

House of Mercy Children's Home (HOM) Lagos, Nigeria Annual Report 2010

Charity No CAC/IT/No 21690



It is because 'every child counts and every child deserves a chance' that House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos (HOM) exists and works towards making that possible.

The Year in Review



HOM participated in the National Conference on Children and Women organised by BusinessDay in Lagos in May 2010. The conference was attended by people from around Nigeria representing major institutions and NGOs. The current challenges facing children and women were discussed as well as the terrible plight of children in distress. It was an excellent opportunity to find out what other NGOs are doing, troubleshoot problems and bounce ideas around.

Summary of Activities

- **Literacy.** Informal classes organised by HOM at the Oko Baba Destitute camp enabled 50 child street beggars to enrol in the formal education system during the 2009-2010 school year. Informal classes continued during the school holidays (July-August 2010) to prepare more children to enrol in the new school year. Now, 30 more children who can read and write have enrolled in formal education for the 2010-2011 school year. The educational support we provide paves the way for many children to attend school.
- **Educational Support.** HOM is currently sponsoring about 30 child street beggars to various primary schools around Ebute Meta and 2 children to secondary school.
- **Basic Assistance.** HOM distributed food, clothes and shoes to impoverished children on a regular basis this year.
- **Health Care.** Information sharing and attending to the sick are activities HOM was also involved in, so as to improve the standard of living of children and their parents.
- **Homeless Street Children Programme.** Almost all the homeless street children we encountered during our outreach programmes this year are eager to get off the streets, enrol in school or learn a trade.

Problems Encountered

- Inability to recruit field workers to reach out to homeless street children due to excessive wage demands.
 - Obtaining adequate funds to purchase or rent property to accommodate homeless street children, pay staff wages and sustain the children's upkeep.
- All these have been a hindrance to achieving our main objective of housing and looking after homeless street children.

Objectives for 2011

We look forward to being of further service to homeless street children, child street beggars and destitute children over the coming year.

Home for Homeless Street Children. Although all the projects we fund are of importance, housing homeless street children is still one of our key priorities. With so many children living and sleeping under fly-over bridges etc, our most challenging project in 2011 is to obtain 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.

Informal School for child street beggars. HOM will continue to run projects at the Oko Baba Destitute Camp in 2011 and the emphasis will be on education. Our aim is to enable as many children as possible to enrol in the formal education system.

Acknowledgements

We could like to gratefully acknowledge the following people and organisations for their interest and support:

- Transit Sahara Group Limited Lagos for their donation of ₦278 750. The company also organised a Valentine Day Gala to which HOM and 5 of the homeless street children we reach out to were invited.
- Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Ruqaya for their donation of ₦275 000
- Homb Energy Services Limited Lagos for their donation of ₦100 000
- Church of Pentecost Anglican Church, Festac for awarding HOM a grant of ₦30 000
- Mr. and Mrs M. Nebdal for their online donation of £240 (₦56 682).
- Mr. Gupta for providing 100 food packs weekly towards our feeding programme since June 2010.
- Mrs. P. Odigbo and Mr. A Soyoye for their respective donations of ₦40 000 and ₦30 000 towards the Christmas party organised for destitute children on December 22, 2010.

Several individuals, groups and charitable foundations have made donations to us, both large and small, and we would especially like to extend our heartfelt thanks to them both for their support and kind wishes, which we very much appreciate. In these difficult economic times, we are especially grateful for your support.

We thank all our dedicated and hard-working volunteers and staff for their hard work in 2010. It has been another great year, filled with many accomplishments and challenges.

With sincere gratitude,

Bunmi Awoyinfa