

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2003/2004

(for the period October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004)

The big event of the year was the celebration of the Children's Centre 25th Anniversary. The early part of the session was directed towards preparing for the Silver Jubilee Celebration, which was shifted from the end of 2003 to May 2004. The year was also marked by a number of other activities, including outreach to schools and the prison, and programmes with university students.

Children's Centre Development

The Children's Centre Committee continued the renovation made possible by a gift of N375,000 from Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu. The Building Renovation Sub-committee led by Ifeoma Echezona supervised repainting and re-tiling of the building. Landscaping, under Nneka Onwubiko, began preparations to complete the walling to allow for full landscaping and grounds development. In preparation for the 25th Anniversary, a needs list based on the Children's Centre Development Plan was drawn up for playground development (Grace Anyanwu), landscaping and fencing (Nneka Onwubiko), and computerization and equipment (Virginia Dike).

Silver Jubilee Celebration

The 25th Anniversary was celebrated on the 12th and 13th of May 2004. The event was full of fun. Our donor Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu attended with his wife and friends, as did other dignitaries. Prof. (Mrs.) Ebele Maduewesi of NERDC, one of our foundation members, chaired the occasion. Mrs. Edem Ikoku, Mrs. Maria Chukwumah, Mrs. Phoebe Ezeilo, Miss Gloria Ofo and other old members all came.

The first day was dedicated to children's activities. Groups from six schools and the Centre performed. At the Founders' Day Dinner that evening, Certificates of Merit were presented to 30 founding mothers, 7 friends and 3 long-serving staff.

The 13th of May was the main celebration. The occasion featured speeches, entertainment by the children and cutting of an Anniversary Cake. UWA President Mrs. Nwanneka Nwala introduced the Children's Centre Project. Mrs. Eudora Iwuanyanwu presented a portrait of Madam Hulder Iwuanyanwu, for whom the building is named. UWA honoured the late Alhaja Gambo Sawaba, represented by her daughter, and Dr. (Mrs.) Uche Azikiwe, who have both worked for the upliftment of women. Following the lead of Chief Iwuanyanwu, a number of donations and pledges were made for the future development of the Children's Centre.

Publications

In celebration of the Silver Jubilee, the Committee brought out two commemorative publications—a history of the Children’s Centre and cookbook of recipes from the vacation programmes. Many thanks go to Tayo Adenaike and the staff of Dawn Functions for their wonderful assistance with this project. The pre-press design, layout and artwork were done free of charge. Thanks also to Chuka Iwundu for his able assistance with the planning and design of the booklets.

An international fundraising drive led by Ejim and Chinelo Dike was launched in support of the publications, which were also sold locally for N500 a set. Funds raised during the first phase came to N340,260, out of which N136,500 was used for printing costs, leaving a balance of N203,760 for Children’s Centre development.

The Children’s Centre published Newsletter #10 in February 2004.

Appeal to University of Nigeria Alumni Association (UNAA)

At the NEC meeting held at the University of Nigeria in October 2003, Virginia Dike, Chair of Children’s Centre Committee, and Nneka Onwubiko, Vice-President of UWA, invited the UNAA to participate in the Silver Jubilee and assist in the Centre’s further development, to which the Alumni gave a favourable response.

Christmas Carolling, 2003

The children went on their traditional carolling in support of the Children’s Centre and received N66,700 in donations. Our thanks to Mrs. Edem Ikoku for her donation of chin chin, which was very much enjoyed by the carollers.

NIA Programmes with UWA

An exciting development of the session was the link between UWA and Ndu Ike Akunuba (NIA), an organization devoted to empowering young Igbo women. NIA introduced its activities at Nsukka with a series of consciousness-raising movies from Nov. 24-27, 2003. A leadership institute attended by 16 female university students took place from Feb. 27-29, with follow-up skills workshops held in May. A second leadership institute took place from July 2-4, 2004, with skills workshops in the succeeding weeks. The first set of NIA graduates from Nsukka held a seminar on the Nigerian Woman and the 21st Century on Saturday, June 26, 2004.

Holiday Programme 2004

Chinwe Ezeani coordinated the programme, with able assistance from Grace Anyanwu and Fidelia Asiegbu. The programme lasted from Aug.17- Sept.17, 2004. Registration for each activity was N100. A total of 39 children registered for Excursions, which were led by Fidelia Asiegbu, with able assistance from Greg Nwodo. They visited the Zoological Garden, Carmelite community, UNN cybercafe, Archeological Museum, and Motherless Babies Home. In Creative Arts, Grace Anyanwu introduced 28 children to different kinds of handcraft, painting, and design of items with cardboard sheets. Other activities, such as sewing and sports, did not take off due to low registration. The Bright Children’s Essay Competition, originally scheduled for September 14th, has been postponed to December.

Psycho-Educational Testing Services (PETS)

Services began in July 2004. PETS, which works in cooperation with the Special Education Unit of the Department of Educational Foundations, is designed for

children and youth with special needs, including those with learning disabilities, behavioural problems, mental retardation and special gifts. On August 31, 2004 during a visit by Dr. Wilhelmina Kalu, the PETS Sub-Committee held a very successful meeting to plan the course of action for the coming year.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE LIBRARY

The library has been in operation for 26 years. At the end of September 2004, accessioned books stood at 14,870. A total of 4,647 children have registered since the library's inception in 1978. In 2003/2004, there were 135 new registrations and 180 renewals, for a total of 315 members. There were also 5 institutional registrations.

Library Operations

Facilities

In memory of their mother, the Ihekweazu children have undertaken to develop and furnish the African Children's Literature Research Collection alcove as their contribution to the Children's Centre Silver Jubilee. Prof. (Mrs.) Edith Ihekweazu was an active foundation member of the Children's Centre Committee. This memorial was chosen because of her special interest in African literature.

Personnel

The Library continues to rely on the services of our University staff, Mrs. Rose Asogwa and Mr. Greg Nwodo, and the Department of Library and Information Science, which provides technical assistance. Many thanks also to Ngozi Ezenagu, our Saturday Library Assistant and her friends for the invaluable service they have been rendering in conducting story hour and keeping the library open on Saturdays.

Collection Development

A total of 903 books were added to the collection. These were primarily donations from Traverse Area District Library and Indianapolis Public Library, both in the United States, and from our former member Dr. Nancy Street. Books were also purchased at Nsukka market and at library conferences in Abuja and Kaduna.

Circulation

Circulation statistics for the 2003/2004 session are as follows:

	a.m.	p.m.	Saturday	Total
Oct. – Dec. 2003	335	0	460	795
Jan. – Mar. 2004	194	0	677	871
Apr. - June 2004	679	0	609	1,288
July – Sep. 2004	<u>2,569</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>641</u>	<u>3,210</u>
Total	3,777	0	2,387	6,164

The above statistics show that library use during the school session is now heavily concentrated on Saturdays. In response to this new pattern, the Committee is intensifying cooperation with schools, with the aim of making library facilities more widely available to children during the school day.

Activities

Storyhour

Saturday Storyhour continued throughout the session. Storytellers included Committee members Nneka Onwubiko and Fidelia Asiegbu, our Library Assistant Ngozi Ezenagu, Franklin Onyema, Nnamdi Nnanke, Chidima Ozurumba, and other students and members of AIESEC.

Information Literacy Project with Primary Schools

This project, led by Virginia Dike and Ogo Amucheazi, continued in the 2003/2004 session with a workshop held on February 17, 2004. This was attended by the 3 Library Coordinators of Nsukka LGEA, and 27 teachers from 8 schools. The teachers fashioned out modules aimed at encouraging pupils to develop information literacy skills in the process of sourcing local information.

Prison Library

Prof. Obiora Udechukwu visited and initiated art training, which is being conducted by Ozioma Onuzulike. Ada Udechukwu gave \$100 for current newspapers and magazines; Terri Emezi donated books, magazines and newspapers; Azuka Obidoa gave youth magazines. We would like to thank ACP T. Ndukwu, CSP L. Ekeanyanwu, and Library Warder E. Eziyi for their commitment to this service.

Training for Library Assistants

The Library was the venue for six weeks training for three library assistants from the Mea Mater Elizabeth High School, Enugu. The training used the facilities of the library and staff of the Department of Library and Information Science. The library's share of the revenue accruing from this training has been earmarked for the payment of the Saturday library assistant.

Cooperation with PULA

The Library continued its cooperation with People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA), an American-based NGO. PULA is donating books to the Prison Library and two primary schools (about 500 books each). Schools will be selected on the basis of high library awareness, prior efforts to develop a collection, provision of accommodation, and assignment of a teacher/librarian to library duties.

IBBY Congress on Children's Books for Africa

The African Children's Literature Research Collection provided the resources for a paper presented by Prof. Virginia Dike at the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Congress held in Capetown, South Africa from September 5-7, 2004. The topic of the paper was "Developing fiction for today's Nigerian youth."

DONATIONS

Children's Centre Silver Jubilee Fundraising

A fundraising effort was launched in the build-up to the Children's Centre 25th anniversary. Donations were received to finance the Silver Jubilee publications and support further Children's Centre development. These were deposited in a special account opened in Intercontinental Bank, as were donations received during the Silver Jubilee Celebration. Below is the record of these donations.

Children's Centre Silver Jubilee Fundraising

International Fundraising for Publications and Children's Centre Development

Ada Udechukwu (for Lib.)	\$200	Lesley Onuora	L25
Almaz Atta (Ada's sister)	\$100	Nkem Dike	N3,000
Ann Easterley	\$5	Mary Ellen Chijioke & family	\$250
Nancy Street (Ohuche)	\$40	Ejim Dike (for Library)	\$100
Joanne Ezeilo	L100	Onye Uzoukwu & family	\$300
Uche Nwafor	N5,000	Nneoma Ezeike	\$50
Ada & Chijioke Ozoemena	N10,000	Chinelo Dike	\$100
Chinezi Chijioke	\$50	Kamalu family (Nkechi)	\$200
Nneka Chukwukere	\$50	Ije Dike-Young	\$100
Dayo Ogunyemi	\$30		

Local Donations and Sales of Silver Jubilee Publications

Prof. S. Onyegegbu	N5,000	Eneyo Eyo	N3,500
Mrs. Phoebe Ezeilo	5,000	Prof. & Mrs. L. A. Agu	1,000
Dr. O. Okereke	1,400	Prof. J. O. A. Okoye	2,000
Dr. Inyama	1,000	Prof. Mosta Onuoha	1,500
Dr. Eddie Alumanah	1,000	Prof. & Mrs. P. I. Akubue	1,000
Mr. Chris Uzuegbunam	1,000	Pastor & Mrs. B.O.N. Nwakile	5,000
Mr. G. S. O. Aneke	1,000	Dr. Uche Nzewi	2,000
Mr. Onwubiko	1,000	Other sales	6,500
Other sales	23,100		

Donations during Children's Centre Silver Jubilee Celebration

Obong Rita Akpan, Hon.Min.of Women Affairs	N50,000	Dr. (Mrs.) Uche Azikiwe	Developing football field for N50,000
Chief (Dr.) F. Odimegwu + 20 cartons of drinks	N50,000	Chief (Dr.) E.C.Iwuanyanwu	N50,000 (for cutting of cake)
Dr. & Dr.(Mrs.) Uwakwem	N20,000		

Additional Donations

Nancy Street		2 M-bags of books
Traverse Area District Library		2 M-bags of books
Indianapolis Public Library		2 M-bags of books
Peris Maduka	\$50	Used to pay \$170 postage to transport 4 M-bags of books from Traverse Area District Library and Indianapolis Public Library to Nigeria.
Una Okonkwo Osili	\$25	
Barbara Nowinsky	\$30	
Keith Acker & Julie Bradley	\$40	
Earlene Young	\$25	
Christian Endeavours	\$200	Used for South African children's books and developing toy collection.
Johnetta and Sandra Young	\$100	
Bibiana Ukaegbu	\$100	For the library
Elisabeth Odenigbo (CCL)	\$400	For library books

Ike Anya

L100

Financial Report
(Oct. 1, 2003 – Sept. 30, 2004)

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Opening Balance – Library cash balance	15,198.00
UNN Community Bank	<u>51,389.63</u>
	66,587.63

Income

Christmas carolling 2003	66,700.00
Library registration fees and fines	60,905.00
Holiday programme fees	10,100.00
Prison library donation from Ada Udechukwu	14,000.00
Mea Mater Elizabeth High School for training	20,000.00
Interest from UNNCB	<u>12,662.09</u>

Total Income **184,367.09**

Total funds available **250,954.72**

Expenditure

Library		81,246.00
Books	19,125.00	
Stationery	14,691.00	
Transport	9,380.00	
Maintenance	9,710.00	
Lib. Attendant (Apr.-Sept.)	10,000.00	
Prison library materials	14,200.00	
Entertainment	4,140.00	
Holiday programme expenses		5,000.00
Building renovation		74,555.00
Tiling	22,400.00	
Walling	39,000.00	
Maintenance	13,155.00	
Bus repairs		14,640.00
Gardener's salary		18,000.00
Library Attendant's salary (to Mar.)		6,240.00
Public relations		<u>12,800.00</u>
	Total Expenditure	212,481.00

Closing Balance – Library cash balance	28,857.00
Committee cash balance	8,610.00
UNNCB balance	<u>1,006.72</u>
	38,473.72

UWA Children's Centre Special Account in Intercontinental Bank

Opening deposit from Children's Centre Committee Acct.	20,000.00
Deposits from Fundraising Drive (to 30/9/04)	323,350.00
Deposits from Silver Jubilee Celebration, May 2004	120,000.00
Interest income	<u>8,517.07</u>
	471,867.07

Withdrawal for printing of Silver Jubilee publications	-136,500.00
Deductions for CBN taxes and cheque book (N800.00)	<u>- 1,639.45</u>
Closing balance on 30/9/04	333,727.62

CHILDREN'S CENTRE COMMITTEE

The Children's Centre Committee held meetings on the following dates: October 8, November 5, November 19, and December 3, 2003; January 21, February 3, March 16, March 30, April 28, May 5, May 10-11, May 18, June 8, July 20, and September 28, 2004. Members of the Committee for the session were:

Prof. Virginia Dike, Chair	Mrs. Ngozi Mamah
Mrs. Terri Emezi, Vice-Chair	Mrs. Maria Nwaegbe
Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe, Secretary	Mrs. Nwanneka Nwala
Mrs. Fidelia Asiegbu, Asst. Secretary	Dr. Azuka Obidoa
Dr. Nkadi Onyegegbu, Treasurer	Dr. Tessy Ofoegbu
Dr. Uche Agwagah	Miss Anthonia Ogbu
Mrs. Jo Alumanah	Mrs. Charity Okide
Dr. Ogo Amucheazi	Mrs. Alice Okore
Mrs. Grace Anyanwu	Prof. Julie Okpala
Mrs. Chinwe Ezeani	Dr. Vicky Onu
Mrs. Ifeoma Echezona	Mrs. Nneka Onwubiko
Dr. Julie Ibiam	Prof. Judith Osuala
Mrs. Chiazio Igboeli	Mrs. Sylvia Uhiara
Mrs. Oby Ikeme	Dr. Uju Umo
Mrs. Schola Inyama	

The Committee held a reception for Willi Kalu, the foundation Chairperson of the Children's Centre Committee on January 9, 2004, during her visit from the United States. She was also on the editorial committee for the Silver Jubilee publications and helped in planning for the Psycho-Educational Testing Services during the session.

Maria Nwaegbe, one of our founding mothers and active Committee members, was sent off on June 9, 2004. Maria was Financial Secretary of UWA in the 1980s, a member of the initial delegation to our donors, and a foundation member of the Playground Committee. She participated in such Children's Centre programmes as cookery, sewing, excursions, carolling, and planning of the Silver Jubilee. We wish Maria a very happy and fruitful retirement, as she continues her work with youth.

Sylvia Uhiara, another long-active member of the Committee, also left the community this session following her retirement from the University. Sylvia is best known for her long and faithful Friday evening library service. She also led carolling in her zone for many years and taught sewing in the vacation programme. Sylvia was Treasurer of UWA in the 1990s, when she ran the innovative SAP Shop and supervised building maintenance. We wish her every success in her new endeavours.

In closing, we would like to thank all those who have contributed to the Children's Centre, especially in the celebration of the Silver Jubilee. We continue to thank Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu and all donors and friends for their generous support. We thank the University administration, Departments of Library and Information Science, Educational Foundations, and Works Services for their assistance. We look forward to your continued support in the new session.

Prof. Virginia Dike
Chair

Mrs. Ngozi Osadebe
Secretary

Dr. Nkadi Onyegegbu
Treasurer

