Fine Arts Department.

## **Children's Centre Library**

### **Registration**

During the 2013-2014 session, 122 children registered as new library users while 75 renewed their registration; 12 schools also renewed their institutional registration.

### **Collection**

Books accessioned increased from 19,086 to 19,202 during the session with 117 new books added to the register. These were acquired by donation and purchase.

### **Circulation**

Statistics for the 2013-2014 session are as follows:

Quarter	Weekdays	Saturdays	Total
Oct-Dec 2013	125	36	161
Jan-Mar 2014	124	52	176
Apr-Jun 2014	372	63	435
Jul-Sep 2014	670	56	726
Total	1,291	209	1,493

### **Personnel**

The library was maintained by staff and students of the Department of Library and Information Science. These include Margaret N. Ngwuchukwu, supervisor of student practicals, Elizabeth Babarinde, the librarian, and chief clerical officer Rose Asogwa. The dedicated service of volunteer Olisa Nnabugwu, who kept the library open on Saturdays and also coached the football team is very much appreciated.

### **Saturday library hours**

The library was kept open on Saturdays for reading, borrowing and story hour by librarian Elizabeth Babarinde and volunteer Olisa Nnabugwu.

### Junior reading club

The Junior reading club was able to read three books within the year. These were: *The King's New Cloth & Other Stories*, by Ore Olunloyo; *Chike and the River*, by Chinua Achebe; and *Honest Girl*, by Uchenna Nze.

### Donations

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

Indianapolis Public Library, Indiana USA

Peninsula Community Library, Traverse City, Michigan USA

Ejim Dike for continuing to sponsor the website at \$100 a year

### Financial Account

#### UNN Microfinance Bank

	<b>Naira</b>
<b>Opening balance</b> (Oct. 1, 2013)	<b>47,119.61</b>
<b>Deposits</b>	
Caroling deposits, 2013	128,800.00
Late caroling donation	200.00
Ihekweazu annual book grant	50,000.00
<b>Withdrawals</b>	
For expenses	100,000.00
<b>End balance</b> (Sept. 30, 2014)	<b>126,119.00</b>

#### Library Cash Book

	<b>Naira</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>Opening balance</b> (Oct. 1, 2013)	<b>10,747.00</b>
Library registration	46,200.00
Hiring of pavilion	13,000.00
Bank	50,000.00
Ihekweazu annual book grant	50,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>169,947.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Books and library materials	55,364.00
Library materials	9,000.00
Furniture repairs	42,000.00
Vehicle repairs	4,700.00
Fuel	3,000.00
Salary	16,000.00
School visitation	1,300.00
Sanitation	5,750.00
Send forth for Olisa	8,200.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>145,314.00</b>
<b>Closing balance</b> (Sept. 30, 2014)	<b>24,633.00</b>

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

The Committee met three times during the session, on Nov. 19, 2013; May 13, 2014; and June 10, 2014.

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	Dr. Kasie Ugwu

### **Conclusion**

We are grateful to all Children's Centre supporters, notably our ever generous benefactor, Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu. We are grateful to outgoing 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 continuing contributions to programmes; 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