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

Preamble

A complete history of **House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM)** would be nearly impossible to compile in one short presentation.

However, here is our attempt at listing the major highlights in the history of **HOM**, from October 2006 till date.

Thank you for your interest in our cause.

Bunmi Awoyinfa

October 2026

Major highlights in the history of HOM

From 2006 until now

1. **2006** : The birth of HOM
2. **2006** : Outreach to homeless street children
3. **2007** : First aid services & mobile kitchen for child scavengers
4. **2007** : Mobile school, mobile kitchen & cloth distribution to child beggars
5. **2008** : Informal classes for child beggars at the beggars' camp
6. **2010** : School sponsorship for needy children

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Major highlights in the history of HOM

From 2006 until now

7 **2011** : Establishment of a home for homeless street boys

8 **2013** : Establishment of a home for girls at-risk

9 **2015** : Provision of free nutritious meals, clothing, shoes, diapers and educational assistance to child beggars in Ibadan, Oyo State

10 **2016** : Distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets to needy and vulnerable children in Lagos State and Oyo State along with the appropriate training and use of the nets.

11 **2016** : Launch of a Children's Library on International Literacy Day, September 8, 2016

12 **2017** : Leprosy Outreach, leper colony, Iberekodo, Abeokuta, Ogun State

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Major highlights in the history of HOM

From 2006 until now

13 **2018** : Launch of our "Africa, Wake Up!" campaign against poverty and injustice

14 **2019** : Outreach programme with fun activities and donations of food items, hygiene kits, clothes, children's shoes and school supplies to poor and disadvantaged children on Children's Day, May 27, 2019

15 **2019** : Launch of our "Africans United for Peace" campaign in response to the dire Refugee/IDP crisis in Africa

16 **2020** : Ogun State Outreach: Distribution of baby care items, food items, toiletries, hygiene kits and ankara fabrics to vulnerable children, destitute families, the elderly and disabled persons in Ogun State

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Major highlights in the history of HOM

From 2006 until now

17 **2020** : COVID-19 Relief: Distribution of washable and reusable cloth face masks, hygiene supplies, shoes, clothing and food items to hundreds of vulnerable children and destitute families during the COVID-19 pandemic

18 **2021** : Launch of an education sponsorship programme for children from impoverished families in Ogun state on Children's Day - Nigeria, May 27, 2021 including distribution of food items, clothes, shoes and school supplies to poor and disadvantaged children

19 **2021** : Solidarity with Haitian Children: Organisation of a child feeding programme on Children's Day - Haiti, June 10, 2021

Major highlights in the history of HOM

From 2006 until now

20 **2022** : Solidarity activities with children in Africa (Togo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya,) & the Diaspora (Haiti and Brazil)

21 **2023** : Solidarity activities with children in Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Tanzania) & the Diaspora (Haiti)

22 **2024** : Operation Hunger Relief: Monthly food donations to support vulnerable children and families facing hunger and extreme poverty amid the challenging economic conditions in Nigeria

23 **2024** : Solidarity activities with children in Africa (Republic of Benin, Uganda, Burkina Faso) & the Diaspora (Haiti)

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Major highlights in the history of HOM

From 2006 until now

24 **2025** : School feeding programmes to support children with disabilities and vulnerable and underprivileged children

25 **2025** : Solidarity meal for children in Benue affected by violence and suffering caused by ongoing insecurity in the state

26 **2025** : Solidarity activities with children in Haiti and French Guiana

27 **2026** : Support for children affected by the Makoko demolitions

28 **2026** : School feeding programmes to support children with disabilities as well as vulnerable and underprivileged children

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Major highlights in the history of HOM

From 2006 until now

29 **2026** : Annual Back-to-School Initiative

30 **2011 - 2026** : Humanitarian assistance to child victims of crisis in the Northeast region of Nigeria, the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, Ebola affected nations, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo

Birth of HOM

October 2006

House of Mercy Children's Home
Lagos, Nigeria
www.homchildrenshome.org

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) started as a registered NGO in October 2006 and was born out of the perceived need to cater for disadvantaged children and a desire for a response to the poverty, hardship and distress faced by street children and child beggars.

HOM is committed to helping homeless street children, child beggars, child scavengers and other needy and vulnerable children off the streets and back on the path to meaningful and productive lives.

Our objective is to help each child develop into a productive member of his or her community through education, vocational training and the development of other life skills.

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2006
Outreach to Homeless Street Children

A call to meet the needs of disadvantaged children first became expressed in the purchase of an outreach bus.

HOM sought to assist homeless street children living under the Adeniji Adele flyover bridge in Lagos through street outreach.

HOM provided them with free meals, clothing, emergency medical care, drug counselling and friendship.

Although street life is extremely uncomfortable and dangerous, plodding the streets, enduring the scorching heat of the sun at daytime and the chills at night as well as being regularly dislodged by authorities, it is still difficult to convince street children to give it up because of their attachment to the sense of freedom.

Our aim is to work with street children to find practical solutions in order to assist, re-socialise, re-integrate and re-unify them with their families and society so that they can be children once more.

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2007
First Aid Services & Mobile Kitchen for Child Scavengers

In 2007, **HOM** began to cater for child scavengers at the Igando garbage dumpsite in Lagos.

The children were provided with free meals and first aid services.

Child scavengers make their living by picking up and selling used paper, plastic, bottles, metal pieces, tins, rags, clothes and other objects from street garbage or dumpsites and they often eat rancid food.

Lack of access to education is not the only predicament of child scavengers as they also face health hazards while collecting solid waste including broken glass and used syringes.

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2007

Mobile School, Mobile Kitchen & Cloth Distribution to Child Beggars

In 2007, **HOM** also began to cater for child beggars at the beggars' camp in the Ebute-Metta area in Lagos. The neighbourhood is home to a large number of Muslim migrants, disabled people and beggars living in squatter settlements.

A regular mobile school was established for children who missed out on school and a literacy class for teenagers who never had an education or were forced to drop out of school while very young.

The purpose of the project was to take education to the doorstep of the poor and the marginalised.

As many as 200 child beggars benefited from **HOM's** school-on-wheels programme.

The children were also provided with free meals, clothes and first aid services.

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2008

Informal Classes for Child Beggars at the Beggars' Camp

After evaluating the various alternatives for educating children at the beggars' camp, **HOM** decided to open a school with 3 classrooms in September 2008.

The children were divided into 3 groups: kindergarten, primary, and school drop outs.

The advantage of the classrooms is that the children are adequately protected from harsh sunlight, heat, rain and also from distractions.

The location of the school is right in the middle of the beggars' and disabled persons camp, a place where lepers were once confined.

The informal classes organised by **HOM** since 2008 have paved the way for so many children to enrol in the formal education system.

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2010
School Sponsorship for Needy Children

HOM commenced a school sponsorship programme in 2010.

The overall aim of the programme is to provide school sponsorship for disadvantaged children who, for reasons of poverty and their environment, are currently not in a position to receive an education and, who will probably never set foot in a school.

HOM aims to promote increased aspirations among children whose opportunities are limited by social, domestic or financial circumstances.

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2011
Establishment of a Home for Homeless Street Boys

In March 2011, **HOM** set up a home for homeless street boys.

The purpose of the home is to rescue and rehabilitate street children living under flyover bridges, motor parks and on the beaches in Lagos.

HOM is committed to reducing the number of children living on the streets by providing a nurturing place for them to heal, grow and learn. **HOM** also aims to reunite the children with their families if they are not in danger of abuse or neglect.

To our puzzlement, even though the children are offered a home where they can stabilise and grow in a warm, caring family atmosphere, a great majority of them choose to return to a life of wandering the streets.

The rescue and rehabilitation of street children is a tough task. The longer the children have been on the street, the harder this task is, because they find a return to the streets more attractive than a difficult transition into a disciplined lifestyle which is foreign to them.

While we can encourage homeless street children to accept our assistance, we cannot force it upon them. However we believe there is hope.

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2013
Establishment of a Home for Girls-at-risk

In January 2013, **HOM** set up a home for girls-at-risk.

We provide 24-hour care, protection and psychological attention, nutritious meals, education, health care, recreation and excursions for the children.

2015
Oyo State: Outreach to Child Beggars

In 2015, **HOM** extended the reach of its services to child beggars in Ibadan, Oyo State by providing free nutritious meals, clothing and educational assistance.

We also distributed free diapers to babies in need so they could remain clean, dry and healthy.

2016

Lagos State & Oyo State: Distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets

In 2016, **HOM** distributed insecticide-treated mosquito nets to needy and vulnerable children in Lagos State and Oyo State along with the appropriate training and use of the nets.

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2016
Launch of a Children's Library

On September 8, 2016, **HOM** marked International Literacy Day with the launch of a children's library to foster the discovery and enjoyment of reading while raising awareness and advocating on behalf of children without access to education

2017

Ogun State: Leprosy Outreach, Leper Colony, Iberekodo, Abeokuta

In 2017, **HOM** extended the reach of its services to children at Radev Early Education Centre, Leper Colony, Iberekodo, Abeokuta in Ogun State.

2018

Launch of our “Africa, Wake Up!” Campaign against Poverty and Injustice

In 2018, **HOM** launched its “Africa, Wake Up!” campaign against poverty and injustice.

Our Africa Wake Up blog is available in English, French and Portuguese.

2019
Children’s Day Outreach

In 2019, **HOM** organised fun activities and donated food items, hygiene kits, clothes, children's shoes and school supplies to poor and disadvantaged children on Children’s Day, May 27.

2019

Launch of our “Africans United for Peace” campaign in response to the overwhelming Refugee/IDP crisis in Africa

In 2019, **HOM** launched its “Africans United for Peace” campaign in response to the overwhelming Refugee/IDP crisis in Africa.

2020
Ogun State Outreach

In 2020, **HOM** distributed baby care items, food items, toiletries, hygiene kits and ankara fabrics to vulnerable children, destitute families, the elderly and disabled persons in Ogun State.

2020
COVID-19 Relief

In 2020, **HOM** distributed washable and reusable cloth face masks, hygiene supplies, shoes, clothing and food items to hundreds of vulnerable children and destitute families during the pandemic.

2021
Education Sponsorship Programme, Ogun State

On Children's Day - Nigeria, May 27, 2021, **HOM** launched an education sponsorship programme for children from impoverished families in Ogun state and distributed food items, clothes, shoes and school supplies to poor and disadvantaged children.

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2021
Solidarity with Haitian Children

On Children's Day - Haiti, June 10, 2021, **HOM** organised a child feeding programme for Haitian children.

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2022

Solidarity Activities with Children - Africa & the Diaspora

In 2022, **HOM** organised child feeding and back-to-school programmes for children in Africa (Togo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya,) and in the Diaspora (Haiti and Brazil).

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2023
Solidarity Activities with Children - Africa & the Diaspora

In 2023, **HOM** organised child feeding programmes for children in Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Tanzania) and in the Diaspora (Haiti).

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2024
Operation Hunger Relief

In March 2024, **HOM** launched an initiative to provide monthly food donations to support vulnerable children, families, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities, including those who are lame, blind, or mute, facing hunger, hardship, and extreme poverty amid the challenging economic conditions in Nigeria.

2024

Solidarity Activities with Children in Africa & the Diaspora

In 2024, **HOM** organised **c**hild feeding programmes for children in Africa (Republic of Benin, Uganda and Burkina Faso) and in the Diaspora (Haiti).

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2025
School Feeding Programmes

In 2025, **HOM** organised school feeding programmes to support children with disabilities as well as vulnerable and underprivileged children.

2025
Solidarity Meal for Children in Benue State

In 2025, **HOM** organised a feeding initiative in solidarity with children affected by violence and suffering caused by ongoing insecurity in Benue State.

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2025
Solidarity Activities with Children in Haiti and French Guiana

In 2025, **HOM** organised child feeding programmes for children in Haiti and French Guiana.

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2026
Support for Children Affected by the Makoko Demolitions

In 2026, **HOM** extended support to children impacted by the Makoko demolitions..

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2026
School Feeding Programmes

In 2026, **HOM** organised school feeding programmes to support children with disabilities as well as vulnerable and underprivileged children.

2026
Annual Back-to-School Initiative

In 2026, **HOM** continued its annual back-to-school initiative, held each September, to support vulnerable children with school fees and essential supplies.

Since 2011

Humanitarian Aid : Northeast region of Nigeria, Horn of Africa, the Sahel,, Ebola affected nations, Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo.

For the past 20 years, HOM has worked in some of the most difficult areas and in conflict and high-risk zones to assist some of Africa's most deprived and marginalised children. The geographical reach of our humanitarian work includes the the Northeast region of Nigeria, the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, Ebola affected nations, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

House of Mercy Children's Home

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