



House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria



10-YEAR REPORT | 2006 - 2016



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10-Year Retrospective Overview

“I may feel insignificant but I will do the best I can” a favourite line from the fable of the hummingbird often told by Wangari Maathai (1940-2011), founder of the Green Belt Movement and the first African woman recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 is all too fitting to describe the past 10 years at House of Mercy Children’s Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM).

October 2016 marked the 10th anniversary of House of Mercy Children’s Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM). Ten years have flown by and every year, month, week and day, one step at a time, we sought in our own little way to make a lasting, positive difference in the lives of the children we served.

Over the last 10 years, we have faced a variety of seemingly insurmountable challenges including complex realities we face on a day-to-day basis, resentment and resistance towards us from the street children we seek to rescue and rehabilitate, stiff opposition from the parents of the child beggars for whom we sought to provide educational opportunities, finding skilled and dedicated staff with the right attitude, limited resources in an increasingly harsh economic climate, navigation through bureaucratic red tape, and overcoming the reputational damage caused to the charity sector by the fraudulent antics of others. However, these seemingly overwhelming setbacks could not compete with the myriad blessings we have experienced within the same period.

Our response to adversity always makes us stronger and we have certainly become a stronger beacon of hope for the children we serve.

The Mission That Guides Us: “Touching Lives, One Child at a Time”

Since the incorporation of House of Mercy Children’s Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), we have focused on helping one child at a time. That is what HOM is all about: recognising the value of every child whether it be a child with a disability, a homeless child, a child scavenger or a child beggar and helping them meet their basic needs while expanding their opportunities to reach their full potential.

To fulfil our mission of “Touching Lives, One Child at a Time”, we adhere to three clearly defined core values - Transparency, Enthusiasm and Insight.

The aim of this report is to review the performance of HOM over the last 10 years; to present a more detailed analysis of our activities in 2016 and to provide, when possible, measures of our performance.

Highlights from our First Decade

We have made major strides since we embarked on this journey and the progress we have made would not have been possible without the generosity and support of our stakeholders who have helped us drive our work forward. Every year, House of Mercy Children’s Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) publishes an Annual Message, or Impact Report, which explain our goals, the actions we took to achieve them, and the stakeholders who have helped us achieve impact. Our [Annual Reports](#) are available on our website in Portable Document Format (PDF).

For ten years, House of Mercy Children’s Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has offered assistance to the poor, the homeless, the disenfranchised and the disconnected. Last year, even in the midst of difficult economic times, we expanded our reach to destitute children in Ibadan, Oyo state, a distance of about 231km from Lagos State where HOM is based.

Our programmes are varied and deal with many aspects of need in our community. Indeed, one of our strengths is the diversity of services that we offer.

Our charitable programmes all link back to our vision of “[Touching Lives, One Child at a Time](#)”.

Our range of services to children include:

- **Child Feeding Programme**

During the last 10 years...

House of Mercy Children’s Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) served about 120 000 free meals to child beggars, child scavengers, street children and other needy and vulnerable children in Lagos State and Oyo State through its Child Feeding Programme.



In addition to the free food packs for children, we distributed grocery items to 700 destitute families.

Our Mobile Kitchen services, often a mammoth task, involve preparation and distribution of packed freshly-cooked meals even during periods of fuel scarcity.

Providing nutritious food for children in need is a top priority for HOM as the tide of hunger continues to rise in our service areas.

Videos of our [Child Feeding Programme](#) can be found on YouTube.

• Child Hygiene Programme

During the last 10 years...

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) provided clothing and shoes for over 700 poor and needy children to help protect them from over-exposure to the elements and help them actively participate in school.

Diapers were also distributed to 500 babies and toddlers in dire need and hygiene packs shared out to 150 street children and child scavengers who scavenge for household goods, building materials and recyclable goods on garbage dumps.

The value of these diapers, hygiene supplies, clothing and shoes in terms of emotional and practical care for children in need is immeasurable.



• Child Health Programme

During the last 10 years...

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) distributed insecticide-treated mosquito nets to about 500 needy and vulnerable children in Lagos State and Oyo State along with the appropriate training and use of the bed nets.



Malaria though deadly is preventable and the insecticide-treated mosquito net (ITN) is one of the most effective weapons against malaria since the mosquitoes that carry malaria are nocturnal.

There is strong evidence that the nets we distributed in several destitute camps in Lagos State and Oyo State reduced child mortality and malaria cases and protected children during the Lassa fever outbreak in 2016.

Conveying information on critical care practices to communities is vital to child survival and development, as such, we constantly strive to develop specific strategies to reach marginalised children and families regarding health, nutrition

and sanitation promotion.

A video featuring our efforts to create awareness and prevent vulnerable children from malaria is available on [YouTube](#) and in our [Video Gallery](#).

- **Child Education Programme**

During the last 10 years...

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) provided school sponsorship and educational support to over 500 children including children with physical disabilities and learning disabilities, children from nomadic populations and children from disadvantaged or marginalised areas in Lagos State and Oyo State.



Children's access to education continues to be hampered by persistent disparities and diverse forms of exclusion and discrimination on the grounds of who they are or because of their circumstances. Disadvantaged children's access to education can be hampered by cost by requiring parents to buy uniforms, textbooks etc. Girls face double risks owing to factors such as parental preference for sons, poor security especially in conflict-affected areas, including physical and sexual attacks on girls in and around school. Girls also face a disproportionately higher risk of harassment and discrimination due to lack of adequate clean and private sanitation facilities in schools. This leads to high school drop-out rates during menstruation periods or at the onset of puberty.

In addition to these chronic barriers, a fragile economy and weakened household incomes in recent years posed further risk of children either not enrolling or dropping out.

From mobile schools and school sponsorship to informal literacy programmes and educational support to child beggars and other vulnerable children, HOM strives to ensure that children in disadvantaged communities especially girls and those with disabilities have access to learning as a step towards greater opportunity, freedom and empowerment.

During the past decade, HOM also provided needy children in Lagos and Oyo States with basic school supplies such as school bags, text books, writing books, stationery, uniforms and school registration fees were paid directly to the schools the children attended.

Videos of our [Child Education Programme](#) can be found on YouTube.

- **Homeless Children Programme**

During the last 10 years...

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) established a family-based residential home for street boys in March 2011 and a home for girls at risk in January 2013, 45 homeless street children, 17 girls and 28 boys between the ages of 3 and 17 years have passed through our children's home.



While some of the 45 children who have passed through our children's home since March 2011 have been reconciled with their families, those who have no home or parents to care for them; and those who cannot be safely reunited with their families remain in our care.

HOM's Rescue and Rehabilitation Programme provides 24-hour care, protection and psychological attention, nutritious meals, opportunities to acquire educational skills including help for children struggling with dyslexia and ill-health. We provide health care, recreation and excursions for the children in our care as well as training programmes for the Childcare team.

In an uncertain world, we endeavour to offer vulnerable children a bulwark against danger and a port in the proverbial storm.

Videos of our [Homeless Children Programme](#) can be viewed on YouTube.

• Family Preservation and Reunification Programme

During the last 10 years...

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) provided services to single adolescent mothers with children to enable them break the cycle of crisis and intergenerational poverty.

A project was initiated to provide single adolescent mothers (school dropouts), who are unwilling to continue their education because they have missed out on several years of schooling, with a choice of skills training such as baking, hairdressing and tailoring to empower them to earn a living and support their children.

Details of our [Family Preservation and Reunification Programme](#) can be found on our website.

• Educational Tours for Children

During the last 10 years...

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) organised field trips for underprivileged children who have never had the opportunity to travel outside their own neighbourhoods to historical sites such as the National Museum in Onikan, Lagos State, the Tie and Dye factory in Abeokuta, Ogun State and the Zoological garden at the University of Ibadan, Oyo State as well as on trips to the beach.

The field trips organised by HOM provided the opportunity for children to encounter and explore new things in an authentic setting.

A video of the [Excursion to the Zoo](#) organised in 2015 can be viewed on YouTube

• Emergency Humanitarian Assistance to Children in Crisis across Africa

During the last 10 years...

Within the limits of available funds, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) lent its support to on-going efforts to provide humanitarian aid to children in crisis and women in parts of Africa experiencing violent conflict, civil unrest and other challenges, notably in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ebola affected nations (Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea), Central African Republic and in the Northeast region of Nigeria.

An integral part of our emergency assistance work focuses on making education a priority.

Working with other non-governmental



organisations on the ground to respond to emergencies, we were able to ensure children were protected and that their immediate and long-term needs were met.

Information about our [Emergency Assistance](#) work can be found on our website.

• Advocacy for Children with Disabilities

During the last 10 years...

Through our work and through giving a voice to our children with disabilities, we have sought creative ways to advocate for children with disabilities and promote attitude change towards children who face discrimination or disadvantage in their daily lives.

In our work we come across children with disabilities facing major challenges such as abandonment, stigma, lack of access to inclusive education, lack of adequate health care and rehabilitation services, inaccessible infrastructure and isolation from the community.

Disability increases the vulnerability of children to violence, abuse and exploitation of various forms. Children with disabilities may be trafficked for alms, subjected to sexual abuse, denial of food, torture and cruelty arising from superstitious beliefs.

Discrimination against children with disabilities has existed in every community throughout history and the 21st century provided an unprecedented opportunity to treat children with disabilities as the subjects of rights. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which came into force in May 2008 marks a shift from categorizing children with disabilities as objects of charity and sets out specific obligations to ensure that children with disabilities enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedom on an equal basis with other children.

At the core of our work ethic at HOM is the belief that every child, regardless of his or her physical or mental ability, deserves the same opportunities as all children and should be treated with dignity and respect. We have an article entitled "[Children with Disabilities: An Invisible Group in need of attention](#)" available in English, French and Spanish on our website.

Our advocacy for children with disabilities covers many aspects including learning disabilities, behavioural disorders, mental retardation, developmental disabilities and visual handicaps.

• Children's Advocacy Efforts

During the last 10 years...

Through speaking, writing, strategic meetings and participating in conferences at the local and national level, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has endeavoured to advocate for and sensitise individuals and groups to the unmet needs of children and to society's obligation to provide a positive response to those needs.

Over the past decade, we have supported a variety of initiatives to engage the public and also raise awareness and understanding of social issues affecting children. Some of the articles authored in English, French and Spanish are available on the [Articles](#) page of our website and on our [Blogger](#) page.

Simplified versions of the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC) in English, French and Spanish are also available on our website.

Promoting understanding and knowledge of the Convention and enlisting advocates for children's rights is a fundamental part of our work.

While the government has the primary responsibility for protecting and fulfilling children's rights, other actors with a role in children's lives including parents, teachers, institutions and businesses are also accountable to children for protecting their rights.

The [Events](#) page of our website includes a list of awareness dates set aside each year to highlight the major issues that affect children.

As important as a strong online presence is, we also believe in the importance of face-to-face interaction and community engagement. Accordingly, we work across the education, health and social services sectors, with government, non-government and community organisations to motivate others to deliver the services and support that children need to thrive.

At House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), we believe that by giving high priority to the rights of children and to their survival, protection and development, we serve the best interests of all humanity. As such, we constantly strive to be a voice for children who are poor, oppressed, marginalised and ignored as well as a strong advocate for the health, education, development and well being of every child.

There is an African proverb that says "it takes many hands to cover the sky." Making Nigeria, and indeed the world, a better place for the children of today and tomorrow will certainly take many hands.

The reality is that no single organisation could ever hope to tackle the complex social problems facing children in our society. Furthermore, contrary to popular belief, solving social problems is not the exclusive responsibility of the government. That responsibility belongs to each one of us as participants in a variety of relationships and overlapping communities.

Collective responsibility is fundamental if we are to make the best use of available resources to solve the entrenched social problems confronting children and promote a healthy society. To do so, we must disrupt the status quo and catalyze a national/international movement that will help ensure the survival, development and well being of children.

It is our hope that our advocacy efforts will help spur a new wave of collective responsibility across the country.

• Child Protection

For the past 10 years...

Child protection and safety have been the bedrock principles of our work at House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM). It is self-evident that protection of children against violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, trafficking and deprivation of parental care is essential for every aspect of their survival, growth and development.

As an organisation working with children, we are deeply committed to ensuring that children are safe from abuse and exploitation and that no child is harmed or placed at risk of harm as a result of their association with us. Our child protection policies and procedures help us ensure we do all we can to make sure children stay safe and protected when they engage with us and with those who represent us.

We have been deeply shocked and saddened by the troubling increase in child abuse and neglect cases in 2016. In an attempt to raise awareness against child abuse and neglect, we published an article entitled “[Child Abuse is Everyone’s Problem](#)” in which we highlighted steps to take to prevent, recognise and react responsibly to the reality of child abuse and neglect.

At House of Mercy Children’s Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), we believe it is necessary to address social norms that lead to child abuse and neglect in our society and promote zero tolerance towards violence against children.

Other articles we published in recent years to raise public awareness about ways to prevent child abduction, endangerment and sexual exploitation are [The Little Match Girl](#) and [There is a Mouse Trap in the House](#). Both articles are also available in French and Spanish on our [Blogger](#) page.

Certainly, parents or guardians are primarily responsible for the safety and welfare of their children. But the bottom line is that when parents do not protect their children from harm, (as with cases of child abuse and neglect), society has a responsibility to intervene to protect the health and welfare of these children.

Child protection is a collective responsibility and all Nigerians need to play a role, as part of families, neighbourhoods and communities, to

- address the destructive web of interactions contributing to child abuse and neglect,
- tackle the root causes of family violence and abuse,
- assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children,
- emphasise positive parenting practices through parenting education,
- promote behaviour and attitude change at the individual, household and cultural levels,
- report cases of known and suspected child abuse and neglect (the [Child Protection Help lines](#) of the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development are available on our website).

Protecting children from abuse and neglect is a complex task and one that most certainly involves changing parental behaviours, creating safer and more supportive communities and improving the quality and reliability of public institutions.

This is a lofty goal but one that is totally within our reach because each and every one of us has been endowed with the strength, resources and wisdom to do the right thing.

At House of Mercy Children’s Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), we have the audacity to believe in a Nigeria where every child has an equal chance at life, an opportunity to not just survive but to thrive, and be free from violence, abuse and neglect.

We are optimistic that, together, we can create a protective environment for children against harm and all forms of violence and protect their rights to survival, development and wellbeing as established under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- **Collaboration and Leveraging Resources for Children**

For the past 10 years...

Through leveraging resources and mutual strengths and developing joint plans and programmes, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) networked with like-minded organisations to ensure that our collective goals of assistance, encouragement and support to less privileged children were accomplished.

A typical example of such collaboration is our [Emergency Assistance](#) work.

HOM is dedicated to working collaboratively with child-serving organisations sharing similar goals and objectives.

- **Telephone Counselling and Email Enquiries on Child-related Issues**

During the last 10 years...

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has received an average of about 5,000 calls annually and a large volume of email with callers and email enquirers seeking assistance and practical advice on a wide range of child-related issues.

At HOM, we aim to help enquirers by providing information and support about child-related issues. If an enquirer requires support that does not fall within the scope of our NGO, we refer them to other organisations that are able to offer the appropriate support.

We respond to all enquiries by e-mail within 24 hours, Monday to Sunday.

- **House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria's (HOM) Digital Presence**

For the past 10 years...

Through multiple platforms and in multiple languages, our online presence has drawn attention to the many facets of House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria's (HOM) work, encouraging public support, participation and action, as well as ensuring greater transparency and accountability. Web articles, blog entries, photo essays, Facebook posts, Twitter campaigns and videos are all a part of our digital storytelling.

In March 2014, we re-packaged our online presence with the launch of a new mobile-friendly trilingual (English, French and Spanish) [website](#). The French and Spanish sites can be accessed by clicking on the français and español sections of the English website respectively.

The HOM website features include: a video gallery, direct links to our social media sites as well as a comprehensive overview of the full reach of our work and information about our programmes and the countries we work in.

From social media to video production to website development, we strive to keep HOM in the digital spotlight. Our Facebook page, Twitter account, blog entries, Google+ page and YouTube channel have

enhanced our online presence and provided a powerful route to engage people both in Nigeria and abroad and also raised awareness and understanding of social issues affecting children.

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) is listed on Google Maps and a map to our location can be found on the [Contact](#) page of our website.

Our digital presence continues to be an area of focus and growth.

• Christmas Events for Children

During the last 10 years...

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) organised Christmas parties for well over 700 disadvantaged children.

We are very grateful to each one of our generous Christmas donors who made the Christmas season brighter for the children we serve by donating financially, creating an event, volunteering or purchasing gifts. As a result of the incredible generosity of all our donors and the hard work of our staff, together we have been able, year after year, to create huge smiles and very special memories for children who would not have been able to have any type of celebration.

Massive Thanks to all our new and recurring donors for sharing the spirit of giving and making the Christmas season truly special for children.

Videos of some of our [Christmas events](#) can be viewed on YouTube.

• Our Stakeholders – Friends, Supporters, Volunteers and Staff

As we celebrate 10 years of service to marginalised and excluded children, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our stakeholders whose generosity helps us achieve our mission every day.

The accomplishments included in this report are due to the amazing stakeholders who have invested in House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) by generously giving their time, talents, hearts and money to help us provide hope and assistance to children in need.

Different individuals, groups, schools, universities and organisations have given of their time and participated by conducting food drives, bake sale, book drives, clothing drives, charity walk, running the London marathon and volunteering in HOM's programmes with two volunteers from Germany in 2013. Every effort counts and never goes unrecognised or without appreciation. From school children to the largest philanthropic donors, we cherish all of our supporters.

Thank you one and all! We have made it to 10 years because of awesome stakeholders like you and your support will help us to continue impactful services to the children we serve for years to come.

Last but not least, a warm round of thanks to our incredibly committed staff members who have dedicated their lives to service and work to make a tangible difference in the lives of needy and

vulnerable children. We would also like to recognise our new recruits in 2016, we are thankful that they have blended in well and we are proud to have them as part of our team.

We are exceptionally fortunate that we have one long service volunteer staff member, our Coordinator, who has been volunteering at HOM since its inception in 2006. Our Coordinator is a true asset to our organisation. Her generosity and diligence enables us to fulfil our aim of “Touching Lives One Child at a Time” and we are truly grateful for her energy, empowered leadership and commitment to our mission.

With everything going on in our nation and around the world, we acknowledge the good work done by all our staff members in trying every day to make the world a better place to live.

Voices of the Children

House of Mercy Children’s Home, Lagos, Nigeria’s (HOM) Child Street Beggar Programme which commenced in 2007 provides access to education for children vulnerable to marginalisation and exclusion.

The programme has a twofold objective. Firstly, it is an instrument to raise public awareness of child street beggars and campaign against the situation where children are denied access to education or are prematurely uprooted from school to beg on the streets. Secondly, it provides on-site bridging education for unschooled children and school dropouts through informal literacy classes organised both in Hausa, their native language, and English.

The informal literacy classes which comprised girls (55%) and children with physical or severe intellectual disabilities paved the way for the children to enrol in mainstream education system through a subsequent School Sponsorship Programme launched by HOM in 2010.

Here is what some of the children had to say:



Najahatu, 5, “I like coming to the HOM classes because I want to learn to read and write. I can recite the alphabet and I’m looking forward to learning to count to 100.”



Mutari, 6, “I enjoy attending the HOM classes because I want to be educated. I would like to be a soldier in future.”



Pathi, 7, who comes to classes with her one-year-old brother, says she simply loves to learn and be a part of the world. She would like to be a teacher in future.



Babazanra, 8, "I love the HOM classes. I get to play with other students and we are given snacks after school. I would like to be a teacher in future."



Ahmed, 9, "I am so excited about learning to read and write. I did not know that learning could be such fun. I would like to be a lawyer in future."



Biliki, 10, who assists her blind father to beg for alms, revised her schedule so she could attend our informal classes. She says she has learnt a great deal and would like to be a teacher in future.



Umami, 12, I simply want to learn and be a part of the world. I want to be a teacher in future.



Ibrahim, 15, a school dropout who works as a wheelbarrow pusher, says coming to school has helped him develop self esteem and he is looking forward to pursuing formal education. He hopes to be a teacher in future.

Videos of our [Child Beggar Programme](#) and our [School Sponsorship Programme](#) can be found on YouTube.

2016: Year in Review

The report that follows provides the details of this past year and our plans for the next several years. Through perseverance, hard work and strong values, we hope to continue to provide most vulnerable children with a roof over their head, nutritious meals, a safe environment, and an opportunity for education.

Over the past 12 months, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has grown enormously in response to the growing needs of our children and the growth in numbers of children seeking our help.

Every day we strive to meet the unmet nutritional, health, educational, developmental and protection needs of needy and vulnerable children so that they can reach their full potential in life. We work alongside government officials, community leaders, civil society organisations, NGOs, teachers and other organised groups in the community and solicit their involvement in the implementation of our programmes.

At HOM, research is at the heart of our work and we continually investigate innovative approaches and best practices to facilitate programme implementation and delivery of concrete and sustainable programme results.

World Malaria Day 2016

World Malaria Day is commemorated on April 25, the date in 2000 when 44 African leaders participated in the African Summit on Roll Back Malaria in Abuja, Nigeria and signed the historic Abuja Declaration committing governments to an intensive effort to reduce malaria-related deaths.

On World Malaria Day, we prepared a video featuring our efforts to create awareness and protect vulnerable children from malaria through the use of insecticide-treated mosquito net (ITN) which is one of the most effective weapons against malaria. The video is available on [YouTube](#) and in our [Video Gallery](#).

World Autism Awareness Month 2016

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) observed World Autism Awareness Month in April by attempting to increase awareness and knowledge of children identified with autism, Down's syndrome, Asperger's syndrome and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and the challenges they face.

World Autism Awareness Month was also an opportunity to pay tribute to parents, health care providers and early childhood care and education providers who cater for children who fall on the autistic spectrum or have developmental delays.



International Literacy Day 2016

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) marked International Literacy Day on September 8 with the launch of a Children's Library to foster the discovery and enjoyment of reading while raising public awareness about the importance of literacy and advocating on behalf of children without access to education.



Picture books, story books and nonfictional books in Nigerian languages as well as foreign languages covering a wide range of subjects from art to zoology are part of the library's growing collection of books. The library also features a number of puzzles, blocks and other educational games.

The Children's Library not only provides children with the opportunity to learn, explore and discover new things in a book but it also helps them discover the benefits of reading.

A video of the Children's Library is available on [YouTube](#) and in our [Video Gallery](#).

World Computer Literacy Day 2016

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) commemorated World Computer Literacy Day on December 2 by raising awareness about the plight of children who are not privileged enough to have access to knowledge and modern forms of education.



In a world subject to technological change, promoting digital literacy and connectivity is critical in creating economic opportunities for all.

International Anti-Corruption Day 2016

For the second consecutive year, on International Anti-Corruption Day, December 9, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) undertook an ambitious campaign titled "Zero Corruption, 100% Development" calling for a paradigm-shift in public conception of bribery and corruption.



In our work with needy and vulnerable children, every day we see the devastating effects of corruption in form of sustained hunger and malnutrition, lack of access to essential health services, child mortality due to air and water pollution, school buildings without windows, desks, chairs or sanitation facilities, lack of vital support services for most vulnerable children, absence of basic facilities like electricity, potable water and infrastructure and loss of credibility of public institutions.

The biggest victims of corruption are often the smallest. Vulnerable and marginalised children are often the unacknowledged victims of corruption, yet for them the effects can be lifelong and devastating.

Ridding Nigeria of the scourge of bribery and corruption will require not only action by both government and the public at large but also a wholesale change in the way we think and the way we act. When development funds are used effectively and appropriately, all the nation's children can be provided with the opportunity to survive, develop and reach their full potential.

We have an article entitled [The Bridge Builder](#) available in English, French and Spanish on our website which illustrates the role of mindset.

Networking and Collaboration with Child Protection Actors

At House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), we actively strive to achieve effective communication and networking with child protection actors to exchange information and experiences as well as to identify new strategies and courses of action to improve delivery of our services to children.

Following are some examples of collaboration efforts in 2016:

Meeting with the Commissioner for the Ministry of Youth and Social Welfare on Child Protection

In March 2016, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) attended the first quarterly meeting with the Commissioner for the Ministry of Youth and Social Welfare on Child Protection.

Meetings of the Child Protection Network

In 2016, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) attended meetings of the Child Protection Network, Alimosho Local Government, Lagos State Chapter and also teamed up with the members to organise an event on Child Protection on May 27, Children's Day Nigeria.

We will continue to work closely and collaboratively with Child Protection organisations to exchange knowledge and expertise on child protection and related issues and to reinforce cooperation to achieve concrete and sustainable results in child protection.

Media Mentions

- Naasca.org

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) is humbled and honoured to be listed on the National Association of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse's online directory of child protection organisations in Nigeria.

Scam Alert

In 2016, we were notified that fraudulent activities were being conducted in the name of House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos (HOM).

Accordingly, we posted [disclaimers](#) on our website and on social media on a regular basis urging the public to beware of Street collection scams, Telephone Scams, Google voice scams, Money transfer scams, Email scams, Facebook scams, LinkedIn scams claiming to be from House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) and to watch out for Fake Fundraisers on behalf of HOM.

General guidelines about scams are available on our [Scam Alert](#) page.

Expansion and Renovation of Children's Facilities

One of the 2016 goals outlined in our [2015 Annual report](#) was an expansion or a relocation of our premises. We finally decided to expand and renovate our children's facilities and carried out a complete renovation of the Boys' and Girls' dormitories, replaced the roofing sheets and ceilings, redesigned and reequipped the kitchen and storage areas and included a sick bay.

The enlarged quarters and the changes provide adequate space for the proper care and nurture of the children committed to our care.

Volunteer Appreciation

We would like to thank the remarkable people who selflessly gave their time and energy to help us out during the school holidays in 2016.

Mr. Edobor Atamhenwan played an important role in teaching computer literacy lessons to primary and secondary school students from August 8 to August 26, 2016. We are very grateful for the tremendous impact he made during the short time he was with us.

Also in August 2016, Mrs. Abisoye provided counselling on social and behavioural issues to the children in our Homeless Children Programme from August 15 to August 19. We are thankful for her enthusiasm and support.

Charitable Support from Institutions

In the midst of the economic recession during which many NGOs faced an increasingly strong financial headwind, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has been so fortunate to receive invaluable support. It is particularly inspiring to see the generosity of spirit with which people reach out to help needy children.

- **Humming Bird Company:** On February 26, 2016, Humming Bird Company kindly donated ₦20,000. We are incredibly grateful for their support of our work.
- **British International School Lagos:** In June 2016, British International School Year 8B Students organised a book drive and bake sale for HOM and kindly donated ₦100,000, books, educational games and visual CDs. We are overwhelmingly grateful to all the people who contributed towards the bake sale and the book drive and we sincerely appreciate the time these amazing BIS Year 8B students devoted to supporting needy children.
- **British Airways Cabin Crew:** Between July and November 2016, the following British Airways Cabin Crew: Ms. Rita Baid, Ms. Alison Hughes, Ms. Elizabeth Higgins, Ms. Heather White-McHale and Ms. Anne-Marie Diliberto kindly donated toiletries, books, clothing and writing materials. We are so grateful for their gesture of kindness and generosity.
- **Inner Mission for Children, Oregon:** On August 4, 2016, the Inner Mission for Children kindly donated food items. We are so thankful to be one of the charities selected as a beneficiary of the food items.
- **Super International Travel Agency:** On August 11, 2016, Super International Travel Agency kindly donated ₦45,000 towards our School Sponsorship Programme. We are very grateful and appreciative of their support of our Child Education Programme.
- **Procurement Department of the National Bottling Company:** On August 20, 2016, 18 staff members of the Procurement Unit of the Nigeria Bottling Company paid a visit to our Children's Home and kindly donated food items, toiletries, writing materials, clothing and shoes. We are immensely grateful to the team for their generous contribution.
- **God's Dynamics International:** On December 28, 2016, God's Dynamics International kindly donated ₦10,000. We are deeply grateful for their support.

The generosity of these institutions made a difference in the lives of the children we serve and we deeply appreciate their support.

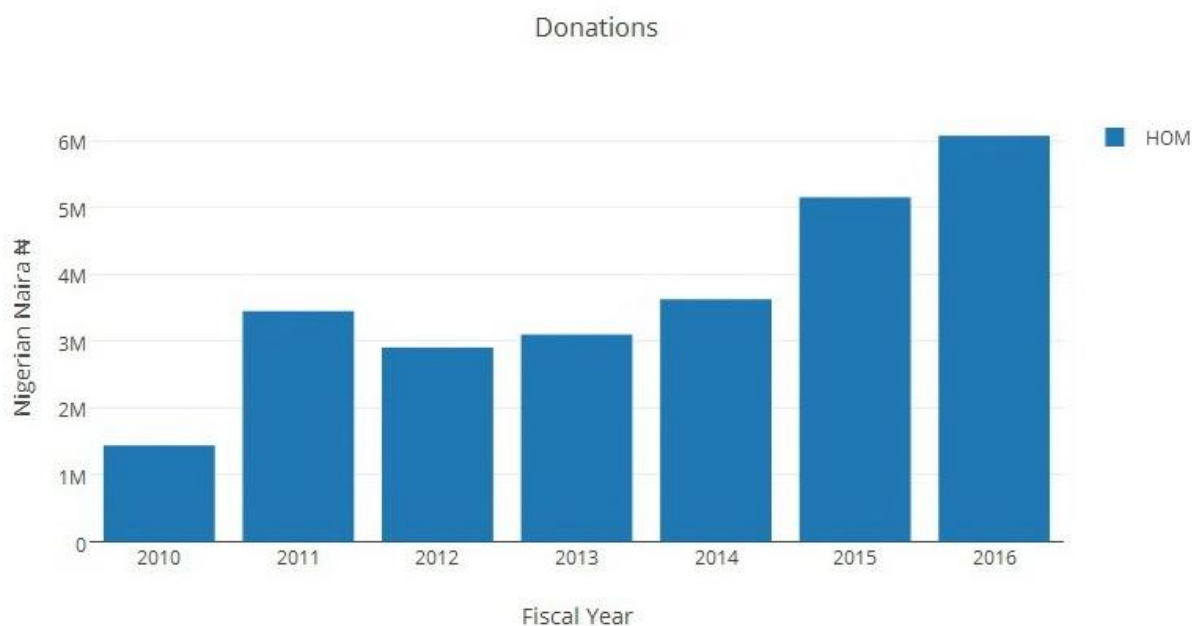
A comprehensive list of all our generous supporters in 2016 can be found on the Acknowledgments page of this report.

Financial Summary

In a difficult environment with daily headlines about a plummeting economy, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has managed to continue its work to help the most vulnerable members of our society. In spite of the economic downturn, we have worked diligently to ensure that our financial resources enabled us to meet the needs of the children we serve.

As in previous years, the majority of cash donations and in-kind/food donations in 2016 came from individuals. With so many people facing hard times and struggling to survive the recession, this steady pattern of continuing support and charitable contributions from individuals is a clear testament to the deep compassion and generosity of the Nigerian public to help others even in a time of dwindling resources.

For the full-year 2016, we received donations of ₦6,070,989 which represented an increase of 17.9% from 2015. It also follows an increase of 42.1% recorded between 2014 and 2015. Donations increased from ₦1,440,684 in 2010 to ₦6,070,989 in 2016.



At House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), we have a proven track record of utilizing donations efficiently and effectively. We remain ever vigilant about controlling our expenses, while at the same time providing the highest quality programmes and services to the children we serve. At the core of every project is our commitment to maximize the impact of every donor contribution.

HOM is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, companies and other Institutions.

Copies of our [Financial Statements](#) are available on our website.

Looking Ahead to 2017...

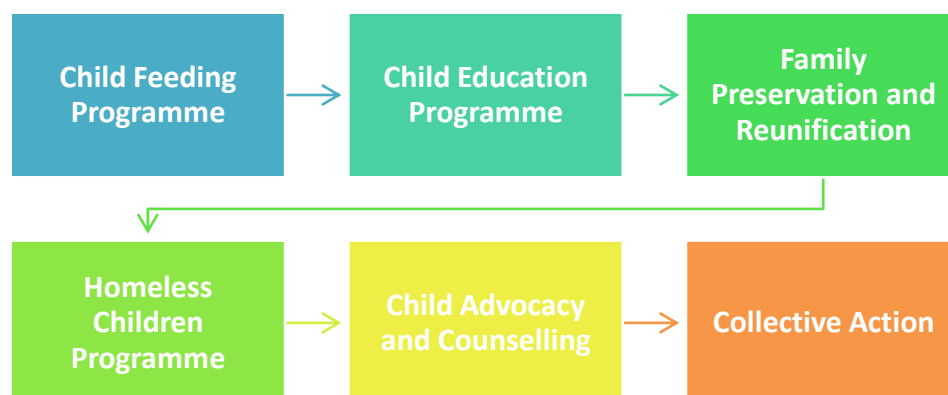
The child is central to House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria's (HOM) organisational structure and all our programmes and services are built around the needs of the child. We strive to promote the rights of every child in everything we do: in programmes, in advocacy and in operations.

For 10 years, it has been the priority of House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) to focus on programmes that address child poverty since research has proven that poverty is the single greatest threat to children's future well-being and success.

Growing up in poverty has long-term consequences for children's well-being, impacting health, academic achievement, social-emotional development and future prospects. It is not a stretch to say that children who experience deep and persistent poverty are especially vulnerable to human trafficking. Stable, nurturing, and enriching environments in the early years help create a strong foundation for later school achievement, economic productivity and responsible citizenship.

We ended our 10th anniversary with the highlights of our first decade. Our focus for the next decade will remain the same: ***Touching Lives, One Child at a Time.***

In 2017, within the limits of available funds, we will intensify our efforts to provide relief from hunger, homelessness, abuse, addiction and violence to a greater number of vulnerable children while promoting responsible parenting and healthy families through the priority areas outlined below:



- Child Feeding Programme**
 Scientific evidence suggests that hungry children are less likely to become productive citizens. When children are hungry, they struggle to learn. When people are uneducated, they struggle to change their circumstances. When communities are constantly needy, they struggle to become self-sustaining. HOM will continue to address the problem of childhood hunger and malnutrition by providing highly nutritious and life-saving meals to the children who need it most.
- Child Education Programme**
 Poverty and the related disadvantages involve many aspects of children's lives that affect both the educational opportunities that children will have and the educational outcomes that they will likely experience. For some children, the effects of poverty on education present unique challenges in breaking the cycle of generational poverty and reduce their chances of leading rewarding and productive lives. Our focus on education for disadvantaged children is our way of

building hope for lasting change and a permanent end to poverty. Intensified efforts to encourage both girls and boys to complete primary schooling and progress to secondary education are urgently required to prepare the next generation of productive adults.

- **Family Preservation and Reunification**

We will continue to raise awareness of the importance of family and community-based care for homeless street children while promoting two-generation strategies i.e. strategies that help parents move their families ahead economically and put children on a path to productive and successful adulthood. Focusing on both vulnerable children and their parents is vital because children raised in poverty are much more likely to pass on to their own children poverty conditions with all the attending consequences.

- **Homeless Children Programme**

Over the coming year, we will continue to assist young runaways, homeless boys and girls and those who are at risk of sexual or economic exploitation to rebuild their lives with caring compassion in the best interest of every child entrusted to our care by providing safe shelters for children who need a place to escape turmoil.

- **Child Advocacy and Counselling**

Every child born into the world deserves the opportunity to experience a happy and nurturing childhood, regardless of his or her ethnic group, gender, disability, religion or family circumstances. Unfortunately, across the nation, countless children grow up in poverty and squalor, never knowing genuine love and affection, or what 'childhood' really means. In 2017, we will continue to give a voice to vulnerable and disadvantaged children including disabled children and do all we can to address the plight of the under-served. We are dedicated to providing the opportunities and the means for children with disabilities to focus on their abilities and not their disabilities through educational and social programmes.

- **Collective Action through Collaboration with Others**

In 2017, we will continue to work in close cooperation with local governments, NGOs, civil society organisations, community leaders and other child-serving organisations to support and complement existing efforts to realise children's rights and to promote positive practices with the involvement of children and families. Simple, cost-effective and long-term community programmes that support children's development that are well planned and implemented can be part of a ripple effect of opportunity, creating benefits for children now and in future generations.

Our society is so rapidly changing that we need to be constantly on the ball to ensure social issues are adequately addressed. Over the next decade, we will constantly evaluate and analyse what we do to ensure we are effective within the complexities involved. As our strategy and activities evolve, we will continue to highlight our progress on our [website](#).

As we enter our 11th year of serving marginalised and excluded children, we are laser-focused on providing children with a sense of hope and a better future through our different programmes.

Our purpose is to improve and enrich the life of every child associated with House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), help children become all they hope and dream they can be and make our communities a better place to live.

Acknowledgements

A 10th-year anniversary is a significant milestone and a true testament to the level of compassion and support shown by all of the people associated with House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) since we embarked on this journey in October 2006.

For 10 years strong, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has existed to offer assistance to the poor, the homeless, the disenfranchised and the disconnected.

Since our earliest beginnings we have relied on the generous support of our stakeholders to help us deliver innovative programmes and services to children.

We recognise that the vitality of House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) and the impact of our work rests on the generously donated time, money and expertise of each and every friend, supporter, donor, volunteer and staff member who has invested in our organisation and in the children we serve.

As mentioned earlier, individuals have been the largest source of charitable giving to HOM over the past 10 years and also during the recession in 2016.

We would like to acknowledge the following marvellous individuals who provided much-needed financial support for the various programmes of House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) in 2016.

We are so thankful to all our donors and supporters for their incredible generosity, especially in a year that has been so economically difficult on everyone. Donors are listed chronologically by date of donation.

Mr. and Mrs. Animashaun and Family - ~~₦~~75,000

Mr. Holton Buggs - \$5,000

Ms. Nemile Etuh - ~~₦~~11,000

Mrs. Anneke Ogunbiyi - ~~₦~~20,000

Ms. Taiwo Orishayomi - £500

Ms. Kafayat Adeoye - ~~₦~~3,000

The entire Babington-Ashaye Family - ~~₦~~594,242

Ms. Ndidi Dike - Food items

Ms. Ajibola - ~~₦~~5000

Mrs. Oluwaseyi Awotinde - ~~₦~~15,000

Mrs. Adebunmi Baderinwa - ~~₦~~20,000

Mrs. Kehinde Olaleye-Akib - ~~₦~~50,000

Mrs. Kehinde Akinsanya - ~~N~~10,000

Mr. Victor Agbeyegbe - ~~N~~250,000

Mrs. Oladoyin Osibona - ~~N~~100,000

Mr. Olasunkanmi Bakare - ~~N~~1000

Mr. Dominic Nnyagbo - ~~N~~30,000

Mr. David Edet - ~~N~~4,000

Mr. Kolawole Oki - ~~N~~100,000

Mr. James - ~~N~~5,000

Mr. Olanrewaju Odofin - ~~N~~10,000

Mr. Segun Adebayo and family - ~~N~~5,000 and food items

Mr. Ahmed Lawal - ~~N~~10,000

Mr. Kayode and Friends - Food items

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity and for showing us inspiring examples of the goodness in humanity.

We are extremely grateful for our association with each and every one of you and we feel very honoured that you have chosen to be a part of the HOM family!

Together, we are "Touching Lives, One Child at a Time"!

The Journey Ahead

2017 is already shaping up to be a busy but exciting year for us at House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) with many new challenges and some hardy old ones. Our journey at House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) can be likened to a gruelling marathon with no timeouts, substitutions, halftimes or other breaks. It is a race that requires a tremendous amount of endurance and the ability to respond creatively to one's environment.

Approximately 19 km into the 42 km race in which John Stephen Akhwari was representing his nation Tanzania in the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, he encountered a logjam of other runners, fell to the ground and damaged his knee. Despite his injuries, he continued and slowly made his way towards the stadium even though the medical staff asked him to quit. A little more than an hour after the winner had crossed the finish line, John Stephen Akhwari hobbled through the stadium gate with a bandaged and bloody leg. As soon as he crossed the finish line, he collapsed into the arms of the medical personnel and was immediately whisked off to the hospital.

The next day, John Stephen Akhwari was asked by journalists why despite the severity of his injuries, he ignored the advice to quit (of the 75 runners who started the 1968 Olympic marathon, 18 others quit) and continued to the finish line since there was no chance of winning the race. He replied, "My country did not send me 5,000 miles to Mexico City to start the race. They sent me 5,000 miles to finish the race." In other words, it was John Stephen Akhwari's commitment to his country that kept him going.

By the same token, at House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), it is the children who face unimaginable challenges every day who inspire us to continue in spite of the sometimes arduous journey. From time to time, a variety of seemingly insurmountable obstacles spring up, nonetheless, each day, we get up with a passion for making a lasting, positive difference in the lives of the children we serve and for making our nation better.

While building and running an organisation for most vulnerable children has been a monumental undertaking, opening hearts and minds to the plight of children makes it all worthwhile. At House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria's (HOM), it is our continued hope that the work we do will inspire and mobilise concerned individuals and organisations across the nation to take action to improve the lives of children.

Our organisation is exceptionally fortunate to have such loyal and committed supporters who care as deeply about our mission as we do. We are grateful to all our friends, donors and supporters for believing in our vision and for journeying with us over the past 10 years to positively affect the lives of the children we serve.

We are enthusiastic about what we hope to accomplish in the next year and beyond and we look forward to continuing to work alongside our stakeholders in our journey towards "Touching Lives, One Child at a Time" in the decades to come.

On behalf of all the children who will have a better life because you joined us in providing them with opportunities and resources to help them reach their fullest potential - Thank You!

With Deep and Profound Gratitude,

Bunmi Awoyinfa

Bunmi Awoyinfa

House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria



La Maison de la Misericorde

Casa de la Misericordia



Touching Lives, One Child at a Time!

Founded in October 2006, House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) is a grassroots NGO focusing on child hunger, child poverty, child homelessness, child illiteracy, child advocacy as well as emergency aid to children in crisis across Africa.

Questions, comments or feedback? Get in touch with us.

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

44 Adebambo street
off Orelope street ,
Egbeda, Lagos
Nigeria

+234 803 722 3417

+234 803 722 3417

contact@homchildrenshome.org

www.homchildrenshome.org

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<https://www.blogger.com>