

In This Issue

This issue of the Newsletter reports a very exciting stage in the history of the Children's Centre, beginning with the Silver Jubilee Celebration in May 2004 and continuing with events through the first half of 2005. These include the link between UWA and NIA, an NGO empowering young women; the 2004 holiday programme; and UWA's reception of her patron, Mrs. Ify Nebo. The past year witnessed many developments—donation of the Edith Ihekweazu alcove for African children's literature; PULA book donations to the prison and school libraries; a gift of computer equipment from the Parkside School in England; assistance from Willi Kalu in developing PETS; reconstitution of the library sub-committee; acquisition of library furniture and video equipment; and posting of the Children's Centre website. But first to our 25th Anniversary—

Silver Jubilee Celebration

The 25th Anniversary of the Children's Centre was celebrated on the 12th and 13th of May 2004. This fun-filled event included children's festivities, a founders' day dinner, and the grand finale for outside guests, during which we received our donor, Chief (Dr.) E. C. Iwuanyanwu and Lady Eudora Iwuanyanwu, along with other dignitaries and guests.

The afternoon of May 12th was devoted to children's activities, with performances of skits, songs, dances and recitations by the Children's Centre Group, University Staff School, Model Primary School II, C.P.S. II Nru, Hillcrest and Shalom Primary Schools.

The Founders' Day Dinner provided a get-together for new and old friends of the Children's Centre, including Maria Chukwumah, Phoebe Ezeilo, Ebele Maduwesi, Edem Ikoku and Gloria Ofo. Thirty founding mothers were awarded certificates for their pioneering role in Children's Centre development. (*See photo page 3*) These included the members of the original committee who planned the library, Virginia (Jill) Dike, current Chair of the Children's Centre Committee and long term Chair of the Library Committee, and fellow members Ogo Amucheazi, and Gloria Ofo; Wilhelmina (Willi) Kalu, the Secretary of UWA at the Centre's founding and long serving Chairperson of the Children's Centre Committee; Maria Chukwumah, President of UWA during the Centre's formative years; and Terri Emezi, a foundation member still active in the project. Other honorees from

the early years include Joan Ezeilo, Edith Ihekweazu (late), Maria Nwaegbe, Mary Ellen Chijioke, Ebele Maduwesi (who also served as President of UWA, 1987-90 and Chair of the Committee, 1996-98), Peris Maduka, Anne Osuji, Philippa Chineme (late), and Julie Okpala (UWA President, 1993-95).

Among honorees from the mid-1980s is Edem Ikoku, an active committee member and Patron of UWA, who with her late husband, former Vice-Chancellor Chimere Ikoku, did much to nurture the Children's Centre. Others from the second generation of the committee are Judith Osuala, Janet Ndukwe, Elisabeth Odenigbo, Kodili Ezeike, Grace Anyanwu, Nancy Achebe, Chiazio Igboeli, Lesley Onuora, Sylvia Uhiara, Bibiana Ukaegbu, Nkadi Onyegebu, Jo Alumanah, Jo Okereke (UWA President, 1995-97), and Ada Udechukwu.

The occasion also honoured seven special Friends of the Children's Centre. These include two former Vice-Chancellors and their wives, who were active Patrons of UWA—James and Phoebe Ezeilo helped lay the foundation for the Children's Centre, and Frank and Edna Ndili fostered its early development. Louis A Agu was honoured for the very supportive role he played as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Admin.) in the late 1980s. Other special friends include Humphrey Nwosu-Igbo, Chris Uzuegbunam, and Miriam Ikejiani-Clark. In addition to these, three members of staff—Rose Asogwa, Greg Nwodo and Lewechi Onyeabor—received certificates of honour for long and meritorious service.

The Silver Jubilee Celebration on the 13th of May was an outdoor event attended by Chief and Mrs. Iwuanyanwu, their friends, other dignitaries, and members of the community. (*See photos on page 3.*) Prof. (Mrs.) Ebele Maduwesi chaired the occasion. Guests were entertained by the Children's Centre choral group, University Staff School band and singers, NAUW Nursery School dance troupe, and pupils from C.P.S. Ede-Oballa and Union P.S. II. UWA President Mrs. Nwanneka Nwala introduced the Children's Centre Project and called attention to future needs and dreams. Mrs. Eudora Iwuanyanwu unveiled a portrait of the mother of Chief Iwuanyanwu, Madam Hulder Iwuanyanwu, for whom the building is named. The University Women's Association honoured the late Alhaja Gambo Sawaba, represented by her daughter, Hajiya Bilkisu Abdul Rahaman and Dr. (Mrs.) Uche Azikiwe, who have both worked for the upliftment of women.

Following the lead of Chief Iwuanyanwu, who pledged the sum of N15 million from his family and friends, a number of donations and pledges were made for the future development of the Children's Centre. Among these were N50,000 from Obong Rita Akpan, the Hon. Minister of Women Affairs; N50,000 and 20 cartons of drinks from Chief (Dr.) F. Odimegwu, the Managing Director of Nigerian Breweries; and N20,000 from Dr. and Dr. (Mrs.) Uwakwem. On her part, Dr. (Mrs.) Uche Azikiwe donated N50,000 for development of a football field. In closing, celebrants cut the 25th Anniversary cake, for which Chief Iwuanyanwu gave N50,000. These and other donations still coming in are being used to realize Children's Centre objectives.

Silver Jubilee Publications

Two publications were brought out in celebration of the Silver Jubilee—a history of the Children's Centre and cookbook of recipes from the vacation programmes. An international fundraising drive led by Ejim and Chinelo Dike was launched to support publication of the books. Many thanks to them and to Tayo Adenaike, the staff of Dawn Functions and Chuks Iwundu for their contributions to the execution of this project. A list of donors to this and other Silver Jubilee fundraising follows on page 5.

Children's Centre *Silver Jubilee Celebration*

May 12 – 13, 2004



Welcome song by Children's Centre group



Cutting of the 25th Anniversary Cake by Chief Iwuanyanwu, members of UWA and guests



Dance by NALW Nursery Group



Univ. Staff School band members



History of Children's Centre in song



Founders' Day Dinner - Presentation of Certificates

CHILDREN'S CENTRE Activities in 2004



A busy day at the library during the longvacation, July 2004



Holiday programme coordinator Chirwe Ezeani guides children in playing chess

Library & Holiday Programme

NIA Seminar



Helen Eke dances at the NIA Seminar on the Nigerian Woman & the 21st Century

Donations to the Children's Centre Silver Jubilee

International Fundraising for Publications and Children's Centre Development

Ada Udechukwu (for Lib.)	\$200	Lesley Onuora	£25
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	£100	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		Keith Acker & Julie Bradley	\$40
Traverse Area District Library	"	Bibiana Ukaegbu	\$100
Indianapolis Public Library	"	Earlene Young	\$25
Peris Maduka	\$50	Christian Endeavours	\$200
Una Okonkwo Osili	\$25	Johnetta and Sandra Young	\$100
Barbara Nowinsky	\$30	Elisabeth Odenigbo (CCL)	\$400
		Ike Anya	£100

Our thanks again to all our wonderful donors, who enable us to maintain and expand Children's Centre programmes and services.

UWA Establishes Link with NIA

An exciting recent development is the link established between UWA and Ndu Ike Akunuba (NIA), an organization devoted to empowering young Igbo women. NIA introduced its activities in Nsukka in November 2003 with a series of consciousness-raising movies open to

the public. This was followed by a leadership institutes for female university students in February and July 2004 and a series of skills workshops. The first set of NIA graduates from Nsukka held a seminar on the Nigerian Woman and the 21st Century at the Children's Centre on Saturday, June 26, 2004. (*See photo page 4.*)

UWA Receives her Patron, Mrs. Ify Nebo

Members of the University Women's Association welcomed their new patron, the wife of the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Ify Nebo in February 2005. (*See photo page 7.*) At a reception held in her honor, the patron was given a guided tour of the Children's Centre and introduced to its programs and plans. Mrs. Nebo, a religious counselor with extensive experience in children's work and domestic arts, expressed delight in the Association's activities and pledged her support and active participation. Since that time she has provided welcome support to playground development, vacation activities, and the prison library project.

Alcove Donated in Memory of Prof. (Mrs.) Edith Ihekweazu

As their contribution to the Children's Centre Silver Jubilee, the children of the late Prof. (Mrs.) Edith Ihekweazu have donated an alcove for the African Children's Literature Research Collection. Chikwe Ihekweazu, Ada Ozoemena and Edozie Ihekweazu presented this in memory of their mother, who was an active contributor to the Children's Centre and strong proponent of African literature during her lifetime. The donation includes bookshelves, table and chairs, and Hausa leatherwork pouffes. The family has also undertaken to build up the collection with an annual gift, beginning at N20,000, for book purchases. Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu, a medical doctor now resident in England, made the presentation at a reception held during his visit to Nigeria in May 2005 (*page 7*). During the occasion Chikwe spoke on the positive role the Children's Centre played in his generation's growing up, and members shared memories of Edith and her contributions to the project.

Edith Ihekweazu was part of the Children's Centre from the very beginning, attending the library opening in October 1978. She was a foundation member of the Children's Centre Committee and Playground Committee, as well as Treasurer of UWA during the project's formative years. Edith also contributed to the academic life of the University as a scholar in languages and literature and UNN's first Nigerian female professor.

The African Children's Literature Research Collection developed from the committee's practice of acquiring a second copy of every African children's book they could find. As a result, the library houses a valuable collection of Nigerian and other African children's books, consulted by numerous scholars and students.

Willi Kalu donates professional materials to PETS

The founder of the Psycho-Educational Testing Services (PETS), Dr. Wilhelmina Kalu, donated her testing materials and numerous books, journals and pamphlets during her visit to Nigeria in June and July 2005. (*See photo page 7.*) She also conducted a workshop demonstrating their use, helped organize the playroom toy collection and explained the use of toys in testing. In addition to use by PETS, members of AIESEC now provide supervision for children playing with the toys on Saturday mornings.

Our thanks to Ogonna Agu for her assistance with the reproduction of the colored photograph pages in this and the previous issue, and to Chinelo Dike for those in newsletters 8 and 9.



Books donated by PULA are delivered to the CPS Obimo school library in July.



UWA women receive their patron Mrs. Ify Nebo in Feb. UWA Pres. N. Nwala (R), V. Dike (L)

Events and Activities in 2005



Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu presents the African Children's Literature Alcove given in memory of Prof. (Mrs.) Edith Ihekweazu in May. With him are N. Nwala, O. Amucheazi, V. Dike, T. Emezi.



Magazines from PULA are presented to the Nsukka Prison Library.. L-R are V. Dike, N. Osadebe, CSP Ekeanyanwu, N. Onwubiko, ACP Igwilo



Dr. Willi Kalu demonstrates the use of toys in testing at the PETS during her visit in June 2005.



Art activities led by Grace Anyanwu during the holidays



Fidelia Asiegbu and the children visit the motherless babies —

And go on an excursion to the University of Nigeria Cybercafe



PULA Donates to School Libraries

People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA), an American non-profit organization, has teamed up with the Children's Centre to develop primary school libraries in and around Nsukka. *(See photo page 7.)* Currently, most public primary schools lack libraries, although library awareness is increasing through the efforts of the Children's Centre and local education authority. In this cooperative project PULA, which has already built libraries in Uganda and Malawi, provides the books, while the Children's Centre selects beneficiaries and follows up to ensure effective use. The first consignment of books has been distributed to four rural and two urban schools, all of which have provided library accommodation and shown commitment to the use of library resources in education.

PULA donates to Prison Library

The Nsukka Prison Library has also received a boost from People United for Libraries in Africa (PULA), in the form of the Encyclopedia Americana, books, and recent issues of National Geographic Magazine. The prison library sub-committee presented the journals to ACP Igwilo and CSP Ekeanyanwu in May. *(See photo page 7.)* The main consignment of books were delivered on July 27, 2005 by a delegation including the Patron and President of UWA and members of the prison library sub-committee. The prison library was started as an outreach service of the Children's Centre when members became aware of the lack of educational and recreational facilities for prisoners.

Parkside School in UK donates computers

Students and staff of the Parkside School in the United Kingdom raised 931 pounds sterling for the Children's Centre in response to the Silver Jubilee appeal. The mover behind the fundraising drive was art teacher Sue Ubagu, who conducted vacation art activities for the Children's Centre in the 1980s when she was resident in Nsukka. The money is being used to initiate computerization of the Centre, providing computer equipment for library use and a desktop publishing unit for producing reading and learning materials with local content.

Holiday Programme 2004

The Children's Centre annual vacation programme was coordinated by Chinwe Ezeani, with the able assistance of Fidelia Asiegbu and Grace Anyanwu. *(Photos on pages 4 & 8.)* Fidelia Asiegbu and Children's Centre driver Greg Nwodo took the 39 children who registered for excursions to 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.

Library Sub-Committee reconstituted

The Children's Centre Committee has reconstituted the library sub-committee under the leadership of Alice Okore, a librarian with the University Library. Members include librarians Virginia Dike, Chinwe Ezeani, Ifeoma Echezona, Ngozi Osadebe, Fidelia Asiegbu, and Ngozi Ekere, as well as Terri Emezi and Nneka Onwubiko. The sub-committee has initiated monthly cataloging parties that have been very successful in clearing the backlog of new books from the workroom. It has also held a book repair workshop and made recommendations on the purchase of furniture.

Furniture and video equipment for the library

Donations given during the Silver Jubilee and Christmas caroling have been used to acquire new furniture and video equipment for the library. The \$400 donated by former member Elisabeth Odenigbo provided three new bookshelves for the overflow of books coming out of the workroom. With caroling donations the committee built a custom-made cabinet for the vertical file and pamphlet collections and dual purpose writing board/map display stand. Video equipment is being acquired through \$400 in donations made to the library during the Silver Jubilee fundraising. Donations earmarked for this were \$200 from Ada Udechukwu and \$100 from Bibiana Ukaegbu and Ejim Dike. The video equipment will be used to mount entertaining and educational programs for children and members of UWA.

Children's Centre on the Web

Another exciting development of the year was the posting of the Children's Centre website at www.childrenscentreunn.org. The site was designed with the assistance of web master Chinweze Dike and sponsored for the first year by Ejim Dike. We encourage our friends to check the website for news of current developments.

Children's Centre Committee

The work of the Children's Centre is made possible by the devoted women who serve on the Children's Centre Committee of the University Women's Association. Members serving from mid-2004 to mid-2005 include:

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

We are also honoured to have the participation and support of the Patron of UWA, Mrs. Ify Nebo, in Children's Centre activities. Our best wishes to Maria Nwaegbe and Sylvia Uhiara, who have been sent off after many years of faithful service to the Children's Centre.

Support the Children's Centre!

The Children's Centre depends on the support of its friends, both members of the community who donate their material, time and talents, and friends from far and near who support Children's Centre programmes with goods and funding. We would like to thank all our wonderful donors once again and appeal to all our readers for help in developing the Children's Centre to its full potential. Contact us at childrenscentre_unn@yahoo.com or visit our website at www.childrenscentreunn.org to see how you can be of assistance. Thank you!

Newsletter Editorial Committee – Virginia Dike, Alice Okore, Terri Emezi, Judith Osuala

