



ANGLO-NIGERIAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NEWSLETTER No. 10, JULY - DECEMBER, 2010

OUR MISSION: To help the blind to achieve daily independence and good life while working with concerned stakeholders to ensure full inclusion of the blind into the society.

ANWAB PRODUCES DEVOTIONAL BOOKS FOR BLIND STUDENTS IN 4 NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES

Blind students in 4 Nigerian universities are among recipients of devotional books produced in Braille by ANWAB in the last six months. ANWAB produced in Braille a total number of 878 copies of books in 958 volumes. The books included 450 copies of Daily Devotion RHAPSODY OF REALITY for a church in Lagos. Several other copies were delivered to students, individuals and corporate organisations. The benefiting students are in the following institutions:

Nigerian Law School, Enugu; Babcock University, Ilesha Remo, Ogun State; University of Port Harcourt; University of Ibadan; Ijesha Youth Development Foundation; University of Lagos; Nigeria Association of the Blind, Lagos; Pacelli School for the Blind, Lagos; Queen's College, Yaba, Lagos.

We also transcribed into Braille 58 copies of Examination Question papers for Queen's College.

MORE BLIND PERSONS BENEFIT FROM ANWAB'S PROGRAMMES

Several blind persons have entered our rehabilitation and training programmes. They include 5 persons who came regularly for Rehabilitation. Three of them completed the course and two others are still undergoing the training.

In the area of Computer Training and Internet Access, 77 persons made use of the internet café. The computer trainer took in 7 persons for training out of which 3 have completed the course and 4 others are currently undergoing the training. The computers used for training have the JAWS Screen Reader installed in them for the use of the blind.

Our full-service Library Service continued to attract many users. 102 persons made use of the library between July and December 2010.

Our Outreach programme also continued with the distribution of books by the Outreach Officer. The books were donated to ANWAB by various libraries in the US and UK and we in turn donated and distributed them to other needy schools around the country. The Officer also interacted with parents of blind children and other blind individuals who needed guidance and counseling. Time was also spent in helping to create the much-needed awareness required by ANWAB.

DISCLAIMER

We wish to bring to the notice of the general public that both Messrs Sola Omilabu and Kola Senyaon Ateghoh are no longer in the employment of ANWAB. While Sola resigned in April 2007, Ateghoh was summarily dismissed in July 2010 for engaging in activities not compatible with his terms of employment. They have therefore not been permitted to use the name of ANWAB in any business transaction and we shall not be liable to anyone that does any form of business with them on our behalf.

OUR VISION: To be a leading provider of technology and educational facilities that create independence for the blind.



Sola Omilabu



Kola Senyaon Ateghoh

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND DONATES TO BLIND NIGERIANS

The New Jersey Commission for the Blind, USA, with support from Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, a respected member of the Nigerian Federal House of Representatives, has donated, through ANWAB, teaching and leisure materials amounting to \$100,000 to schools in Nigeria. The items, which were collated by ANWAB, included: Book Port, Zoomtext, Foam Ball, 3D glitter drawing pen, Gertie ball and JAWS screen readers, amongst others. The beneficiaries include Mutum Biyu Special School for the Handicapped, Taraba State; Special Education Centre for the Blind, Afara Umuahia, Abia State; Pacelli School for the Blind and Partially-Sighted, Lagos; St. Joseph Centre for the Visually Impaired, Cross River State; School for Blind Children, Gindiri, Plateau State and Abdul Rasheed Raji School for the Blind, Sokoto.

VISITORS TO THE CENTRE

ANWAB Centre has continued to receive several distinguished visitors. They include Rev. Father Ugo Macciarone of the Jesuit Fathers, New York, USA; Mr. Yemi Adeola Dada from ANWAB UK; Mr. Asabe Abubakar from the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA); Ms Bola Abimbola from the UK, representing the Ijesha Youth Development Foundation; Mr. Okunniyi Wale of Gender Advocacy Group; Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa from House of Representatives, Abuja and friends from New Jersey Commission for the Blind, USA. They all expressed delight at the work of ANWAB.

MORE DONATIONS TO ANWAB



Chief Williams presenting the St. Georges Lodge cheque to ANWAB Vice-Chair, Barbara Wey (centre) with Director, right.

****Mrs. Funmilola Aderinokun** from Lagos donated 4 Talking wrist watches, 1 pair of Easi-grip Scissors, 2 Dycem Non-slip plate mats and 2 liquid level indicators.

****Mrs. Winifred Mfon** donated a talking table clock.

****Mr. Jan Maik Haas**, a volunteer from Germany, donated a book on CD titled "AN ANOTHER THING".

****St. Georges Lodge of Nigeria** donated N250,000.00

****Ms. Bola Abimbola** from the UK and **Mrs. Ebele Anyadiegwu** donated N5,000 each.

****Guaranty Trust Bank (Head Office)** also donated N120,000 and **Asuquo Emmanuel Cobhams**, a renowned blind musical producer and writer, donated N100,000, both towards supporting the launching of the proposed ANWAB Chess Club for the Blind in 2011.

2ND ANWAB OPEN DAY

The 2nd ANWAB open day was held on 26th August, 2010 at the ANWAB Centre. It was well attended by Dignitaries and friends of the Centre as well as representatives of Media houses. Visitors were well-entertained with Chocolate drinks provided by Promasidor Ltd. A carton of cake was also received from UAC Foods. It was an opportunity for the general public to experience at first-hand how ANWAB assists the visually impaired in the area of Education and Social Upliftment.

Altogether, 39 visitors graced the occasion and were taken round the Centre by members of staff and Management Committee.

ANWAB MEMBER UNDERTAKES LAW COURSE AT BABCOCK UNIVERSITY

One of our members, Miss Mary Musa, is now a full-time student of Babcock University. Mary was a diploma Student at Babcock and ANWAB provided some assistance that has now helped her to secure full admission to study for a law degree in the university. We wish her all the best.

EVENTS ATTENDED BY ANWAB

****On 14th July 2010**, the Director and members of staff attended the end of session activity Art and Craft Exhibition of Pacelli School for the Blind, Surulere, Lagos.

****On 16th July 2010**, the Director attended Advocacy program/Workshop organized by Disabled Person's Rights Initiative, Ikoyi.

****On 24th of July 2010** members of staff attended the Director's son's birthday Ceremony.

****On the 24th to 26th of August 2010**, Mr. Taofeek Gbadeyanka, the then Outreach OFFICER, attended a three-day Conference for Disability Focused Non-Governmental Organisations held at Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State. The conference was organized by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Abuja.

ANOTHER BABY JOINS THE ANWAB FAMILY



Mrs. Folake Opara, the Admin Officer, gave birth to a baby boy in the month of December 2010. The naming ceremony which took place on the 21st of December 2010 was well attended by staff.

Divine Uzoma Opara

NEW VOLUNTEER JOINS ANWAB

ANWAB now has a dedicated and committed volunteer in person of Miss Justina Itabor. Miss Itabor was introduced to the Centre as a volunteer, by Mr. Philips Opara, ANWAB's photographer friend. She regularly assists with the work of scanning and operating the embosser.

PROFILE



Mr. Damilare Ishola

"There is nothing a sighted person can do that a blind person cannot do better". These are the words from our guest profile for this edition, 31-year old Mr. Damilare Ishola. Mr. Ishola is the victim of a fracas on two different occasions resulting in the loss of his vision: first, in 2003 when he was trying to assist an old lady who was

being assaulted and secondly in 2008, when returning to his house and unknown to him, he got caught up in a brawl that had ensued from a nearby get-together. This was just before sitting for his diploma exams. In the early days of his sight loss, Damilare bemoaned his situation and said that he sought for help from different churches, medical institutions and friends but to no avail. His friends abandoned him and he felt all alone until a lady friend at a church he attends advised him to seek help from the Anglo-Nigerian Welfare Association for the Blind which he promptly did.

Damilare has been at ANWAB since June 2010, learning Braille, mobility and typing skills necessary for rehabilitation. He confirms that he can now read better and move about independently as well as use the typewriter manually. He believes that he now has a brighter future because at ANWAB he has been able to integrate himself properly with his blind peers and regained his confidence and independence. In fact, he states that his friends are now returning to him in droves and his parents have become very supportive of his situation. Damilare will undergo a computer course before finally graduating from ANWAB as he wishes to return to school and complete his diploma and further education.

CHALLENGES FOR ANWAB:

****Staff salaries:** This remains a great challenge. We welcome support from all well-wishers to support the payment of staff salaries and overheads for the Centre which amounts to N500,000.00 per month.

****Purchase of diesel:** Due to the erratic supply of Electricity within the Yaba area, the Centre relies on the Generator and as such the we spend about N60,000 on Diesel each month.

****Upgrading of equipment:** Due to wear and tear, ANWAB desperately desires to upgrade its computers and Braille embossers some of which have been in use for over ten years. ANWAB welcomes your assistance in order to support blind children needing to advance themselves through education and employment.

For further information, kindly contact:

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