



# ANGLO-NIGERIAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NEWSLETTER NO. 6, JULY – DECEMBER 2008

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

**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 NIGERIAN CONSTITUTION IN BRAILLE

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has been produced in Braille by ANWAB.

The public presentation of the constitution in Braille took place on Saturday October 25, 2008 at the Sheraton Hotels & Towers, Ikeja, Lagos. The occasion was attended by several guests and top Government officials, including Sen. Ganiu O. Solomon, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, former Education Minister Babatunde Fafunwa, the Country Director of the International Republican Institute (IRI) Dr. Murtada Deme and a retired justice of the Nigerian Supreme Court, Justice Bola Babalakin.

ANWAB was commissioned by the Network Project for the Disabled, NPD, to put the constitution in Braille and ANWAB Chairman and Director used the opportunity of the occasion to demonstrate the Braille production process at the Centre. The Chairman called on other organisations to sponsor the production of other public documents, especially those on the democratic process, in Braille to enable blind people participate fully in the electoral process.

## ANWAB DIRECTOR RECEIVES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The Director of ANWAB, Barrister Danlami Basharu was on December 21, 2008 at an event at the MUSON Centre, Lagos honoured for his contribution to humanity.

The award ceremony was part of the 2008 Honours Award to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Annual Charity Concert of Glowing Channels Ventures.



Danlami, with his wife and daughter receives his award.

The organisers said that Danlami was given the award “to recognize your invaluable contribution to humanity, which epitomizes the values of courage and compassion, conquering daunting challenges, simplicity, industry and rareness”.

Danlami was accompanied on stage to pick up the award by his wife and daughter, supported in the audience by the ANWAB Chairman and family.

The Chief Executive Facilitator of Glowing Channels, Mrs. Motunlayo Sofowote is an old friend of ANWAB and the organisation has always supported our activities.

## ANWAB AT FORD FOUNDATION EXHIBITION

In September 2008, ANWAB participated in an exhibition at Eko Hotel, Victoria Island at the invitation of Ford Foundation.

The exhibition brought together beneficiaries of Ford Foundation grants in Nigeria and Ghana to showcase their work and activities. ANWAB stand received quite a number of visitors, many of whom were curious about the use of the Internet by the blind. We also showcased our Braille book production process, making use of technology.

The event provided ANWAB with an opportunity to generate more publicity for its work, as indicated by the many the visitors to our stand.

## BRAILLE BOOK PRODUCTION – July to December 2008

784 copies of books in 1,021 volumes were produced while 786 volumes in 439 copies were delivered to students, individuals and corporate organization during the period. The schools and organizations are:

1. I.T. Solutions Ltd., Network Project for the Disabled, Coalitions for change, Pathfinder International, Basic Braille, Pact – Nigeria, Federal College of Education (Special) Oyo, Ibadan, National Open University of Nigeria, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife, Ekiti State School for the Blind, University of Calabar, Uyo, University of Lagos, Queen’s College, Lagos.

## ORIENTATION & MOBILITY TRAINING WORKSHOP HOLDS IN LAGOS

The first of two Orientation and Mobility Training Workshops organised by ANWAB under the Ford Foundation grant was held at the Faith Plaza, Bariga, from Monday 25th to Thursday 28th August 2008, for participants from the Southern part of Nigeria.

Being mainly a practical event, sessions were organised at the adjoining CMS Grammar School compound. There were 33 participants in attendance from the following states: Lagos, Ekiti, Enugu, Rivers, Bayelsa, Ogun, Cross River, Oyo, Abia and Ebonyi.

On returning to their stations, the participants are expected to impart the knowledge gained to the end users, i.e., the blind.

The workshop was thoroughly rewarding for the participants who also suggested that they would also like training sessions on repair and maintenance of mobility guide canes as well as information and demonstration of other mobility aids for the blind such as electronic devices. A second workshop will be organised for the northern states in August 2009.



Group photograph of participants at the Workshop

## FIRST ANWAB OPEN DAY

The 1<sup>st</sup> ANWAB Open Day was held on Thursday August 7th 2008 at the ANWAB Centre at 275, Herbert Macaulay Way, Alagomeji. It was an opportunity for friends and benefactors to come in to familiarise themselves with ANWAB’s new location and acquaint themselves with

our operations. The Open Day was well attended with over 34 visitors in attendance.

Among the first visitors to the Day were Lion Chief Thaku Chugani, the past District Governor, Lions Club International Nigeria (2006-2007) and our Landlady, Mrs. R.E.T. Mojola. There was adequate representation from both the electronic and print media, including The Guardian and Punch Newspapers, the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), UNILAG FM, Choice FM, African Independent Television, Lagos Television, Voice of Nigeria and the Nigerian Television Authority Network News.



Left To Right: Anwab Chairman Ogie Eboigbe, Past Lion Governor Thaku Chugani, Danlami And Vice-chair Barbara Wey.

**VALUE – ADDED SERVICES & ACTIVITIES**  
**Rehabilitation - Braille, Mobility and Typing**



Wajihah Naqui

Miss Wajihah Naqui, a 14-year-old girl from Pakistan, having completed her three-month course in Braille and typing at ANWAB Centre, has now gained admission into Seagate Secondary School, Apapa, Lagos. This is an experimental inclusive education school and she is the only blind student at the school.

**Computer Training and Internet Access**

74 persons made use of the internet café while 17 persons came for computer training within the last 6 months.

**Library Service**

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

**Outreach Work**



Mr Gbadeyanka, 2nd from right with some students of Adeniran Memorial Grammar School, Ogbomosho.

The new Outreach Officer, Mr. Taofeek Gbadeyanka resumed work with ANWAB in July 2008. Taofeek graduated from Federal College of Education (Special) Oyo. He commenced his outreach work in the last quarter of the year with visit to schools in four states of the South – West of Nigeria. These included: Ekiti State School for the Blind; Ekiti State Government College; Owo High School; Primary School for the Handicapped, Oshogbo; Secondary School for the Handicapped, Oshogbo; School for the Handicapped, Ikirun; Aperin Oniyere Commercial Grammar School; Adeniran Memorial Grammar School, Ogbomosho; Nigerian Training Centre for the Blind, Ogbomosho and Durbar Grammar School.

Taofeek distributed to the Schools, chess game donated by Ford Foundation, through ANWAB, so that more blind persons could learn the game for future championships. ANWAB welcomes the sponsorship of chess championships for the blind from philanthropists and corporate organisations.

**DONATIONS MADE TO ANWAB**

Lions Club of Egbeda donated 1 Refrigerator, 1 Cway Water Bottle and 1 Water Dispenser; Hogg Robinson Nigeria donated 10 towels; Mrs. Aku Orduh, of Friends of the Disabled, donated N5,000.00 and also Cassette tapes of King James Bible; Messrs Folorunsho & Adegboye of Intercontinental Properties donated N4,110.00; Mrs. Funso Adegbola donated N10,000.00; The Ministry of Youth, Sports & Social Development, Lagos State, donated by cheque N50,000.00; Mrs. Balogun donated N6,050.00. Index Braille, Sweden sent 24 Hammers for the Embossers paid for by ANWAB UK.

**VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

Apart from several other people that gave their time voluntarily, Miss Sonja Schwald, a 27 year old lady from Austria, is the international volunteer attached to ANWAB in 2008/2009. Sonja studied Social Work at the University of Applied Sciences at FH Durbin, Austria. She commenced work with ANWAB in September 2008 under the auspices of the International Cultural Youth Exchange Programme. In order to make her time worthwhile, she spends three days at the ANWAB Centre and two days at the Pacelli School for the Blind helping the children and teachers in the area of music and sports.

**EVENTS ATTENDED BY ANWAB**

1. Anwab was represented at the presentation of a Perkins Braille Machine to Mr. Princewill Eze, a beneficiary of ANWAB, by the members of the Reformed Ogboni Fraternity (ROF).
2. Between the 23rd and 26th November, The Director represented ANWAB at the National Convention of JONAPWD.
3. On 29th November, Staff attended the 75th Birthday Anniversary of Mrs Clemetina Isaac, mother of Lady Toyin Isaacs-Oke, a Management Committee member.
4. In December, the Director and a member of staff attended the Christmas Carol service organized by Pacelli School for the blind.
5. In December, too, the Director and some members of staff attended the 2nd edition of Healing Laughter organised by Teju Babyface, a popular Nigerian comedian for persons with disabilities in Lagos State.

**EVENTS ORGANISED BY ANWAB**

1. **End of year get-together:** This took place on Tuesday 23rd December, 2008 and it brought both Management and Staff together to rub minds and thank God for a rewarding year. Three members of the Management Committee were in attendance, i.e., the Chairman, Mr. Eboigbe, Mrs. Toyin Isaacs-Oke and Mr. David Okon.

**UP-COMING PROGRAMMES**

**Independence living skills:** With the donation of more items for the Independence Living Skills Room from corporate organizations, the

centre hopes to commence daily living skills training for the blind very soon. However, funds still have to be found to recruit a full time teacher for the project.

**CHALLENGES**

**\*\*Staff salaries:** Salaries and running expenses for the Centre remain a serious difficulty for us. We are reaching out to well-meaning individuals, corporate organizations and the government to assist to ensure that the heavily subsidised work we do here continues for a long time to come for the benefit of thousands of blind people in our country.

**\*\*Purchase of diesel:** With the erratic electricity supply, there is a great demand on the Centre’s generator requiring constant supply of diesel. We would welcome support in this area.

**\*\*Accommodation:** Our greatest challenge continues to be that of finding a permanent accommodation to locate the ANWAB Centre. N50,000,000.00 (Fifty Million Naira) is required to enable us purchase a property that can accommodate various units of the Centre. Having a permanent abode will enable us to work more effectively towards realising the dreams of many blind persons in the country.

**APPRECIATION**

October 2nd, 2009, will mark our 13th year of ANWAB’s operations in Nigeria. Through the years, we have touched the lives of hundreds of blind persons in the country through the books we have transcribed for them to read in their classrooms, offices or homes. We have given advice to and put smiles on the faces of several distraught parents and blind persons and people generally seeking information about the blind.

Our work and achievements have been realized, thanks to the tremendous support from our friends and partners in the U.K., through the indefatigable spirit of the Chairman, Mr. John Bush and his wife, Sheila and the entire Management Committee in the U.K. Generous support too has come from friends in different parts of the world, especially from our new found friends in the U.S. Closer to home, we are tremendously grateful to the Ford Foundation, whose three-year grant has certainly sustained us. We look forward to receiving more grants for our work from other foundations and corporate organizations in Nigeria. We are also not unmindful of the tremendous support, both morally and financially, we have received from well-meaning individuals in Nigeria.

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