

**Spring 2016 Outreach Update**

Greetings! I pray this update finds you and yours in good health, and that Springtime brings refreshments in all aspects of your life. As I may have previously shared, we had another exception year of community service in 2015. With the help of volunteers, supporters and our generous sponsors, we made substantial impact on the lives of those that will most likely be unable to express their gratitude. On behalf of the beneficiaries of our mission, thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

Over 1100 children and adults enjoyed free healthcare screening and consultation even as we extended our outreach into another AFIIJO town (Fiditi). 30 individuals benefitted from surgical intervention that was performed as part of our Eye Clinic specialty program. And as part of our special surgical intervention outreach, a young lady with multiple complex uterine fibroids with associated recalcitrant severe chronic anemia and primary infertility benefitted from your generosity and has since fully recovered from her conditions.



Dr. Joel (volunteer Pediatrician) at the 2015 Children's Healthfair.



Patient registration at the Adult Healthfair is not for the faint of heart.

2015 also produced outstanding results from our education outreach program where we had our best attended scholarship award presentation event ever, offering scholarships to 40 students and selecting 11 of 42 of the top students in the AFIIJO area's 20 high schools to participate in ProjectAchieve. After 3 months of intense preparation, the top two students of the inaugural class of that ProjectAchieve were presented for the 2016 SAT exam where they performed very well, each scoring over 1600 points. We will refine the program to give the students the best possible chance to score 2100 points and above.



2015 Scholarship Award recipients at the gala.



Project Achieve scholars in photo-op with board members.

The Year Round Outreach Post continues to grow and surpass our expectations. With the recent expansion of support to include diabetic testing, weekly Tuesday and Wednesday attendance remains brisk. The usefulness of this facility is encouraging and we hope to further expand the nature of support provided at the Outreach Post over the next few years.

Our total outreach expenditure in 2015 totaled just over \$15,000 (or about NGN3.2 million with 2015 exchange rates - the funds were deployed in typical allocations – 50% to Healthcare, 40% to Education and 10% to Infrastructure support) raised from donations, special fundraiser event and contributions. Special thanks to our 2015 sponsors who as usual carried the bulk of the donations, and without whom our mission would be impossible:

- Mr. Richard Baks
- Rami & Carmen Fakhoury
- Ronia & Paul Kruse
- Paul & Kelly Burdiss
- Demola Osofisan
- Karen Kuffert
- Leke Thomas
- Ifeolu Oyedele

With the help of volunteers and strong backing from Rami, Ronia and Demola, we netted \$2532 from our inaugural **2015 AOOOF Cruise For A Cause** fundraiser event. It was a perfect evening on the Detroit River with overwhelming support from friends and well-wishers. The preparation for the event was orchestrated by many people, some that I only met at the event, and I am thankful for their volunteer efforts. I am forever grateful to Rami for his steadfast support for this event and to Sheree Slack for many volunteer hours of planning and coordination that made for the successful outcome.

The Nigerian currency (the naira) continues down a devaluation path vis-à-vis the US dollar. While the new government (elected to power in May 2015) has been trying its best to recover embezzled funds from the old regimes, activists have been disrupting the flow of crude oil which is the main export and source of foreign reserves, putting more pressure on the exchange rates. While a better exchange rate should logically benefit our outreach efforts, the cost of basic food and supplies in Nigeria are pegged to the US dollar! As such, the inflation rate in the country seem to parallel the rise in exchange rate and I anticipate no material benefit to accrue from the seemingly advantageous situation.

The 2016 Outreach dates are set for the week of August 14, 2016 and the planning is underway. In furtherance of our strategy to expand the base of our healthfair outreach from Ilora to other AFIIJO towns, we plan to spend two days in Fiditi and two days in either Awe or Akinmoorin. Final discussions with the elders in those two prospective towns would soon make clear which one would be our second destination.

Thank you for your confidence and trust in the mission. God bless.

Best Regards,

*Roland Odeleye*