



Abel Ogundokun Odeleye Foundation

December 2006

2006 Outreach Update

The 3rd Annual AOOF Outreach events went exceedingly well. Although the events' dates were moved from August to October, participation was high and execution was effective. We met or surpassed all the foundation's objectives for 2006.

On the educational support mission, 35 scholarships were awarded: 10 to Junior Secondary School students; 12 to Senior Secondary School students; and 13 to students of tertiary institutions (universities, polytechniques, trade schools, etc.). The distribution of applicants was also much better, resulting in better distribution of the awards to students from more of the villages/towns in AFIIJO. This is an encouraging trend, indicative of a higher level of awareness and increased competitiveness in the scholarship program. Of the 35 scholarships granted, about 25% were renewals to awardees from 2005. Some of these students are already showing promise of future distinction, reflected in the consistency of their performance year-over-year.

On the health fair outreach mission, we saw demand go up even higher this year, in spite of the change in events dates. The number of participants grew almost 50% to just under 1200! Since there is no pre-registration requirement for participation, it's really difficult to anticipate the number of patients that would attend the health fair. This growth in participants forced us into a 4th day of health fair and has prompted serious dialogue on possible changes in our approach/format for the future. More on this to come in the following months . . .

Finally, we commissioned the construction of our first public borehole (in the simplest definition, a drilled well) for providing safe drinking water to the people of Ilora. You may recall that sinking our first borehole was the goal for the infrastructure support outreach mission in 2006. Although it may not sound like much to someone not familiar with the challenges of getting things done right in a developing country, I assure you that it is no small feat. In the process, I learned a lot about boreholes (look for article on boreholes in upcoming newsletter) as well as the global challenge of providing hundreds of millions of people around the world with safe drinking water. The logistics and politics of selecting a site as well as the challenge of on-going maintenance were also new lessons learned. The good news is that the borehole is "sunk" and should be operational by early 2007. As for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the facility, we are still assessing options for an optimal support model.

I am very pleased to report to you that with your help, we not only met our goals for 2006, we exceeded our expectations! We are changing lives and helping people. It's one thing to invite people to participate in an outreach program, it's an entirely different thing to have an overwhelming response from the community. That's what we had, and you, our supporters and sponsors, should be proud to have been a part of that!

Best Regards,

Roland Odeleye