



AFIJO Community Outreach Foundation

CONNECT

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

By Dr. Ope Okunola

The AOOFF offers scholarships to deserving AFIJIO students annually. Application forms are made available in April every year for collection at the Afijio Local Government Headquarters at Jobele, Oyo State as well as through local schools and religious institutions.

For secondary school students, scholarships are awarded in the form of books and stationery as well as payment of SSCE (Senior School Certificate Exam) fees. For students in tertiary institutions, tuition scholarships are paid on behalf of awardees directly to their respective colleges.

ELIGIBILITY

Application forms and other attached documents submitted by applicants are carefully scrutinized by the screening committee. For a student to be considered eligible for a scholarship, he/she must have produced evidence/s of excellence in academic achievement and character.

ACTIVITIES OF AOOFF SO FAR

The AOOFF scholarship program was launched in August 2004 with the award of scholarships to twenty-one (21) AFIJIO students. A total of two hundred applications were received.

In 2005, the scholarship for SS1 and 2 students was reviewed upwards to more appropriately match the needs. The total number of awardees also increased to thirty two (32). In a bid to follow up on awardees, AOOFF requests that recipients send in their results at the end of the year. Four (4) recipients with outstanding performance in 2004 had their scholarships renewed in 2005.



CONCLUSION

So far, a total of fifty three (53) students from Ilora, Awe and Fiditi have benefited from the AOOFF scholarship program. In 2006, we hope to reach out to smaller AFIJIO towns like Akinmorin, Imini, etc.

2006 Outreach Goals

2006 will mark the 3rd year of the AOOFF outreach events. Based on the success of the past two years, we expect demand for services to rise. Our goal is to grow our funding by 35% this year to match the expected rise in participation.



All the funds raised by the foundation is for three primary but complementary purposes, namely:

- a. Health fair and screening
- b. Scholarships
- c. Infrastructure enhancements

The funds are dispensed only by personnel of the AOOFF, and directly toward the goals of the foundation. When infrastructure projects are embarked upon by the foundation, there is direct supervision of the contracted work from inception to completion.

The annual infrastructure projects are determined by direct consultation with the local chiefs, community leaders and local religious leaders, and in consideration of the funding available. This year, it's a bore-hole project for clean, safe, drinking water! Our budget this year can only accommodate one bore-hole for one of the six villages/towns, although this appears to be a common need.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SPONSORS

By *Melanie Eniola Odeleye*

The efforts of AOOF would not be possible without the generosity of the many families and individuals who support our cause. We greatly appreciate all the support that we have received, from financial means to time and energy to supplies provided to AOOF. This month, we interviewed several of our top financial sponsors, in order to ascertain why they believe in our cause, even when it was simply a vision, and determine why these sponsors give so generously.

Three of our top sponsors, **Mr. Johnson Akinwusi, Mr. Yomi Famurewa and Mr. Leke Thomas**, were interviewed to answer the questions previously listed and several more. While they were all born in Nigeria, identifying with villages such as Ilesha, Modakeke and Agbowa-Ikosi, each of these sponsors calls “home” the place where they have established their own families, which all happen to be in the U.S. **Mr. Thomas** articulated his sentiments with “Whenever I’m in Lagos, I get the feeling that I’m on vacation and can’t wait to get home (N.Y.).

These gentlemen expect for the foundation to follow through with the stated goals of providing health care and educational scholarships for youth in the Ilora area, with the intent to expand efforts throughout Nigeria. When asked why they give so generously, our sponsors were very modest, but owed their support in AOOF to the fact that they understand the issues facing the people in Ilora, and places like it. “I know the importance of the project, I can understand the cause. I believe in it because I know the area and the problems,” said **Mr. Akinwusi** regarding his generosity. When asked about plans to participate in some of the activities hosted by AOOF, our sponsors agreed that without constraint on time, they would definitely participate, and would “like to bring friends who are able”. “I already have three or four people in mind,” enthusiastically stated **Mr. Famurewa**.

Again, AOOF would like to graciously thank all of our supporters. The vision proposed by late Chief Odeleye could not be realized in full without you. Special thanks to our featured sponsors for taking the time to be recognized and interviewed.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FUNDRAISING STRATEGY UPDATE

In 2004, the needs of the organization were met mostly by levy and bequest. That was the year to prove to ourselves that we were serious. In 2005, we needed to prove to the AFIJIO community that we were serious and that we had the necessary staying power and commitment. To meet our 2005 financial goals, we looked to some of our key friends and they came through big time. In 2006 and beyond, we are committed to maintaining sustainable growth. In order to do that, we will rely on the goodwill of our current supporters and expand our reach to include more friends as well as corporate sponsors.

Over the past two years, support has come in the form of time and skills commitment, supplies, and financial contributions. These support elements are the lifeblood of AOOF. In 2005, AOOF submitted its application for the stringent U.S. IRS 501(c) (3) tax-exempt designation. We are hopeful of a favorable consideration. This designation would not only signal to anyone interested in supporting the organization that there is governmental oversight on the activities of AOOF; it would also open new doors for our fundraising efforts.

In order to meet our 2006 goals, the foundation must raise about \$12,000. We need your help. I know you believe in what the foundation is doing. For those who were in a position to assist us in any of the previous years, we hope we can continue to count on your generosity. The success of the foundation depends on your support. For our new friends, we welcome you and hope for your support.

Finally, we want to hear from you, we want to learn from you, and we want to leverage your experience and expertise in expanding this outreach effort into many more communities around Nigeria.

AOOF

Abel Ogundokun Odeleye Foundation

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