



## IMPACT OF AOOF ON THE COMMUNITY

By Dr. Bidemi Odeleye, PhD

Our mandate at AOOF is borne out of the heart of a great man. And since the inauguration of the foundation in 2003, we have been running with this vision of reaching out to the community. It has been tremendous joy to all of us in the AOOF seeing lives changed, families impacted and joys of several hundreds of people each time we have outreach. A story was told of a man who was going to withdraw his daughter from school because he was not able to pay for the Senior School Certificate examination. The scholarship granted by the AOOF was the entire lifeline that family needed. We had several cases of hyper hypertension, which were discovered and controlled by our medical team. What would we say about the cervical and prostate cancer screening outcomes?

Here are some samples of scores of responses (unedited) we have been receiving at the AOOF:

*This is to express my gratitude to the entire family of late Abel Ogundokun Odeleye for the substantial award, which was presented to me on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2004 . . . Yours faithfully, Ojo Omotola C.*

*We wish to register our appreciation to the Abel Ogundokun Odeleye Foundation Award Committee, Ilora for selecting our son Akintujoye Eniayo of Fiditi Grammar School as one of the recipients of the scholarship award . . . Mrs. R.T.Akintujoye, nee Ojelabi*

*This is to express our profound gratitude for*

*the scholarship award of 2004 ABEL OGUNDOKUN ODELEYE FOUNDATION of N10, 000.00 each granted to our children, Messrs Adeleke Muyiwa and Adeleke Oluseye. It was glorious joy of praise that shall ever remain green in our memory. Really we cannot repay you, but we pray that God in His infinite mercy shall repay you and bless ABEL OGUNDOKUN ODELEYE FOUNDATION . . . Yours in Christ, S. Adeleke, for the entire family of ADELEKES.*

All the traditional rulers in the AFIJIO Local Government and the Chairman of AFIJIO Local Government applauded the incoming of the AOOF. They all are full of prayers for the foundation. The Akibio of Ilora, Oba Olayiwola Olawoore, also a beneficiary of our medical outreach, remarked that the AOOF is “a dream come true” and that the “heavens have come visiting my people”!

Apart from the scholarship awards that have almost doubled, the foundation has extended its outreach to Awe and it is expected that more towns will be reached in 2006.

The Mortuary Unit/Building built by the foundation at Ilora General Hospital is being put to full use by the hospital authorities. Bodies need not be carried to Ibadan (almost 1 hour journey) again and everyone is really grateful to the AOOF!

Our projection to sink at least a borehole every year is still on course. It is hoped that by the time the boreholes are in place, the problem of water borne diseases that is usually a nightmare for the people in the dry season, will be greatly abated if not completely eliminated.

**CURSORY APPRAISAL OF AOOF: '03 TO DATE**  
*By Jonathan Olatunde Ajayi*

The idea of the AOOF is a novelty of a kind. In order to understand and accept the reality of the impact the foundation has made in the past two years, there is a need for me to draw attention to the scenario before its inauguration.

In line with traditional Yoruba custom and practice, following the demise of the late sage, politician, scholar, writer and community leader, Chief Dr A.O. Odeleye, a sumptuous party was held in honor of the old man. The whole town was agog for the late community leader.

Barely a year after, people expected that similar party would be thrown to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of the High Chief, an entirely new event unfolded- instead of the gathering on a large school field for wining and dining, there was a gathering of a select few in a hotel hall; instead of slaughtering of cows and rams for consumption, there was the sharing of the vision of an AOOF, intensely geared toward building a future for otherwise futureless children. There and then the foundation of the Foundation was laid.

The high point of this year remembrance anniversary was the donation of a mortuary building to the Oyo State Government. The AOOF officially handed over the mortuary building to the government at the General Hospital, Ilora. It was the first of its kind.

The AOOF has indeed made a great mark within the last two years. There is no doubt that AOOF scholars and would-be scholars are looking forward to AOOFs big event come 2006.

## To Our Supporters . . .

*When we embarked on this journey, we had no idea what it took to execute the affairs of a not-for-profit organization. With little more than passion and some ideas, we formed and committed the AOOF to three fundamental goals: scholarship, healthcare and community development.*

*After an overwhelmingly successful first year, it quickly became evident that this idea was unsustainable without an external support system. We realized that in order to sustain and grow the work of the foundation, we would need the support of our friends and like-minded organizations.*

*Some of you joined us early and some were called upon later for support. To all of you, we thank you from the bottom of our heart . . .*

**AOOF**

*Abel Ogundokun Odeleye Foundation*

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