

HIGHLIGHTS

- Report on December 2008 2nd Annual Symposium
- First Quarter Activities for 2009
- Forthcoming Fundraising Dinner Dance
- Proposed participatory learning project
- August 2009 Academic Boot camp Project

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2009 Newsletter (Maiden Issue)

VOLUME I, ISSUE I

JANUARY - MARCH 2009

GLANCING BACK AT 2008 & FORGING ON IN 2009

The exciting 2008 has come and gone. We had our successes. We had our setbacks. We are ready to forge on to a more exciting and more successful 2009. First we raised \$3,159.44 during our June 2008 Fundraising Dinner Dance. Also we were able to carry out exciting projects successfully. The first project was the Mass Computer Literacy Campaign that ran successfully from February to December 2008. We were able to train 87 youths. In August, we had a participatory session during which 20 secondary school teachers were trained with 13 youth leaders.

In November, the Centre employed Miss Chizoba Ofoegbu, one of our volunteers. Miss Ofoegbu was also one of our pioneer Project Success girls of 2007, who were trained in computer Appreciation, MS Windows, MS Office as means of empowering them to fend for themselves while at school. Miss Ofoegbu developed an interest in Computer Engineering after being exposed to Computer at the Centre through Project Success. She gained admission into a private University, Caritas University, to study Engineering. Because the tuition was beyond her limited resources, she was not

able to continue. She is being encouraged and coached to take the Government's Joint Admission and Matriculation exam in order to secure admission into a more affordable although competitive university. She is also being coached to save a portion of her salary for school tuition and materials. Our annual symposium took place on December 18, 2008. The theme for 2008 was Youth Education and Democracy.

For 2009, we look forward to carrying out our Inwelle Virtual Village Square, Catch-them-Young and Academic Boot Camp Projects. Thanks all of you that helped.

SEARCHING FOR GRANTS

We are yet to secure grants for our projects. In 2007 and 2008, we were one of the 100 semi-finalists for the prestigious Echoing Green grant in which more than 1000 organizations applied. The grant was given to the

first 20 organizations. We applied for the third time but received a notification from the Echoing Green in January, 2009 that we were no longer competitive. We have moved beyond the start up stage on which Echoing

Green funding focuses. We have applied to other funding institutions and are awaiting the result of these applications. In spite of the economic crunch, we hope that 2009 will bring better news for the Centre.

Proposed Virtual Village Square Participatory Learning Project

Pre-Village Square Pro



Dr. Mrs. Josephine Nnebedum:
Youths must dream dreams in order to have direction and to be achievers

Every month, 20 **young girls from primary 6 to JS3** or even up to SS2 will be taught the basic use of the computer.

*Picture on the right shows Prof. Okechukwu and prospective Catch-them-Young participants

In September, our Virtual Village Square Project will involve out-of-school, disadvantaged young adults in Nigerian villages with a larger audience, especially the Nigerian youths abroad, using folklore and oral histories as a springboard for deeper conversations about 21st century issues impacting their lives such as civic engagement, employment, education, health, and the economy. Presently, we are building the necessary technology platform and the skills among the target

population in Enugu, Nigeria. Lack of information and prejudices are the great divide: we aim to use technological tools and a common language, English, to bridge the divide. Inwelle Centre youths will digitally capture visual images and recordings of a dozen oral stories and under the guidance of expert facilitators, lead the discussion on given social issues .



Students and Teachers in August 2008 Participatory Learning Session

August 2009 Academic Boot Camp: Call For Participants!!!

This is a call for youths aged 17–23 who wish to be part of Inwelle Centre Participatory Learning Academic Boot Camp that will run August 1-30.

Eligibility:

Prospective participant must be

- taking SS3/School Cert/JAMB Exams for the 2009-2010 year.
- aged 17–23
- excelling in at least 1 academic subject
- Willing to commit to the entire month
- willing to trade talent in academic subject .

Interested?

For Information, Call 08037519965 and ask for Chizoba Nwannebuike

Stella, or

Happiness

First Quarter Activities January-March, 2009



have a testing field in the Catch-them-Young Project. They will teach young girls from primary six to JS3 the computer. They will also mentor these young girls as

they get ready to get into secondary school or proceed from JS3 to SSI and up. The Project Success girls will be counselors who will share their experiences of secondary school with these young participants.



Project Success Girls in Training

2009 Fundraising Dinner Dance

Our 2009 Fundraising Dinner dance is around the corner. This year, to minimize cost, we will send the invitation via email. We will be fundraising to carry out a participatory learning Academic Boot camp project in August. The recipient of the project will be 20 young boys and girls transitioning from school certificate exam to gaining admission into higher institutions. To this effect, we appeal for your help in raising

\$5,000.00 this fundraising year to enable us house and feed these youths for the entire month of August during which these young people will be required to trade talents in their strong academic subjects - teaching each other what they know in preparation for JAMB and School Cert exams. They will also be taught computer skills in preparation for their first year in the higher institution.



Fundraising 2008 Dinner Dance Picture



"The Centre president Prof. Christiana Okechukwu, Ph.D., captures the theme for the symposium in her opening remarks: The cost of youth crime is immense. A society that ignores the plight of restless and restive youths is sitting on a keg of gun powder.

Inwelle Second Annual Symposium: Theme— Youth Education and Democracy, December 18, 2008— "Education makes people easy to govern but impossible to enslave; education makes people easy to lead but difficult to drive" (Lord Brougham)

In her opening remarks, the Centre president, Prof. Christiana Okechukwu, emphasized that for a democracy to be meaningful, indigent youths' plight must be addressed.

The symposium attracted 140 people and five presenters. Mr. Onah from the Ministry of Education Enugu presented on

The Youth and The Youthed: Towards a literate democratic Nigeria. Mrs. Gbulie, a seasoned educationist, focused on the predicament of girls who fail to get education. Dr. Mrs. Nnebedum, urged young girls to dream dreams in other to have direction and to be achievers. Barr. Mrs. Nwagbo educated the audience on the

rights of girls and the law prohibiting the exploitation of girls, especially for those contracting marriages with under aged girls. Dr. Nwodu presented on The Role of the Media in Political Education, Youth Empowerment and Sustainable Democracy. Enugu State Honorable Comm. For Education, Mrs. Ndidi Chukwu

was one of the dignitaries

DONATING TO INWELLE CENTRE PROJECTS? Send checks to Inwelle Resource Centre USA, 1026 Welsh Drive Rockville, MD 20852 or Inwelle Study and

We appeal for donations towards our three major projects for the year 2009.

Catch-them Young Project
This will run all year long. Every month, 20 young girls from primary 6 to JS3 or even up to SS2 will be taught the basic use of the computer. **To sponsor a**

child costs \$10.00.

- Inwelle Virtual Village Square Project**

This targets indigent youths aged 18 –21 who will be trained in higher computer skills to enable them participate in a virtual participatory environment. They will be

required to log onto the virtual village square and engage in academic and life enhancing discussions with peers. To sponsor a participant costs \$100.00.

- August Academic Boot Camp.**

To sponsor a participant costs



Inwelle Centre Youths in Training



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Go With The Best:

CENTRE VISION:
 Inwelle Centre seeks to create a world in which indigent youths can acquire the necessary skill that will enable them to take charge of their future. This we do by combining life skills, job skills and remedial education as a tool for making them employable and self-employable.

CENTRE MISSION:
 The Centre 's mission is to alleviate the difficulty faced by indigent youths, who want to improve their lot, by assisting them to get the remedial education needed to enter a higher institution and by helping them acquire computer and job skills that will enable them work and earn money to be able to go to school at the same time.

CONTACTS: Ms. Chizoba Ofoegbu
 Ms. Happiness Nnaji
 Ms. Stella Umeh
 Mr. Nwannebuike Okeke



BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT SUCCESS PROGRAM

Our project Success Program is on-going. This project targets young girls aged 16—19 specifically who are given computer training and counseling sessions for one month at a time.

We target three groups of girls, estimated at about 6,000.00 in the Enugu area and the surrounding states at any given time. The first group comprises girls who, because they got pregnant out of wedlock, have given up hope of going back to school. The general belief is that such girls would have to abandon all thoughts of higher education since they now have another human being to feed. Some of these are very brilliant girls with high potentials whose one mistake has consigned them to the rubbish heap. The second group

are the "good girls" who because they are from indigent homes, sleep around with "sugar daddies" so as to get money to support their education and get out of poverty. The third group are girls who married early but are unfortunate to have lost their husbands. I was once among this group. The girls in this group find themselves widowed at a young age in a society that has no social amenities in place to help them. The two options most of these girls/women have are either to work low paying jobs, date men to get money to augment their meager resources or get further education to make themselves marketable enough to get well-paying jobs and increase their

earning power. The impediment to the first option is that even though these girls get rich men, that source of income is usually short-lived, for these men just support them for sometime and move on to the next vulnerable female or even move on to these women's daughters. The second option, getting a higher education, is usually an uphill task since without money it is almost unattainable. The Centre wants to help in making this second option somewhat attainable hence it



These girls with counseling, skills, and resources.

project success girl
A typical Project Success group