



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 2015/2016
(Covering the period: October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016)**

The 2015/2016 session featured a vibrant long vacation programme of activities; participation in an international Bumper Book Quiz; and special events to mark Children's Day and Nigerian Independence. Details of these and other activities are embodied in this annual report.

Children's Centre Development

Fumigation of the Children's Centre Madam Hulder Iwuanyanwu Building

Termite infestation of the Children's Centre reoccurred, the newly affected places being the Toy room and Librarian's office, where the ceilings collapsed. Due to the good offices of Prof. Ify Achike, UWA President, Prof. Echezona of the Faculty of Agriculture came to the rescue of the building, sending his team one Friday evening to estimate the damage and the next day to fumigate, all at the minimal cost of N13,000. We are most grateful for this great support.

Plan for Repair of the Collapsed Ceiling and Termite-Damaged Roof and Frames

Termite infestation has caused extensive damage to the roofing and ceiling on the activity side of the building, as well as window frames in the same area. We are therefore very grateful to Vice-Chancellor Prof. Benjamin Ozumba for his gracious support of the Children's Centre in approving this repair and look forward to implementation early in the new session.

Cleanliness of the Centre

Throughout the period under consideration, our Patron, Pharm. Mrs. Chinelo Ozumba, saw to the cleanliness of the Centre by sending by a team of cleaners twice every week. This has been of great help in the absence of any regular cleaner on the staff and we are very appreciative of this assistance.

Maintenance of the Grounds

Cutting of the grass was directed by the task force on environment under Mrs. Umeano of the Estate Department, with the cooperation of Engr. T. Osadebe, Director of Works Services. Lack of a gardener/groundsman due to lack of funds is leaving a serious gap in care of flowers and shrubs.

Unfinished Business: Repair of Walling around the Centre Grounds

The perimeter wall has long been broken in several places, giving free access to the grounds at all times and forming a thoroughfare across the premises, with all the attendant threats to security and decorum. We continue to solicit assistance in solving this problem.

Homecoming Visit by University Primary School Alumni

On July 8, 2016, during the Homecoming of the University Primary School, alumni, nearly all of who were beneficiaries of the Children's Centre Library, paid a visit, looking up their old registration cards and books they had read. It was a fulfilling event that brought back many joyful memories of their library experiences while growing up on campus. Before leaving they pledged a gift of computers to the Centre.

Appeal for Donation of a Bus

UWA through our President Prof. Ify Achike has appealed to the University of Nigeria Alumni Association for donation of a bus to replace the Children's Centre Bus burned in a fire in Works Department. This would go a long way to support vacation activities, the schools and prison outreach, collection development and the daily running of the Centre.

Programmes and Events

Nigeria's Independence: Lost and Regained – Lecture by Prof. Onwuka Njoku

The Children's Centre celebrated October 1, 2015, Nigeria's Independence Day, with a talk by Prof. Onwuka Njoku of the Department of History and International Relations. In his talk, the Professor explained: "How Nigeria lost and regained Independence." The activity room was packed to capacity, with every available chair filled and mats spread on the floor for the overflow, as children engaged in this exciting interactive session. Our special thanks to Prof. Njoku for freely sharing his vast knowledge with us in a way that was very accessible to the children. Thanks also to the UWA President, Prof. Ify Achike for the Lion FM radio announcements of the occasion, and organizers Ngozi Osadebe and Ezinne Njoku, and Children's Centre Committee members Beatrice Ewah, Chika Madumere, and Elizabeth Babarinde, who assisted with the event. The day ended outside with joyful free play and posing on the climbing gyms.

Christmas Carolling

The Children's Centre went caroling in four zones during December 2015 and raised a total of N183,050. We are especially grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Benjamin Ozumba, for his generous gift of N100,000 to support the Centre. Participating zones were Zone I (Margaret Cartwright East), coordinated by Ngozi Mamah, with N18,850 raised; Zone II (Margaret Cartwright West), coordinated by Ezinne Njoku, which raised N123,700; Zone IV (Mbonu Ojike/Murtala Mohamed), coordinated by Ngozi Osadebe and Beatrice Ewa, which raised N32,000; and Zone V (Umunkanka), coordinated by Amaka Ejikeme, which raised N8,500. Lack of coordinators prevented coverage of some zones of the campus. Our sincere thanks go to the university students of our partner organization AIESEC, who not only joined us in planning but played a major role in leading the carolers on their rounds.

Bumper Book Quiz Breaks Guinness World Record

The Children's Centre joined other children of the world to celebrate World Book Day by participating in a successful attempt to break the Guinness world record title for the most people taking part in simultaneous literature quizzes at multiple venues. This was achieved on February 22, 2016 when 6,388 people participated in simultaneous literature quizzes at 62 worldwide locations, including the Children's Centre Library.

Extensive organizing by Ngozi Osadebe was required to meet all the stipulations, including a minimum number of 27, careful accreditation of participants (by Nkechi Idoko and Chioma Onoh), and photographic and video coverage (by Grace Onyebuchi and Engr. T. N. Osadebe). The two youth corpsers serving in the library, Esther Onah and Grace, and librarians from Nnamdi Azikiwe Library served as resource persons. Questions were on foreign children's novels like the Enid Blyton's Famous Five series and *The Lion, the Chair and the Wardrobe*. Afterwards, participants deliberated on why they were unable to answer the questions correctly. They attributed it to the nature of the Nigerian school system, with its long school day and extensive after school assignments not leaving room for voluntary reading. They also noted the lack of African novels used for the quiz. The event ended with light refreshment.

Children's Day Celebration

Children's Day was celebrated with a football match at the Children's Centre football field on May 28, 2016. Two schools, University Primary School and Graceville Primary School, played, while the University Primary School band served as cheer leaders. The match, which was well attended by children and adults, was won by the University Primary School. Afterwards, UWA President Ify Achike gave gifts of a football to each of the schools and refreshments were served.

Long Vacation Programme, 2016

This year's holiday programme, organized by Ngozi Osadebe and Elizabeth Babarinde, took place from August 8 to September 9, with 107 children participating. Children were divided into five age groups: 2-4, 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, and 14 years and above. Fees ranged from N1,000 for nursery school age to N2,000 for secondary school youth. The programme was publicized through a series of question and answer sessions on Lion FM, made possible through the good offices of our Patron, Chinelo Ozumba. A committee made up of Grace Onyebuchi, Amaka Ejikeme, Meg Ngwuchukwu, Chika Madumere and Beatrice Ewah assisted with the publicity and running the programme. Ambition Okwarjiaku and Chiamaka Ugoka also presented on Lion FM.

Varied activities were made possible by the contributions of resource persons drawn from many skill areas and departments of the University. Sports, such as physical exercises and games for the young and cricket, volleyball and basketball for older children, were handled by a team sent by the Chairman, Board of Sports Council, Rev. Prof. Onyechi, with active support from the Director of Sports, Mr. Ogbogbe. They also provided all the materials needed for cricket, as well as a volleyball net, basketball ball and hoop, and canvases. Interactive lessons on climate change were led by Helen Okpala, assisted by Dr. Chinwe Anowaii and Prof. Ify Achike. Teams explored various causes of climate change and how to mitigate these. This led to the planting of two trees in the Children's Centre compound. Another activity-based lesson, this one on road signs, was provided by the student-founded organization, ENTERCEPT.

Creative activities also characterized the programme. Art was handled by Dr. Chike Akabuike of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts; children visited various art galleries and applied what they had learned to creating sculptures. Ambition Okwarjiaku taught 3-D computer modeling and animation secondary school students, with even postgraduate students looking in, while Chijioke Osadebe introduced upper primary school children to beginning computer game design. Creative writing was handled by Dr. Chinwe Anowaii and Chiamaka Ugoka, who also introduced junior primary school children to comic book writing. Ginika and Ugochi, postgraduate students from Vocational and Technical Education, were resource persons for cookery and soft toy making, while Shedrack Anuforo, a student on Industrial Training from Michael Okpara University, taught children how to make sandals.

Many people from within the campus helped through their offices in executing the long vacation programme, and to all these we are very grateful. Problems encountered were the high cost of materials and lack of equipment, which made it impossible to carry out all the planned activities, and the packed timetable of activities, leaving too little time available for more involved exercises like creative writing.

Children's Centre Library

Registration

During the 2015/2016 session, there were 140 new registrations and 50 renewals.

Personnel

The library was kept open and maintained by staff and students of the Department of Library and Information Science. These include Elizabeth Babarinde, the librarian, clerical officer Rose Asogwa, and Youth Corpers Ginika and Ugochi. Student practicals are coordinated by Dr. Meg Ngwuchukwu, with assistance from other lecturers of Library and Information Science.

Collection Development

Books accessioned increased from 19,326 to 19,491 during the session, with 165 new books added to the register. These were acquired through donations from Prof. Virginia Dike, Dr. May Onyejekwe and our reliable friends at the Indianapolis Public Library, Indianapolis, Indiana and Peninsula Community Library in Traverse City, Michigan.

Circulation

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

Quarter	Weekdays	Saturdays	Total
Oct.-Dec, 2012	365	36	401
Jan.-Mar, 2013	125	27	152
Apr.-Jun, 2013	312	21	333
Jul.-Sept, 2013	356	11	367
Total	1,158	95	1,253

These figures point out the crucial need to mount vibrant and continuous library activities, especially on Saturdays and during vacation periods.

Library Activities

Schools Library Outreach

Primary schools with libraries were visited by Grace Onyebuchi and Elizabeth Babarinde of the school library team, despite serious problems with transport. During visits it was observed that very few libraries still remained open and those were offering skeletal services since the sending of teacher librarians to the classroom in 2014. Accommodation was yet another constraint.

In an effort at revival, the Children's Centre conducted a workshop for the head teachers of primary schools in Nsukka Central Local Government on February 16, 2016, with Mrs. Grace Onyebuchi, Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde, and Dr. Margaret N. Ngwuchukwu as resource persons. In an interactive session, participants analyzed their problems and together with the team, identified possible solutions. Concerning the crucial problem of personnel, participants stressed the importance of posting a teacher, preferably with library training, to the library full-time, or at least part-time.

The team later visited one school at Obimo where the School Board Management Committee (SBMC) had built a library up to roofing level. LIS students under the supervision of Dr. Ngwuchukwu also assisted in organizing and supervising the library at the University Primary School.

Prison Library Outreach

Visits were made to Nsukka Prison Library and books and magazines were donated. These include National Geographic and other magazines from our member Mrs. Chiazio Igboeli and Bob and Joann Weisell, brother and sister-in-law of Virginia Dike, and comic books from Chinweze Dike. It is worthy to note that the reroofing of the library has been completed through a donation by Profs. Azuka and Virginia Dike, and the library is now once again in use.

Christmas Story Hour

Two story hours focusing on Christmas themes were held in December 2015. These were conducted by Elizabeth Babarinde, Beatrice Ewa and Chika Madumere. Christmas picture books and carols were shared with the children in the spirit of the season.

Donations

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

Dr. May Onyejekwe for books

Mr. Chinweze Dike for 2 cartons of comics for prison libraries

Indianapolis Public Library for books

Peninsula Community Library, Traverse City, Michigan for books

Old Mission Congregational Church, Traverse City, Michigan for posting of these books from the U.S. to Nigeria

Financial Account
Oct. 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016

Bank Account Record**Diamond Bank**

Opening of account with 2014 caroling money	124,500.00
Cheque book	2,500.00
Withdrawal paid into Fidelity Bank	110,500.00
Balance	10,000.00

Fidelity Bank

Opening of account with funds from Diamond Bank	110,500.00
Money withdrawn from UNN Microfinance Bank	70,000.00
Caroling donations 2015	183,050.00
Total	363,550.00

Expenditure from Bank

Fidelity Bank cheque booklet	500.00
Bumper Book Quiz	7,000.00
School Library workshop	8,000.00
Children's Day celebration (Football match)	32,640.00
Fumigation of Children's Centre	13,000.00
Play for Oct 1, 2016	55,000.00
Total Expenditure	116,140.00
Income – Expenditure =	247,410.00
Balance (with interest added) Sept. 30, 2016	252,291.00

Library Cash Book

Opening balance 1/10/15	15,843.00
Income	
Library registration fees and fines	77,700.00
Total funds available	93,543.00
Expenses	
Independence Anniversary	10,000.00
Stationery	21,190.00
Field and games equipment	19,350.00
Maintenance	24,150.00
Transport to schools and prison	2,200.00
Total Expenditure	76,890.00
Closing Balance 30/9/16	16,653.00
Total expenses	280,850.00
Balance	42,838.00

Landmarks**Prof. Ebele J. Maduevesi**

Children's Centre members joined the UWA delegation in attending the funeral of Prof. Ebele J. Maduevesi in Nnewi on June 9, 2016. Ebele was a Founding Mother of the Children's Centre, an early committee member and regular library volunteer attending to children in the old temporary library behind the gymnasium. She continued to serve as an active contributing member throughout her stay in Nsukka. Prof. Maduevesi was a dynamic President of UWA from 1987-1990 and Chair of the Children's Centre Committee from 1997-1999. Among her most enduring contributions was forging the formal relationship between the Children's Centre Library and Department of Library and Information Science. She was also instrumental in reviving UWA in 2009 and in advocating for ways to give the Children's Centre a more sustainable position. Her life of service was a shining light.

Bereavement of Mrs. Rose Asogwa

Members sympathized with our long-time staff, Mrs. Rose Asogwa, on the death of her husband Mr. Asogwa after a long illness. A delegation attended the funeral in Ede-Oballa on March 18, 2016 and presented a purse on behalf of all our members.

Children's Centre Committee

The Committee met six times during the session, on Oct. 6, 2015; Nov. 17, 2015; Dec. 7, 2015; Mar. 1, 2016; June 26, 20136; and Sept. 27, 2016. We welcomed Chizoba Oranu, Beatrice Ewa, and Adizetu Ali as new members and Helen Eke Okpala as a returning member. Members for the session included the following:

Prof. Virginia Dike, Chair	Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde	Dr. Meg Ngwuchukwu
Ms. Terri Emezi, Vice-Chair	Dr. Ifeoma Echezona	Mrs. Ezinne Njoku
Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe, Secretary	Dr. Amaka Ejikeme	Mrs. Charity Okide
Mrs. Fidelia Asiegbu, Asst. Sec.	Mrs. Beatrice Ewa	Dr. Alice Okore
Dr. Amaka Okafor, Treasurer	Prof. Chinwe Ezeani	Mrs. Helen Okpala
Prof. Uche Agwagah	Prof. Julie Ibiam	Mrs. Grace Onyebuchi
Mrs. Adizetu Ali	Mrs. Chiazio Igboeli	Mrs. Chizoba Oranu
Prof. Jo Alumanah	Mrs. Chika Madumere	Dr. Kasie Ugwu
Prof. Grace Anyanwu	Mrs. Ngozi Mamah	Dr. Ngozi Ekere

We also very much appreciate the active participation of our Patron, Mrs. Chinelo Ozumba, and our UWA President, Prof. Ify Achike, in the meetings and work of the Committee.

Conclusion

We are grateful to all Children's Centre supporters, notably our generous benefactor, Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu. We are grateful for the support and encouragement given by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Benjamin Ozumba and our UWA Patron, Pharm. Mrs. Chinelo Ozumba, toward Children's Centre progress and development. We likewise appreciate Engineer T. Osadebe, the Director of Works Services; staff and students of the Department of Library and Information Science for continuing assistance in maintaining the 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

Dr. Victoria Amaka Okafor
Treasurer

Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde
Librarian

December 6, 2016