

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

OUR VISION: 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.

2ND ORIENTATION & MOBILITY WORKSHOP HOLDS IN KADUNA.

The 2ND Orientation and Mobility training workshop organized by ANWAB and sponsored by Ford Foundation took place at the Women Multipurpose Centre, Kaduna for participants from the Northern part of Nigeria from 4th to 6th August 2009.



Mrs. Maryamu Laka Madam

The Special Guest at the opening ceremony was the Kaduna State Governor, Arch. Namadi Sambo who was represented by the Commissioner for Women Affairs & Social Development, Mrs. Maryamu Laka Madami. The Governor commended the work of ANWAB and Ford Foundation and stressed the

State government's commitment to the well-being of the blind and other persons with disabilities in Kaduna State. In his welcome address, the Chairman of ANWAB, Mr. Ogie Eboigbe, listed the activities of ANWAB and the aims and objectives of the Association, explaining that the Orientation and Mobility workshop was to train the trainers who will go back to their various states and schools to teach the visually impaired how to move about independently. Goodwill messages were received from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) and the University of Jos.

The workshop was both practical and theoretical in nature, but more practical. Four papers were presented and there were six practical sessions both within and outside the Multi-purpose Women Centre. Resource persons included Dr. A.F. Yakubu, Dean of Special Education Department Unijos and Chief M.A. Osinuga, a retired Special Education Officer.



Mrs. Marayam Everton Yari

The Special Guest at the closing ceremony was the First Lady of Kaduna State, Hajia Amina Namadi Sambo, who was represented by Mrs. Marayam Everton Yari, wife of the Honourable Commissioner of Health. The First Lady in her message wished ANWAB well in all its endeavours. Certificates of

participation were presented to all participants and facilitators by Mrs. Yari. 53 participants from Plateau, Gombe, Kaduna, Jigawa, Katsina, Kogi, Benue, Niger, Kano and Zamfara were in attendance at the workshop which was well covered by the media.

Excepts from The Communique From The ANWAB-Ford Foundation Workshop In Kaduna

That Federal, States and Local Governments should provide employment opportunities to qualified persons with visual impairment and they should also be given equal opportunities in areas of



Some participants during one of the practical sessions

education and healthcare services

Jobs should be given to this category of people in their relevant areas of specialisation

Persons with visual impairment should be given the opportunity, if qualified, to head relevant departments or parastatals when due

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as a matter of urgency should sign into law the National Disabilities Rights Bill to facilitate the rights and privileges of people with disabilities

That banks and other businesses in the public and private sectors make appropriate mobility access to their services for persons with visual impairment and indeed, the generality of persons with disabilities.

ANWAB PRODUCES MORE BOOKS FOR ARFH, IRI & OTHER AGENCIES

In its efforts to ensure that visually impaired persons in Nigeria have access to books in Braille, ANWAB has in the last 6 months produced in Braille a total number of 2,246 copies of books in 1,973 volumes for distribution to different parts of the country. 1,618 copies of the books were delivered to students, individuals and corporate organisation.

The institutions/organisations for which the books were produced include:

Association for Reproductive & Family Health (ARFH), Oyo State, National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Lagos, International Republican Institute (IRI), Abuja, Nigeria Association of the Blind (Women's Wing), Lagos, Dave Glad Print, Lagos, Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development (Braille Department), Lagos, University of Lagos, Akoka, Law School Victoria Island, Lagos, Enugu State University, Enugu State, Federal College of Education (Special) Oyo, Oyo State, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Babcock University, Illesha Remo, Ogun State, Adeniran Memorial School, Ogbomosho, Oyo State, Magami Special School for the Handicapped, Jalingo, Taraba State, Pacelli School for the Blind, Lagos, Federal Government College, Ijanikin, Lagos.

91 copies of Examination papers were transcribed into Braille for Pacelli School for the Blind and 340 copies of the English alphabet and numbers in Braille were transcribed for an individual student.

VALUE ADDED SERVICES & ACTIVITIES



Mr. Olafemi Samson

A. Mobility, Braille and Typing

Mr. Olafemi Samson has completed his Braille, mobility and typing programme and now has the ability to cope quite independently.

B. Computer Training and Internet Access

92 persons made use of the internet

café. The computer trainer took 19 persons for training. Four persons completed the course and five others registered for the training programme.

C. Library Service

83 persons made use of the library.

D. Outreach Work

The Outreach Officer, Mr. Taofeek Gbadeyanka visited 11 Northern states: Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe, Adamawa, Taraba, Benue, Nassarawa, Plateau, Kano, Kaduna and Abuja FCT. He interacted with various government officials, school authorities and blind students. He used the opportunity to educate resource teachers on new methods of blind education as well as introducing them to the JAWS screen reader used on the computer, many of whom were experiencing it for the first time. He made donations of chess games to different schools visited as part of the Ford Foundation project. He reported a variety of challenges faced by blind students in the different schools visited with a view to seeking support from ANWAB Centre.

VISITORS TO THE CENTRE

The Centre received several distinguished visitors. Listed below is a cross section of them with some interesting comments:

Ms Kemi Ajumobi of Business Day Newspaper, Lagos; Sr. Jane Ogie of Ancilla Eye Hospital, Agege, Lagos; Mr. Lekan Ishola of Marketing Standard Magazine; Miss Nnadozie Gerty from St. Agnes, Maryland, Lagos; Mr. Ehiabhi Emhonyon of Punch Newspaper, Lagos; Mr. Olatunji of Association for Reproductive and Family Health, Ibadan, Oyo State; Rose Mordi of Down Syndrome Association of Nigeria, Lagos; Mary Oladeji of MAARDEC, Lagos; A.R. Adelaja of Lagos State Internal Revenue Service; Roselyn Babs-Jonah from Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria; Lion K.F. Bankole and Lion Oluaye of Housing Estate; Viqur Naqui from Apapa, Lagos; Dr. Ikechukwu Nwaku of Joy Eye Care Low Vision, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

DONATIONS MADE TO ANWAB

N2,000.00 cash was received from Miss Eyiuche Ujomu;

MTN Foundation Project donated 1 Perkins Braille Machine.

EVENTS ATTENDED BY ANWAB

The Outreach Officer, Taofeek Gbadeyanka and the Rehabilitation Officer, Funmi Aroye attended the end of session activities of Pacelli School for the Blind in July while the Office Manager, Kola Adewale, Head of Braille Production Department, Cajetan Duru and Amaka Ikeji, Embosser Operator represented ANWAB at the end of year programme of the School in December;

ANWAB Management Committee and some staff represented the Centre at a fund raising DINNER IN THE DARK on 2nd October in Lagos organized in our favour by Lions Club International District 404B;

The Director and some members of staff participated at the White Cane Day walk on 15th October organized by the Nigeria Association of the Blind and sponsored by First Bank (Nigeria) PLC;

The Office Manager, Mr Kola Adewale represented ANWAB at the German Volunteers' Evaluation Conference under the International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE) programme in Berlin, Germany from 20th October to 4th November.

The Director and some members of staff attended the end of year concert on Sunday, 20th December, organised by Glowing Channels Ventures at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) Theatre;

The Director and some members of staff also participated at the MTN Foundation programme held at Rowe Park, Yaba, Lagos in December.

The end of year get-together took place at the Centre on Wednesday, 23rd December. It was an opportunity for Management Committee members, staff, family and friends to interact and close the year with praise and thanksgiving.

VOLUNTEERS



Mr. Jan Maik Haas

Mr. Jan Maik Haas resumed as a volunteer from Germany under the ICYE programme in September 2009.



Ms. Mabel Bodylawson

Ms. Mabel Bodylawson has been a volunteer with ANWAB since inception providing most valuable support both to the Centre and the many blind individuals who use its services. She provides, in particular, much-needed reading service required by blind individuals, many of whom require filling of forms and reading of their notes. ANWAB appreciates the invaluable support given by Ms. Bodylawson and her daughter, Esther over the years.

CHALLENGES:

Staff salaries: This remains a great challenge. We welcome support from all sources to support the payment of staff salaries and overheads for the Centre which amounts to N400,000.00 each month .

Purchase of diesel: electricity continues to be erratic requiring the constant purchase of diesel. ANWAB spends about N54,000 on diesel each month.

Accommodation: ANWAB continues to appeal to well-meaning persons and corporate organisations for a permanent accommodation in order to help expand our services.

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