

INWELLE STUDY AND RESOURCE CENTRE  
BROADENING THE HORIZON

Inwelle Centre  
Fifth Anniversary  
2005 To 2010  
Special

Fifth Anniversary Special

# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

LEVERAGING INDIGENT YOUTHS AND WOMEN  
TO TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR FUTURE

ISRC



Inwelle Centre



Global Fund  
for Women



ISRC

[www.inwelle.org](http://www.inwelle.org)

## 10 Building a Great Resource Centre: *Inwelle Centre Founding President Shares Her Vision and Her Technique.*

### ABOUT US

Year of Incorporation: 2005

Registered Office:  
5 Inwelle Avenue, Pipe Line estate,  
Amorji Nike, P.O. Box 4008, Enugu

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& [www.inwellecentre.org](http://www.inwellecentre.org)  
Facebook: [inwelle](https://www.facebook.com/inwelle)  
Youtube: [inwelle](https://www.youtube.com/inwelle)

Nature of Business: Registered Trustees;  
Youth and Women Empowerment

#### Trustees:

Prof. Christiana Okechukwu, Ph.D.  
Dr. Anthony Okonkwo  
Ms. Vanessa Okechukwu, M.A.

#### Incoming Trustees:

Barrister Mrs. Uchenna Ekeke  
Barrister Mrs. Patricia Igwebuikwe  
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#### Bankers:

United bank for Africa (UBA)  
Station Road  
Enugu, Nigeria

#### VISION

Inwelle Centre seeks to create a world in which indigent youths and women can acquire the necessary skills that will enable them to take charge of their future

#### MISSION

The Centre 's mission is to alleviate the difficulty faced by indigent youths and women, 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 work and go to school at the same time. This we do by combining life skills, job skills and remedial education as a tool for making them employable and self-employable.

“EDUCATION MAKES PEOPLE EASY TO GOVERN  
BUT IMPOSSIBLE TO ENSLAVE; EDUCATION  
MAKES PEOPLE EASY TO LEAD BUT DIFFICULT TO  
DRIVE”  
(LORD BROUGHAM)



“ONE MUST BE WORTHY OF ONE’S EDUCATION. FOR GIVING THE  
IMMENSE POWER OF EDUCATION TO AN UNETHICAL PERSON IS LIKE  
GIVING THE OBEJILI KNIFE TO A MAD PERSON”

(PROF. CHRISTIANA OKECHUKWU, PH.D., FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INWELLE STUDY AND RESOURCE CENTRE, ENUGU, NIGERIA.)

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## MEET THE FOUNDER

Professor Christiana Chinwe Okechukwu, Ph.D.

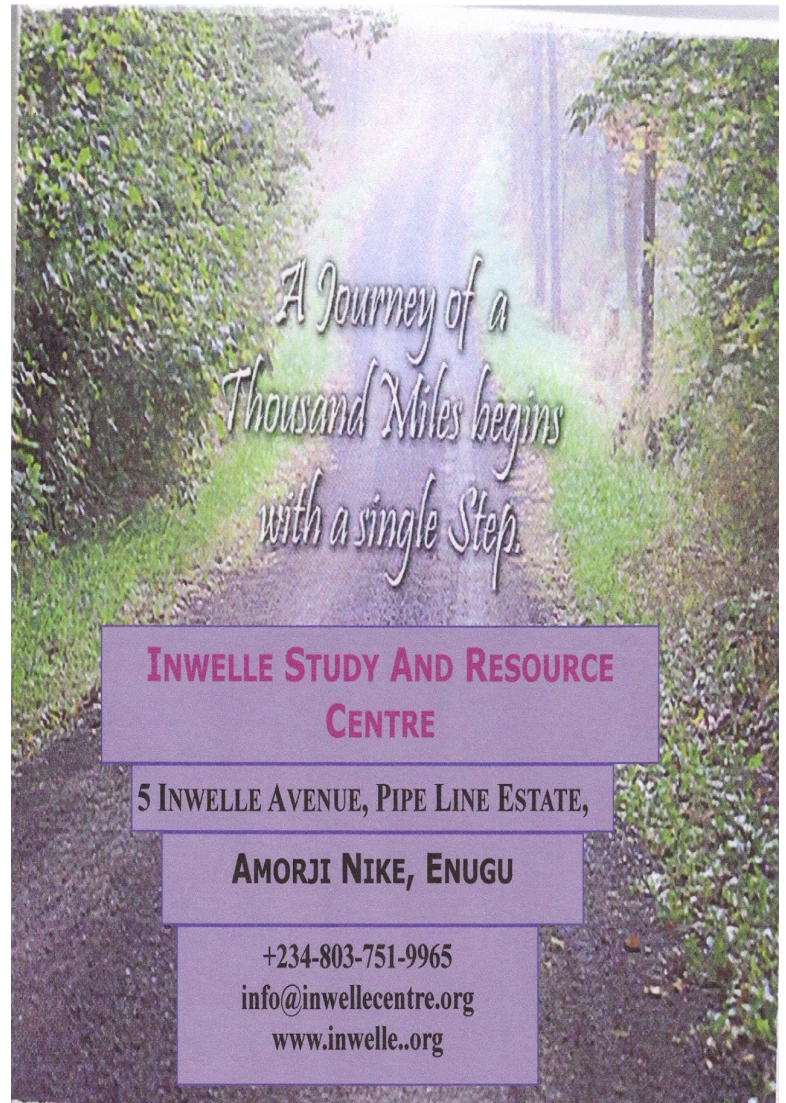
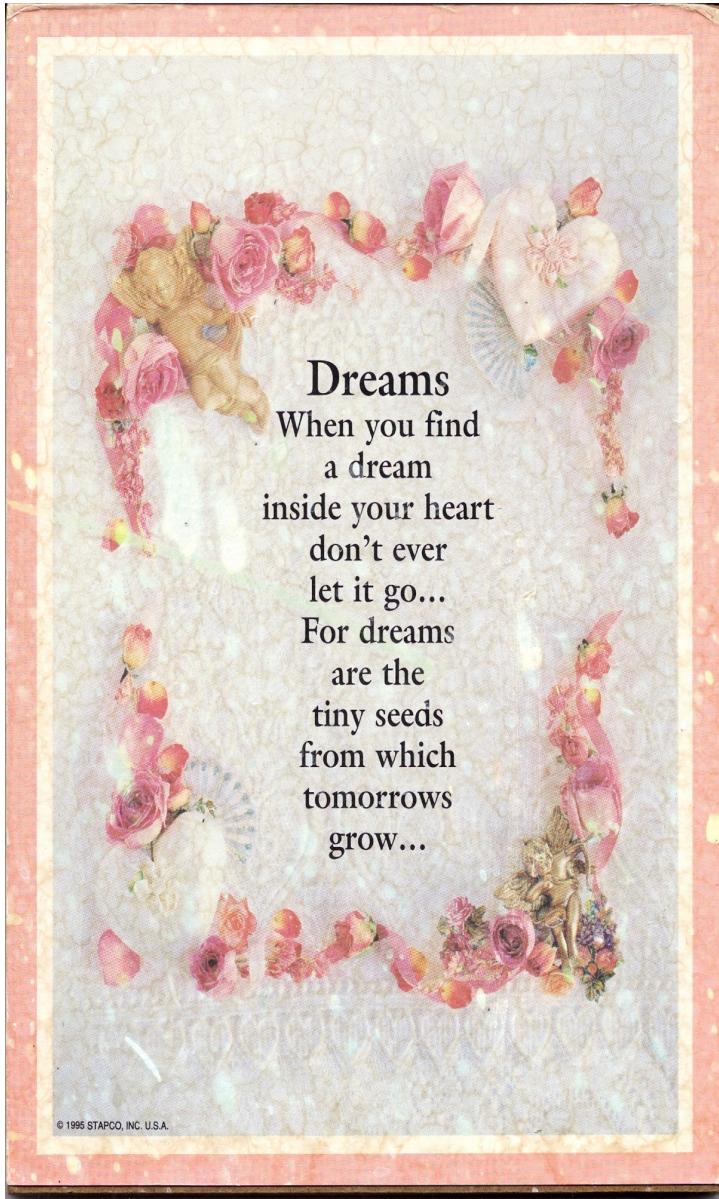


(Founder and Centre Executive Director) Professor Dr. Christiana Chinwe Okechukwu, is a scholar, rhetorician, poet, and novelist. She received the B.A. English and the M.A. Comparative Literature (Africa and Caribbean) degrees from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria; the M.Ed., Teaching English for Specific Purposes from the University of Exeter, Britain, and the Ph.D. degree in Rhetoric (with a focus on Rhetoric and Public Life) from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., USA. She received the British Council Foreign and Commonwealth Scholarship Award to work on an M.Ed. Degree on Teaching of English For Specific Purposes in 1989, a summer Hornby Trust Award to Britain in 1988, and Gani Fawehinmi scholarship to Ten Best Nigerian Final Year Secondary School Students in the Federation of Nigeria in 1975. She has been teaching English at Montgomery College, Rockville, Maryland USA since August 1992. While in Nigeria, she had coordinated the general Studies English for the former Anambra State University of Technology from 1987 to 1991. In both Nigeria and the United States, she has taught and coordinated courses in African Literature, Caribbean Literature, Advanced Composition, Communication skills, English Composition, in colleges and Universities.

Dr. Christiana Okechukwu is an innovative, creative, visionary college English professor with thirty-three years experience in academia, teaching and advising students, coordinating, designing, and directing programs, who has taken learning to the next level, to empower youths and women through the educational and social channels. She is natural problem solver who is always able to come up with viable solutions, and a visionary, tenacious, committed and energetic self-starter with proven resourcefulness in achieving result whom a wealth of experience has equipped to become a social entrepreneur focused on empowering women and youths. She registered Inwelle Study and Resource Centre, conceived and designed and implemented projects to empower at-risk indigent women and youths through provision of educational resources and imparting skills. She has gone on book and computer drives, used personal funds to pay the running cost of the centre, and (1) accumulated and shelved 34,632 books and journals and 755 Magazines, built 40 book shelves (2) acquired 77 library chairs, 20 tables, 56 computers and monitors, 10 Printers, 5 Scanners, and numerous computer peripherals, 3 Photocopy machines, 1 typewriter, and 4 Steel cabinets to set up and equip a rich library and computer training rooms. She has held symposia on women issues and has successfully carried out "Project Success," "Mass Computer Literacy Campaigns", "Participatory Learning Projects", and "Academic Boot Camp" programmes from 2005 to 2010.

Prof. Dr. Okechukwu has published prolifically: her book, *Achebe the Orator: The Art of Persuasion in Chinua Achebe's Novels* (Greenwood Press, 2001), received strong, positive reviews; her article Oratory and Social Responsibility: Achebe's Arrow of God was published in *Calaloo: A Journal of African-American and African Arts and Letters* (2002); her creative writing: her poem When Your House is Burning was published in *Out of the Rough: Women's Poems of Survival and Celebration*; another poem, Is It Right, and two short stories, Safer Ground and Happy Survival, were published in *Forced From the Garden: Poetry and Short Prose by Women* (2003); her dirge, When the Vulture Is Sick, composed in honor of a fallen Igbo hero, Dr. Chuba Okadigbo (2003). Apart from publishing a scholarly book, poems in anthologies and scholarly articles, she has published a novel, *The Predicament*, (1998), two collections of Folktales, *Folktales Among the Igbo* (1997) and *More Folktales Among the Igbo* (1998); a Collection of Short Stories, *When Rain Beat the Cow in The Eyes* (1998); a Collection of Poems, *The Augean Stable*; and a children's book, *Tortoise, the King, and Elephant*.

# The Wind Under Inwelle Centre Vision's Wing



*A Journey of a  
Thousand Miles begins  
with a single Step.*

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## The Founding President's Message

**I**

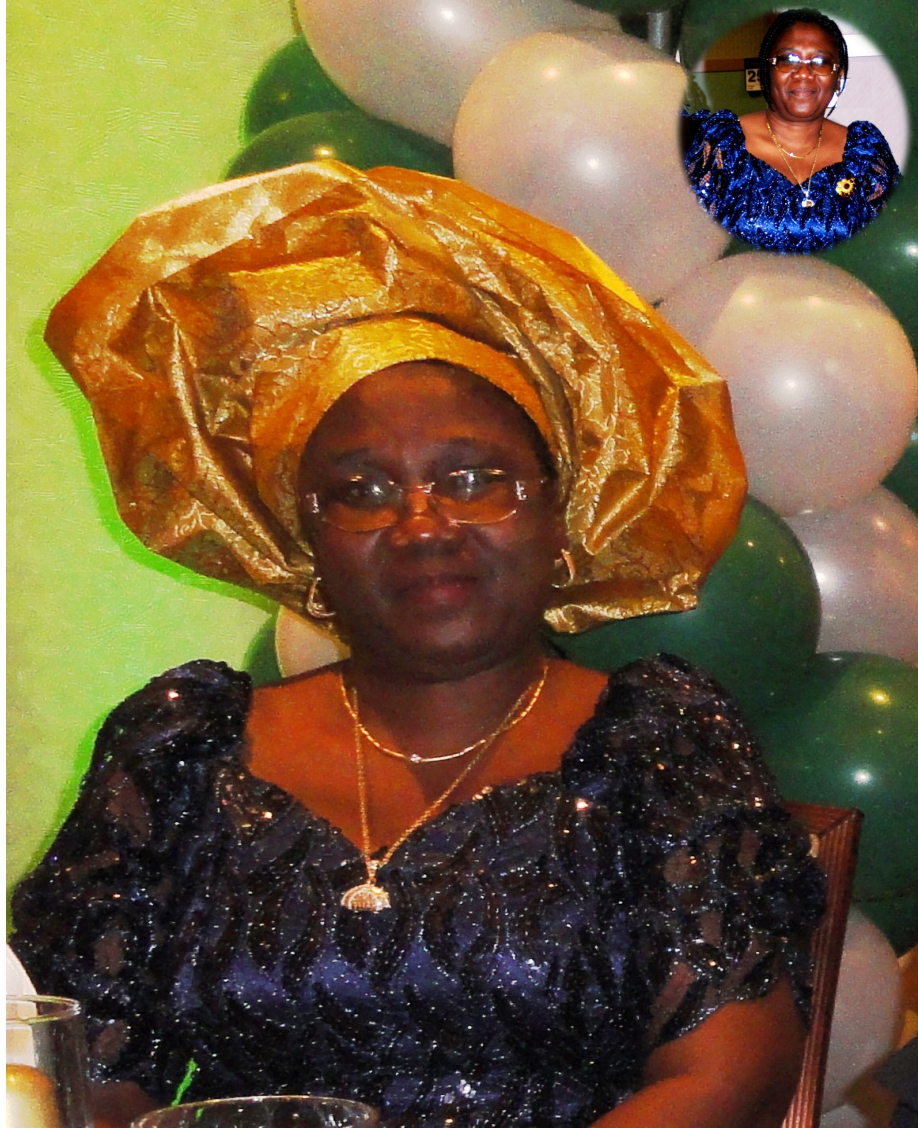
**NWELLE STUDY AND RESOURCE CENTRE** (Inwelle Centre) a Nigerian non-profit, Non Governmental Organization (NGO) whose mission is to alleviate the difficulty faced by indigent youths and women, who want to improve their lot, has reached a milestone in its journey. 2010 marks the centre's fifth anniversary of assisting indigent youths and women to get the remedial education needed to enter a higher institution and acquire computer and job skills that will enable them work and earn money to be able to go to school at the same time.

**E**

**STABLISHED** in 2005, we are committed to promoting educational, cultural, and vocational programmes, encouraging research, providing educational counseling, and encouraging creative and scholarly publishing. These we seek to achieve through providing library facilities, computer net worked, reading, writing and meeting rooms; providing educational resources in the nature of books, internet connection, and educational videos; designing and implementing skills acquisition projects to help indigent youths and women break their poverty cycle; organizing seminars, workshops, symposia, and conferences; and providing research materials and connection to academic research internet sites.

**I**

**NWELLE** the pet name of my ancestor *Enwelu m mmadu*, meaning "I have somebody who can help," is the force that propels the Inwelle Study and Resource Centre concepts and their executions. Inwelle Centre seeks to propagate the concept that anybody who has someone to help will always be able to accomplish great



**Professor Christiana Okechukwu, Ph.D.  
President/Executive Officer**

**I**

herefore, Inwelle Centre programmes will always be geared towards helping the underprivileged at any opportunity that presents itself. We at the Centre hope to empower the participants, especially the indigent youths, and women at the Centre to achieve academic success and tap into the global village.

Thank you all for being part of our exciting Centre. I also thank you on behalf of the youths at the Centre whose lives you help to enhance. We will not be able carry out our projects without your support.

We were able to install our VSAT. We were able to hold a life enhancing Participatory Learning Boot Camp.

**W**

e were able to carry out our Catch -them –Young Project. We have had three symposia since we started in 2007. Every year, we have continued to make a bigger difference than we made in the previous year. We have been able to train many young people to become

computer literate. We housed and fed youths during our participatory academic boot camp. A great number of our boot camp participants have been emboldened by their experiences. Some have been admitted into the area universities as they were able to pass their college qualifying exams. Some have become technologically savvy. Some of our youths now feel confident to write their college essays. Some even present at symposia-- a sign of great things to come as we keep forging on in empowering the youths to realize their potentials.

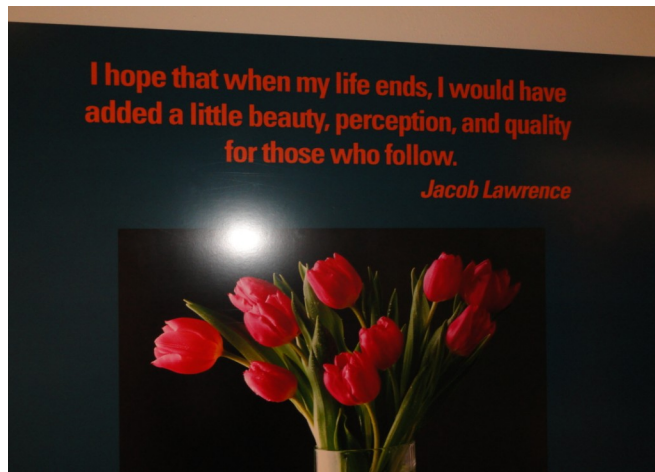
**G**lobal Fund for Women supported us in 2009 and 2010. We thank the officers. Their help enabled us to have internet connection at the Centre, have 2009 and 2010 Boot Camps, symposia, and pay salary for six months from December 2010 to May 2011. We are still appealing to our various Inwelle

Friends and supporters to keep on believing in our projects and supporting us so that we can execute even greater projects in years to come. Our focus for the next two years is the place of youths in a democratic process and preventing violence against women. We are embarking on our virtual village square project by the end of 2010. Once again, thanks for supporting us.

Our priority is to build the Centre capacity to be viable and sustainable, invest in Centre staff and intensify efforts at creating awareness of the Centre's vision, its activities, and its holdings among the underprivileged youths in the hinterlands. We believe that if the centre is strong, it will be able to execute its program successfully.

**W**e plan (1) to take the training of the participants to a higher level and expand the participants' learning experience through the use of digital resources, hence the "Inwelle Virtual Village Square Project"; (2) to offer facilities such as peer mentoring in the use of word processor to write assignments and the internet to search for information for academic projects; (3) to offer educational counseling to teenage girls, (4) to impart skills in information processing and information technology acquisition; (5) to take young girls into high-tech computer technology field, to leverage girls to seek careers into science and technology field, overcoming their fear that they could not measure up or be able to pay for studies in that field. It is necessary to invest in our staff to be able to keep the staff loyal to the ideals of the centre, give them job satisfaction, and keep the staff committed. If the staff does not see a career in the centre, the natural thing will be for them to seek employment elsewhere after they have been trained. So it is

not only necessary to train staff, it is also necessary to retain staff. There is need to make the centre's activities felt in the hinterlands. Most of the indigent youths, especially women live in the hinter lands. According to a study by Nigerian Youth Synergy, 27%, of people in Nigeria are youths (56 million). About 70% of them live in the hinterlands. Hence, it is of great importance that Inwelle Centre reaches these invisible youths, especially the females who might be in serious material and information poor positions. Without their being aware of our projects, they will not be able to take advantage of them to lift themselves out of poverty. We must reach as many of them as our finances will allow.



Inwelle Centre's activities have created considerable awareness and public interest, and its social change strategy is making a great impact.

We have implemented several youth empowerment projects. The first was Project Success in which 20 girls between the ages of 17 and 20 were trained in

word processing. Then we had Mass Computer Literacy Campaign in which young boys and girls were trained, assisted by the Project Success group. Another was Mass Computer Literacy Campaign extended to some youths –

male and female—in the Police Force, Local Government, and Teaching Profession. We completed our first non-virtual participatory learning workshop in which we had a group of teachers and youths in the same computer classroom where they were able to exchange ideas and collaborate to accomplish tasks. We were able to carry out our Catch -them – Young Project. We have been able to train 120 young people to become computer literate. We housed and fed twenty youths during the boot camp. Graduates of our projects keep coming back on their own to improve on their computer skills and to volunteer to the centre. I constantly get e-mail messages from these graduates. Some have been able to apply their skills in their academics in tertiary institutions. They and their families constantly write to thank us for enhancing their lives through our projects. Prior to our training, all these girls were afraid to touch the computer. One of the stars of Project Success is at this



moment studying Computer Engineering at Caritas University, Enugu she leads most of our projects. One is our librarian. Another is in charge of our business centre that we established after we installed our VSAT internet connection.

These three girls go to school and work for us. A great number of our boot camp participants have been emboldened by their experiences at the boot Camp. Some have been admitted into the area universities as

they were able to pass the individual university exams that were conducted to validate their JAMB scores. Some have become technologically savvy enough to operate our digital cameras. This year, we did not pay other people for the video coverage of our symposium. Our August boot Camp participants covered the event. They took photos and videotaped the event. One of our August Boot Camp participants also presented at our annual symposium. We are at the moment building our website to be able to handle our virtual village project in which youths led by our project success girls will be engaged in discussion of social issues affecting their lives, including violence against women, engaging in early marriage, personal health and hygiene, HIV/AIDs issues, teenage pregnancy, positioning themselves to become successful adults.

We successfully held a symposium every December to close our project year. During this symposium, participants for the year received certificate of completion.

Inwelle Centre Annual symposium selects themes that are aimed at sensitizing the community to the problems faced by at-risk youths, especially indigent girls and young adult women and seeks solution by engaging members of the community in discussion. Our symposium on the Theme of “Nigerian Women and the Struggle for Visibility” was held in December 2007. This symposium addressed the issues that impede women’s visibility in various fields of academic endeavor and ways to combat them. In December 2008, we had a symposium on “Youth Education and Democracy.” The focus of this symposium was the exploitation of youth energy by unscrupulous politicians to rig the democratic process. These politicians recruit young boys and girls as political thugs who maim and kill opponents and then abandon these youths once these politicians secure their political seats. In December 2009, the symposium was on “Preventing and Coping with Teenage Pregnancy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nigeria”. The goal of this symposium is to empower girls at a young age to avoid the trap of marrying early as a quick fix for avoiding the social stigma of having gotten pregnant and to educate them on issues surrounding teenage pregnancy. We provided a forum for exchanging ideas and identifying meaningful ways to proactively address the problems of teenage pregnancy, using local resources. Our symposia were well attended by our project participants, their parents and their friends; university lecturers; government functionaries; community leaders; and other dignitaries in and around Enugu.

First and foremost, we plan to make our library open and accessible 9a.m to 5p.m every day and 24 hours online. We plan to have one “Catch them Young” project in which young girls aged 12 to 15 are coached in their school work as well as taught to be computer literate by older girls.



## The President's Message Continues

The Centre will devote August 2010 to July 2011 to Project Success, a project designed to leverage young girls to consider careers in the fields of Science and technology, especially, the lucrative field of Hi-Tech Computer field. The Centre will hold its usual annual symposium in December on the theme of "Nigeria Is 50: What About The Youths?" One of the sub-themes will be the Place of Girls in Science and Technology Fields. Through advocacy and awareness creating, the Centre is reaching out to disabled women in the community. The Centre also includes in its future programs, activities geared towards educational empowerment for the disabled through information dissemination to acquaint them of the Centre facilities and how they can tap into them to enhance themselves and increase their economic potentials.

A disabled young lady participated fully in 2009 Academic Boot Camp. We hope to increase that number in subsequent Boot Camps.

Thank you all for being part of our exciting and fruitful 2005-2010. I also thank you on behalf of the youths at the Centre whose lives you have helped to enhance. We could not have had these much fruitful and exciting years without your support. We were able to install our VSAT. We were able to hold a life enhancing Participatory Learning Boot Camp. We were able to carry out our Catch -them -Young Project. We had our symposium on "Preventing and Coping With Teenage Pregnancy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nigeria. See pictures on pages — to — of this annual report. Every year, we have continued to make a bigger difference than we made in the previous year. 2009 is no exception. We have been able to train 120 young people to become computer literate. We housed and fed twenty youths during the boot camp. A great number of our boot camp participants have been emboldened by their experiences at the boot Camp. Some have been admitted into the area universities as they were able to pass the individual university exam that was conducted to validate their JAMB scores. Some have become technologically savvy enough to operate our digital cameras. In 2009, we did not pay other people for the video coverage of our symposium. Our August boot Camp participants covered the event. They took photos and videotaped the event. One of our August Boot Camp participants also presented at the symposium – a sign of great things to come as we keep forging on in empowering the youths to realize their potentials.

Global fund for Women supported us in 2009 and 2010. We say Kudos to them. We will do you proud. With the economic crunch the way it is, we are grateful that you were able to help us. Your help enabled us to have internet connection at the Centre. We are still appealing to our various Inwelle Friends to keep on believing in our

projects and supporting us so that we can execute even greater projects in 2010. Our focus for 2010 is the place of youths in a democratic process and preventing violence against women. We still hope to embark on our virtual village square project if we are funded.

**"Your contributions towards the positive projection and the development of the Education industry in our country, has not gone unnoticed. The gold fish they say has no hiding place." Rotary Club of Enugu Municipal**

In July, 2010, we received a Community Service Award from the Rotary Club of Enugu Municipal. Being recognized by the Rotary club of Enugu Municipal as an organization that has distinguished itself in 2009 was thrilling because receiving the Rotary Community Service Award was the crowning of our impact recognition in the community. In the award letter to Inwelle Centre, the Ro-

tary club says "Your contributions towards the positive projection and the development of the Education industry in our country, has not gone unnoticed. The gold fish they say has no hiding place." As one of the volunteers, Selah Abrams, who came from Atlanta, Georgia, USA exclaimed "Inwelle Centre has Books, thousands of them, lining nearly all the rooms. Overall, it is an amazing accomplishment to have set up the centre from the scratch, literally from an empty piece of land... ." Also, Mrs. Ngozi Onuh from Grenoble, France visited the Centre and said "I was particularly impressed by the number of computers in the computer rooms. Then I toured the different sections of the well equipped library and marveled at the abundance of books which were neatly ar-

**"I was particularly impressed by the number of computers in the computer rooms. Then I toured the different sections of the well equipped library and marveled at the abundance of books which were neatly arranged on the many book shelves that adorned the quiet reading rooms. .... My general impression is that Inwelle Centre is one of the positive and immediate responses to face up to the challenges of the growing malaise in Nigerian education system today." Mrs. Ngozi Onuh, Grenoble, France**

anged on the many book shelves that adorned the quiet reading rooms. .... My general impression is that Inwelle Centre is one of the positive and immediate responses to face up to the challenges of the growing malaise in Nigerian education system today." See kudos <http://inwelle.org/kudos>

We constantly get e-mail messages from users, especially from our project participants. Our boot camp gave the Project Success girls access to information

on the internet, the confidence and the self esteem to handle their affairs, and the pride of seeing themselves talking to the world on YouTube and CNN iReport on issues that they felt strongly about. For Miss Chisom Jonathan who was a panelist at our 2009 symposium, it gave her the wings to fly and be among her educators at the same table, dealing with the





same topic. In her own words, “No one can stop me now. I have learnt how to write essays on topics. Before, I used to be afraid of writing essays. My life will never be the same again.” In the words of one mother, Mrs. Mgbakor, “ the Inwelle Study and Resource Centre training offered Chioma (her daughter) a wonderful exposure and an invaluable boost for future challenges. Just shortly after the training, she participated in a regional competition organized by an international organization and she came second. The training imbued her with flaming

**“No one can stop me now. I have learnt how to write essays on topics. Before, I used to be afraid of writing essays. My life will never be the same again.”**

enthusiasm and high spirits for high achievements and challenging positive contributions to the society and unquantifiable inspiration and confidence in her ability to search for information and be a success in life. We wish her zeal ever grows and never dims or dampens this precious fruit of your generosity to the family.” A great number of our boot camp participants have been emboldened by their experiences at the boot Camp. Also, since the boot camp started, up to 75% of the participants have been able to gain admission into higher institutions. We have been able to train many young people to become computer literate (See our **Alumni Roll call**). Graduates of our projects keep coming back on their volunteer to the centre. We successfully held a symposium every December to close our project year. Our symposia were always well attended by our project participants, their parents and their friends; university lecturers; government functionaries; community leaders; and other dignitaries in and around Enugu. See some of their testimonies on <http://inwelle.org/testimonies>; <http://www.youtube.com/inwelle#p/u/39/aiTcczmWAX8>; <http://inwelle.org/content/ireporting-video> <http://ireport.cnn.com/people/Inwellecentr> <http://www.youtube.com/inwelle> <http://www.youtube.com/inwelle#p/u>

**W**e serve indigent youths in the remote villages, especially adolescent girls. For these youths in the remote villages, inadequate skills and skills mismatch and being under-educated and under-trained have reduced their employability and have increased the risk that they will be marginalized and rendered less competitive. At the Centre, we believe that these youths, especially the girls, must be leveraged to ensure that they grow to become fulfilled adults. We need to broaden the scope of their understanding and aspiration beyond their immediate vicinity. We need to build their self-esteem, to make them feel that they matter so that we can improve their chances of becoming empowered adults. We need to re-orient them to shun instant gratification and focus on developing themselves to be able to

have a better adulthood, to consider combining skills acquisition and remedial education as a means of repositioning themselves to succeed and transcend into employable or self-employable adults. More especially, we target three groups of women/girls, estimated at about 6,000 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. Their parents do not want to give them any support because of the stigma of having gotten pregnant without finishing their education and without getting married. 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 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

**“I am only one, but I am still one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do something I can do.”**  
Helen Keller

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 some time 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 provides these girls with educational counseling, skills, and educational resources. Empowering the underprivileged woman to succeed in her pursuit of education is one way of breaking the poverty cycle for that woman, and making it possible for that woman to earn wages while pursuing education makes her less vulnerable and able to combat the grim struggle she faces in getting education in a society that does not have any public assistance program. Coupled with high cost of tuition, it is difficult to get books.

Once again, thanks for making 2005 to 2010 very fruitful years.

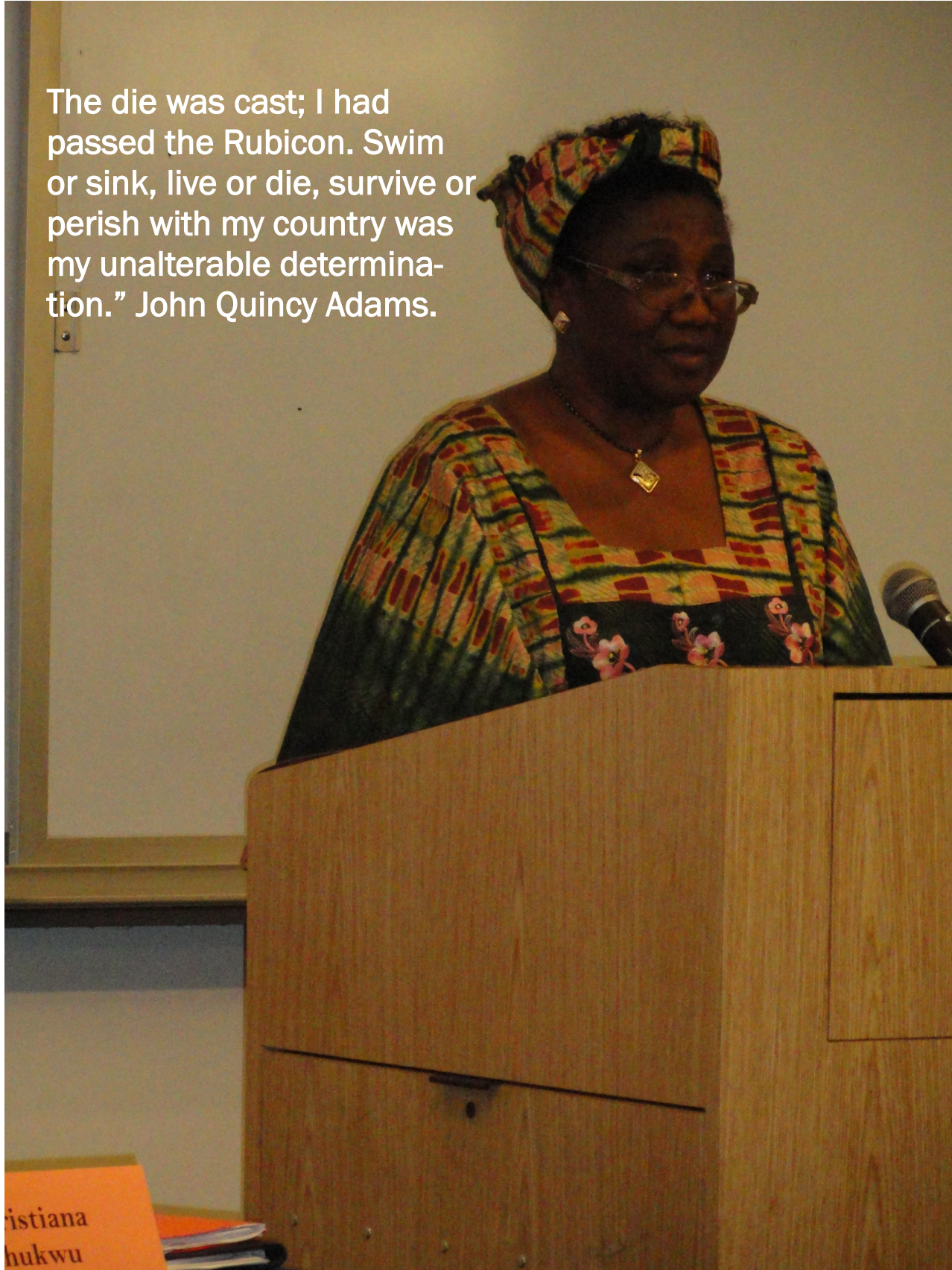
*Cokechukwu*  
**Prof. Christiana Okechukwu, Ph.D., Founding President and Executive Director, Inwelle Study & Resource Centre, Enugu, Nigeria.**





## Building a Great Resource Centre: Inwelle Centre President Shares her Vision

The die was cast; I had passed the Rubicon. Swim or sink, live or die, survive or perish with my country was my unalterable determination.” John Quincy Adams.



# Building a Great Resource Centre: Inwelle Centre President Shares her Vision



The journey to build a sustainable Resource Centre in what I will describe as difficult circumstance into which most African countries, especially Nigeria falls, has been arduous, interesting and exciting. To engage in social entrepreneurship in the first place, one has to be a visionary, have the requisite qualification and the experience in the area of social entrepreneurship in which one is aspiring to engage. If one has a Centre such as Inwelle Centre in mind, one has to have a background and an experience in the academia, teaching and counseling students, especially young students, coordinating, designing, and directing programmes. The person has to be innovative and resourceful in achieving result. The person can then combine his or her experience and knowledge in the academia with field work in the non-profit arena, and be able to engage in designing projects that will promote human rights, especially youths' and women's right, in a third world country such as Nigeria through the educational channel. The person has to aim at successfully developing a Centre that will focus on, but is not limited to, creating leadership programmes that are geared towards empowering indigent women and youths, especially young widows, teenage single parents, and at risk young girls, programmes that will be geared towards harnessing their talents, empowering them with skills that will enable them earn livable wages, and be committed to designing counseling sessions that will aid young girls and indigent women to avoid being subjected to violence, and also design and run programmes that seek avenues for the prevention of violence



against women, help indigent women and youths fight negative peer pressure. The Centre should also find means of linking female professionals and teachers with their counterparts outside the country in which the centre is located. This way, the Centre, not only provides role models for the young girls it is seeking to leverage, but also build a framework that will ensure a flow of knowledge into the centre through publications of these women mentees' research.

Bearing all these in mind, I embarked on a journey to commit all my resources to building such a centre. I started by purchasing the plot of land. Searching for a good location for the plot of land was very crucial to my vision. First the plot of land has to be located away from the hustle and bustle of the city – Far from the Maddening Crowd. It had to be located at a community I believe had the needed for such a centre. It has to be located at a familiar terrain. Especially, I had to be really familiar with the terrain and I had to be comfortable operating in that terrain. Nike Enugu was such a terrain. My other decision was to make sure that I recognized that the project was going to last the rest of my life; therefore, I needed to be convinced that I was going to be able and willing to make such a lifetime sacrifice. It was not easy to reach that decision, but the propellant was my love for young people. I have always felt comfortable around young people and older people, skipping people in my age range, whom I believe never had and will never understand what drives me. I had lived at Abakpa Nike at a time of my life when I faced abject poverty. I had seen young people who struggled in squalor. I decided that such people should have close proximity to the Centre while I reach out to other communities within the eastern states to touch the lives of other indigent youths. I believed that youth poverty was a dangerous thing for all concerned and that breaking youths' poverty cycle through the educational channel would be one of the effective ways of leveraging youths to life a life of a

little ease. Educating youths has been my job all my life. Therefore, I thought that employing that skill in leveraging youths was easy. Besides, I believed that it would also a source of great happiness as I would be doing what I actually love to do. It was not true. I have always believed that that it is always difficult to get a vision and that it is more difficult to follow that vision. However, I never envisaged the level and the enormity of the obstacles I was going to confront. Advice tumbled on top of each other. Trepidation at the amount of time and money I was forced to pour into the project took hold of my whole being. I was afraid that I would not be able to sustain my project, given my limited resources and given that I was not getting any recognition from grant giving institutions. But I persevered. I was convinced that going back would be as difficult as moving forward.

The die was cast; I had passed the Rubicon. Swim or sink, live or die, survive or perish with my country was my unalterable determination." John Quincy Adams. This timeless quote sums up my situation at a time. It mirrors my determination in the face of obstacles, failures, near misses that starred at me along the way. I could not go back for I had spent all my money building this Centre. I had even borrowed heavily from my retirement fund. First among my trials was the struggle to build a Centre in an environment in which contractors see one's money as fair game and abscond with money meant to purchase materials for building, hoping that I could be in Nigeria chasing them. I must go back to the United States or lose my job chasing them



## Building a Great Resource Centre

Another of the great obstacles was registering Inwelle Study and Resource Centre as an NGO with Cooperate Affairs Commission in Enugu. That experience would make for a book. But eventually, I was able to register. With good friends like Dr. Josephine Nebedum, Barrister Chizoba Chine, Dr. Edwin Morah, and my daughter, Cassandra Okechukwu, serving as fellow Members of the board of trustee, the Centre came to be registered. Another of my trials was maintaining a staff in a corrupt milieu — I kept hiring and firing. I began to appreciate foreign companies frustration in trying to run a business in Nigeria. I was constantly losing

books, chasing after workers with poor work ethics, workers who want work but do not want to work, constantly striving to put across the message that I am actually bearing the cost of establishing and running the Centre, paying salaries, feeding the security dogs who were my main reliable source of security while I am at the Centre (I reside in one room at the Centre for any length of period that I am working there), dodging attempts of 419ers who constantly tried to scam me and at times resorted to threats of bodily harm and blackmail in the bid to con me into succumbing and parting with money, in their view, I must have gotten from the white man in the United States., constantly facing the anger from family who believed that I was wasting money — funds that I could have given to them— and risking my life in the process. Most excruciating is living under the cloud of Nigerian reputation abroad which paints every Nigerian as a scam artist while applying for funding — like we say it in Igbo, all lizards lie with their belly on the ground; no one knows which one has a bellyache.

But in all these, some friends and family believed in my vision and supported my efforts. First and foremost is, a Gambian, Professor Sulayman Nyang of Howard University Washington D.C., USA whose first donation of \$1,000.00 came at a time when I was seriously handicapped financially. I was able to pay salary for six months with that money. Thank you professor Nyang. Next is the late professor Emmanuel Obiechina with his constant words of wisdom and encouragement. He attended our annual fundraising dinner dance whenever he could. Dr Mary Owens (nee Jeffers) my chair, my friend, my sister abroad was always at the fundraising with the whole Jeffers clan — Mon Anne and Dad Eugene Jeffers, her sister Emily, and her husband Mike and others. They always paid for a table for ten or sometimes shared a table for ten with such valued colleagues as Dr. Roseli Ejenberg and Dr. Paul Lux. Other friend at Montgomery College were always there. Brenda Braham from the Library was always ready to give her advice and always attended the fundraising from day 1, even the first fundraising which I hosted at a park, near a creek and we had to be chased out of the park by the police because we were in danger of being carried away by flood. It rained the proverbial cats and dogs that day. Dr. Mary owens, Miriam carter, Barbara Mumford, Tulin levitas were parking our food and utensils like no man's business as we hurried to get away before the creek flooded and we would not have been able to cross the narrow wooden bridge to safety. Believe me, I learnt my lesson from that adventure. From that crummy creek park to University of Maryland Conference Center — talk about going the other extreme. It was a blast though. It did cost us. The third time around, I came closer home for the fundraising dinner dance but sill had my head in the cloud —Rockville mansion— Wow!!!! Expensive!!!! Next time, 2009, we stumbled upon the Senior Center in Rockville. Yes!!! It was within our reach, had a good ambience, was user friendly. No wonder

we went back in 2010. We definitely plan to go back in 2011 if they will have us. Thanks my fundraising group of friends and colleagues at Montgomery College.

My primary care physician, Dr. Allotey, with the entire staff of health first Group, was there from 2008 to 2010. He was always supporting us with donations. Thanks immensely. Dr. Moss, my teacher and mentor, was a convert to my work in Nigeria. She was always there for the fund raising dinner dance. Dr. Lana Portlano, my former classmate and friend, was always there with her entire family— her husband and her five daughters.

My daughters, Cassandra, Vanessa, Elvira, my grandson, Jordan, my brother Anthony in their different ways with my sister Miriam, made sure that things were running smoothly even as I am besieged with worries that something might go wrong. Mr. John Nwogu was always at the dinner dance volunteering his time.

Then came my active donor, Rabbi Howard Gorin whose in-kind donations were immensely useful at a time we had no funds for projects. He assisted us to ship our books and computers, some which he helped to collect. He also visited Inwelle Centre in 2008 and supported the the empowering of area teachers through acquiring of I.T. skills.

Just as I was beginning to think that I was going to sink in the project which one Nigerian colleague described as government level project on one of the occasions he was wondering why I was stressing myself carrying a burden he believed the government should bear, Global Fund For Women supported us—2009. As if that was not groundbreaking enough for us, Global Fund For Women supported us again — 2010. Wow!!! Global Fund has put a great wind under our wing. I am sure we will soar like the eagle. Thanks Global Fund For Women

Since 2005 that I started Inwelle Study and Resource Centre in Enugu, I have established a rich library, designed and carried out “Project Success” in which twenty young girls were taught computer skills that would enable them earn money and fend for themselves, “Mass Computer Literacy Campaign” during which the computer was demystified for many women in the civil service and some youths, “Catch them Young,” during which young girls in the junior secondary school were taught computer skills, “Participatory Academic Boot Camp” during which 20 youths –15 young girls and 5 young boys— were housed in the centre for one month and were taught leadership skills, communication skills, remedial classes in science subjects, mathematics, and English to enable them take their higher institution qualifying exams, and “Participatory Learning Project” during which teachers and youths were immersed in the same computer classroom and were required to tap into each other’s know to accomplish tasks. I have held two symposia on “Nigerian Women and the Struggle for Visibility,” and “Youth Education and Democracy.” I am right now planning a third symposium on “Preventing and Coping with Teenage Pregnancy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nigeria” and a “Virtual Village Square” project in which youths are expected to use folktales to explore social issues confronting them in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nigeria and women are expected to gather individual stories to explore avenues of combating violence against women.

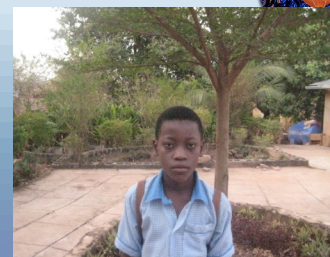
I could not have achieved these without my able advisors both in Nigeria and in the U.S., Dr. Mary Owens, Ms. Miriam Carter, Dr.

# Building a Great Resource Centre

Christian Okeke, Dr. Charles Ilegbune, Barr. Mrs. Oby Nwankwo, Mrs. Ngozi Okeke, Dr. Laye Abegunrin, Dr. Sulayman Nyang, and Dr. Paul Abudu. I thank them for five years indefatigable advice and support, especially at that stage in which it seemed that events were overwhelming me and I even found myself afraid for my life. They were all there with their kind words and encouragement and insightful invaluable advice. I don't know what I would have done without them.

It is always difficult to get a vision. But it is more difficult to follow that vision. Obstacles abound. Advice abound. Applause abound. Trepidation abound. Faltering steps abound. But once the visionary scales through the mountain and lands in the arena of action, realization of the dream is almost assured. It has been so with the conception of Inwelle Centre vision. In overcoming all the obstacles in the way of realizing this dream, I have been blessed with many mentors, colleagues, friends and family whom I must thank in this milestone issue of Inwelle Study and Resource Centre Annual Report. First and foremost, I must thank my best friend and boss, Dr. Mary Owens, for her immense support and understanding, Dr. Jean Moss, my mentor, for her valuable advice and jokes which kept me forging on, Prof. Ellen Mainen for bringing Inwelle Centre activities to the attention of her Rabbi, and Rabbi Howard Gorin for being one of my greatest supporters since 2005. I thank Babara Mumford, Marie Roche, and Christine Hunt for working tirelessly to help in my efforts. The late Gloria Halpern donated generously to Inwelle Centre. I believe she is in Heaven right now. How can she not be, given her generous heart? Her Department, The Macklin Business Institute and Department of management has continued in her footsteps. The Department has continuously donated books to the Centre. Eric Jeffers of Gudelsky Institute, Montgomery College has made sure that Inwelle Centre library Science and Technology corner in the library is one of the richest in the eastern states of Nigeria. My colleagues at Montgomery College, Rockville have donated their spare books and have responded to my fundraising efforts. Dr. John B. Allotey, my physician, and his staff have all given their support, especially during my fundraising events. My great friends and advisors Dr. Paul Abudu, Prof. Chris Okeke, Prof. Sulayman Nyang, Prof. Layi Abegunrin, Mrs. Ifeoma Gbulie, Prof. Charlse Iloegbune, Barr. Mrs. Oby Nwankwo, Prof. Toyin Falola, have been steadfast and supportive. My children and their friends are all part of the work towards making this vision come true. My brothers and sisters have also contributed. Without an initial terrific Board of Trustees, I may still be floundering in moving my vision from the realm of dream to reality. I thank Dr. Josephine Nebedum, Dr. Edwin Morah, Dr. Cassandra Okechukwu, and Barrister Mrs. Chizoba Chine for their great work during their tenure. It was a wonderful three years, 2005–2007. It has been three years of hard work, perseverance, and creative planning. Thanks all of you who helped. It has been a great and arduous journey—physically, financially. But it has been fulfilling. I can not mention everyone and every event. I can only say to all who have helped to make it happen, thank you. I hope that the next five years will be even more fruitful.

## Congratulations Inwelle Centre on Your Five Years of Very Important Work



Inwelle is a place that made it possible for us to browse on the internet. It helped us to function again after our sad loss of our mother. It gave us access to learning and gave us free lessons in our school subjects. It made us to form reading habit. I enjoyed the symposium too. We learnt so many skills. We can now face the future because Inwelle Centre helps us.

**Chinenye Okonkwo and Onyinye Okonkwo**

Inwelle Centre helped me to put more efforts in my education. I can't believe that I came third in my class last term. Thank you Inwelle Centre. I will never forget your gift of hunger for education and the computer skill you gave me. I can now write emails.

**Chidubem Okonkwo**

In November 2009, three orphans joined the Inwelle Centre family of recipients. They are Onyinye Okonkwo, Chinenye Okonkwo and Chidubem Okonkwo. In July 2010, they were settled with their paternal grandmother. Inwelle Centre is still keeping an eye on their affairs. Hopefully, they will be empowered to go to college.



In 2010, Inwelle Centre built two thatched huts for those times when there is no electricity to read with and it is unbearably hot for the library users. Also, the hut has become a gathering point for Inwelle Centre Boot campers who engage in folk tales telling. It is the centre of our Village Square project.



The next question is, where will Inwelle Centre be in the next five years. What do we hope to accomplish. In August 2010, we voted in four more members of trustee. To replace the four who could no longer continue after serving Inwelle Centre for two to three years. The new trustees is a vibrant group too. In the next

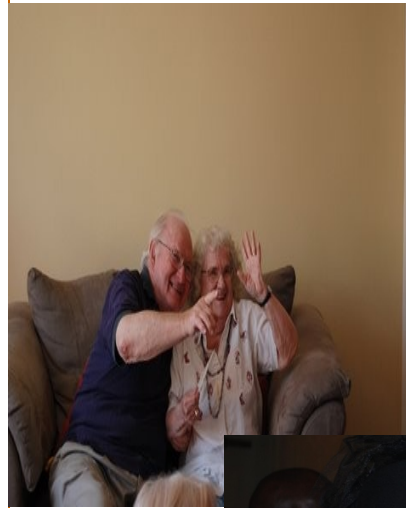
five years, apart from the already established projects that we carry out, the Centre will embark on publishing academic journals, electronic as well as print. The Centre will also serve as a credible place where foreign scholars seeking to do research in the region will find resources and even find accommodation. The Centre hopes to host international conferences in the near future. We are also planning a scholars-mentoring-scholar project which will commence in 2011. Most of this will be in form of distance learning and area lecturers will be focused on to take advantage of this service. Also, we even dream of replicating the idea of Foundation Centre in the USA at Inwelle Centre since we have a building that is capable of accommodating such venture.

As a way to broaden the base of our visibility and our support, every year, Inwelle Centre has been supporting a cohort of Inwelle Scholars to attend African Studies Association Conference in the USA. Inwelle Centre has paid the membership and registration fees for three people so far. In 2010, as the president of Nigerian Studies Association, I convened a round table at the Golden Gate University School of International Law, San Francisco, California, USA on the Theme of Nigeria at Fifty. The Fate of the youths in Nigeria at Fifty was one of the burning topics of that roundtable. I discussed Inwelle Centre strategy for empowering youths at this roundtable and at a panel in the African Studies Association Conference that was held at the same time in San Francisco. I have built a cohort of Inwelle Centre Scholars who present on issues concerning youths in Nigeria. One of these scholars presented at the Nigerian Studies Association and African Studies Association Conferences in San Francisco with me. The idea is for Inwelle Centre to build an on-line community that will subscribe to its Journal of Social Issues and even attract writers to contribute to this on-line journal. In the future, we will have print version of the journal as well. With the new set of trustees who are working hard for the Centre, I believe we will soar to even greater heights in the next five years.

Once again, thank you supporters and friends of Inwelle study and Resource Centre. You are the best.

Professor Christiana Okechukwu, Ph.D.  
President and executive director.

## Inwelle Centre Oldest Supporters



Mr. Eugene and Mrs. Anne Jeffers  
West Virginia, USA



Mrs. Eunice Mahone,  
Maryland, USA

## Thank You to Our Sponsors:

Global Fund For Women

Rabbi Howard Gorin

Dr. John B. Allotey

Rotary Club of Enugu Municipal

Mrs. Anne and Mr. Eugene Jeffers

Eric Jeffers, Gudelsky Institute, Montgomery College, Rockville, MD, USA (in-kind: Donates Books Constantly)

Dept of Business Management, Montgomery College, Rockville, MD, USA (in-kind: Donates Books Constantly)

Chief John Nwogu

# Building a Great Resource Centre

## Volunteers of The Year For 2010



Mrs. Umeubosika and Three of Her Children.



Mrs. Patience Umeubosika, a manager with First Bank of Nigeria PLC, in spite of her busy schedule, found the time to keep the centre's account. Thank you Patie. We have given you the name *Odi uko na Mba*. You are a rare human being. You continuously gave your time and your resources. Even when we were in a difficulty over our spoilt generator, you bought a small generator for us to tide us over the Boot Camp period. We, at Inwelle Centre, say a big Thank you. Your children, borrowing a leaf from you, also volunteered tirelessly. We thank you all.

Rotarian Chief Nwankwo



RTN Ugochimalenze Enugu-Agidi, Chukwuemeka Nwankwo KSC, PHF, Assistant Governor, Zone 10, Rotary Club of Enugu.

In spite of his various work (local and District levels) as a Rotarian and his onerous job as Assistant Director at the National Arbovirus and Vectors Research Centre, Federal Ministry of Health, Enugu, ( researching and publishing) Chief Nwankwo finds time to volunteer to Inwelle Centre – Boot Camp and Symposium . He is a born humanist. He has been involved in Rotary tradition since the early 80s when he was not only a member but at one time a president of the Rotract Club of Enugu. As we celebrate our fifth anniversary, we must not fail to acknowledge your immense contributions to the Centre, your guidance, your protection from unscrupulous individuals, even to the extent of receiving threats of bodily harm should you insist on spreading your wings to shelter Inwelle Centre and its staff. Thanks immensely. We will always remember.



## Building a Great Resource Centre

Collaborating with other public spirited individuals and organizations was one of the strong aspects of inwelle style. In 2011, Inwelle Centre collaborated with Rotary Club of Enugu Municipal to bring I.T. skill to young adults working in their area. See some of the pictures below.



One of the participants receiving a certificate of completion during the December symposium





# Goodwill Messages

To celebrate Inwelle Centre Fifth Year Anniversary, we extended free Computer Training and library usage to the community from January to April 2011. In the picture above are participants that have enrolled and the staff of the centre.



Congratulations to our darling center, on behalf of 2011 Tuesday/ Thursday computer training for the privilege being given to us to be computer literate. This is to show you that we have learnt internet and some packages like Ms word, Ms window and Computer Appreciation. Thanks a lot! We are grateful.

We wish to express our profound gratitude towards your effort to bring free computer training to the youths in this community. It was a great favour to us, which helps the youths to be computer literate with the help of the lecturer Mr Idongesit S. Udo. We are able to perform excellently in many packages that we are being taught. wow ! what a great excitement we express. May the good Lord reward you with double favour.

On behalf of the afternoon students

Ogechi Tessy Oyioha



Chief and Mrs. Maurice and Maria Ekete  
No 6-10 Dom Ekete Avenue  
Iji -Nike  
Enugu Nigeria

The family of chief & Mrs. Maurice and nnenna maria ekete congratulates inwelle study and resource centre on her 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Your milestones in the provision and pursuit of academic excellence cannot go unnoticed. We wish you well in your future endeavours.

## GOODWILL MESSAGE

The Family of Chief & Mrs. Donald and Chidinma Ekete heartily wishes the INWELLE study and resource centre, Enugu, Nigeria; well on her 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration. you have greatly helped to reduce the yoke of ignorance and mass illiteracy that has plagued the Nigerian youths for decades we strongly stand by you as you strive and do even better .

**Donald and chief and Mrs. Chidinma Ekete.**  
**Graz Austria**



2010 Boot Camp Workshop



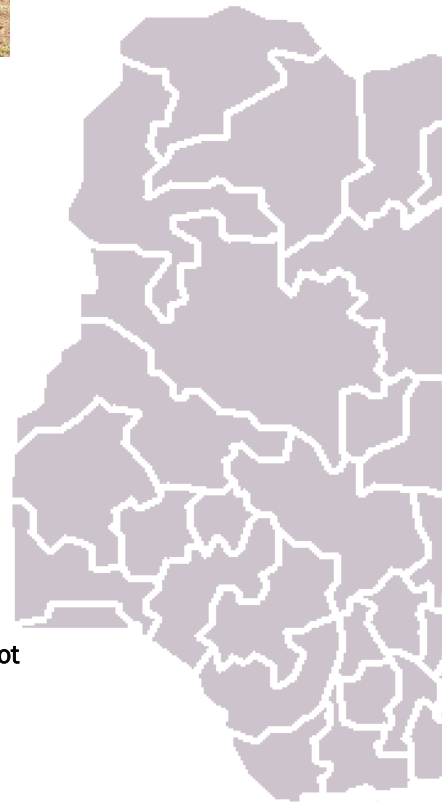
2009 Boot Camp Classroom and Computer training Room



# Building Our P



2009 Symposium



2009  
Boot  
Camp



2010 Boot  
Camp



Prof. Okechukwu Teaching English to the 2010 Boot Camp Participants

## Catch-Them-Young

We start with secondary school students in JS3 and SS1 in this programme. These are young people between the ages of 13–15. This is carried all year long but is more intensive usually between March and April and is designed to fall during the Easter break to avoid clashing with their school work. They are taught computer skills, especially, MS word and surfing the internet. At the same time, indigent area school children preparing for their JSS exam are given academic assistance on Saturdays to help prepare them.

## Mass Computer Literacy Campaign

This is open to all youths and women who want to be computer literate. We write letters to area businesses, inviting the workers to register for our Mass Computer training. We train the participants in Computer Appreciation—Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Words, and internet surfing. This is to whip up the hunger for the use of computer to accomplish tasks and to give them access to learning through being able to go to the internet to research subjects. These participants are required to register with the centre and have I.D. cards so that they can use our book and computers to accomplish tasks from their jobs or from their schools.

Prof. Okechukwu Presenting on Empowering the Youths in Nigeria at 50



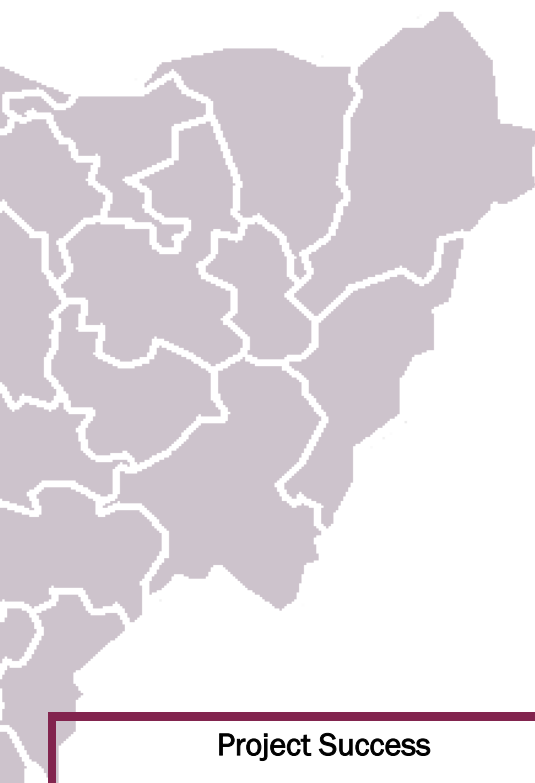
Prof. Shopping for Books at The African Studies Association Conference Exhibition Room



Prof. Okechukwu Presenting on Empowering the Youths in Nigeria at 50



# The Next Generation of Nigerian Leaders: Programmes Seamlessly Feed into the Next Stage of Empowerment



2010 Boot Camp

## Project Success

This targets indigent girls, especially those forced to drop out of school. We target three sets of girls: First are the ones that got pregnant out of wedlock and were forced to leave school as a result. Second are those who married early and were either abandoned by their husbands or their husbands died. Third are the young girls who were forced to drop out of school because of indigence. We help these girls to have a second opportunity to go back to school. We would have taught them computer skills in our Mass Computer Literacy campaign. We counsel them and help them to study for GCE and JAMB exams so as to get into area higher institutions. We teach them how to work and be able to pay for school from their earning. They learn to open account and put money aside for school. They use our facility to study.

## Participatory Learning Academic Boot Camp

This usually lasts for one month and takes place between July and August. Its target are mostly indigent young girls who have completed secondary education but have been unable to secure admission into higher institutions because they went to third rate secondary schools. A few young men usually are sign in. The Participants live in the Inwelle Centre compound. They are supplied with their food. But they cook their food. They learn to fetch firewood, draw their water, share their chores, engage in horticulture, learn time consciousness—they live a structured life as if they were in a boarding school. They teach each other subjects they are good at while our teachers teach them academic subjects, computer skills, and life skills. One of the biggest tasks of the camp is their ability to enable each other to succeed academically. They learn that by helping each other, they learn more from each other. By the end of the camping, the participants would have expanded their network of friends and people to turn to when facing academic difficulties. They open facebook and email addresses so that they can communicate with each other and with the centre.

## Annual Symposium

To conclude our programme year, we have annual symposium tailored to address a specific area of youth or women empowerment. For 2007 our symposium was on “Nigerian Women and the Struggle for Visibility.” In 2008 our theme was “Youth Education and Democracy.” In 2010, our theme was on How to Cope And Prevent Teenage Pregnancy in the 21st Century Nigeria and in 2010 our Theme was “Nigeria is Fifty: What About The Youths?” During the symposium, the participants receive certificates. They sometimes present papers. They definitely participate in the question and answer session. The symposium is designed to prepare them for our major project coming in the future which is **Virtual Village Square Project** and which will involve them with a larger audience, especially the Nigerian youths abroad, using folklore and oral histories as a springboard for deeper conversations about 21<sup>st</sup> century issues impacting their lives such as civic engagement, employment, education, health, and the economy.

## August 2011 Academic Boot Camp: Call For Participants!!!

This a call for youths aged 17–25 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 –25
- excelling in at least 1 academic subject
- Willing to commit to the entire month
- willing to trade talent in academic subject .

I hope you will be interested in becoming one of the sponsors of this project by selecting 3 to 5 people from your village to travel to Enugu to be a participant. This is in the interest of *aku ruo uno*— that is your wealth much reach home in order for it to be relevant (literal meaning). Instead of sending money through Western Union and having that money be used for frivolities, this can be one way you can empower youths from your village to break their poverty cycle and earn livable wages.

Three things you will gain are

1. Recognition at home,
2. Recognition by Inwelle Centre and its international supporters as we are reporting all our activities to international donors , and
3. Your name on a plaque at the Centre

### Interested?

Please contact Inwelle Centre: [info@inwellecentre.org](mailto:info@inwellecentre.org) or [inwelleusa@yahoo.com](mailto:inwelleusa@yahoo.com) and follow up with your payment for the number of participants you are sponsoring, their names, ages and gender by May 30<sup>th</sup> 2011. Once we receive your payment, we will send you a receipt and then you will call the participants you paid for to register with the centre by calling 08037519965 and asking for Gloria, Obinna, Chiemezie, and indongesit. They will be asked a few questions to enable us work out the logistics of the programme before they come to the Centre.

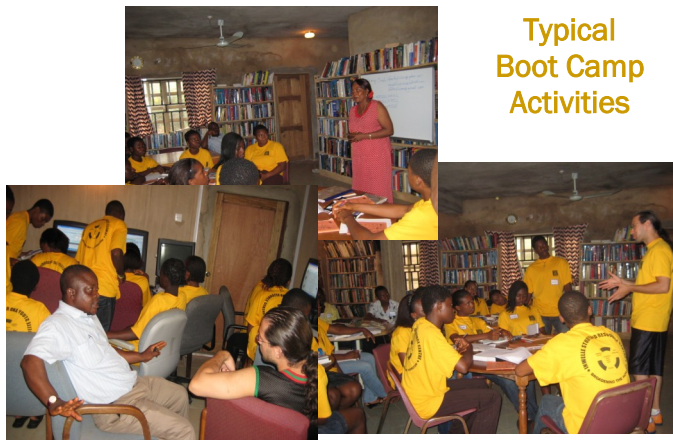
## What your money will be for

- We will provide food and board for the participants for one month.
- The centre will couch the participants in JAMB or School Certificate subjects in which they are weak.
- The Centre will teach them how to word process using Microsoft Office.

In 2011, we will start our Virtual Village Square Project which 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 21<sup>st</sup> century issues impacting their lives such as civic engagement, employment, education, health, and the economy. The Academic boot Camp will also be used for a pre-virtual Village project preparation. These participants will also be taught internet surfing, digital photography video recording, conversion of photos and videos, and uploading these files into the internet, podcasting, blogging. The idea is that when the project starts, villages from which these participants came will be involved in this project. We hope to start satellite Centres in these villages. The participants will be our volunteers who will be paid stipends to run these Centres, especially in the long vacation period.

Thanks to the support from Global Fund for Women, we have been able to build the necessary technology platform to enable us build 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 .

To support a youth to participate in the Virtual Village square costs \$200.00.



Typical  
Boot Camp  
Activities

### Our Contact

5 Inwelle Avenue,  
Pipeline Estate, Amorji Nike,  
P.O. Box 4008,  
Enugu, Enugu State, Nigeria  
Email: [info@inwellecentre.org](mailto:info@inwellecentre.org)  
Phone: +234-803-751-9965  
Web: [www.inwelle.org](http://www.inwelle.org)

INWELLE the pet name of my ancestor Enwelu m mma, meaning "I have somebody who can help," is the force that propels the Inwelle Study and Resource Centre concepts and their executions. Inwelle Centre seeks to propagate the concept that anybody who has someone to help will always be able to accomplish great things. Therefore, Inwelle Centre programmes will always be geared towards helping the underprivileged at any opportunity that presents itself. We at the Centre hope to empower the participants, especially the indigent youths, and women at the Centre to achieve academic success and tap into the global village.

### Modes of Empowerment

- Carry out projects that will impart skills that will enable youths and women work and pay for tuition while going to school.
- Educate families and the community on the need to channel youth energy into self sustaining projects that will make them face adulthood with hope.
- Provide a central place within one hour driving distance for the faculty and students and researchers in the higher institutions to go and research in an academic materially rich set up.
- Provide a conducive atmosphere for study and research.
- Provide a place for longer stay such as weekends where necessary for the purposes of research.
- Hold seminars and symposia for the area faculty and researchers, young people, and the community.
- Run skill acquisition workshops.
- Give mass computer literacy training  
Expand the participants' learning experience through the use of digital resources, and impart skills in information processing and information technology acquisition.
- Convene international conferences so as to give opportunities for those researchers and faculty that could not go outside the country to meet with their counterparts from other places.  
Encourage exchange of ideas further by hosting short term 2-4 weeks seminars involving teachers abroad and those within.

To achieve the above, the Centre has a rich library, conducive reading rooms, and enriching workshops and seminars to keep at-risk young people and women, university students and their teachers, and the general community abreast of knowledge in all fields of endeavour, empower students to take charge of their education and their career.

## Volunteering

Volunteers are accepted in our numerous projects.

- Science experts for school children science projects
- Artists for budding artists projects
- Reading and writing teachers for undergraduate participants research projects
- Administrators for training our Centre staff
- Humanities Experts for giving seminars and workshop to youth participants
- Computer expert for helping to train participants
- Counselors for our workshops
- Project supervisors

Other volunteers in any field of endeavour that will enhance the life of our participants are welcome. Typical areas are painting, gardening, landscaping, driving, renovation, secretarial, teaching, adult literacy, cooking,

## Internship We accept interns in all fields.

### Fields:

Agriculture, Communication Technology, Computer Science, Information Technology, Graphic Design, Music, Theatre, Drama, Dance, Creative Writing, Arts and Craft, History, Marketing, Advertisement, Public Relations, etc.

• **Qualification:** Interest in lending a helping hand.

• **Experience:** None required.

### Provision:

We provide bed and breakfast within the Centre's facility. Interns provide their own lunch and diner. Well-equipped kitchens and toilet facilities are provided at the Centre's guest wing.

**Our Contact**  
**5 Inwelle Avenue,**  
**Pipeline Estate, Amorji Nike,**  
**P.O. Box 4008,**  
**Enugu, Enugu State, Nigeria**  
 Email: [info@inwellecentre.org](mailto:info@inwellecentre.org)  
 Phone: +234-803-751-9965  
 Web: [www.inwelle.org](http://www.inwelle.org)



# 2010

On February 18 2010, the president and Executive Director of the Centre, Prof Christiana Okechukwu, attended a forum on **“Women Political Candidates: Is It a Level Playing Field? – Through the Microphone, Blog, and the Lens of the Camera.”** The event was organized by the Council of Women leaders , the Madeleine K, Albright Women’s Voices at the Aspen Institute, Washington D.C., U.S.A.

The focus of the forum was the role the media plays in shaping public perception of political candidates. Of particular interest was the 2008 US presidential election which has generated global discussion on the impact of the media’s seemingly inherent gender bias on the outcome of political campaigns. The events panelists insisted that as women continue to rise to political leadership around the world, it is essential to continue the discussion on the media’s treatment of women political candidates.



**Prof. Christiana Okechukwu and Maureen Bunyan, News Anchor, ABC 7**



The speakers featured were from right to left in the picture above:

**Anne Kornblut**

Washington Post White House correspondent and author of *Notes from the Cracked Ceiling: Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin, and What it Will Take for a Woman to Win*

**Erika Falk, Ph.D.**

Head of the Master's Degree in Communication at Johns Hopkins University and author of *Women for President: Media Bias in Eight Campaigns*

**Elisabeth Gidengil, Ph.D.**

Professor and Director, Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship, McGill University, expert on international and Canadian electoral politics

**Maureen Bunyan**

News Anchor, ABC 7, founder of the International Women's Media Foundation and the National Association of Black Journalists

**Moderator: Shelby Coffey**

Trustee, Newseum, former editor of Los Angeles Times, president of CNN Business News, and executive vice president of ABC News



**Prof. Christiana Okechukwu and fellow attendees**



**Prof. Christiana Okechukwu and fellow attendees**

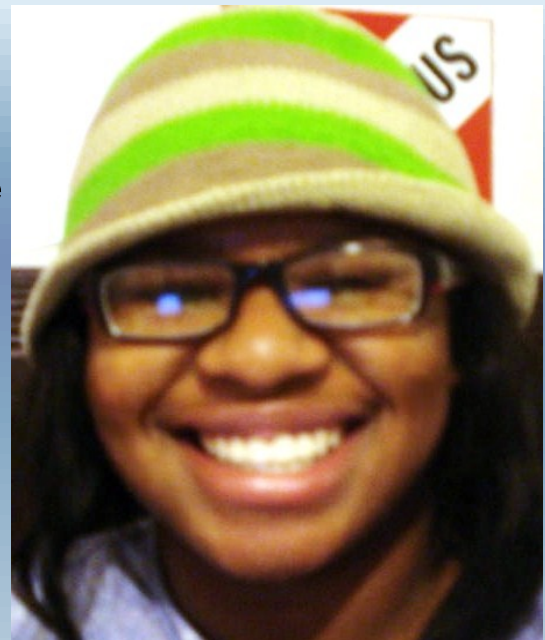


**Prof. Christiana Okechukwu and some attendees from the Somalian Embassy**

**Fundraiser of The Period**

**Ms. Uchenna Agbahiwe (La Jolla, Ca , USA)**

**By Their Actions You will know Them. Miss Uchenna Agbahiwe is a young lady with a difference. Below are the letters we received from her. She fund raised and donated \$157.00 to Inwelle Centre for the Centre's boot camp.**



**Letter One:**

Hello. My name is Uchenna Agbahiwe and I live in the U.S. I am in the 12th grade at my high school, where it is customary for students in a certain program called QUEST in which I am the member, that we do what is called a "Senior Project" that lasts all year long. The project that I want to do is a series of fund raisers throughout the year in which I would raise money for a Nigerian-based charity. I was wondering if your organization could be the one that I fund raise for? I just have a few questions regarding your charity organization. I hope that we will be able to work together this year because I really liked what I read on your website and what your mission for Nigeria and Africa as a whole is. Thank you for your time and I hope to hear from you soon.

**Letter Two:**

I would love to help out in any way that I can with the endeavor that the Centre is making to get the internet faster. Like I said before I plan on raising money in a variety of ways, such as bake sales and car washes, and would love to have a hand in helping my Nigerian age mates get through school and possibly enter into higher education. I'm afraid that I would not be able to send out any money until April at the earliest. I was wondering if there was a phone number for the Centre that I could directly reach you at because when I tried the number on your website, it would not go through? Thank you for your response and I hope to hear from you again soon.

**Letter Three:**

I don't know if you remember me, but I emailed you over the past school year about your organization and the various goings ons that happen in it. Thank you for all the help and information that you provided me with. I hope that this money can in some way help you reach your goals. Uchenna Agbahiwe

A big thank you, Uchenna, for caring about fellow young Nigerians, the underprivileged. They are all grateful for your generosity.

**Professor Christiana Okechukwu, Ph.D.  
Founding President and Executive Director**

## Goodwill Message



From Late Prof. Emmanuel Obiechina who slept peacefully in the Lord on November 8, 2010.

Congratulations to Inwele Center on its fifth year of growth and development. **My message:**

[Inwele Center is a great dream that succeeded, a wise investment in the young who are the hope and the future of the Nigerian nation. May it grow from strength to strength. May it abundantly achieve its mission]: Emmanuel Obiechina.

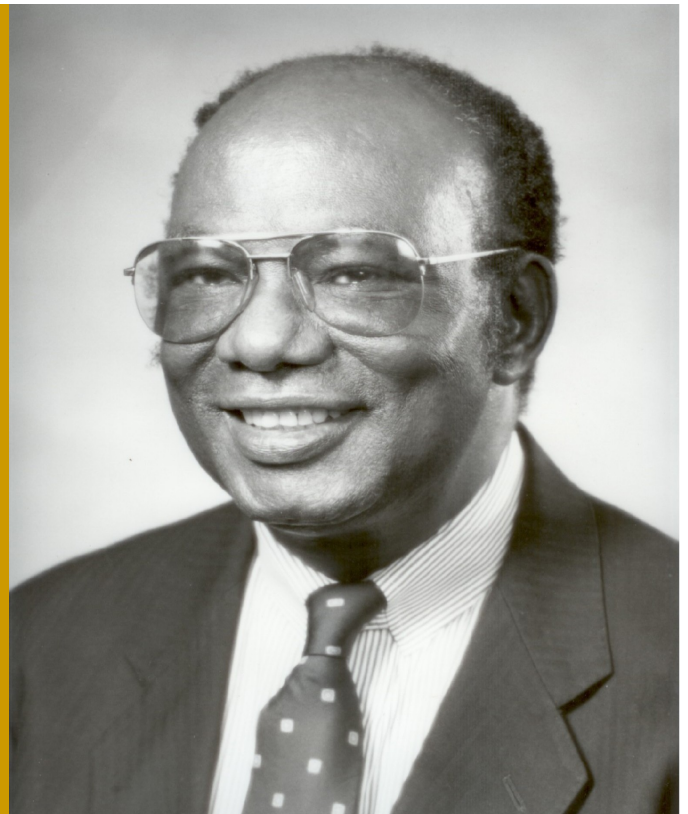
**Sent by email on November 5, 2010**

**A Tribute To A Great Father, Mentor, Supporter, and Above all, Teacher — Late Professor Emmanuel Obiechina . May Your Gentle Soul Rest in Perfect Peace, Amen.**

Nwadi, You were an eagle. *Ada afu ugo kwa daa*—An eagle is never seen everyday. I will forever remember your graciousness, your wisdom, especially your support for Inwelle Centre.

People achieve great things when the right people are cheering them on. I know that you and my father, the Late Patrick Okonkwo, are among the angels at the grandstand of Heaven cheering me and Inwelle Centre on. I know that you are both smiling and cheering on because I am using the Centre to do exactly what you would have approved had you still been among the living. You had never ceased to impress upon me that we all need what you called “those little noises of approval to encourage us to achieve higher things.” You believed in me just like my father did. Thanks for your guidance while you were alive.

Nne ochie, Prof. Christiana Okechukwu, Ph.D.,  
Founding President and Executive Director  
Inwelle Study and Resource Centre, Enugu, Nigeria.







I want to congratulate you on your work in Nigeria...it is very impressive and socially responsible. Also congratulations on being a successful published author. You are a good role model for most who are challenged when it comes to achieving their dreams in life. My support and good wishes will always remain with you. You were truly a great teacher to me and I still

remember your warmth and kindness. I truly believe that is why God has granted you such success and respect. The world is in desperate need for peace and we all need to work at making this experience of life worth living. Our youths need direction and love and kindness for which we need to stand united. I am a fashion designer now and reside in Pakistan. I am also a TV anchor for a channel that is working to spread the importance of education and social welfare. Education is the movement from darkness to light. My prayers and best wishes are with you and your family and I am so glad that I found you here.

Peace and Love  
[Ali Fateh from Pakistan](#)

"Inwelle Study and Resource Centre has proved to be the most youth-friendly organization that has endeared itself to so many Nigerians through evidence-based activities since inception five years ago. The Centre is better experienced than told and a wide range of Nigerians who have had the opportunity of visiting the centre testify to the centre's demonstrated commitment towards bettering the lots of the Nigerian youths.

Having made such an impact within five years of existence, I have no doubt that the centre will go far in dealing with the challenges that confront the most sensitive group of the society. Congratulations!"



**Mr and Mrs. Onah**  
 (Dotcom), Ministry of Education, Enugu State, Nigeria

## ODE TO INWELLE CENTRE

### By Prof. Dr. Chinyere G. Okafor

*Odi nta eme ile!*

Young but you perform great deeds like Veteran.  
 Your tender legs should not be found at school,  
 For your right hand cannot yet touch your left ear.  
 But you have broken slate and become Di Teacher!

*Oka-a O-mee!*

Your mother said so before you were conceived;  
 That she'd be pregnant with skill-training-abode.  
 Labor was rough but her determination was strong.  
 Look at you; at five and already called Di Teacher.

*Onwa na etilu ora!*

You welcome women, kids, youths, and men,  
 With learning that firms their legs to look ahead.  
 Computer, leadership, thinking and empowerment;  
 You have them and you give, for you are Di Teacher.

Their local anthem takes an echo from old festival song:

"We are not beggars; just need a little help in this thorny path.  
 Thanks for your light that tells how to see dents and avoid ditches  
 We proud ones find our way in this maze and sing our new song,  
 For we too, like you, will hold the flashlight for others to see."



**Prof. Dr. Chinyere G. Okafor**  
 University of Wichita  
 Kansas, USA

**Congratulations Inwelle Centre!!!  
From Grenoble, France**



*We send hearty congratulations to Prof. Dr. Christiana Okechukwu on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Inwelle Study and Resource Centre. Since the opening of the centre five years ago, many youths have been taught, empowered, and encouraged to pick up their education once more to remain on the right track of academic advancement and success. May God bless Prof. Dr. Christiana Okechukwu and her dynamic team of instructors. May God bless the past, present and future beneficiaries of the centre. Keep up the marvellous work in our community. Long live the Inwelle Study and Resource Center!!*

*From: Dr. Michael and Ngozi Onu with their  
children, Grenoble, France*

Dear Christiana,

What a fine recognition of your contribution to Enugu youths. We well know how you have struggled to make these educational opportunities possible. For example: You have planned for years to develop a site where opportunities for indigent young people could be offered; You observed what kind of help was needed; You poured your own funds into building and operating the Inwelle Centre; You have tried to raise more funds through your invitations to a wide spread community here in the United states to join in founding and maintaining the Centre; You garnered books, computers and materials for the Inwelle Centre library and classrooms from various contributors; You successfully administered yearly programs to educate young women and young men for success; You have given your time selflessly to foster, organize, direct, and teach there.

Congratulations on the award to the Centre. You must be a very happy foster mother!

Sincerely yours,

Jean Dietz Moss, Ph.D.  
Professor Emerita  
The Catholic University of America  
Washington, DC 20064, USA



Dear Professor Okechukwu,

This is to congratulate you on the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Inwelle Study and Resource Centre. Christiana I commend your efforts, courage and vision in setting up this very important Institution to help and save the lives of our young generation to have better future. You are doing great thing for Nigerians and for humanity. I wish you well and I pray that the Inwelle Study and Resource Centre will continue to grow bigger and strong. Keep on doing the good work and God will crown all your efforts.

**Prof. Layi Abegunrin, Howard  
University, Washington, D.C., USA**





# December 16, 2010 Annual Symposium Nigeria is Fifty: What About The Youths? Supported by **Global Fund For Women**

**Dr. Tom Orjiekwe: Management of Poultry and Pets For Self Employment for Youths.** Poultry and pets management. (Eg Poultry and dogs). Management.Sales (Marketing) Accounting.



**Barr. Mrs. Uchenna Ekte: Youth Development and Empowerment in Nigeria** Dimensions of youth empowerment includes education, vocation, trade. She outlines the various schemes by the government to empower the youths as NYSC, GAP, etc.



# 2010 Symposium in Pictures



One of our Most Ardent Volunteers, Mrs. Patience Umebosika, Working at The Symposium



Barrister Mrs. Chizoba Chine, a former Trustee, speaking at the conference.



Participants Receiving certificates

## PROFESSOR CHRISTIANA OKECHUKWU RECEIVING A COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF ENUGU MUNICIPAL IN JULY 2010



Professor Okechukwu Receiving Citation From The Rotary Club and Surrounded by Friends and Supporters, Left to Right: Ms. Adaeze Igwebuike, Mr. Joe Igwebuike, Barrister Mrs. Ifeoma Igwebuike, Prof. Okechukwu, and Mrs. Egbuche

### Award Statement From The Rotary Club of Enugu Municipal Board signed by the President Rotarian Barr. Mrs. Patricia Igwebuike

In July, 2010, we received a Community Service Award from the Rotary Club of Enugu Municipal. Being recognized by the Rotary club of Enugu Municipal as an organization that has distinguished itself in 2009 was thrilling because receiving the Rotary Community Service Award was the crowning of our impact recognition in the community. In the award letter to Inwelle Centre, the Rotary club says "Your contributions towards the positive projection and the development of the Education industry in our country, has not gone unnoticed. The gold fish they say has no hiding place."



Professor Christiana Okechukwu Responding to the Citation: left to Right: Chief Chukwuemeka Nwankwo, Deputy Governor of Rotary District 10 Enugu, Prof. Okechukwu and Mrs. Umeh

Left to Right: Ms. Uwaezie, Ms. Egbuche, Mrs. Umebosika, Mrs. Egbuche



## Inwelle Centre Citations



Nwadi,  
 Congratulations on Your  
 Well deserved Rotary  
 Award, Inwelle Centre!!!

Nnaochie  
 Prince Emeka Anazodo,  
 Ugonnaya



The President of Rotary Club of Enugu  
 Municipal Conferring the Award While the  
 Deputy Governor of District 10 Stands in  
 Support

## Inwelle Centre Citation

This is wonderful, wonderful news. What a recognition! More kudos to come! Evelyn Gibson, Director, Awards Program, Council on Foundations, USA



Girls,  
 Keep reaching for  
 the star! We want  
 you there.

Paul & Ladys



Above: Prof. Okechukwu Accepting the Award



Left: Chief Nwankwo Responding on Behalf  
 of The Rotary Club of Enugu Municipal



## Citations Continue

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

Mary E. Owens, Ph D., Chair & Professor, Reading, English as a Second Language, and Linguistics, Rockville Campus, Montgomery College. MD 20850, USA  
Tel: 240-567-7421; fax: 240-567-7463  
e-mail: me.owens@montgomerycollege.edu

Great job, Christie! Congratulations!  
Aida Martinovich-Zic, Department of Reading, ESL, and Linguistics, Montgomery College, Rockville, Maryland, USA.

Wow! *nne* you're now "à la une" like the French would say. This is surely a sign of greater moments ahead for Inwelle Centre. Mighty CONGRATS!!!  
Mrs. Ngozi Onu, Grenoble, France.

CONGRATULATIONS!  
Inwelle Center deserves this recognition. Special acknowledgment to the hard working Director, Professor Christiana Okechukwu. (Professor Chinyere Okafor, University of Wichita, Kansas, USA.)

Congratulations to all of us and mostly to you. You could not do it without us but we could not know it without you. More awards awaits you and Inwelle Centre. This is just the beginning.

Ifeanyi Onah (Dotcom), Ministry of Education, Enugu, Nigeria

Congratulations Dr. Okechukwu. It is a well deserving recognition. Keep up the good work. God bless.  
(Mr. Ephraim Oduche, Baltimore, Maryland, USA)

Inwelle Centre is one of the positive and immediate responses to face up to the challenges of the growing malaise in Nigerian education system today." Mrs. Ngozi Onuh, Grenoble France

MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS Great Job Prof. Okechukwu. Keep it up.  
J, Carlos Manduley, PhD Visiting Prof. University of Maryland College of Education



Ninsta Kanate, one of Inwelle Centre's most ardent volunteers. Thanks for your years of support of Inwelle Centre



## Good Will Message To My Teacher, Mentor, And Friend.



Years have come and gone, but I couldn't help but reminisce about one of the most influential persons in my life that has helped to shape me into who I am today. I remember in class when Prof. Okechukwu used to tell me, "you already have all the tools and vision, you can do it". I took her message another step further, and my life has been equally transformed by what she has taught me. I am finishing up my masters in public health and this is the work of a caring teacher. She always makes sure that her students see they can control and shape their own lives. Congratulation on your success and my best wishes to Inwelle Center.

Ninsta Kanate