

**INWELLE CENTRE:
BROADENING THE
HORIZON FOR
WOMEN AND
YOUTHS**



**CHUTZPA:
THE BOLDNESS
TO DARE
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



INWELLE CENTRE PROFILE

Established in 2005, Inwelle Study and Resource Centre is a Nigerian non-profit NGO based in Enugu. We recognize that books and computers are crucial in this information age, as uneven accumulation of information and knowledge dictates the wealth and poverty of countries, communities, and classes. Thus we envision a world in which students and teachers would just walk into a Centre and find it equipped with a rich library, computers, internet and reading rooms to aid them in their information search and students will find it equipped to aid them in the performance of their academic tasks, and teachers will find it equipped to aid them in effective teaching .

We aim to provide both enriching educational tools to the communities where we locate a satellite Centre. In 2011 and 2012, we located satellite centres at Ozalla Ezimo in Udenu LGA and Inyi in Igboeze North LGA. We started these two satellite Centre with 1000 books and two computers each. Each of these centres focuses on: educating the local population regarding the usage of computer and internet, supporting students and scholars with their activities in the centres.

Inwelle Centre provides different projects all year long, particularly focused on the primary and secondary school children, youths, and women. The Centre runs the following projects: "Catch-Them-Young"; " Academic Boot Camp"; "Mass Computer Literacy"; "Project Success"; "Teachers I.T. Training", and annual symposium.

Catch them Young is a project set out for children of primary and secondary schools only. We train them on how to make use of the computer and provide them with the requisite skills and knowledge to function effectively in the 21st century, tutor them on school work, give them educational counseling on how to pass their exams and how to recognize opportunities and utilize them.

The Academic Boot Camp is a project developed for youths. Inwelle Centre Participatory Learning Academic Boot Camp usually runs August 1-30 and is designed to prepare indigent youths aspiring to enter into higher institutions of learning. Each year, the Boot Camp focuses on one area of empowerment.

Mass Computer Literacy is a workshop run monthly for all segments of the society. The participants are introduced to the usage of the computer throughout class course available for everyone.

"Project Success" aims to encourage the indigent girls to embrace life in the field of science and technology.

Teachers I.T. Training aims to train local teacher to teach the primary school children and the youths. The course focuses on empowering indigent people with the necessary skill in order to counsel and educate young patrons in the usage of the computer and internet.

Yearly symposium is used to create awareness of issues impeding indigent youths from reaching their potentials and seeking ways to leverage these youths.

CENTRE 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. 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 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 go to school at the same time.

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ABOUT US

YEAR OF INCORPORATION: 2005

REGISTERED OFFICE:

5 INWELLE AVENUE, PIPELINE ESTATE, AMORJI NIKE, P.O. BOX 4008, ENUGU, NIGERIA.

E-MAIL: INFO@INWELLECENTRE.ORG

PHONE: +234-803-751-9965

NATURE OF BUSINESS:

REGISTERED TRUSTEES; YOUTH AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT.

TRUSTEES:

PROF. DR. CHRISTIANA OKECHUKWU,
PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DR. CASSANDRA OKECHUKWU (MEMBER)
DR. ANTHONY OKONKWO
MS. VANESSA OKECHUKWU

MEMBERS OF ADVISORY BOARD

DR. MARY OWENS
RABBI HOWARD GORIN
BARR. MRS. OBY NWANKWO
MR. JOHN NWOGU
MS. MIRIAM CARTER
DR. SULAYMAN NYANG
DR. OLAYIWOLA ABEGUNRIN
DR. PAUL ABUDU

BANKERS:

UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA, STATION ROAD, ENUGU, NIGERIA.

Dare to ...



Ask for what you want

Believe in yourself

Change your mind

Do what you love

Enjoy Each and Every day

Follow Your heart's Desire

Give More Than You Receive

Have a Sense of Humour

Insist on Being Yourself

Join In More

Kiss and Make Up

Love and Be Loved

Make New friends



Nurture Your Spirit

Overcome Adversity

Play More

Question Conformity

Reach for the Stars

Speak Your Truth

Take Personal Responsibility

Understand More, Judge less

Volunteer Your Time

Walk Through Fear

X-perience the Moment

Yearn for Grace

Be Zany.

Written by Meiji Stewart

Director's Message

The exciting 2012 has ended. We have our successes. We have our setbacks. We are ready to forge onto a more exciting and more successful 2012. This year we have been able to carry out exciting projects successfully. The first project was the Mass Computer Literacy Campaign that ran successfully from February to November. We extended free internet usage to Centre users. We trained 153 youths free to be computer literate. But then our gifts kept on giving to a huge number of people as those we trained have now been empowered to train others. We kept our library open from 8a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday Through Saturday; as a result, 157 youths were able to make use of our library and internet. Global Fund for Women assisted us to install our VSAT which gave us access to the internet, supported our Symposium for 2010 and our boot camp for 2011. It also assisted in paying part of our staff salaries for 2011. We purchased a vehicle that will enable us embark on our proposed library on Wheels. We are making progress. All in all, it has been a wonderful year, a year to look back on and smile at lessons learnt and jubilate for triumphs.

Boot Camp

The specifications for locating a satellite centre in a community are as follows:

- Community involvement leading to sustainability and self-sufficiency
- Outline of programme of Activities that reflect Inwelle Centre vision and mission
- Commitment to sending annual report to Inwelle Centre, not later than February of the following year after a programme year
- Providing a room equipped with shelves and access to the internet
- Sponsoring two or three girls to be trained at Inwelle Centre to learn how to run the satellite centre
- Commitment to paying stipends to the girls who run the centre.

The community pays stipends to the girls running the satellite centres. The two satellite centres already established are thriving because of community commitment. They now have internet access and individuals donate books to the centres. The Communities also hold educational activities. Also, individuals in the community are beginning to sponsor participants. Unfortunately, they are mostly willing to sponsor boys. Consequently, we are compelled to continuously seek for funders to sponsor girls. We supply each community with 1000 books and two computers to start them off. The community then start internet cafes and conduct adult education programmes for the villages. They use retired educators public spirited individuals, and retired government functionaries in their midst to tap into local government and state resources to aid them in running programmes. We find this strategy more effective than the main centre seeking for fund from the local government or the



state. The local government chairmen are more willing to assist these satellite centre because the centres are in their immediate vicinity and speak to their achievements during their tenure of office. In order words, it bolsters their political ambition. The communities are more committed to the success of a centre that serves them, rather than serving all and sundry. The first center established in the remote village of Ozalla Ezimo, in Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State is thriving because of such community commitment. Apart from paying stipends to the volunteers, this community has brought internet access and bought books to add to the ones they received from the Centre. The Community also holds educational activities. We plan to assist them in organizing local seminars and workshops. The Centre will encourage retired teachers in these communities to serve as mentors and resource people. Instead of twenty girls residing in Inwelle Centre for one month, the Library on Wheels vehicle will be stationed for one week in 3 chosen communities where the centre will locate satellite resource centres. These will be communities that indicate their interest in partnering with Inwelle Centre and show preparedness for such partnership. The vehicle will be equipped with books, a smart station, comprising a computer that has internet access, VCR/DVD player, projector and screen. It will also have 3-5 laptops and two desktops with internet access. During the one week the vehicle will be stationed in each community, Inwelle Centre staff will be on ground to teach I.T. to youths and loan out books and give talks/seminars on the benefits of girls being encouraged to embrace life in the fields of computer technology. This way, the Centre reaches more participants. Another objective is also to sensitize parents and community leaders to support girls who show interest in acquiring skills in the field of hi-tech computer. The centre staff will also show videos that will also speak to the opportunities that abound in the field



Inwelle Centre Secondary School Library Project Library and Youths: Towards Cultivating Read Habit Among the Youths Project, November 2012.

The opening ceremony for the drive commenced on the 5th of November, with a presentation of 10 cartons of indomie worth N15,000 from the Indomie Company, represented by Mr. Ebuka Okonkwo, facilitated by Mr. Onagu Ogbodo, Director of Special Education, Ministry of Education, Enugu, Enugu State, Nigeria. Mr. Ebuka Okonkwo commended the centre on its effort in providing such educational facility for the community and the society at large.

On the 7th of November the drive commenced officially with the introduction of the first school, Community Secondary School Iva Valley by Mr Ogbodo Onagu. After the introduction of the teachers and the students, comprising boys and girls between the ages of 13 – 18, the Centre Manager and Coordinator, Mrs. Juliet Igwe welcomed the students and their teachers on behalf of the centre. Mrs. Igwe explained the importance of a library and its benefits, the use of catalog and the use of call numbers.

As the students entered the library, their faces radiated so much excitement. Most of them expressed that they had never seen how a typical library looks. The students were grouped two – when one group was making use of the library, the other group in the knowledge hall. After some time, the

groups switched places. Then the students were moved to the computer class. When they were in the computer class, some of the students were so eager to learn everything at the same time out of excitement. When it was time for them to go, they were all screaming “Aunty please!” Let us stay longer. At the end of their stay we presented them with one carton of Indomie on behalf of the centre and one of their teachers, Mrs. Grace Okwor, expressed their gratitude to the founder of the centre for making such a place available for them and their students. She said that on her own she would be coming to the centre everyday. They also indicated their interest in partnering with the centre so as to provide for their students and other teachers, an avenue for broadening their education. On this first visit we recorded 19 students. On the school’s second visit on November 21, their number was 21 students. On the 8th of November, it was the Special School for the Deaf and Dumb, Ogbete, Enugu. They were both male and female students between the ages of 15 – 18, and their total number was 19 students. It wasn’t easy to

manage this group because of their disabilities. Even though their teachers were interpreting, we had to talk and demonstrate at the same time. Like the students from the previous school, Mrs. Igwe taught them the use of library and took them to the knowledge hall. They were very much excited, as it was their first time of seeing a library as big as ours and it was their first time of touching a computer. Their teachers too were overwhelmed by the large amount of books and the standard of books in our shelves. The students expressed their excitement and joy through their sign language. Mrs. Igwe had a brief talk with one of the of their teachers, Mr. Emeka Ugwu who lamented on the run down state of their school, starting from the school's dilapidated buildings and unconducive environment for learning, to lack of a library and computers and computer courses for the students and the teachers. He also said their students will do better if provided with those facilities needed for learning like computers and books. He thanked the centre for the opportunity given to them and he encourage us to do more in helping people like them (disabled) in acquiring computer skills. After their stay, they were presented with a carton of Indomie by Barr. S Njubigbo on behalf of the centre. This school has only visited once. And we hope to see them again next month.

On the 9th and 19th, National Grammar School, Nike, Enugu, which comprises of male students between the ages of 14 – 20 visited the Centre. They were 20 on their first visit and 22 on their second visit. Just like every other students that visited, Nike boys were also impressed by the amount of interesting books in our library, most of which they had not seen anywhere. From our interactions, they have never seen a library so well equipped and so conducive for reading like Inwelle Centre Library, with lots of vegetation that made the environment very airy. Most of them also indicated interest in registering with us and also coming as individuals. At the end of their stay, just like every other school that visited, we presented them with a carton of Indomie on behalf of the centre.

On the 12th and 16th Annunciation Secondary school visited. This is the school that recorded the highest number. On the first day their number was 54. On the second day, they were 34. They comprised boys and girls between the ages of 12 – 20. They made use of the library and they were also taught computer. From Mrs. Igwe's interaction with the students, she found out that the students had obsolete books in their school library, and their school management has never tried to upgrade the library. They were so happy to be in a library where they could reach any type of book they want. They were presented with a carton of Indomie noodles by Barr. S. Njubigbo. The drive has been a success so far, both the teachers and the students that visited could not stop confessing about the good work being done in the centre. Some of these students have now registered with us as individuals because they can't afford not to be part of our resource centre. And most of them can now comfortably use a library, as well as operate computers. Just as the name implies "Knowledge Hall", no student came out of that hall without acquiring knowledge.

Juliet Igwe
Programme Director.

INWELLE STUDY AND RESOURCE CENTRE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT:

Inwelle Centre Satellite Centre, Inyi Enugu-Ezike Commissioned

History was made on Saturday, 25th August, 2012 when the Inyi, Enugu-Ezike Satellite Centre of Inwelle Study and Resource Centre, Pipeline Estate, Amaorji Nike was commissioned by the Chairman of Igbo Eze North Local Government Area, Hon. Bonaventure Onuh represented by the Supervisory Counsellor for Education, Hon. Emenike Ojobe.



In her keynote address, the founder of the Inwelle Study and Resource Centre, Professor Christiana Okechukwu, Ph.D represented by Mr. Ifeanyi Onah, a member of the Board of Trustee of the Centre noted that the establishment of the Satellite Centre at Inyi, Enugu-Ezike was to inculcate the habit and culture of reading amongst youths of the rural community. The centre will also go a long way in putting the rural students at par with their urban counterparts during external examinations.

Over one thousand textbooks on different subjects and computer systems were donated in the first phase. Mr. Onah assured that more donations are on the way and appealed to individuals to support the centre by provision of additional books with local contents.

In his welcome address, the Chairman of Inyi Community Development Committee, Bro Vincent Mary Odo described the centre as "God Sent".

Other dignitaries that graced the occasion included the traditional ruler of the community, Igwe Hyacinth Alumona and members of his cabinet. The representative of the Regent of Umuokolo autonomous community, Ichie Gabriel Abugu and his adorable wife, Mary were also in attendance. Others were the Chairman of Inyi Town Union, Nze Michael Ugwuanyi, Chief Theophilus Ogbonna, Prince Austin Alumona, Hon. Kenneth Eze, Chief Thomas Ogbonna (Ezedinobi) and many others too numerous to mention.



The immediate past principal of Comprehensive Secondary School, Inyi, Mr. Titus Omenma was also in attendance. The staff and students of the school led by the incumbent principal, Mr. Romanus Odo were equally in attendance.

School children were on ground and with several other cultural troupes too, the guests were lavishly entertained.



Inwelle Study and Resource Centre, Enugu, Nigeria donated 1000 books and two computers to Inyi Community in Igboeze North Local Government Area of Enugu State Nigeria to start a resource centre where youths can have access to books and the internet. This is part of Inwelle Centre's work to promote a reading culture in the rural communities in Nigeria.

PROFILE OF INYI, ENUGU-EZIKE

POPULATION: 25, 000.

ISSUES FACING THE TOWN ACADEMICALLY

Poverty:

About 95% of the inhabitants are palm wine tappers and subsistence farmers.

Marginalization:

The town suffers marginalization as an effect of the Nigeria civil war during which major politicians and leaders in the town were killed

Government neglect:

This is a border town and suffers neglect. Few schools in the community are through self effort. There is no nearby tertiary institution.

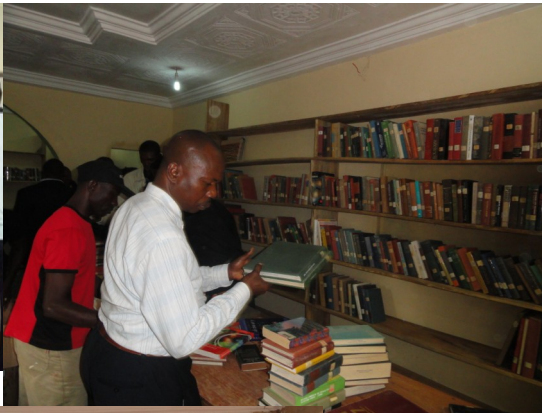
Unemployment:

The few youths who attended higher institutions are unemployed and this discourages others.

No electricity: The town is without electricity supply and there is no standard generating plant . Therefore they rely on portable generators for electricity supply

Poor communication network;

No internet facility to link the youths to the global community.



There is no gainsaying the fact that Inyi, Enugu-Ezike, in Igbo Eze North Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria is grossly underdeveloped. The effects of the Nigeria Biafra Civil War on the town will take decades to heal. Being a border town, it was at Inyi that the Nigerian troops fired their first shot. History had it that the town members were joyously celebrating a traditional annual festival when the enemy troop struck and tested their might on the poor rural and peasant farmers. No family was left without losing members of their own to the genocide.

The town cannot boast of any powerful politician or civil servant both at the local, state and federal governments. When we say we backward, it is an understatement. We will appreciate any assistance from any quarter aimed at narrowing the bridge between the town and their immediate neighbours.

Ken Ugwu



Inwelle Centre Partnerships: Mass Computer Literacy For Youths Sponsored By Beloved dan Anike

The first that will benefit from Inwelle Centre Library on Wheels project is Excel Academy. This is a small group of youths between the ages of 19 - 28 that has about 50 members. They want to partner with Inwelle Centre to see how the Centre can train their members on IT. The next group is the Emmanuel Anglican Church, Iji Nike. The church will partner with Inwelle Centre to train its youths.

Next Umuchigbo Community Chairman Hon. Beloved Dan Anike (Commissioner for Transport Enugu State) has started training Youths at the Centre. He started with training ten youths from his community. The Local Government Chairman Enugu East is interested in partnering with Inwelle Centre. His Program Director has visited the centre and has promised that the Local Government will train its staff ward by ward by middle of the next quarter. The Civil Defends Corp second in command has also visited the Centre. He has also agreed to partner with the Centre to train the whole 65 members of Staff by the beginning of next quarter.



Left: Participants of Hon. Beloved Dan Anike's (Commissioner for Transport Enugu State) and Inwelle Centre Partnership Project



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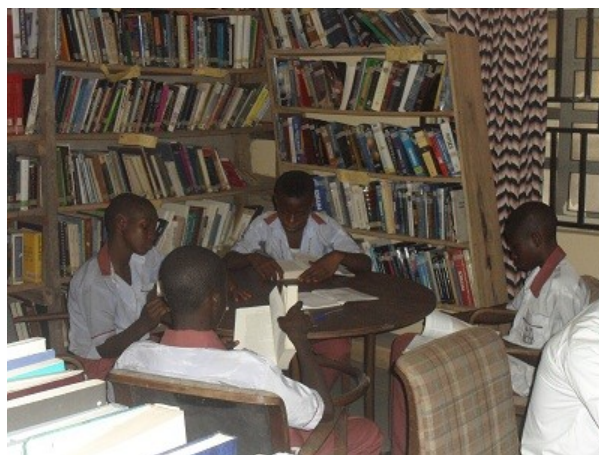
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Juliet Igwe





JEFFERS FAMILY
USA

It is with mixed feelings and gratitude to God for a life well spent that the Board of Trustees, Management, Staff and Beneficiaries of Inwelle Study and Resource Centre convey our condolences to the entire family of JEFFERS on the death of their beloved mom.

Our Inwelle Study and Resource Centre is a Beneficiary of the Benevolence gestures and assistance of the JEFFERS FAMILY. Many underprivileged Nigerian Children and youths benefitted from your assistance and support to the centre.

While appealing to you to take solace in God's promise, we pray to God to grant your family the fortitude and grace to bear the loss, believing that mom is resting in Heaven with God.

Please accept our heartfelt condolences.

Professor Christiana Okechukwu, Ph.D.
Executive Director



CLASS OF 2011



CLASS OF 2010



CLASS OF 2009

.....
CHIEF, BAR. B.S. NJUBIGBO
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF ADVISORS

.....
IGWE JULIET
CENTRE MANAGER

OBITUARY: Mrs Anne Jeffers

Burial of Inwelle Centre Supporter at Arlington Cemetry, Washington D.C.
Burial At The Arlington Cemetary



The Jeffers Family:
Strong Supportors of Inwelle Centre



Sixth Annual Symposium, 20th December, 2013

THEME: Leveraging Girls To Seek Careers in Hi-Tech Computer Fields

The programme which started at about 11.45 a.m. was well attended by men, women and youths. Also in attendance were the Inwelle Study and Resource Centre Inyi, Satellite Centre led by Mr. Vincent Mary Odo.

After the introduction of the chairman of the Occasion, Chief Ikem Nwabunike, represented by Barr. B.S. Njubigbo and other dignitaries. There was a brief history of the centre by the director and founder of Inwelle Study and Resource Centre Prof. Christiana Okechukwu. The theme of this sixth Inwelle Centre Symposium “Leveraging Girls to Seek Career in Hi-Tech Computer Fields” is designed to focus on the importance and benefits of girls seeking careers in hi-tech computer fields, which will in turn help in promoting women’s ideas, experiences and talents in the society.

Authorities from the UN and World Bank to corporations and private donors agree that investments in women accelerate the economic security and good health of families, communities and nations. Mounting evidence shows that supporting gender equity also advances wider economic and social development and improves the financial climate of entire countries and regions. When communities and nations include women, positive outcomes result.
Barr. Mrs. Chizoba Chine

The first presenter Barr. (Mrs.) Chizoba Chine, the executive director of Greenfield Nig Ltd., spoke on “Strategies for Leveraging Girls to Seek Career in Hi-Tech Computer Fields”. In her speech she emphasized the need for girls to embrace the changes in the globe. She listed commitment towards attaining higher education as one of the strategies which girls and women should adopt. She encouraged girls to be interested in science and technology especially Hi-Tech

computer fields and not to be scared away from such subjects as Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Computer Science subjects. She also stressed on the need for girls to have ambition on what and where they want to be and not just exist without having any direction.

Barr. Mrs. Chine also listed participation in sports as one of the strategies, as participation in sports gives one competitive spirit to face challenges and situations in the workforce and in the society. She thanked some men on the opportunity given to women to be a part of leadership, both in the family and in the society at large. She also listed mentorship as one of the strategies. Getting involve with a person who is more knowledgeable and more skilled in the area in which one is aspiring to go in life will leverage that person to a great length in achieving the person’s goal, she said.

In conclusion she advised women and girls to network and join organizations that will improve their area of interest in life. She also said that it is of great importance that more women foundations, funders and donors focus on the area of interest in girls and women as it yields positive results. The second presenter, Engineer Patrick Onwe, Managing director of Micromedia Computer Ltd commended the director of the centre Prof. Christiana Okechukwu for the good work she has been doing for the youths and the society, saying that the future of our country is bright with her kind.

His speech which was titled “I T For Profit” focuses on the importance of I.T, like CISCO, web designing, oracle and e-businesses for youths, especially girls who want to be entrepreneurs. In his remarks, he said the workplace of the future is Information Technology and that it has made things like jobs available for people to be either employees or employers of labor. He encourages the girls to ignore the big name associated with I.T that scares some people away because acquiring computer skills and knowledge is



Juliet Igwe:
Programme Director



ABOVE:
Barrister Mrs. Chizoba Chne Delivering her Paper

I.T. FOR PROFIT:

“In this present knowledge driven world, with a general paradigm shifts towards gender equality, necessitated by overall civilisation trends and need for better human capacity utilisation; it has become necessary for the female folks to play a more active role in the field of Information Technology. “
Engineer Patrick Onwe



within everybody's reach.

He reminded the youths that I.T has come to stay in the society and that for one to fit into the world one has to be I.T literate. He said that I.T is now in hospitals, schools, government agencies, security agencies and virtually in every segment of the society.

Engineer Onwe also listed career paths in which one can go into and become a specialist. They include computer networking, website designing and building, multimedia and even e-businesses. He said being a specialist in any area of the above listed, can actually enable someone to create wealth and employment for others too. He advised the girls not to be discouraged by the rush or competition that they might encounter in the workforce. He encouraged them to play more active role in I.T fields as whoever is literate and not computer literate is still considered to be an illiterate.

In his conclusion, he said that youths should create employment through their I.T skills rather than searching for jobs, as computer fields is a call for prosperity individually and nationally.

The excited youths that were eager to know and learn how to face the challenging world of I.T, asked questions on how to become specialists in different areas in I.T. They were answered satisfactorily by Engr. Patrick Onwe and Barr (Mrs.) Chine, who even gave instance of how she repairs her computer by herself, how she taught herself keyboarding and how she is even tinkering with web design in spite of her level in the society.

A representative of Inyi, Mr. Vincent Mary Odo, thanked the director for establishing the Inwelle Satellite Centre in inyi community and for the smiles that she has put on peoples faces because of the centre. He said the centre has been running and that school children have been frequenting the centre ever since it

was commissioned. He also said the centre has gotten up to 100 books from other donors and that people still make pledges to the centre. He listed their needs and challenges so far,

1. Provision of office equipments like computers, photocopiers, printers and cameras.
2. More books on African cultures
3. Need to get affiliated with any higher institution around the town or abroad.

In response, Inwelle Centre director, Professor Christiana Okechukwu, Ph.D., promised to give them two (2) more computers, if they are able to bring 20 girls to the 2013 August Boot Camp. She encourage girls to read books a lot to broaden their horizon, to aim high in life, so that they do not end up living a life of regret without direction or living at the periphery of life in the Nigerian arena. She also said that in years to come, there will be no space for computer illiterates in the workforce. She said that girls should wake up and work hard or they will be left behind.

After the director's response, the Chairman, Barrister B. S. Njumbigo advised the youths to always make themselves available for good developmental change rather than allowing themselves to be used and dumped by dubious politicians who claim to be doing a good work for them. He also advised them to always be conversant with latest IT in the society so as not to be left behind. He also thanked the director for running the centre, especially with her personal income while praying that God will reward her abundantly. In conclusion, he thanked the audience for being part of the programme.

The closing prayer was said by Barr. (Mrs.) Chine, who prayed for God's wisdom and knowledge for the director, and for the people, for the girls to develop the zeal to work hard towards being better members of their communities and citizens of Nigeria and towards building a brighter future.

Juliet Igwe:
Programme Director

SIXTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM, 20TH DECEMBER, 2012

THEME: Leveraging Girls To Seek Careers in Hi-Tech Computer Fields

PRESENTERS:

BARR. MRS. CHIZOBA CHINE
ENGINEER ONWE



**Sixh Inwelle Centre Annual Symposium
20TH DECEMBER, 2012.**

**STRATEGIES FOR LEVERAGING GIRLS TO
SEEK CAREERS IN HI-TECH COMPUTER
FIELDS**

BY

BARR. (MRS) CHINE, CHIZOBA U.

INTRODUCTION:

The term 'high tech' refers to technology that is at the cutting edge, i.e. the most advanced technology currently available. It is often used in reference to micro-electronics, rather than other technologies. Cutting edge or 'state of the art' refers to the highest level of general development, as of a device, technique, or scientific field achieved at a particular time. It also refers to the level of development (as of a device, procedure, process, technique, or science) reached at any particular time as a result of the common methodologies employed.

'Technology' is the making, modification, usage, and knowledge of tools, machines, , techniques, crafts, systems, methods of organization, in order to solve a problem, improve a preexisting solution to a problem, achieve a goal, handle an applied input/output relation or perform a specific function. It can also refer to the collection of such tools, machinery, modifications, arrangements and procedures.

Hi-tech computer fields among others include computer hardware and networking engineering, programming, web designing, graphic designing, server, Multimedia, Accounting Applications, Office Applications, etc.

In recent years there has been both scholarship and experience across the globe that the empowerment and advancement of women is critical not only to women

and their families but to vibrant democracies and sustainable economic growth through higher levels of education, employment, remuneration and access to resources. Investment made in and through women and girls is about more than just economic growth, however - it is about creating greater equity, justice and stability.

Significant focus has been devoted to particular issues which have promise to catalyze change such as women's entrepreneurship, women in development, women on boards, electing more women to office, women as partners in law firms and many more as well as to micro-level interventions through, for example, microfinance, microcredit, education, and training schemes.

Authorities from the UN and World Bank to corporations and private donors agree that investments in women accelerate the economic security and good health of families, communities and nations. Mounting evidence shows that supporting gender equity also advances wider economic and social development and improves the financial climate of entire countries and regions. When communities and nations include women, positive outcomes result. The theme for this sixth Inwelle Center annual symposium in flowing with this global tide is designed to discuss strategies

that will foster leveraging Girls to Seek Careers in Hi-tech Computer fields and this will ultimately help in ensuring that women's voices, ideas, experiences and talents are fully a part of their societies.

**STRATEGIES FOR LEVERAGING GIRLS TO
SEEK CAREERS IN HI-TECH COMPUTER
FIELDS:**

Girls should commit themselves to attaining higher education. A higher education is the single most powerful tool a woman can deploy to ensure a



leg up in today's world.

Consider science, technology, and engineering. Prospects for long-term job growth in these fields are relatively good. Girls who are talented in these fields or who can develop the required skills in these fields will benefit immensely.

Participate in sports. Wharton business and public policy professor Betsey Stevenson researched the relationship between high-school sports participation and educational/employment opportunities, noting in her paper titled "Beyond the classroom" that the skills associated with athletic participation and success later in life 'may include the ability to communicate, the ability to work well with others, competitiveness, assertiveness and discipline,' and "sports participation may be especially helpful to girls because it gives them skills that they can use later in the business world.

Get a mentor, or better yet, a sponsor. Mentorship is seen as a very important method that can leverage girls' potentials to both educational and career prospects. To successfully make the leap to the Hi tech computer/science profession, the girl child needs someone in a senior position who will be willing to advocate for and facilitate educational and career prospects. It is very important that introductions are made to the right people and it is also necessary that girls are equipped with the language needed in these areas to achieve some measure of success. We can do this through encouraging speaking and listening, reading, writing, and other forms of communication.

In mentoring others, we should try and let others know that we are able to see opportunities where others see obstacle.

Networking:

Networking is simply "talking to people."

When people say you should network, they mean you should talk to people. People are happy to help others if they can. You need to be clear about HOW you'd like their help and clear about what you're looking for.

First, make a list of all the people to whom you can talk. These people do NOT need to be friends, or even acquaintances, just any and all people with whom you have enough of a com-

mon thread to initiate a conversation. If you can pick up the phone and call them, for any reason, they are potential networking contacts. Using this loose definition, most people have hundreds, perhaps even a thousand contacts.

Networking is therefore a very valuable strategy for girls in attaining the required heights in Science and technology. A highly effective technique is joining professional organizations, which often offer students memberships. Always ensure you are as open as possible while networking as this will be an opportunity for you for someone to know what you hope to do next and be poised to give advice and referrals.

Need for mandatory quotas and Legislative changes. This is very important for progress to be made in this regard.

Need for Social policies to facilitate faster movement. We must encourage social policies that will facilitate faster movement. E.g. no glass ceiling for women, no gender stereotyping, gender equality and gender equity, etc

Building public-private partnerships aimed at empowering women in Hi-tech Computer fields. E.g. using exhibitions, etc.

Advance it through corporate social responsibility. – Scholarships, etc.

The media can strengthen its role through advancing women participation in Hi-tech Computer fields. This can be done through advocacy, etc.

CONCLUSION:

Leveraging educational and career opportunities for girls in the area of Hi- tech computer fields is no doubt an arduous task. To successfully make the leap towards this, girls and young women are in a prime position to take advantage of and encourage the advancement of all the strategies adduced above with a view to reshaping their future. There is a great need to set in motion a positive cycle of investment and change in this area. It is therefore important that more women's funds, foundations and donors focus on strategies in this arena, as investing in women and girls is considered the "smart thing to do." The result will be a collaboration to put women and girls at the heart of the world's new economic and social development agenda - a powerful and smart agenda.

ABSTRACT: I.T FOR PROFIT

In this present knowledge driven world, with a general paradigm shifts towards gender equality, necessitated by overall civilisation trends and need for better human capacity utilisation; it has be-



come necessary for the female folks to play a more active role in the field of Information Technology.

More so, considering the fact that we in Nigeria are still at the poor side of the digital divide, it is imperative that we have more and more people, irrespective of gender, getting involved in providing IT solutions; bearing in mind that Information Technology defines the level of development of a nation. In addition, girls playing their part in high-tech computer fields is, actually a call for prosperity, individually and nationally.

In the light of these, we will look into

specific fields of Information Technology capacity development, where career could be advanced. And they include international certification programs and IT entrepreneurship. In the area of International Certification programs, we will look at ORACLE database

administration; CISCO networking; COMPTIA computer maintenance, computer and data security. These courses are current programs offered by popular international organisations, which enables certified individuals to be employable in various kinds of organisations across the globe. In the area of IT entrepreneurship,

we would look at multimedia editing, music sequencing and productions, computer forensics, and E-business solutions. Considering the fact that the great economies of the world are powered by the private sector, the belief is that the female IT entrepreneur will become one of the drivers of our economy, creating wealth as well as providing jobs for many.

ENGR. PATRICK ONWE
(MD Micromedia Computer Ltd)

LIST OF THOSE TRAINED IN 2012

Chinenye Okwor
Ifeoma Agunobi
Helen Agbata
Edith Ezinwa
Ugwuoke Annastatia
Lilian Arazu
Blessing Eze
Amaka Ugwu
Amaka Akarekwe
Emeka Okoro
Ukamaka Nwaji
Eucharika Nzekwe
Blessing Ugwu
Chinazom Agboanike
Mary Rose Igwe
Sopuruchukwu Ogbodo
Emmanuel Adinde
Chukwuemeka Ngwu
Nwanneka Udenwani
Martins Okwor
Godwin Oluwasina
Mabel Patrick
Joseph Aguode
Gabriel Aguode
Chidiebere Igwe
Myles Igwebuike
Ikechukwu Ibe
Jude Agbo
Paul Ebube
Jacinta Ejim
Ngozika Nومه
Victoria O. okwor
Mabel Nnam
Jacinta Anyanwu
Catherine Mbah
Ogechukwu Onyioha
Rosemary Ubosi
Micheal Emetanjo
Calister Ugwu
Esther Ogbu
Faith Anike
Godwin Onwe
Suleman Abdurrahman
Aneke Hillary

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Chikelu Benjamin
Ogbu Nkiruka
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Ani Ogechukwu
Nwamani Samuel
Nweze Chidiebere
Onwuamaeze Kenechukwu
Nwatamba Chigozie
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Igwe Friday
Ezeowi Chisom
Agbushi Chinwendu
Okoye Chijioke
Onyishi Chijioke
Abonyi Oluchi
Odo Mark
Nnaike Tochukwu
Onyia Kenechukwu
Emmanuel Onuorah
Ugwu M. Emeka
Agada Tochukwu
Chizoba Umejiburu
Ozor Nkechi
Igwe Chiedozi
Enendaba Chukwujekwu
Ugwu Promise
Okwor Emmanuel
Uzochukwu Ebenezer
Agenu S. Ikechukwu
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Amalu Mathew
Nweke Kindness
Chibuzo Nnadiabube
Eze Malachy
Anieze Samuel
Ozor Chidozie
Ibe Vitalis

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Ume Ejike
Nsing Victor
Aguode David
Anike Paschaline
Onah Osita
Nnaji Chidubem
Ochu Fidelis
Ede Chiadikaobi
Ofordile Ikechukwu
Ome Chukwuka
Ona Chukwunonso
Onyekelu Chinonso
Asonye Favour
Nnamani Kosiso
Onuigbo Deborah
Ebuzoeme Chidimma
Uzodigwe Bonaventure
Nwaru Bethel
Okabe Micheal
Nnaji Regina
Ozoaka James
Mba Augustine
Iheka Ugochi
Manfred Saloo
Abraham Favour
Nwonu Juliet
Ogbueze Franklin
Enoja Victor
Chukwuma Blessing
Edeson Peace
Okechukwu Maryann
Chijioke Emeka
Mba Uchenna
Okafor Chidiebere
Ossai Rosemary
Egbo Lucy
Ogbu Chisom
Asogwa Onyekachi
Egwuagu Chidera
Aguonu Henry
Okoli Ikechukwu
Nnanna Daniel
Eze Henry
Titus Isreal
Afuruche Ezinne
Ozor Godstime
Mba Anthony
Okengo Emmanuel
Ejimafor Chinedu
Ekwozor Chidera
Chidiebere Okafor

LIST OF STUDENTS FOR LIBRARY USERS

Christopher Ezinne
Chinweze Chidinma.
Emeoha Uchenna
Juliet Chukwu
Ifenze Collins
Emeoha Uchenna
Chukwu Juliet
Chinedu Collins
Ani Nkiruka
Udeh Ifeanyi
Ugwu Calister
okolo mmaduabuchi
Pillar Williams
Phil Nwagu
emeoha uchenna
ekete amanda
Aguode Joseph
Uchenna Emeoha
Agboanike Chinnazom
Mbah Edith
Nwankwo Chukwuembeka
Okoye victor
ilenze Collins
Ozoegere Ifunanya
Iroegbu Ezinna
Eze Uchenna
Ugwu Everestus
Ugwu Paul Chijioke
Ogbu Fabulous
maicellinus
Maxwell Chukwudi
Aneke Anthony
Maxwell Chukwu
Agu David
Paul Blessing
inspector Godwin Onwe
Amos Darlington
Abdurrahman S.
Aneke Maxwell
Ogbodo Sopuruchukwu
Adinde Emmanuel
Ejim Jacinta
Nnaeze Trust
Ozor Godstime
Ekweozor Chidera
Oyioha Oge
Ikegbunem Princewill
Ameh Uchenna
Onwubiko S.N
Nnaji Kingsely
Oyioha Ogechukwu
Chris Utazi
Ugwuoke Chibueze

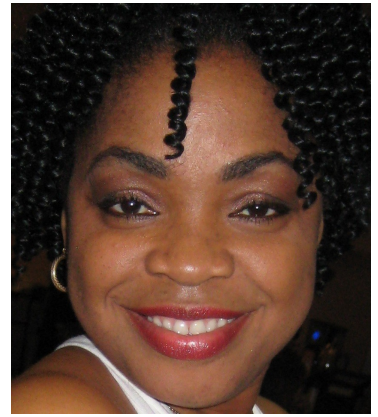
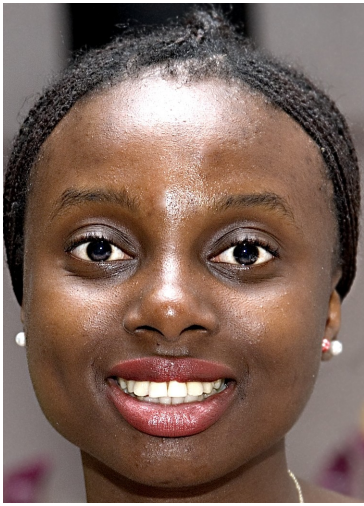
Ilnwelle Study and Resource Centre 2012 Account Summary

NCOME LINE:	NAIRA
Centre Generated Fund	994,150.00
Rent Donated by Okechukwu	600,000.00
Equipment and Stationery Donated by Okechukwu	500,000.00
Office Equipment and Stationery Donated by Okechukwu	137,219.95
Travels Accommodation & Hotel Expenses	
Local	34,320.00
International	728,845.50
Donated Income	15,164,235
Cash and In-kind from Trustees/ Key Officers Donations (salary etc.) Project Officers (Volunteers) Trustees and Management Personnel	
Total	16,374,235.00

Expenditure Line	Naira
Salary	216,130.00
Security	272,170.00
Light and Power	266,360.00
Communication	359,250.00
International Phone Calls	72,075.00
VSAT Monthly Internet Payment \$356.00 Monthly, including Western Union transaction charges Jan-Dec 2012 = 11 months =	
356.00 x 12 4272.00 =	683,520.00
Construction of Water Tank Carrier and Purchasing of Water tanks	650,000
Transportation	27,380.00
Office Equipment and Stationery	137,219.95
Other expenses	
Purchase of New Gates	250,000.00
Repair and refurbishing of Centre Vehicle	125,000.00
Rent Donated	600,000.00
Travels Accommodation & Hotel Expenses Donated by Okechukwu	
Local	34,320.00
International	825,635.00
In-Kind Expenses	15,164,235.00
Trustees/ Key Officers Donations (salary etc.) Project Officers (Volunteers) Trustees and Management Personnel	
PROJECTS	
Mass Computer Literacy Campaign	154,000.00
Statellite Centre Project at Inyi	225,600.00
Computer Skills Training	475,000.00
Symposium	103,345.00
Bank Charges	
Bank Charges UBA Naira Acct	3,379.01
Bank Charges Domiciliary Acct	18,000.00

THE GROUP THAT MAKE INWELLE TICK: THE VOLUNTEERS







Inwelle Study And Resource Centre:
Broadening the Horizon
5 Inwelle Avenue, Amorji Nike, Enugu



Supporter

CELEBRATING INWELLE COMMUNITY

INWELLE SATELLITE RESOURCE CENTRE IN INYI: LAUNCHING CEREMONY



INWELLE STUDY AND RESOURCE CENTRE