



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 2009/2010  
(Covering the period: October 1, 2009-September 30, 2010)**

This session saw the reception of our new Patron, Barr.(Mrs.) Nwanneka Okolo, who has been very supportive of the Centre during her first year in office. The session also recorded a vibrant Long Vacation Programme and participation in a national art competition.

**Children's Centre Development**

**Proposal and Multi-purpose Asphalt Court**

The proposal to make the Children's Centre a teaching support and public service unit is still awaiting implementation. In a grand get-together for women held in September 2010, the Patron of UWA, Barr.(Mrs.) Nwanneka Okolo, promised to take over construction of the multi-purpose asphalt ball court as well as to build a relaxation centre for women and renovate the Madam Hulder Iwuanyanwu Building. We are very grateful for the gracious support of our Patron and her keen interest in our programmes for children and youth.

**Equipment**

Two ceiling fans were fixed in the activity room within the period and three door locks were changed. The table tennis table was also repaired and computers moved to the library.

**Prof. Judith D. C. Osuala Collection on Women and Development**

An extensive collection on women, development issues, education and health, donated in memory of our late member Judy Osuala, has been added to the library. The collection contains a variety of materials ranging from scholarly journals to books for leisure reading.

**Personnel**

Adjustments had to be made following the disengagement of casual workers by the University. The Children's Centre came under University Security surveillance, while the casual cleaner and gardeners were retained at a reduced rate paid by Centre funds.

**Programmes and Events**

**Reception Party for the New Patron**

The Children's Centre Committee joined hands with the newly created Interim UWA Executive to organize a well-attended welcome party for our Patron, Barr.(Mrs.) Nwanneka Okolo. Features included the Children's Centre song composed by Mrs. Mbakamma and

sung by children from the University School, and a drama highlighting the Centre's sanitary situation. A welcome address that encapsulated the needs and desires of the Children's Centre and appealed for the Patron's assistance in resuscitating UWA was read by the Vice-Chairman of the Interim UWA Executive, Ms. Terri Emezi. Responding, the Patron commended the efforts of the women in developing the Children's Centre project and pledged her support in moving the project and association forward.

### **Christmas Carolling, 2009**

Children of the Centre went caroling in December 2009 and realized donations of N100,770. These came from Margaret Cartwright/Ikejiani/Fulton East (N25,020); Margaret Cartwright/Ikejiani/Fulton West with Elias Ave. (N24,150); Odim zone (N12,400); Eze Opi/Alvan Loving (N10,000); and Mbonu Ojike/Murtala Mohamed zone (N29,200).

### **Mirror the Master Art Competition**

This national children's art competition, organized by former staff child Chima Ezeilo of Kambani Arts, took place in four locations—Osogbo, Benin, Nsukka and Zaria, with the finals in Lagos —between October 2009 and March 2010. The Nsukka competition was scheduled to hold at the Children's Centre but due to the January 2009 students' unrest, the organizers were forced to move the venue to Central School I in town. Fourteen schools, including the University School and 11 of our cooperating public primary schools, participated in the competition. John Cross Omeke of Model School II won first prize in the national competition and was awarded a trip to London to view Ben Enwonwu's art.

### **AIIESEC**

The international students' organization AIIESEC has continued to be a good partner, taking part in all major Children's Centre activities. They also initiated and executed two educational programmes: YES, a workshop on developing entrepreneurial skills of young people, and ASK, which aimed at raising awareness of HIV/AIDS. The programmes were assisted by several foreign student interns, for whom the Children's Centre was able to secure a permanent accommodation in the Postgraduate Hall. The Children's Centre is looking forward to a day when UNN students will partake in internship programmes overseas. Harry, the AIIESEC Coach at this period needs to be commended for the work he is doing both for AIIESEC and for the Children's Centre.

### **Long Vacation Programme, 2010**

The Long Vacation Programme was successfully held from August 9-Sept. 4, 2010. The sub-committee involved was headed by Margaret Ngwuchukwu and supported by Elizabeth Babarinde, AIIESEC members and staff of Children's Centre. The activities included excursions to the Motherless Babies Home, Lion Water, UNN Zoo, the Space Centre and UNN hilltop; talks by AIIESEC members on maps and map reading, HIV/AIDS, personal hygiene, and handling electrical appliances; crafts such as bead making, crocheting, cardmaking; making detergent and soymilk; cooking and baking; computer training, etc. The grand finale showcased an exhibition of children's work, drama and entertainment.

### **Nigeria @ 50 Independence Anniversary**

The end of the session led up to 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the nation and university in a two-day event held at the stadium. The Nigeria @ 50 football match planned by the Children's Centre was merged with the Patron's party for children in celebration of UNN's Golden Jubilee. The first day featured songs on Nigeria and the rights of the Nigerian child; traditional dances from Model I and Agu Achara primary schools; and dancing by all the children with the Patron and other mothers. The second day featured a football match between the Cubs of Children's Centre and the Shining Stars of Umeano Quarters, which was won by the Shining Stars 2-0. The trophy for the match was donated by the Patron.

## Children's Centre Library

### Registration

During the 2009-2010 session, there were 208 new registrations and 80 renewals by individual children; 3 adult registrations (a new category); and 11 institutional registrations by schools.

### Personnel

The Children's Centre Library was daily maintained by the following staff of the Department of Library and Information Science: Margaret Ngwuchukwu, Librarian; Elizabeth Babarinde, Higher Library Officer; and Rose Asogwa, Chief Messenger/ Cleaner; under the supervision of Prof. Virginia W. Dike. Olisa Emeka and Ngozi Ezenagu also assisted in keeping the library open on Saturdays.

### Collection Development

The 2009/2010 session saw the addition of 324 new books, increasing accessioned books to 18,525 by the end of the session. The books were purchased from Nsukka Market, ABIC Books in Enugu, exhibition at the Nigerian School Library Association Conference in Ibadan and Cassava Republic Publishers in Abuja. Book donations were received from the Indianapolis Public Library, Traverse Area District Library and People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA) in the United States; and from several individuals and institutions.

### Circulation

Circulation statistics for the 2009/2010 session are as follows:

	Weekdays	Saturdays	Total
Oct.-Dec. 2009	74	118	192
Jan.-Mar. 2010	157	264	421
Apr.-June 2010	412	282	694
July-Sept 2010	943	242	1,189
	1,586	910	<b>2,496</b>

## Library Activities

### Saturday Story Hour

An active Saturday story hour programme was conducted by storytellers Elizabeth Babarinde, Margaret Ngwuchukwu and Virginia Dike, with occasional assistance from students and AIESEC members.

### Bookmark Exchange with Canada

As part of the celebration of October as International School Library Month, the Children's Centre and cooperating schools in Nsukka exchanged bookmarks, photographs and letters with children of the Simon Fraser School in Calgary, Canada. The exchange is an activity of the International Association of School Librarianship.

### School Library Outreach

The school outreach programme was continued by organizing workshops in schools that registered with the Children's Centre Library. The workshops were based on how to effectively use library resources in promoting teaching, information literacy and independent learning. The purpose was to see the teachers and teacher-librarians practicalise what they had learned at earlier workshops. The Centre distributed books donated by People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA) and Libraries for Literacy Foundation to primary schools to augment their collections.

### **Prison Library**

The Nsukka Prison Library, which was founded by the Children's Centre in 2000, was visited continuously in the 2009/2010 session to see how well it was doing. Books donated by Chiazo Igboeli, as well as magazines and newspapers were donated to the prison library as requested by the librarian, who is successfully keeping the place open and accessible to inmates. In an effort to safeguard library books, quantities of old papers were also given to the prison for use by inmates as waste paper.

### **Youth Book Club**

The session saw the introduction of a book club for youth, seen as a way of promoting reading. Initiated by Children's Centre Committee Secretary Ngozi Osadebe, the club began with discussion of the novels *The Great Ponds* by Elechi Amadi and *The Joy of Motherhood* by Buchi Emecheta, and a play, *Wedlock of the Gods* by Zulu Sofala.

### **Women's Book Club**

This club, initiated in 2006, held stimulating discussions on three collections of short stories: *Tropical Fish* by Ugandan author Doreen Baingana, featuring three sisters grappling with challenges of youth in the modern world; *Say You're One of Them* by Uwem Akpan, on the desperate circumstances faced by some children in Nigeria, Kenya and Rwanda; and *Nights of the Creaking Bed* by Toni Kan, an examination of moral dilemmas and the negative effects of poverty, intolerance and irresponsibility in Nigerian life.

### **Donations**

The Children's Centre is grateful for the following donations in cash and in kind:

- The Ihekweazu family for their annual book grant, this year raised to N25,000
- Pius Udo, our first youth corper (1989), for a gift of N5,000
- Postgraduate students of early childhood education for a gift of N10,000
- Ejim Dike for sponsoring our website for the 6<sup>th</sup> year at about \$100 a year
- Chinweze Dike for volunteering his assistance in maintaining the website
- People United for Libraries in Africa for \$500 to buy books for school libraries
- University Librarian, Dr. Charles Omekwu, for donating 12 tables and 38 chairs
- Traverse Area District Library and Indianapolis Public Library for books
- Virginia Dike for paying the postage and carrying the books to Nigeria
- Books from the Spanish Embassy, American Embassy, Kalu and Dike families

### **Financial Account**

	<b>Naira</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b> (N327,470.89 bank + N743.00 cash book)	<b>328,213.89</b>
<b>Bank Deposits</b>	
Christmas caroling 2009	100,770.00
Edith Ihekweazu annual grant for 2010	25,000.00
Donation by Pius Udo, the Centre's first youth corper	5,000.00
<b>Total deposits</b>	<b>130,770.00</b>
<b>Income in Library Cash Book</b>	
Withdrawals from bank	365,000.00
Library registration fees	54,800.00
Fines for lost and overdue books	22,625.00
Rentals	16,500.00
Long Vacation Programme Fees	100,900.00
Donations	11,500.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>571,325.00</b>

Cash Balance from 2008/2009	743.00
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>572,068.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Books and other materials	43,315.00
Stationery supplies	7,120.00
Maintenance of equipment	45,520.00
Fuel for bus and mower	55,305.00
Vehicle maintenance and repair	109,590.00
Book preservation and repair	8,480.00
Salary of Casual workers	149,100.00
Driver's allowances	5,500.00
Landscaping	7,050.00
Long vacation programme expenses	73,580.00
Protector for covering ditch	27,320.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>531,880.00</b>
<b>Closing cash book balance</b>	<b>40,188.00</b>
<b>Closing balance (Sept. 30, 2010)</b>	
(93,240.89 bank + N40,188.00 cash book)	<b>133,428.89</b>

### Children's Centre Committee

The Children's Centre Committee met nine times during the session, on Oct. 13 and Nov. 10, 2009 and on Jan. 26, Feb. 11, Mar. 16, Apr. 24, June 22, Aug. 24, and Sept. 28, 2010.

Members for the 2009-2010 session were:

Prof. Virginia Dike, Chair	Mrs. Elizabeth Babarinde	Mrs. Oby Ikeme
Ms. Terri Emezi, Vice-Chair	Mrs. Susan Echa	Prof. Ebele Maduwesi
Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe, Secretary	Dr. Ifeoma Echezona	Mrs. Ngozi Mamah
Mrs. Fidelia Asiegbu, Asst. Sec.	Mrs. Amaka Ejikeme	Mrs. Meg Ngwuchukwu
Dr. Nkadi Onyegegbu, Treasurer	Miss Helen Eke	Mrs. Ezinne Njoku
Mrs Alice Okore, Chair Lib.Com.	Mrs. Ngozi Ekere	Mrs. Stella Nwadinobi
Prof. Uche Agwagah	Dr. Chinwe Ezeani	Miss Anthonia Ogbu
Dr. Jo Alumanah	Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ezekwe	Mrs. Charity Okide
Dr. Grace Anyanwu	Prof. Julie Ibiam	Ms. Kasie Ugwu
	Mrs. Chiazio Igboeli	

We are grateful to all Children's Centre supporters—our generous benefactor, Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu; the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Barto Okolo and UWA Patron Barr. (Mrs.) Nwanneka Okolo; staff and students of the Department of Library and Information Science for continuing assistance in maintaining the library; the University Librarian, Dr. Charles Omekwu for donation of furniture; PULA for their cooperative support in developing school libraries in the Nsukka area; AIESEC members and other youth volunteers in our programmes; our caroling donors and all our wonderful friends at home and abroad. We look forward to your continuing support of the Children's Centre.

Prof. Virginia Dike  
Chair

Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe  
Secretary

Assisted by Margaret Ngwuchukwu and Elizabeth Babarinde

November 2, 2010