



A PROJECT OF THE
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

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

**COMMITTEE CHILDREN'S CENTRE
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008
(for the period: October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008)**

The Children's Centre registered a number of significant achievements during the 2007/2008 session. Highlights include development of a proposal for re-structuring the Centre, purchase of a bus and additional equipment, and participation in a global water summit via the Internet. The Centre also ran successful Easter and long vacation programmes and carried on its outreach programme to schools and the prison.

Children's Centre Development

Purchase of Bus

At last the Children's Centre was able to procure an 18-seater Toyota bus, thanks to Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu's donation of two million naira. The bus was immediately put to active use in the long vacation programme and as transport to the Enugu book fair. Kudos to the members of the Bus Committee and Prof. Ebele Maduewesi for their efforts.

Equipment

The year saw the addition of more equipment to the Children's Centre collection. These include a Yamaha digital keyboard, LG DVD, and Samsung computer monitor. The keyboard is part of the musical equipment obtained through the Uju Ubagu memorial fund to develop music programmes at the Centre.

Children's Centre Proposal

During the session, the Children's Centre Committee, in conjunction with the UWA Executive, submitted a proposal to the Vice-Chancellor suggesting that the Children's Centre be established as a public service and teaching support unit of the University. The aim is to ensure continuity of Children's Centre programmes and co-ordinate the contributions of university women and academic departments using the Centre on a lasting basis.

Personnel

The Vice-Chancellor graciously agreed to take over the payment of the Centre's two night guards from the Department of Library and Information Science. The Children's Centre Committee is grateful to the department for having carried the burden of their payment for such a long time. In addition, the Vice-Chancellor approved employment of a casual cleaner/messenger, who is also being paid under the Vice-Chancellor's office. We are very grateful for this assistance.

Programmes and Events

Christmas Carolling, 2007

The Centre's traditional Christmas caroling took place in December 2007, with receipt of donations totaling N86,380.00. The money has been used to buy books and audiovisual/computer equipment.

Easter Vacation Programme, 2008

The 2008 Easter vacation programme was organized by AIESEC, a university students' organization with which the Children's Centre has a cooperative relationship. The programme ran from March 25-29, 2008, with 29 children registering for a fee of N250.00. The children received training on the use of computers and the Internet, on leadership and HIV/AIDS. Activities included quiz competition, debate, talk show and a picnic. Resource persons from AIESEC were Williams Nwokoma, Obiora Egenti, Nnamdi Ikwueto, James Ifemeje, Emmanuel Ogbonna, and Harrison Uzodinma.

Long Vacation Programme, 2008

The 2008 long vacation programme took place from August 18 – September 9, 2008. Sixty children registered for a fee of N600.00 each. The programme was co-ordinated by Fidelia Asiegbu, assisted by Margaret Ngwuchukwu, Ngozi Osadebe, Faith Agbogo, AIESEC members, Children's Centre staff Rose Asogwa and Thomas Asogwa, and Albert Ekwe as photographer. Activities included computer appreciation with Faith Agbogo, story hour with Margaret Ngwuchukwu, bead-making taught by Chikaodili Anioke, card-making taught by Uju of AIESEC, baking taught by Ezinne Njoku, debate and talk on self discovery by Charles Ugwu and Fabian Simon of AIESEC. The group made excursions to the motherless babies home, Lion water and Nigerian Bottling Company, 9th Mile Corner, Ngwo.

Virtual UN: Global Water Summit

Children from the Centre participated in a global water summit with children from the United States, Sweden, Philippines, India and Nigeria from January to May 2008. This was made possible by Ogonna Agu, a former staff child and Children's Centre member now teaching in New York City. The project was led by Virginia Dike and Helen Eke, who put her laptop and camera at the disposal of the project, with assistance from Chinwe Ezeani and Ngozi Osadebe. The group carried out assignments and communicated with others via the Internet. Due to lack of Internet connection at the Centre, the group had to book computer classrooms at Afrihub, where we received very good cooperation. As their final assignment, the Children's Centre group developed a power point presentation on water scarcity in Nsukka. Presentations, questions and views were shared around the world during the global summit on May 9, 2008.

NIA Leadership Institutes

NIA, an organization devoted to empowering young Igbo women to reach their full potential, returned to Nsukka in 2008 with leadership institutes held at the Children's Centre from February 8-10, February 15-17 and May 9-13. Participants graduated at the 5th NIA graduation and participated with earlier classes in the first homecoming, both held at Enugu campus on Saturday, June 7, 2008.

Children's Centre Library

Registration

In the 2007-2008 session 177 new members, 80 renewals and 20 schools registered, making a total of 277 registered users for the session.

Personnel

The library was maintained on a daily basis by Margaret Ngwuchukwu, librarian, and Rose Asogwa, library assistant and cleaner, under the supervision of Virginia Dike. In the absence of a youth corper, the Committee employed a Saturday library attendant, Blessing Abonyi, who served from the beginning of the session to the end of April. Thereafter, Olisa Nnabugwu ably took up Saturday hours and Thursday-Friday evening library hours as part of his work-study programme. Mary Rose Ugwu, our casual cleaner, also assisted in the library. Our able driver of many years, Gregory Nwodo, was transferred to Social Work a few months to his retirement, while Thomas Asogwa took up driving duties at the Centre.

Collection Development

Accessioned books reached 17,341 by the end of the session, with 419 new books accessioned. Purchases included 222 books from Macmillan Publishers and educational games and books from Nu Metro Media in Abuja. Donations of books were received from the Indianapolis Public Library. Over fifty books were sent for repair.

Circulation

Circulation statistics for the 2007/2008 session are shown below:

	Weekdays	Saturdays	Total
October-December, 2007	186	205	391
January-March, 2008	211	344	555
April-June 2008	617	419	1,036
July-September 2008	2,399	230	2,629
Total	3,413	1,198	4,611

This shows a significant increase in activity over the 2006/2007 session (which had a total of 3,506), with higher borrowing both during vacation periods and on Saturdays. However, it is still far below the record figures obtained before the introduction of a single session in the staff primary school. At that time children had many more opportunities to visit the library during weekday morning hours. As a result, the library is taking steps to revive evening hours and extend library visits by classes during the school day.

Library Activities

Workshop on Library Periods in the Curriculum

On January 8, 2008 the library hosted school heads and teacher-librarians for a one-day workshop on integrating library periods with the curriculum. This followed the Enugu State Ministry of Education approval of placing library periods on the timetable and national workshop on school libraries in basic education held in Abuja in September 2007. The workshop had three related sessions explaining the opportunities library periods offer for enhancing education through information literacy, project work and story hour programmes.

Delivery of PULA Book Donations to Schools

With books sent from the United States and the sum of US \$1,500 (or N177,000) given by People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA), the library was able to distribute collections of books to eight primary school libraries in Nsukka Central LGA. The Children's Centre is very grateful to PULA for their continuing assistance in building up primary school libraries in our area.

Story Hour Programmes

The library continued with its traditional story hour on Saturdays at 11 a.m. It also continued the programme of story hour with 2nd graders of the University School on Tuesday mornings and visited Onuiyi primary school for story hour with students of the Department of Library and Information Science.

Prison Libraries

The prison libraries in Nsukka and Awka continued to grow, with additional gifts by members of the Children's Centre Committee and supervisory visits by Virginia Dike (Awka) and Margaret Ngwuchukwu (Nsukka).

Donations

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

Department of Library and Information Science for N300,000 given for use of Children's Centre materials during the NERDC workshop on school libraries in basic education held in Abuja in September 2007;

Lis Odenigbo for 400 Euros donated during her visit to the Centre in September 2007;

Sue Ubagu for 630 GBP, or N158,760, given by family and friends in memory of her daughter Uju Ubagu;

Merrileas Nursery School at the Parkside School, England for fundraising through creating Christmas cards, which raised 302 GBP, or N67,960;

Parkside School, England for fundraising that yielded 811 GBP, or N181,190;

Dr. Obi Umeh and family for a gift of N30,000;

Ada Ozoemena for N20,000, being the annual gift from the Ihekweazu family in memory of their mother, Prof. (Mrs.) Edith Ihekweazu;

Ejim Dike for sponsoring the Children's Centre website (\$100) for the fourth year in a row;

Ngozi Odenigbo for donating 1225 Euros raised for Children's Centre at her birthday party;

Ogonna Agu and friends for donation of a digital camera;

Indianapolis Public Library for two M-bags of books; postage of \$208 donated by Jill Dike;

Traverse Area District Library for one M-bag of books and postage of \$96;

People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA) for donating books to the African Children's Literature Research Collection and support of our school libraries outreach.

FINANCIAL REPORT
(covering the period from October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008)

Opening Balance (October 1, 2007) N28,255.62 in bank + N2,197.00 cash		Naira 30,452.62
Income		
Library registration fees and fines		78,090.00
Christmas caroling 2007		86,380.00
Rental of materials for NERDC workshop, September 2007		300,000.00
Donation from Lis Odenigbo (400 Euros @ N175)		70,000.00
Donation from friends of Willi Kalu (50 Euros @ N175)		8,800.00
Uju Ubagu memorial fund (630 GBP @ N252)		158,760.00
Merrileas Nursery School (302.6 GBP)		67,960.00
Parkside School fundraising		181,190.00
Dr. Obi Umeh and family		30,000.00
Ihekweazu memorial fund annual gift for 2007-2008		20,000.00
Easter vacation programme fees		7,250.00
Long vacation programme fees		36,000.00
Rental of room		2,500.00
Interest		31,006.47
Total income		1,077,936.47
Total funds available		1,108,389.09
Expenditure		
Books and other materials		89,650.00
Stationery supplies and postage		38,728.00
Public relations		1,730.00
Maintenance of equipment		25,480.00
Fuel for bus and lawn mower		22,560.00
Vehicle repair		43,990.00
Book preservation and repair		7,900.00
Payment of Saturday library attendant		10,800.00
Easter vacation programme 2008 expenses		5,670.00
Long vacation programme expenses		26,220.00
Equipment – Keyboard, monitor, DVD player, DVD cassettes		55,100.00
Funds to complete purchase and preparation of bus		262,125.00
Total Expenditure		589,953.00
Closing Balance (September 30, 2008) (N462,302.09 bank + N56,084 cash book)		520,386.09

Children's Centre Committee

The Children's Centre Committee met ten times during the session, on October 2, October 30, and November 20, 2007; and January 11, March 4, April 8, May 12, June 10, July 17, and July 31, 2008. Business of the 2007/2008 session was concluded at the first meeting of the new session, which took place on October 7, 2008. Members for the session were:

Prof. Virginia Dike, Chair	Dr. Grace Anyanwu	Mrs. Oby Ikeme
Ms Terri Emezi, Vice-Chair	Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde	Mrs. Ngozi Mamah
Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe, Secretary	Mrs. Susan Echa	Mrs. Ify Nebo, Patron
Mrs. Fidelia Asiegbo, Asst. Sec.	Mrs. Ifeoma Echezona	Mrs. Ezinne Njoku
Dr. Nkadi Onyegebu, Treasurer	Mrs. Ngozi Ekere	Mrs. Stella Nwadinobi
Mrs Alice Okore, Chair Lib.Comm.	Dr. Chinwe Ezeani	Mrs Nwanneka Nwala
Mrs.Margaret Ngwuchukwu	Dr. Ify Ezeorah	Miss Anthonia Ogbu
Dr. Uche Agwagah	Dr. Julie Ibiam	Mrs. Charity Okide
Dr. Jo Alumanah	Mrs. Chiazio Igboeli	Dr. Vicky Onu
Dr. Ogo Amucheazi		

We are grateful to all our supporters—our generous benefactor, Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu, especially for the gift of our bus; our Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chinedu O. Nebo, and UWA Patron, Mrs. Ify Nebo for their generous support and attentiveness to the needs of the Centre; staff and students of the Department of Library and Information Science for continuing professional services; People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA) for their cooperation with the school libraries outreach; AIESEC members and other vacation programme volunteers; and all our wonderful friends at home and abroad. We look forward to your continuing support in the new session.

Prof. Virginia Dike
Chair

Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe
Secretary

Dr. Nkadi Onyegebu
Treasurer