



BRAILLE BOOK PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY

Between July and December 2006, 181 books were produced and delivered altogether. Out of this number, 150 copies requested were for Bauchi State Government and the remaining 31 copies were delivered to individual students across the country. In this period, 415 volumes of Braille books were delivered. The centre also produced examination question papers in Braille for blind students of Queen's College and Federal Government College, Ijanikin, both in Lagos.

OTHER SERVICES

Three more students enrolled for rehabilitation, one of whom left leaving two: Wasiu Ogundokun and Princewill Eze. They are receiving training in Braille, mobility and typing.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Katrin Affolter, a 20 year old student, joined ANWAB in September as a volunteer from Switzerland. She will be with the centre until February 2007. She helps out with scanning, editing and embossing of books into Braille. Apart from this, she spends two days a week volunteering at the school for the multi-handicapped. She states that she thoroughly enjoys her work and being her first time in Africa, she finds people in Nigeria very pleasant and friendly and will take back many fond memories.



Katrin Affolter

VISITORS TO THE CENTRE

There were many visitors to our centre and almost all of them made encouraging comments. Notable among these were: Mr. Umar Jantullu, Principal of the Kebbi State School for the Handicapped, Mrs. F. Ayileka of the Federal Capital Development Authority Social Development Secretariat, Abuja, Mrs. Mohammed, Principal of the Nigerian Farm Craft Centre for the Blind, Ikeja, Lagos, The Federal Director of Rehabilitation in the Federal Ministry of Sports and Social Development, Abuja and Mr. Fujio Deguchi from the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). Mrs. Sam Adeeko from Action for Blind People, London, U.K. And her husband, Abel, also visited. She shared her experiences working with the blind in the U.K. and wondered how difficult it must be for the blind in Nigeria. She promised to help ANWAB to grow on her return to the U.K. Students of the Nigerian Farm Craft Centre for the Blind, Ikeja also made an excursion to the centre to learn about the centre and how they could benefit. Dr. Faderin, a member of ANWAB's Management Committee was on hand to speak to the group on the need for people to donate or pledge corneas before their death for the benefit of humanity. The students were highly impressed with what they heard and prayed God for the long-term sustenance of ANWAB. A journalist who visited commented: "Fulfilment of a dream" and another commented "I will like to be associated with your good works".



Students of the Nigerian Farm Craft Centre for the Blind

DONATIONS MADE TO ANWAB

Ford Foundation presented a cheque of over N12 million in Nigerian Naira, being the first instalment of a three-year project grant. This will be used for the purchase of equipment for the project, the setting up of the Internet Café and computer-training units for the blind. ANWAB UK also donated a Mavis Beacon Typing Tutor CD and money to buy a new 40KVA generator.

DONATIONS MADE BY ANWAB

ANWAB donated one low visual aid (magnifier) to a student who is partially sighted. These are highly sought after by low vision persons in the country and ANWAB would be grateful to have them for free distribution.

FORTHCOMING PROJECTS

Before long, the Internet café and computer training units will become fully functional and accessible to all blind people in Nigeria. The Internet café will be the first-ever dedicated Internet access service for the blind in the country. There will also be a special corner for indoor board and card games like chess and scrabble.

ANWAB'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY



Cross-section of chess players

The climax of this period was the celebration of ANWAB'S tenth anniversary from 1st to 6th October which featured several outdoor and indoor games and a symposium "Looking at the state of the blind in Nigeria" by the President of the Nigeria Association of the Blind, Mr. David Okon. Skittles and tollball games were played between the students of the Nigerian Farm Craft Centre for the Blind (NFCB), Ikeja, Lagos and the Vocational Training Centre for the Blind, Oshodi, Lagos, while Tug-Of-War game was staged between ANWAB staff and other

centres for the blind. The anniversary afforded opportunity for the blind to be engaged in another exciting chess tournament. Prizes and certificates were given out to participants.



Lagos State Education Commissioner, Dr. Leke Pitan flagging off the charity walk

The finale of the anniversary celebration was a charity walk jointly organised by ANWAB and the Lagos State Chapter of the Nigeria Association of the Blind with contributions from Nigerwives Braille Centre, the Vocational Training Centre, Oshodi and Synergy Alliance Inc. The walk was to mark the International White Cane day celebrated on 15th October each year. It was led by the Lagos State Commissioner for Education, Dr. Leke Pitan and witnessed a large crowd helping to raise awareness about the difficulties faced by blind people in moving around the streets of our towns and cities.



Participants at the charity walk

The centre gave out 50 guide canes for mobility free to blind persons who attended. The anniversary was yet another opportunity for ANWAB to take stock and reposition itself for the task ahead. Three members of staff who had served ANWAB for ten years were given long service awards. They are Cajetan Duru, Senior proof reader and Braille production officer, Miss Comfort Esang, the office assistant and Danlami Basharu, the Director who all resumed work with ANWAB on 2nd October 1996.

ANWAB received several donations in cash and kind from its friends and well wishers including its patrons, Dr. Bode Olajumoke and Mr. Fola

Adeola, and its lawyer, Barr. Genevieve Onyiuke of Onyiuke Chambers.



Presentation of long service award to the Director Danlami Basharu by Dr. Leke Pitan, Education Commissioner. Left is Danlami's wife, Mrs. Basharu

CHALLENGES

There is still need for volunteers to assist the blind in different ways such as by reading to them either at the centre, schools or homes and also visiting elderly blind persons. Furthermore, volunteers who have computers at home and can scan and edit books are needed to speed up the process of book production. The centre also requires alternative Power source like a new generator and inverter and embossers as well as assistance to pay salaries of staff and funds to run the centre.

ANWAB wishes to take this opportunity to extend its most sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of ANWAB UK and our many friends both in Nigeria and overseas who continue to sustain this association. We shall definitely continue to work towards meeting the objectives of the association especially the long-term independence of the blind in Nigeria and the West African region.

All communications to ANWAB should be directed to:

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