



Child Life Line

Newsletter
Q2 2023

3, Karimu Street, off Sholuyi, Gbagada, Lagos

SAFE SPACE FOR STREET CHILDREN

Our weekday Drop-in Reception Centre serves as a safe space for street-connected children.

The Centre is a space where they can bathe, wash their clothes, and receive two nutritious meals each day. We provide basic literacy, numeracy and life skills classes for the children, hoping to help them off the streets and empower them for a brighter future.

We understand the emotional trauma that street life has on them and offer counselling sessions in a supportive environment where the children can express themselves and receive guidance and help.

This quarter, 78 children (53 boys and 25 girls) visited the Centre and benefited from our services.



REFERRAL

M is a child rescued from living on the streets who we initially reunited with his grandfather. In following up on his welfare, his grandfather confessed that he is unable to adequately cater for the child needs in terms of feeding and education. After much consideration and social investigation the child was referred to Nino's Foundation for care and protection.

We are proud to collaborate with other organisations involved in child protection in the best interests of the child, recognizing the importance of providing him with a safe and nurturing environment where he can thrive. We all have a role to play.



GBAGADA ... Reunification



Losing N6500 was all it took to make W run away from home in Ibadan to become vulnerable and living on the streets of Lagos at age 14.

During counselling, he shared his story of how he left home when he lost N6500 given to him for an errand by his apprentice-master. Too scared to report it, he ran away to Lagos.

Several counselling sessions later, W was ready to be reunited with family but wanted help seeking forgiveness from his boss and family.

CLL took W home, reunited him with his mother who was delighted to have him back after much trouble looking for him, and interceded with his boss who eventually agreed to take him back as his apprentice.



Thinking “my family don’t care” drove T to the streets. She left home at 16 and at first enjoyed hanging out with other youths living on the streets.

T visited CLL’s Centre in April, when life became unbearable for her and her peers. While participating in the basic numeracy and literacy classes at the Centre, it was discovered that she was academically sound. Although T lied about her home and background during the first counselling session, but as the sessions continued, she opened up and made up her mind to go back home to continue schooling.

CLL took T home and reunited her with her family who had been searching for her. Her father promised she would go back to school and we will follow-up on her progress and continue to support her.

GBAGADA ... Reunification



H embarked on what seemed like a short journey from Ilorin to Lagos! Faced with rebukes and threats at home from disciplinarian parents, he felt isolated and alienated, so he left his family, school and tailoring training behind, seeking independence on the street of Lagos.

Life on the streets turned out to be far from his expectations, however. Homeless and vulnerable, he struggled, doing menial jobs for survival.

In April, H visited our Centre. In counselling, he acknowledged the stark differences between life on the streets and the comfort of his home in Ilorin. Realizing the importance of family and the need for stability, he wanted to return home. He provided us with his father's contact details and we reached out immediately.

H's father was overjoyed to hear from us! He contacted his brother in Lagos, who agreed to collect H from our Centre.

The reunion between H and his family was heartwarming. He will resume his tailoring training once settled back at home.



NEWS

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR STREET CHILDREN ... April 12



CLL marked the International Day for Street Children on April 12 with a sensitization and awareness campaign. We talked to market women in Oshodi about the safety and rights of street-connected children; our Child and Family Development Officer appeared on Ibrand TV to discuss strategies for ensuring the safety of street-connected children; we visited schools, including Keme Balogun Senior Secondary School and Owode Primary School in Ibeshe, and talked to children and community members in Oworonshoki to educate children about safe and unsafe places.



NEWS

CHILDREN'S DAY ...May 27



At Gbagada

We marked Children's Day with an interactive discussion with the children led by The Programme Manager focusing on the importance of education and the opportunities available to them.



At Ibeshe

Some of the children attended a conference organized by the Child Protection Network to mark the day. Discussion was on how to become change advocates and say NO! to any form of Child abuse. There were also engaged in different fun activities at the conference.

In addition, we organized an in-house discussion on the popular myth 'Education is a scam' and talked about the importance of education.



At Oworonshoki

We celebrated Children's Day with the beneficiaries of our Oworo Back-to-school project. Speakers talked about the importance of staying focused in school, and the opportunities that education can provide.



FARMING

During the planting season, the children and staff at the residential home took out time to clear the available space in the home and planted maize, cassava and different vegetable seeds. A bountiful harvest is expected.



INTER-HOUSE SPORTS COMPETITION

CLL children at Bukdel school participated actively in the school's inter-house sport events. Three of them won medals by emerging as 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions in 100m relay races for their respective houses.



EKOSHA ART COMPETITION

The Eko Social Health Alliance (EKOSHA) organized an art competition to showcase the talent and creativity of children residing in various homes in Lagos State. One of the boys from our rehabilitation home, Peter Dosu, represented CLL. The competition provided a platform for the children to express themselves artistically and celebrate their unique perspectives.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECT, OWORONSHOKI



FOOD ITEMS DISTRIBUTION

With the support of the Lagos Food Bank, CLL distributed food items to our Oworo Back-to-School Project beneficiaries, helping to tackle hunger/malnutrition which negatively affects the children's ability to stay focused in school.



RESTORE FOUNDATION

CLL collaborated with Restore Foundation for child sight, a renowned organization dedicated to improving eye health and providing assistance to children with visual impairments. Through this collaboration, we were able to bring their expertise and resources to the Oworo community, host to our Oworo back-to-school project. Free eye check-ups were carried out and medication provided, where necessary, to some of our beneficiaries.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECT, OWORONSHOKI



UNITED WAY GREATER NIGERIA: DAY OF ACTION

United Way Greater Nigeria and some of their volunteers spent a day with our beneficiaries in Oworo, to mark their Day of Action. The children learnt the rudiments of painting, played board games and engaged in other fun activities.



NEWS DONORS



DONATIONS

Thank you to the members of **Our Lady of Mount Camel** group from St. Gerrard Catholic Church in Gbagada, who visited the Centre to donate cash, toiletries and food items.



Al-Mu'minaat Organization, regular donors to CLL, visited our Ibeshe home and donated gift items.



BIRTHDAY AT PIERRINE CONSULTING

Six of our children being sponsored by Pierrine Consulting, accompanied by CLL staff, paid a visit to Mr. Seyi Adeoye, the Chief Executive Officer of the firm to celebrate his birthday and thank him for his continued support. The children sang 'Happy Birthday' and presented a birthday card on behalf of CLL.



DONORS THIS QUARTER



Child Life Line would like to thank those individuals and firms who have given GENEROUSLY this quarter, in the form of money, basic necessities such as food and healthcare, or services. WE EXTEND OUR THANKS TO THE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS LISTED BELOW

CASH DONORS

Dr. Jojolola Adigun
Mr. Tom Ashby
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Deeper Life Bible Church, Rabaika
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Aslam C. Aanu

HOW YOU CAN HELP



WE NEED

- **Sponsors for education/vocational training for individual children**
- **MONEY**
- **Art materials (especially plain fabric or T shirts for tie-and-dye and batik work)**
- **Foodstuff**
- **Toiletries**
- **Books (educational or novels)**
- **Clothing**
- **Project Financing/Support: Help with road repairs to the track leading to the Ibeshe Home; renovation of the staff quarters and kitchen/dining block**
- **Diesel for the generators at Gbagada and Ibeshe**
- **Volunteers to teach and conduct activities with the children (art, craftwork, music, other learning activities)**

CONTACT US

For all enquiries, please contact:

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