



ANWAB RELOCATES TO HERBERT MACAULAY WAY, YABA



The new ANWAB Centre occupies the 1st floor of the building

The ANWAB Centre relocated in April 2008 from Hughes Avenue to No. 275 Herbert Macaulay Way, Alagomeji, Yaba, close to our old Centre. We are located on the 1st floor of the three-floor building on the ever-busy Yaba high street. It is hoped that the central location of the new Centre will enable easier access by our clients and friends. The Centre accommodates our Braille Book Production Unit, the Cyber Café for the Blind, Library, Independent Living Room and the Computer Training Unit, among others.

BRILLE BOOK PRODUCTION

Over 700 Volumes Delivered In 6 Months



Braille book production in progress, with Cajetan Duru and Amaka operating the machines

900 copies of books in 1,418 volumes were produced while 1,040 copies of books in 1,467 volumes were delivered to clients between January and June 2008. The clients included international agencies and institutions such as:

The United States Embassy, International Republican Institute, Coalition for Change, National Open University of Nigeria, Nigeria Association of the Blind, Books were also produced for individual blind students of the Universities of Ado Ekiti and Lagos as well as the following Secondary Schools:

Queens College Lagos, Federal Government College, Ijanikin, Lagos, Wenby's College, Ejigbo, Lagos, Ihogbe

College, Benin City, Edo State, Olu Odutola College, Ijebu Igbo, Ogun State, Adeola Adetola College, Ijebu Ode, Ogun State, Government Girls' Secondary School, Kwali, Abuja.

VALUE-ADDED SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

A. Braille, Mobility and Typing



Funmi Aroye, Rehab Officer

A new Rehabilitation Officer, Miss Funmi Aroye, assumed office in June. She graduated from the Federal College of Education (Special) Oyo with a National Certificate in Education (NCE). Her major subject area was Social Studies combined with Education of the visually impaired, learning to teach braille, mobility and typing. She is partially sighted and is applying her learned skills fully in her job. Presently, she has two Students - Sola Agagu and Kabir Rufai, who are doing quite well and are happy and comfortable with her. Funmi says: "I am enjoying myself and I find the job interesting".

B. Computer Training and Internet Access

66 persons made use of the internet café while 10 persons came for Computer training.



Training in session in the Computer Training Unit, headed by Isaac Adegbola

C. Library Service

67 persons made use of the library during the last 6 months.

D. Outreach work

The post of the Outreach Officer became vacant and an advertisement was placed in The Guardian newspaper for a replacement. An interview was conducted in June and the new Outreach Officer is expected to commence work in the first week of July.

VISITORS TO THE CENTRE

Several persons visited the centre over the period. We have listed only a cross section of them here with some interesting comments made:

Mrs. C.T. Okerayi and Mrs Inam - parents who came to enquire about computer training for the blind; Mrs. Adeleye from Wenby's College; Captain Chris Obi; Herbert and Valentin Helme - volunteers from Germany on the International Cultural Youth Exchange Programme (ICYE); Miss Nkechi Ezeh from IBTC Pensions; Jamila C. Ogah from Jobs Express; Mrs. J.N. Egbri from the Lagos State Ministry of Education; Mrs. R.A. Adesanya from All Saints Inclusive Special Unit; Funsho Johnson from DIAGON Nigeria Ltd.; Rev. Sister Assumpta Aliam from Pacelli School for the Blind; Odusanya F. Olasunkanmi; Abiola Olajide; Shittu Oladunni and Utubor Joy of the Rotaract Club of Shomolu; Mr. Jide Olaiya from Consolidated Hallmark Insurance; Frances Okafor and Mrs. Apesin - friends of the Association and Tajudeen Faborode of Lion's Club International.

These are some comments made by the visitors:

“Very nice and warm people and very helpful to help the blind manage life”

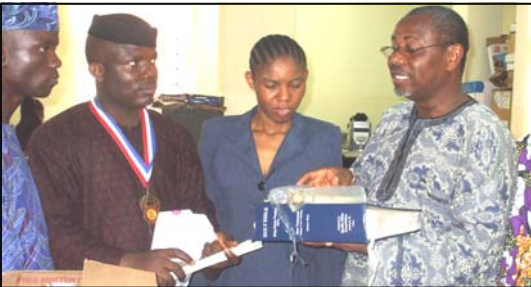
“This is really service to humanity”

“It is interesting to see people happy irrespective of their disability”

“Very organized and neat”

“You are doing a good job”.

DONATIONS MADE TO ANWAB



Members of The Rotaract Club of Shomolu making their donation to ANWAB Chairman, Mr. Ogie Eboigbe, (Right).

The Peroxal Company donated an Umbrella; The Rotaract Club of Shomolu made a donation of 3 symbol canes and some volumes of the New Testament Bible; Ms. Mabel Bodylawson, a friend of the Association donated some empty cartons needed for use by the centre in its relocation; binding rings and re-usable audio cassettes were donated by Roger Wilson-Hinds from the U.K. Mrs. Duru and The Bank of Industry also donated old calendar papers; Mr. And Mrs. Akintola Williams donated a cheque of N50,000.00. Mr. Hilary Kanu donated the sum of N1,000.00 through ANWAB to be given to any indigent blind person. We wish to appreciate and thank Col. (Mrs) Amusu for providing a secure parking lot for our official bus.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE



Katharina Laufenberg

Katharina Laufenberg, a 20 year old lady from Germany, having completed her High School in the summer of 2007, is now offering her services as a volunteer to ANWAB for the next one year. She commenced her service in February under the auspices of the International Cultural Youth Exchange Programme. She helps out with scanning, editing, embossing, binding and labeling of books. This is her first time in Africa and she is really happy that she has a year to explore Nigeria; she is open-minded and says the people are friendly. It is her first time working with the blind and she loves the opportunity open to her of this new experience. “It's like a family here”, she says. She hopes to do her best to help the centre grow when she returns to Germany next year.

EVENTS ATTENDED BY ANWAB



Irvine Constance playing the piano at the Talent Show in April 2008

- The Chairman and staff of ANWAB attended the Funeral service of late Mrs. G.A. Faderin in January (Mother to Dr. Faderin Management Committee member).
- Members of staff attended a programme titled “Talent Show for the Blind” which was organised by Cynfrances and Mirabel - friends of the Association.
- In May, The Chairman and Vice-Chairman led members of staff to attend the 50th Birthday thanksgiving service and reception at Ijanikin for Lady Toyin Isaacs-Oke, a member of the Management Committee.
- On 29th May - Democracy Day, some members of staff and other persons with disability experienced a train ride from Ebute-Metta to Ojokoro, also organised by Cynfrances and Mirabel, friends of the Association.
- Some members of staff attended the wedding of Mr. Ope Akinola, an active blind member and musician in the month of May.
- The Director, Mr. Danlami Basharu in February attended a 3-week International Visitor Leadership programme held in the United States of America, sponsored by the U.S. Government's Department of State.

- The Director also, in May, attended the Leonard Cheshire Disability conference in Ethiopia to discuss the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Poverty Reduction.
- The Director, along with the Chairman, Mr. Ogie Eboigbe were invited to Abuja in April to attend a workshop on the Participation of People with Disabilities in the Electoral Process organized by the International Republican Institute.

EVENTS ORGANISED BY ANWAB

Basic Training on Computer



Past Chairman, Mrs. Jean Obi, 2nd from right, and Vice-Chair, Ms Barbara Wey, extreme right, with members of staff during the Basic Computer Training Course in June.

- A weekend training programme was organized for the staff on Basic Training in Computer and Editing. The first session was held in February and the second session was in June. Both sessions were facilitated by Mrs. Jean Obi immediate Past Chairman of ANWAB.
- Mr. Senayon Kola Ategho - the Braille Computer Editor also in February was sent for a one-week embosser training programme in Sweden, sponsored by ANWAB U.K. This is to enable the Centre have an in-house person that can handle the maintenance of our embossers.

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMMES

FORD FOUNDATION PROJECT

1. Mobility Training Workshop:

The first of two Mobility training workshops under the Ford Foundation project is scheduled to take place from the 25th to the 28th of August 2008 for participants from the southern part of Nigeria. It is intended to train trainers who will return to their locations to train other persons involved in mobility for the blind.

2. Open House

The first Open Day by ANWAB will also take place on Thursday August 7th 2008. The event which will take place from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. will afford visitors and friends an opportunity to see ANWAB in operation on a regular day. People can visit any time within the period we are open and be with us as long as they can. ANWAB intends to use this as the precursor to the formal launch of The Friends of ANWAB Association in October 2008. It will also provide an opportunity for friends to see us at our new Centre at 275 Herbert Macaulay Way, Alagomeji, Yaba, which we moved to in April.

CHALLENGES

- Staff salaries: The centre continues to experience difficulties, from month to month, in paying the overheads and salaries of staff amounting to only N350,000 (2,920 USD, 1,460 Pounds Sterling) a month.
- Purchase of diesel: With the ever increasing cost of diesel, the Centre will welcome support in the supply of diesel to run its generator. This would divert money to salaries and other essentials. We currently require about 800 litres or four drums of diesel a month to run the generator due to complete shut out of electricity due to construction work on the Murtala Muhammed Way, Yaba.
- The greatest challenge still facing the Centre is that of acquiring a permanent accommodation as we today need to raise the sum of N50,000,000.00 (Fifty Million Naira) to enable us purchase a property that can accommodate various units of the centre. Having our own permanent accommodation will enable us to provide uninterrupted services by constant movement, as at today we have moved for the third time to another rented property which we hope will be our last. We are now located at No. 275, Herbert Macaulay Way, Alagomeji, Yaba, Lagos.

STOP PRESS - ANNOUNCEMENT

Blind and partially sighted persons in Nigeria are desirous of Braille wrist watches, magnifying glasses and any reusable items for the blind.

We also have requests from blind members requiring pen friends. Should any one be interested, we can put you in touch with blind members for interesting interactive exchanges.

We want to use this opportunity, once again, to express our most sincere appreciation to all our donors, benefactors, friends of the association and, in particular, the Chairman and Management Committee of ANWAB U.K., for their unflinching support.

CONTACT

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