

THE RISING STAR

Editor's Note

Hi Everyone! March has been another month full of activity, and we are so thankful for what we've been able to achieve. You'll be happy to know that at last, the **CCC Respite Home** in Lekki is staffed and equipped to receive the children from the streets, and facilitate their reconciliation with their families. The **Street Child Agenda** radio programme continues to educate the masses on this phenomenon, through **Radio Continental 102.3fm**. **Fair Life Africa Foundation** has also maintained links with like-minded organizations through the **Child Protection Network, Forum for Child Practitioners Concerned With Street Children** and other initiatives, as we continue to promote partnership working. We hope that you're encouraged as you read, and continue to lend your much appreciated and needed support!

In Time For Easter

For Ima*, 13, Tim*, 13, Teju*, 14, Frank*, 15, Sumi*, 14 and Lami*, 14, (* implies fictional names) their rescue is just in time! Life on the streets is hard; and horrible when the rains come, which is the Season pending. With Easter, just next week, they are overjoyed to know that from Monday 2nd of April, they will be residing at the Lekki Bungalow, where they will be supported by Fair Life Africa staff to reconnect with their loved ones. However, for several of them, they are unsure about making the reconnection...

Sumi knows where he lives in Cotonou, and after being trafficked to Lagos with his sister and running away from where he was made to work as a 'househelp', he returned home, only to be sent back again; this time with the quest to locate his sister. Frank could no longer stay at home after daily witnessing his father's battery of his mother. His hope is for her to leave him and the abuse, but she is reluctant to do so. Fair Life Africa will work alongside **Project Alert on Violence Against Women**, on the resolution of this case, as we have verified from a home visit, that the boy's account is true. They all have different stories about how they ended up on the streets and why they remain there. The Project will support them, making referrals to appropriate institutions for the resolution of their cases. For now, we have six boys, but are locating other needy children from our outreaches to Kuramo and Oshodi weekly.



The children enjoy the facilities at the centre, supported by Mr Ayo Akintimehin

More Than Theory...

Every change we see in society started with an idea! And then, it requires ONE person to believe in the idea and invest in it, and convince others to do the same as the idea begins to materialise. **Care Continuity Challenge (CCC) Initiative** was an idea, which is now taking form and becoming a reality. Over the last few months, as we have focused our energies on getting the home habitable, we have seen this transformation from theory to practice, and realities of a living body and team is becoming real to us. Everyday, we are more convinced that we will see the change we seek...

As we sought to identify the first set of children, we expanded our scope, visiting areas such as Mushin, Oshodi, Ijora, Obalende, Ikotun and so on. Children were invited in on Wednesdays to get away from the streets, have a hot meal and a shower, and also for us to learn more about them. Despite the challenges, it is a method that we will continue to use to reach and assess the children for support. We have also been challenged about maximising our staff on ground. This has required a considerable amount of flexibility and commitment from our staff and volunteers, which has been very inspiring to see. And with physical, cash and professional contributions from friends, the end result is a marvel!



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A beautiful, child-friendly accommodation is provided for 12 at the CCC Respite Home



Mrs Roselyn Akinroye, UNICEF Child Protection Specialist, with Ms Ufuoma Emerhor, meet for the Street Child Agenda



At Radio Continental 102.3fm with Ms Yemisi Ransome-Kuti, Mrs Bunmi Tejumola and Mr Tokunbo Ojekunle

OUR OBJECTIVES

To enrich the lives of the most impoverished in society; To support and empower the most vulnerable members of society, enabling them to live a fair life; To effect positive changes in their lives through social initiatives and programs

www.fairlifeafrica.org

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Street Child Agenda

The Street Child Agenda is about the issues that concern street children everywhere. It is the sort of things they would say or discuss if street children had their own forum or parliament. The Street Child Agenda radio programme on Radio Continental 102.3fm by Fair Life Africa Foundation, is about bringing these issues to the fore, keeping it in public consciousness for action and policy change. This month, we had four wonderful guests representing **UNICEF** (United Nations Children's Fund, Mrs Roselyn Akinroye), **NNNGO** (Nigeria Network of NGOs, Ms Yemisi Ransome-Kuti), **CEPI** (Community Empowerment for Peace and Health Initiative, Mrs Bunmi Tejumola) and **Child to Child Network** (Mr Charles Anyawike), talking about issues ranging from child protection to collaborative working. Do tune in on Tuesdays at 11am, RC102.3fm and share your views.

Celebrity Chat

We have never backed away from a challenge so far, which is why when the idea was proposed to Fair Life Africa to host a regular 'Celebrity Chat' at the **Correctional Centre for Boys, Oregun**, where we often visit, we went right ahead and did it! The idea of the chat is to get the children to meet people in positions of wealth, power, fame and success, and learn their stories, so that they too can be encouraged to see that no matter where you come from or have been, you can be **SOMEBODY** if you set your mind to it. **Mr Adams Ibrahim of Soundcity**, visited on the 22nd of March, and shared his story with the children. They were thrilled!

Advocacy Corner

In January, we presented a picture of Tom's local school, which was in disrepair and shared about our experience advocating for its improvement. We are glad to say that the new building (which was sitting idle waiting to be commissioned) is now in full use by the children, even though the date for the commissioning continues to be postponed. The children also enjoy better sanitary conditions. Other news: The Forum and other invited bodies and ministries will meet on the **16th of April** for a training on the **Child's Rights Act 2003**, which will equip members of the Forum for advocacy against breaches.



WATCH THIS SPACE

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To whom honour is due...

Supporters this month, whose contribution Fair Life Africa wishes to recognize, are:

Financial Contributions

- Strength Security Ltd
- Tom Imokhia
- Samuel Odusanya
- Orerhime Iwuagwu
- Anietie Udoh
- Ekundayo Mobayo
- George Ododo
- Damilola and Delali Bola-Sadipe
- Funmi Momodu
- Uzo Onumonu
- Onome Imoyin-Omene
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- Nelson Egboboh
- Samuel Ohonusi
- Arielle Ajibade
- Lulu Ojofeitimi

Friends With Initiative

- Nelson Egboboh
- Effiong Ekanem
- Mary Aderibigbe
- Mrs Ugboma

Volunteers

- Temitope Abowaje
- Oluwanishola Akinyera

Physical Donations

- MTN Foundation
- Keni Abureme
- Alaja Arije

Professional Support

- Olanrewaju Fajimi
- Rosemary Toboso
- Adams Ibrahim
- Pastor Wale Adefarasin of Guiding Light Assembly
- Mr Tope of Olive Tree Parish
- Mr Leke of Wonders of God
- Mr Ita Asanansi of Logos Aflame Ministry
- I-Maconi Nigeria Ltd
- Novacom (David Egbe)
- TILE (The Inspired Life Project)
- United Nations Children's Fund
- Nigeria Network of NGOs
- Community Empowerment for Peace and Health Initiative
- Child To Child Network

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COLLABORATE WITH US!

Sponsor a Child with
**Fair Life Africa
Foundation**
fairlifeafrica@gmail.com



Ayo, Ufuoma and a few kids, at the Lekki Bungalow (CCC Respite Home)

WANT TO HELP?

EMAIL: CCCINITIATIVE@GMAIL.COM

OR CALL US ON 08058711125



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PLEASE DONATE ONLINE

<http://www.globalgiving.co.uk/pr/9200/proj9103a.html>

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Developing A Community Spirit

Fair Life Africa took part in a **Peer Educator Symposium** on accountability on the 29th of March, which was organized by NNNGO. During this symposium, we learned from colleagues based in Japan, Cameroon, Sierra Leone and other places, and also shared our own experience on gaining supporter confidence and succeeding in last year's **Global Giving UK Challenge**. We also attended the inauguration and fundraising ceremony of the new **IWS (International Women's Society)** President, **Mrs Evelyn Akeredolu**, on the 13th of March. In keeping with the community spirit we are striving to develop, we have taken on additional roles in the **Lagos State Child Protection Network** (by UNICEF), to offer assistance to the Secretary, **Gilgal Partners** and Coordinator, Child to Child Network.

In The Media...

We are grateful to friends and supporters, who are helping us to spread the word about our work through the new and the old media. We were fortunate to be invited to share our thoughts and experiences, and be a voice for the street child, on a themed **NTA (National Television Authority)** programme, during their Current Affairs segment, this month. Thanks to **Mr Effiong Ekanem**, who recommended us. We also appreciate **Miss Damilola Akinwande** for doing a three-page spread on our initiative and the inspiration behind it, in her online magazine, **TILE** (Read: <http://www.m.theinspiredlifeproject.com/2012Q1/08.htm>). Thanks to **Mr Nelson Egbodoh**, **The Nation** newspaper featured an article on Fair Life Africa Foundation, as well. And still others who have blogged about our work, or helped us pass on a request through their social networking pages. We appreciate all the support and say a big thank you.

How Can You Help?

Now the home is open and operating, we invite you to come and pay us a visit at **2 Gbara Close, off Maiyegun Beach Road, Lekki, Lagos**. If you have considered supporting in the past, but forgot, or just weren't certain, please give it another thought today, as we need your help now, more than ever. We have made a bold commitment to move forward, and hope that you will join us. Other ways you can help, is to do what others have been doing, and help us get the word out! You can consider your local church, maybe you can help us to get out our fliers there by seeking permission to insert them in their newsletter. We would like to appreciate **Pastor Wale Adefarasin** of **Guidling Light Assembly**, and our friends at **Olive Tree Parish**, **Wonders of God Church** and **Logos Aflame Ministry** for being the first to support us with our leafleting campaign! Thank you!

Join Us Today!

If you like our vision, why not join us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/fairlifeafrica)? We are also building our team of dedicated staff and volunteers, so please send in your CVs and introductory letters to fairlifeafrica@gmail.com. As always, we are committed to being an open and accountable organization for the people, and look forward to updating you on our progress. Have an inspired month!



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