



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 2016/2017
(Covering the period: October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017)**

Children's Centre Development and Activities

Re-roofing of the Children's Centre

Efforts to re-roof the Children's Centre have not yet yielded the desired result. The ceiling has collapsed on the activity wing side and window and door frames are seriously affected by termites. The problem has continued in spite of a major fumigation carried out last year and repeated efforts to get repairs. Fortunately, the Vice –Chancellor, Prof. B.C. Ozumba has again approved re-roofing of the building and efforts are being made to ensure release of funds to save this university building from collapse. Our thanks to the Vice-Chancellor; our Patron, Pharm. (Mrs.) Chinelo Ozumba; and UWA President Prof. Ifeyinwa Achike for their sustained efforts with regard to re-roofing the building and repairing the wall.

Building and grounds maintenance

Cleaners from the task force continued to clean the building, thanks to our Patron, Pharm. (Mrs.) Chinelo Ozumba. Maintaining the grounds was a challenge, as the environmental task force was unable to clear the grass with sufficient regularity and the Centre no longer has a gardener to tend the flowers and hedges around the building.

Christmas caroling 2016

In the year under consideration, annual caroling took place only in Zones IV – Mbonu Ojike/ Murtala Mohamed/Glen Taggart/King Jaja Streets and Zone VI – Ukuta Close, yielding a total of N34,500.00. Our heartfelt thanks go to zonal coordinators Mrs. Beatrice Ewa for Zone IV and Dr. Amaka Okafor for Zone VI. Efforts are being made to recruit more volunteers in the various zones for the 2017 carolling.

World book day.

This was celebrated on March 1, 2017 in collaboration with the American Corner Enugu. Children's Centre Committee members Ngozi Osadebe, Grace Onyebuchi, Elizabeth Babarinde, Yemi Fagbemi and Evangel Obim shared stories with children in nearby primary schools, including Onuiyi Primary School (*Twins in Trouble*), Central P. S. (*The Sea Cave*), Agu Achara P.S. (*Sabakula and the Monster Egg*), and Model P. S. (*Danger in the Lake*). They also visited other schools, including one for children with special needs, to brief them on World Book Day and suggest various activities such as group reading and maker spaces. Prof. Nancy Achebe and Prof. Felix Ekere conducted a phone-in at Lion FM, monitoring and reporting reading activities in the schools. Students of Library and Information Science led by Tony Izuchukwu rolled out their drums, marching round the campus to create awareness of

the celebration. At the University Library they were addressed by University Librarian Prof. Chinwe Ezeani on the importance of reading.

Prison outreach

Nsukka Prison: Two sets of shelves were made for the prison library, thanks to Prof. Virginia Dike, and the collection is now better accommodated for easy use. During the session, a team from the Children's Centre and Department of Library and Information Science introduced a programme for literacy development through comic book writing. The team consisted of Grace Onyebuchi, Elizabeth Babarinde, Tony Izuchukwu, Ify Obim and Yemi Fagbemi, while the welfare officer in charge of the library, Mr. Joseph Onah, organized the selection of the initial group of 15 inmates. Participants were taught how to create a comic book from start to finish—developing the story and characters, creating the graphics and dialog, and plotting the story in panels. Other literacy activities included writing pocket book biographies in pairs and making book marks. This programme is ongoing.

Awka Prison: ZODML (Zaccheus Onumba Dibiaezue Memorial Libraries), an NGO based in Lagos, donated six standard library shelves filled with a good variety of books to Awka and Onitsha prisons. These were commissioned on March 30, 2017. Jill Dike also visited Aguata Prison to see the room allocated for their library and to discuss steps for developing it. She gave comics and National Geographic Magazines donated through the Children's Centre. Plans are underway for a trainers' workshop for the four prisons in Anambra State (Awka, Onitsha, Nnewi and Aguata) before the end of 2017.

Saturday Activities

Saturday story hour did not take place in the 2016-2017 session due to lack of personnel. Providing vibrant Saturday activities will be a challenge taken up in the new session.

Children's Day Celebration

The Children's Day celebration talk on "Growing Up Responsibly" was given by Prof. A. E. Agwu of the Faculty of Agriculture, UNN. The talk touched all aspects of adolescent life, including body changes, emotions, peer pressure, digital technology use, relationships and family living. It was held at UBA Hall of Fame. Turn-out for the event was low, with only 65 children attending, and many were under age 10. As a result, the UWA President, Prof. Ifeyinwa Achike requested that the talk be rescheduled and advertised widely to attract the expected audience of secondary school age children.

Long Vacation Programme

The long vacation programme took place from August 3 to Sept. 5, 2017 with 25 children registered. Most were primary school children. Fees were N3,000 for kindergarten age and N2,000 for primary and secondary. The programme was publicized through flyers sent to schools on and off campus and announcements in churches. Activities included sports of many types--volley ball, handball, football, Ludo, cards, Scrabble, chess and puzzle solving, as well as crafts like beading, weaving and shoe making. The decision to include preparation of local dishes in the programme could not be realized because the decision was taken late. Committee members participating were Ngozi Osadebe, Elizabeth Babarinde, Meg Ngwuchukwu and Grace Onyebuchi.

Website & Social Media

A sub-committee convened by Helen Okpala, with Grace Onyebuchi, Ify Obim, Elizabeth Babarinde, Chizoba Oranu and Ngozi Osadebe as members, revitalized the Centre's facebook page and arranged for rebuilding and updating of the website. The sum of N70,000 was approved for this purpose and the new website is almost ready for uploading.

Children's Centre Library

Registration – In 2016/2017, there were 86 new registrations and 26 renewals.

Collection Development - Books accessioned increased from 19,491 to 19,565 with 74 new books added to the register.

Circulation Statistics for the 2016/ 2017 Session	Weekdays	Saturdays	Total
October – December	250	28	278
January - `March	152	104	256
April – June	131	45	176
July- September	262	14	276
Total	795	191	986

Children's Centre Financial Report

(covering the period from Oct. 1, 2016-Sept. 30, 2017)

Bank Account – Diamond Bank		10,000
Bank Account – Fidelity Bank		Amount in Naira
Opening Balance from 2015-2016 financial year		252,291
Income		
2016 Christmas Caroling		
Zone 4, Mbonu Ojike	28,500	
Zone 6, Ukuta close	6,000	
Total income		34,500
Total funds available		286,796
Expenditure		
Withdrawal to committee		78,000
Children Day Celebration 2017	49,000	
Part payment to web master	29,000	
Total expenditure		78,000
Income		286,791
Expenditure		78,000
Balance		208,791
Actual bank balance		210,838

Library Cash Book

Income - Opening balance 1/10/11		16,653
Rentals		10,000
Library Registration		25,250
Total Income		35,250
Total funds available		51,903
Expenses		
Stationeries and cleaning materials		13,080
School outreach		8,850
Prison outreach		8,590
Clearing of the environment		9,100
Total expenses		39,620
Closing cash balance 30/9/17		12,283

Donations

Book donations came from:

Authors Elechi Ehoim and Amadi Peter Ike

Bob and Joann Weisell – 2 cartons of National Geographic Magazines

Chinweze Dike – comics for prison libraries

Indianapolis Public Libraries, Indianapolis, Indiana – books

Peninsula Community Library, Traverse City, Michigan - books

Old Mission Congregational Church, Traverse City, Michigan – postage for books

Nkem Dike Chineme – transport of books to Nigeria

Children’s Centre Committee

The Committee met five times during the session, on Nov. 8, 2016, Dec 6, 2016, Feb. 14, 2017, April 2017 and July 2017. Members for the session included the following:

Prof. Virginia (Jill) Dike, Chair	Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde	Dr. Meg Ngwuchukwu
Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe, Secretary	Dr. Amaka Ejikeme	Mrs. Ezinne Njoku
Mrs. Fidelia Asiegbu, Asst. Sec.	Dr. Ngozi Ekere	Mrs. Ify Evangel Obim
Dr. Amaka Okafor, Treasurer	Mrs. Beatrice Ewa	Mrs. Charity Okide
Prof. Nancy Achebe	Prof. Chinwe Ezeani	Dr. Alice Okore
Prof. Uche Agwagah	Mrs. Judith Ezugwu	Mrs. Helen Okpala
Mrs. Adizetu Ali	Prof. Julie Ibiam	Mrs. Grace Onyebuchi
Prof. Jo Alumanah	Mrs. Chiazio Igboeli	Mrs. Chizoba Oranu
Prof. Grace Anyanwu	Mrs. Chika Madumere	Dr. Kasie Ugwu
	Mrs. Ngozi Mamah	

We also very much appreciate the active participation of our Patron, Mrs. Chinelo Ozumba, and out-going 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 staff and students of the Department of Library and Information Science for continuing assistance in maintaining the library; youth volunteers for their contributions to running 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

Dr. Ngozi Osadebe
Secretary

Dr. Victoria Amaka Okafor
Treasurer

Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde
Librarian

December 4, 2017