



# **Child Life Line**

**Newsletter  
Q1 2018**

**8 Lateef Onigemo Street, Ifako, Gbagada, Lagos**

## Statistics for the 1st Quarter, 2018

Total no of children that visited Gbagada Centre in Q1: 158

No of first time visitors: 62

Total no of visits: 653; Average no of visits per month: 218

No of children referred to other NGOs or to CLL Ibeshe: 7

No of children reunited with family: 5

No of children that received first aid or other health support: 10

## Slow start to the year at Gbagada

The number of children visiting the Gbagada drop-in centre in January went down by about 40% from the number in December, but soon picked up in February – almost doubling, and increasing yet again in March by another 33% over February. The centre was closed over the New Year, and indeed several of the children found their way home for the festive period (unfortunately they didn't stay home!). Other reasons we heard from the children was that the construction work going on at Oshodi had caused a number of them to relocate to Lekki. They also complained about the increased cost of transportation.

**Q1 2018** has seen a **significant increase in girls** coming to the drop-in centre. In January, girls made up 34% of the numbers and although by March, the number had dropped in percentage terms to 23%, actual numbers had gone up from 10 to 16. As a result, we are endeavouring to teach more crafts and skills at the centre that girls are interested in, such as make-up, knitting and crocheting, which they have been very enthusiastic about.

# NEWS CHILDREN ... Ibeshe

## NEW YEAR PARTY

CLL celebrated its annual New Year party in January at Ibeshe with entertainment from the boys, good food and drink. Guests were invited from the schools that the children attend in Ikorodu, as were family members and local dignitaries, including representatives of the police. Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Welfare were represented, as were other fellow NGOs working in child protection. We were honoured with the presence of our former Chairman, Board of Trustees, Chief Babatunde Benson and his wife. The current Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Mrs. Funke Adekoya, S.A.N., attended with two of her sisters, and several members of CLL's Executive Committee were present. Prizes were given to the boys for academic improvement, tidiness, good behaviour, etc.



Mrs Adekoya presenting a prize, watched by Program Manager, Mrs Aileru



Boys performing at the party



# NEWS CHILDREN ... Ibeshe

## NEW YEAR PARTY Contd.

We were also delighted to have 2 of our alumni present, who spoke at the party, providing motivation to our current boys. Godswill Onuoha, who graduated from Unilag last year, and Job Ayuba, who is working in Jos as a social media consultant and workshop organiser. It was indeed inspirational to hear them tell the children how they overcame their challenges to succeed as they have, taking full advantage of the opportunities given to them by CLL.



## Temporary School Placements

The Methodist Primary School has kindly agreed that children coming to the Ibeshe centre mid-year, that are waiting for admission in September to their proper class, may be placed temporarily with them, so that the children are still kept busy with learning. We are very grateful!

## School Visits

The Program Manager visited all the schools attended by CLL children in Ikorodu, to discuss their progress and challenges with the school heads and staff. It is not always easy for children that have been “free” on the streets to adapt to school discipline. But the discussions were very helpful and follow-up measures agreed upon. We were pleased that most of the children were commended and had good reports.

## A HAPPY ENDING

Sometimes it may be just one incident that has led a child to run away from home. If we can retrieve a child quickly and help it sort out the problem at home, we have saved one young person from the dangers of the streets: drugs, violence, sexual assault, and from an uncertain future. They may just need a helping hand – quick intervention at the right time.

S is 15 and the only child of his father. His parents are separated, mother remarried. He stays with his father. According to the child's story during a counselling session, he left school very late because he was on duty to clean his classroom. When he got home his Dad was upset and angry with him and told him he was going to kill him. That was why he left home. The child had not spent long on the streets and was very angry with his father. He said he didn't want to go back to his father but he gave us the father's number.

When contacted, the parent came to the centre the same day. He said he had been searching for the boy and confirmed his story to be true. He said the boy didn't explain to him why he closed late but, he didn't wait to hear from the child the reason for his lateness before beating him. In this case, it was the father that needed our counselling! Happily, the boy was re-united with his father and this story had a happy ending!

## & PARTNERS

### TRAINING

CLL's Child & Family Development Coordinator (CFDC), Rose Swan, attended training organised by Terre des Hommes on **Children in Mobility**, i.e. those that have left their usual places of abode at a tender age, either as a result of group mobility (migration) or alone. She provided step-down training on what she had learnt to other members of CLL staff.

She also attended training on **Child Protection** organised by the Child Protection Network in coordination with the Ministry of Youth and Social Welfare. Learnings from this were also passed on to other staff members.

### YOUTH EMPOWERMENT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (YEDI)

Our thanks to the YEDI organisation, who carried out training at both our Gbagada and Ibeshe facilities for the children, designed to educate them on sexual reproductive health and the dangers of HIV, gender equality, and the need to eschew violence and drug abuse. It was fully interactive, interspersed with games, including soccer, and the children received certificates of attendance at the end.

YEDI also offered HIV tests to the children.





# NEWS DONORS THIS QUARTER

**Child Life Line would like to thank those individuals and firms who have given GENEROUSLY, 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:**

**Robin Johnston**

**Kunle Williams**

**Periwinkle**

**Ayanlowo Ademola**

**Oluwayemisi Oluwafolakemi**

**Union Bank PLC**

**Aelex Law Firm**

**Funke Alade-Adeyefa**

**Sally Udoma**

**Citibank Nigeria**

**Adenike Adeshina**

**FSDH Merchant Bank**

**Essie Gomes**

**Omolola Emeruwa Taiwo**

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## **In kind (Goods & Services):**

**Funke Alade-Adeyefa**

**Sally Udoma**

**Lifeguard Hospital**

**Bukdel School**

**9Mobile staff**

**Inner City Mission**





# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## WE STILL NEED

- **Sponsors for school fees/vocational training for individual children**
- **Art materials (especially plain fabric or T shirts for tie-and-dye and batik work)**
- **Printer/scanner**
- **Foodstuffs**
- **Toiletries**
- **Books (educational or novels)**
- **Help with road repairs to the track leading to the Ibeshe Home**
- **Diesel for the generators at Gbagada and Ibeshe**
- **Volunteers to conduct activities with the children (art, craftwork, music, other learning activities)**
- **Money!!!**

## CONTACT US

**For all enquiries, please contact:**

**The Program Manager  
Child Life Line  
8 Lateef Onigemo Street, Ifako  
Gbagada. Lagos**

**Tel: 08170002146  
08055040741  
08099871596**

**E-mail: [Info@childlifeline.org](mailto:Info@childlifeline.org)**

**[www.childlifeline.org](http://www.childlifeline.org)**