



## **AOOF HEALTH OUTREACH IN NIGERIA**

*by Dr. Titi Akinremi, Medical Director AOOF*

Our outreach has seen a doubling in attendance in one year because the people are more informed about their health.

Chronic non-communicable diseases in Nigeria include hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, cataracts, glaucoma, and cancer. In children, sickle cell anemia is still a major killer and worm infestation is a communicable disease with far reaching results, especially anemia with poor mental performance and growth. Most chronic diseases are usually diagnosed late, sometimes when treatment will be worthless as in metastatic cancer, or when complications have set in as in stroke from hypertension.

That's why AOOF is committed to early diagnosis and preventive intervention through annual education and health screenings of the target population. The laboratory tests we conduct include:

- Baseline hematology blood work up with genotype and blood group
- Urinalysis
- Blood cholesterol
- Blood glucose

We also conduct the following clinical examination:

- Blood pressure measurement
- Eye tests
- Cancer screening (PSA for men's prostate, Pap Smear and breast examination in women).

After a screening exercise, positive cases are referred to generalists or specialists as needed for definitive treatment and follow up. Usually the greatest efforts in terms of commitment and finance are drawn at this stage.

## **DONOR UPDATE**

*By Melanie E. Odeleye, Health Fair Volunteer*

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,” as quoted by 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.

## **CURSORY APPRAISAL OF AOOF - 2003 TO-DATE**

*by Jonathan Olatunde Ajayi, December 2005*

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.

## **IMPACT OF AOOF ON THE COMMUNITY**

*by Dr. Bidemi Odeleye, PhD Secretary AOOF*

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 applaud 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.

## **2005 HEALTH FAIR STATS**

*by Mrs. Yemi Omole*

A total of 114 children between the ages of 1-14 were administered de-worming medications and multivitamins were also given to them.

Registered adults - 421 female 291, male 131. There are about 100 other adults but whose sexes were not well defined. In all we had close to 600 people, but we couldn't get the necessary facts about them. This shows our recording was faulty somehow.

7-tested positive to glucose  
4 had traces of protein.

Blood pressure;

16 adults- [60/50---100/90]

238 adults- [100/90---150/110]

127 adults-- [150/110 and above]

(Am sure sis has the information on the pap-smears screening done.)

We ran out of stock and people still keep on coming. You can be sure of people coming everyday even if the program runs for a whole year.

9 men had the prostate cancer test.