

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria

Biannual Newsletter

July 2010

Charity No CAC/IT/No 21690



As the school year comes to an end, we want to pause and say **"Thank you"** to all those who have partnered with us.

Child Street Beggar Programme

The 2009-2010 school year at the Oko Baba Destitute Camp has been a wonderful experience for the staff of House of Mercy Children's Home (HOM). From the first day of school when the children started in the new school year, we had exciting moments observing the children growing in their thirst for learning and knowledge. It has been a privilege to guide about 200 children through the year.

Here is what some of the children have to say:



Sani, age 14, is one of the 50 child street beggars who enrolled in formal education system during the 2009-2010 school year. He stands out among his peers in school. The ability to go to school is a dream come true for Sani and he wants to be a doctor in future.

Nana, age 13, has been attending our informal classes since 2007. She is particularly interested in learning so that she can communicate with others outside her normal environment. She wants to be a lawyer in future.

Anafi, age 10, has been attending our informal classes since 2009. He is very enthusiastic about learning and wants to be a soldier in future.

Barira age 10, says she simply loves to learn and be a part of the world. Initially she wanted to be a teacher in future but she has changed her mind, now she wants to be a lawyer.

Awa, age 11. *"I decided to start attending classes this year 2010 because all my friends at the destitute camp who attend can count up to 200, they know the abc and the multiplication times table up to 2. That really served as an incentive for me. I want to be a teacher in future."*

Ummi, age 12, has been attended our informal classes since 2007. She is very grateful for the opportunity to attend classes in the destitute camp where she lives. She wants to be a teacher in future.

The school year is over, summer's here but learning never ends. The informal classes organised by HOM continues through the summer break in order to prepare more children to enrol in the formal education system during the 2010-2011 school year.

Homeless Street Children Programme



Our outreach to homeless street children around Lagos has given us an insight into the reality of the dangerous predators that lurk seeking to exploit the children as well as the random violence that may set a child on the path of homelessness.

The streets offer little protection, leaving the children vulnerable to dangerous predators and with little chance of a decent future.

Since HOM does not have a shelter to accommodate homeless street children at the moment, whenever possible, we direct the children to the shelters of other NGOs.

HOM is actively trying to raise money to build a safe house and shelter for street children equipped with professional social workers and a phone helpline. Our goal is to give the children back their childhood so they can thrive and graduate into adulthood with good education, employable skills and a sense of self-worth.

We gratefully acknowledge the support we have received from individuals, groups and charitable foundations. In these difficult economic times, we are especially grateful for your gift.

Thank you for helping us make a difference!

Bunmi Awoyinfa