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Editor's Welcome...

It is my pleasure to write to you again and let you all know what is happening at Fair Life Africa Foundation. It has truly been a remarkable month. We visited all our boys from the pilot programme, as we said we would. It was so great to see them, and they were really excited to see us too. We also received two sets of groups at the Home during the month, who came to share the love. First, Yemi and her friends came with a gardener to help us tend to our garden on the 8th of September, then Tosin Jegede Foundation made their debut visit to the Home to read and spend time with the boys on the 13th. You can read all about these visits and much more on our newly published [blog](http://www.fairlifeafrica.wordpress.com) - www.fairlifeafrica.wordpress.com! It is the new point of contact for devoted readers and followers. We will be updating it regularly with news from the Home and Field and announcements for upcoming events. Please follow the blog.

We have also resumed our monthly birthday

parties! We received three visitors yesterday, and had a fantastic time with the kids. The resident boys each received their MTN donated school bags packed with school supplies for the new term. You can see them jump with glee! You should have heard their screams. Also, in light of the official blog, we have re-designed our newsletter so that we have more pictures and less writing. We are also premiering our new section 'Celebrating With Friends' by celebrating this month with our Patrons - Olorogun O'tega Emerhor and his wife, Chief Mrs Rita Emerhor,

who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this month! You can read up on every detail by clicking on the link. We very much appreciate your comments in the blog and encourage you to share with your friends too. You can also share your thoughts directly here. Please join us on Facebook or at the Home during our monthly celebrations, and let us honour you too. Thank you for all your support. On the eve of our Independence Day, Fair Life Africa Foundation wishes every Nigerian a Happy Independence Day!



The Selection Process

The question we are most often asked is - why only boys? For those among our readers wondering, the answer is three-fold. First of all, boys are more visible on the streets than girls. In fact, girls are rare to come by. A couple of reasons for that is because they are most often involved in human trafficking and prostitution, so that they make up a hidden population on the streets. This leads us to the second reason we work with just boys presently. Girls on the streets need more assertive and intensive interventions than boys. They may be dealing with addictions that have been forced on them by their exploiters, they may be highly disillusioned and afraid, or may have resigned themselves to prostitution. More capacity is required to support girls, which we do not yet have in place. The third reason is very simple. Due to the diverse experiences of girls and boys on the streets, and also because they are prone to delinquency and immoral practices which they picked up

from the streets, mixing them up in a residential facility will be huge misjudgment. Boys tend to be more aggressive and violent, and it would be hard to minimise the risks of abuse in such settings. If you are still curious, please send us an email at contact@fairlifeafrica.org, and we will be sure explain further.

At this moment, we have eight boys who are resident with us, a ninth boy who we'll be receiving soon, following a successful home tracing excursion, and six boys we are assessing to determine their suitability and willingness to be supported through the programme. Based on our experiences with the previous boys, we have adapted the assessment process such that boys are assessed over a longer period of time, as they visit the Home. Our criteria includes their ability to communicate with us by telling us why they are on the streets, their general temperment and obedience to our rules, and also interest in

reconciliation and either going to school or learning a trade. We also carry our medical tests on each of the children, and home tracing to locate their guardians, before they are taken into the Home. This is primarily because the programme currently running is for short-term intervention towards reconciliation. However, once successfully reconciled, the boys and their families will be supported to re-integrate (the support given varies from family to family), and they will be followed up there after. Tom Smith, who we took home last October has been home for 12 months now, and this was celebrated with a visit, and a long awaited present - a mobile phone; as well as provisions for his grandmothers shop. He and his family continue to do well, and we will continue to follow up on him, as with the boys of the pilot programme. All the boys were invited to come and celebrate Christmas at the Home, so we are looking forward to that too!

Fix My Garden



On the 8th of September, Yemi Adedeji, Aima and Emi Ohiwerei, Victor Aboh and Olutayo Adeyinka visited the Home of Fair Life Africa on a special mission – to revamp its garden! They came armed with a gardener, some tools and lots of cheerfulness! The potentially burdensome task was turned into a thing of play, as the children joined along to help them pull up the weeds, trim the bushes and plant some new baby plants in the place of some old dying ones. Everyone joined in the activity and we all had a great time.

Afterwards, while we waited for a scrumptious lunch, we played some football and outdoor games. We later went in and entertained ourselves, with a guitar donated by one of our friends, Jide Olaniyan. Tayo was

good with it, and Yemi can sing, so they entertained the boys, and Ufuoma danced too! Then lunch came; jollof rice and turkey with coleslaw (yum!). Our friends were impressed and complimented the cook. It was a full day. Folake and Toyin Okayo also stopped by to visit and encourage us. All our friends were shown around and we explained the programme to them. They all said they'd love to be involved in one way or the other, and encouraged us to keep up the good work.

Fair Life Africa Foundation appreciates them for making the time to come and show us a little kindness. Our garden is brand new :)

1CHILD 1BOOK

On the 13th of September, 2012, Fair Life Africa received a warm visit from our friends at Tosin Jegede Foundation (TJF). TJF is a young non-profit organisation that specialises in education. It initiated the 1Child1Book programme, which strives to place a book in the hands of every Nigerian child. Its founder, Tosin Jegede, is also well known as a child star. She used to entertain crowds with inspirational music at a very young age. Her focus, which was to make society a better place for children, hasn't changed, but her method has developed, so that she

runs the foundation to promote education and literacy in Nigeria.

During their visit, the team spoke with the children visiting the Home at the time, and encouraged them never to return to stay in the streets. They spent time with the boys reading various story books, and did some creative arts together as well. They later stayed back to chat and play with them, before saying their goodbyes. The boys said their appreciations for the



visit in various languages that they had been taught to say 'thank you' and 'welcome'. TJF left books for the Home's Reading Room, and shared some treats with the boys too.

Fair Life Africa Foundation is sincerely grateful to TJF to making the visit, and impacting our boys in a special way. God bless you!

Beyond Reconciliation...



Many people wonder, what happens after they go back home? Is your job finished? We laugh and say - *far from it!* At best, we are half way there. The rehabilitation and reconciliation is hard, but harder still is the reintegration, supporting families to stay together through encouragement, counsel, intervention and provision.

Sometimes, the issue requires police, government intervention or referral to other non-profits working in a capacity that we are not yet set up to. Generally though, we have found that the basic needs of the family can be met if time is given to needs assessment, and counselling of the parents and/or guardians. Take the case of Charles, who lives with his father, step mother

and siblings. They family live in a two room accommodation, which is accessible to major transport links and the step mother's food shop. The family has been reliant on his step-mother's trade. Unfortunately, she reported that she had spent the last of the money repairing her shop after it was accidentally damaged, and had nothing left to buy the necessary provisions to keep the business going. After a trip to the shop, we saw that we could help the family, and helped them with small funds to kick start the business again.

Anthony is another child we supported home, whose father was supported to get an accommodation close to his work place, which was particularly crucial. Anthony is so happy to be back home, and was being visited by his brother when we came to mark his two months at home. We have paid for his school fees at a private school near his home, and he has resumed already. Jason, is another child who is home and doing well. His family have not had need for accommodation, because they own their own home. But the father's business needs a boost, so that he can afford to return home daily and support his wife to attend to their seven children! Jason is also going to a private school locally, paid by Fair Life Africa, and his father is receiving our support to renovate his shop and improve his business, so that the family can become self-sufficient. They have also been counselled to seek family planning to guard against baring more children than they can care for. The fourth child (Eddy), we returned home from the first set, has shown more commitment to learning the mechanic trade than going to school. When we visited, we found him working hard at his shop with the other trainees. He also is happy to be back home. His concern is for his mother to become settled, so that he can move in with her. Meanwhile, he is staying with his grandparents and developing his skills as a mechanic. We supplied him with his tools as promised and a photo album to capture his moments in the Home (as we did with the others).

Celebrating with our Patrons

On the 22nd of September, 2012, Olorogun O'tega Emerhor and his wife, Chief (Mrs) Rita Emerhor celebrated 25 years of marriage, and re-vowed to love one another faithfully. The

Emerhors are the patrons to Fair Life Africa Foundation, with Olorogun sitting as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. A celebrated business man and chief, he sits on the boards of several other companies, heading also Standard Alliance Group, which is a major partner with Fair Life Africa. Mrs Emerhor is also a humanitarian, and is known by those around her to have a very big and kind heart. She owns Heroes Furniture Ltd, also a sponsor of Fair Life Africa, and a prestigious furnishing company in Nigeria, with branches in Lagos, Abuja and Yenegoa.

There was a simple ceremony at Ikoyi Baptist Church, where the couple exchanged vows and re-affirmed their love for one another. In attendance were many notable personalities, including governors and first ladies. The celebrations continued at Harbour Point, Victoria Island in a tastefully furnished hall, which sat 800+. All were treated to various continental dishes and deserts, and champagne was overflowing. The couple sang together to the beautiful tune of 'Flying Without Wings' by Westlife, and shared a dance too. There was ample entertainment from notable comedians and musicians, and a documentary on their introduction and early years together was shown in the screens around. Later, the dance floor was opened and people danced till their hearts content.

Fair Life Africa Foundation is proud to celebrate with them and wishes the brilliant couple many many more years of love, joy and prosperity! God bless you.



Can You Lend A Hand?



We are looking for more partners to collaborate with, and ask you to join us as we seek to mitigate the risks against street children, by offering them care and continuity, despite the challenges! We appreciate all your support so far, and can't do this work without your help.

Please Donate to Fair Life Africa Foundation

Guaranty Trust Bank

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You can donate via Mobile Money to +2348058711125 or via our Global Giving Project Page at

<http://www.globalgiving.co.uk/projects/protect-and-empower-nigerian-street-kids/>

Your donations (cash, kind or skills) are much needed. Please tell your friends, family and colleagues! We remain committed to being an open and accountable organization. If you have any question about our work or how you can become involved, please send us an email to contact@fairlifeafrica.org or give us a call on (+234) 8058711125 / 8095821990. We would love to hear from you!

Fair Life Africa would also like to appreciate these supporters:

Financial Contributions

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- Olanrewaju Fajimi
- Toju Okotie
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- Tosin Jegede Foundation
- Street Child Care and Welfare Initiative
- Oge Chikeroth

Teachers and Mentors

- Chinyere Udoekwere
- Henry Nwoko

Volunteers

- Yemi Adediji
- Aima Ohiwerei
- Emi Ohiwerei
- Victor Aboh
- Olutayo Adeyinka
- Ejiro Lane
- Keno Egbuwoku
- Friends With Initiative
- Tosin Jegede
- Toju Okotie
- Adetutu Ogunbiyi
- Orhue Guobadia

Physical Donations

- Tosin Jegede Foundation
- Keno Egbuwoku
- Yemi and Friends

Please forgive any omission. We endeavour to remember and appreciate all our friends. Thank you for making our work possible with your support and encouragement!