

A PROJECT OF THE  
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION

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

*By reading we learn,  
By knowledge we serve*

## **NEWSLETTER**

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### ***In This Issue***

This was indeed a year with a difference! We began and ended with exciting big events celebrating World Book Day and International School Library Month (ISLM), but in between, everything went virtual. This was due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which caused the closure of Children's Centre for many months. In spite of this obstacle, the Centre adapted and persevered in mounting on-line services for children and teens, as well as continuing to meet and plan as a committee. We also used the period to bring out an exciting new version of our website, which can be accessed at the same address: [www.childrenscentreunn.org](http://www.childrenscentreunn.org).

### **World Book Day Grand Finale**



The Children Centre Library marked the World Book Day at Nnamdi Azikiwe Library, University of Nigeria Nsukka, Nsukka. It was a fun-filled day for the pupils from nearby schools who participated. The occasion, introduced by Committee Chair Dr. Ngozi Osadebe and chaired by University Librarian Prof. Chinwe Ezeani, featured a book display, story shared by a former staff child Akwugo Amucheazi Balogun via Skype, dances by Dr. Ezinne Njoku and Mr. Blind and more.



## Catching Them Young through Ante/Post Natal Clinic Visits

Children's Centre also celebrated World Book Day 2020 by catching them very young through visits to ante-natal & post-natal clinics. The visits began with a chance meeting of our Chair, Dr. Ngozi Osadebe, with young mothers at Akulue Memorial Hospital. The response was so enthusiastic she



recognized a new direction for Children's Centre outreach. At Akulue Mem. Hospital, University Medical Centre, UNN, Bishop Shanahan Hospital and Nsukka Health Centre, a team led by Ngozi, Elizabeth Babarinde and Evangeline Nwankwo talked with expectant and young mothers on pregnancy and childcare, as well as the importance of sharing books & reading with children, beginning with their babies. So interesting was the talk that our team was invited to come and share information & ideas every week.



## Story Hour Moves to Zoom

Saturday story hour activities for the first quarter of 2020 got off to a roaring start with a full program of stories & games, puzzles & puppets, Lego & play, every Saturday at 10 a.m. However, with the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent shut down of in-person activities, the Saturday story hour moved to zoom.

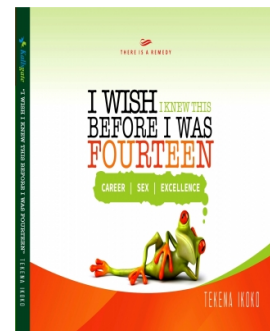


The hour features an entertaining menu of folktales from far and near (from the Igbo tale of Tortoise and the birds to the German folktale Rumpelstiltskin); stories of everyday life encouraging children to never give up on their dreams; and informative features on topics such as pollinators of the plants around us.



## Teen Reading Club via Whatsapp

School were closed for many months in 2020. In response to the physical isolation imposed by COVID-19, Children's Centre introduced an online teen reading club using the Whatsapp platform. The group meets every Saturday evening 6-7 p.m. to discuss a story from Tekena Ikoko's book, *I Wish I Knew This before I Was Fourteen*. Using a series of illustrative tales, the book aims at helping teenagers develop skills in self awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and social competence. Stories so far have centered on issues of child sexual abuse, bullying, stigmatization, parental and peer relationships and overcoming rejection. The forum enables free sharing of views among teens, with adult members chipping in for a lively exchange, which always exceeds the time. Membership is open to all.





## ISLM 2020 - Addressing Adolescent Health Needs



International School Library Month held at the Children's Centre Library on November 5. The theme of the celebration was adolescent health risks and solution. Students of Urban Girls Secondary School, Nsukka and Excellent Academy, Children's Centre UNN attended the program. Prof. Nkadi Onyegegbu led the discussion. There were presentations from the



participants on some aspects of adolescent health risks such as unstable homes, unwanted pregnancy, drug abuse and menstrual pains. There was a question-and-answer session on other adolescent issues such as boyfriend/girlfriend, masturbation, and homosexuality. Students of Urban Girls presented a drama on youth delinquency. Finally, Prof. Josephine Alumanah did a recap of the discussions.

## School visit to Children's Centre Library

Gracious Nursery & Primary School, Orba visited the library in March shortly before our COVID-19 shutdown. Children toured the library, shared stories, & played with puzzles, puppets & games. We hope this will be the first of many such excursions by area schools as soon as we are once more open.



## Website

Children's Centre Committee used the long period of stay-at-home to bring out a new revised and updated website, designed with the able assistance of David Nkpoku of Bytes & Data Systems, Lagos, who was connected to us by former Children's Centre members Chubuike Agu and Chinweze Dike. We urge all our friends to check it out at [www.childrenscentreunn.org](http://www.childrenscentreunn.org). We are also on Facebook as Children's Centre Library and we have a new email address at [info@childrenscentreunn.org](mailto:info@childrenscentreunn.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

