

# THE RISING STAR

## Editor's Note

This has been another month of growth and progress. We started a street-child strategy last month, Breakfast and Talk. We have maintained a presence at Kuramo beach, where we have met over 70 children in the last six weeks. We continue to grow, and gained our 100<sup>th</sup> friend on Facebook this week! Please read on to learn about the upcoming event we are planning and the progress we have made so far.

## Breakfast and Talk at Kuramo

Over the last four weeks, we have come to know some of the street children at Kuramo and learn their stories. All the children we have met so far have been boys, between 10 -18 years. Due to prostitution and drugs, we have not been able to meet or talk to any of the street girls so far, and have seen only a few in the daytime. Initially, the boys were also shy to talk to us, but over time, their numbers grew from just six on the first day to over 40 present last Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Only very few of the boys are orphans, while a lot of them have both parents and a few others have just one living parent. A number of the children have cited family breakdown as the reason for their departure or run away from home, with some recounting threats made by family members if they were to return. Many also recounted stories of abuse and maltreatment, and being made to work without being cared for. So, even though most of the children we have met have said that they would like to go back to school, only a few express any desire to return home, while yet others shun the idea.

We visited the beach again on Monday 21<sup>st</sup>, in response to pleas from some of the children to be assisted financially and supported to return home. On this visit, we interviewed seven boys to learn more and ascertain how we could help. We also interviewed one of the locals, who is familiar with the children. Please visit our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/FairLifeAfrica](http://www.facebook.com/FairLifeAfrica)) and read our notes to learn more about these visits.



Ms Ufuoma Emerhor with some street boys at Kuramo beach

## Street Child Awareness Seminar

In the last three months, we have learnt of several organizations working with street children and child/young prostitutes in Lagos, and know of at least two others working at Kuramo alone. It seemed obvious to us to get to know all the other organizations working in this field, and those also supporting abandoned babies, so that we can collaborate our efforts and make an even greater impact on their lives.

To fulfill this need for multi-agency collaboration, Fair Life Africa Foundation is hosting a Street Child Awareness Seminar in May for executives and senior management of NGOs and children's charities to come together and share their experiences, challenges, ideas and strategies. We are very grateful to **Pastor Wale Adefarasin** for the use of **Guiding Light Assembly** for the event. Date and time to be confirmed.



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Clothes were distributed to the children



A 13-year old boy who shared his story

### 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

## Networking Opportunities

We have been fortunate to be invited to a number of events over the last few weeks. We were invited by **Mr Ferdinand Adimefe** to attend **Interface Season IV** on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, an event themed 'Breaking the Mould'. We were able to share about the Fun Feed we did and the work we plan to do with the street children in Nigeria, through our initiative.

A friend of the organization, **Akinjide Ojo**, invited us to meet with the youth group leaders at his church, **RCCC King's Court** on Monday (21<sup>st</sup> March). They have decided as a group to partner with social initiatives and projects as their contribution to their society, and were keen to know what **CCC Initiative** was all about. They also have plans to rehabilitate and support the street children at Kuramo.

**House of Refuge**, an arm of **Freedom Foundation**, also hosted a consultation forum on substance abuse, which we were invited to attend on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March. For unforeseen reasons, we were unable to attend. It would have been a great networking opportunity, and we learnt that it was a very successful event.

## Progress with Renovations

We made our first payment for the bungalow at Lekki this month! The property, which is presently occupied by squatters, will soon be vacated to enable us to begin our renovations in April. In addition to the existing bungalow, we are looking to construct an auxiliary building which will enable us to accommodate up to 25 boys between 5 - 17 years old. **Architect Fomare Majoroh** has helped with design ideas and construction drawings for the work pending, and **Deacon Osaro Eguasa** will work on the costing of the construction/renovations. We are sincerely grateful to both of them.



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## To whom honour is due...

Other supporters who have made valuable contributions worthy of recognition are:

**Standard Allinace Group** for the occasional use of their offices and equipments.

**Mr Oyebisi Babatunde Oluseyi**, of **The Network of Nigerian NGOs**, for his consultation and advice with the Street Child Awareness Seminar.

**Mrs Tenidola Awoyemi**, of **Freedom Foundation**, for her support and guidance on the Street Child Awareness Seminar.

**Mr Oyakhire Russel** for helping with event planning on the Street Child Awareness Seminar, donation of clothes for distribution at Kuramo beach, and for coming out to help with Breakfast and Talk.

**Mr Akinbami Bashiru Omotayo** for his contribution towards our Breakfast and Talk meetings at Kuramo and his pro-bono photography for the organization

**Mrs Seto Akin-Olugbade** for helping with event planning for the Street Child Awareness Seminar.

**Mr Adegoke Fadare** for helping with event planning for the Street Child Awareness Seminar.

**Ms Uzo Onumonu**, our volunteer, for her continual assistance and participation at our Breakfast and Talk meetings.

**Ms Raquel Jacobs** for her participation at our Breakfast and Talk meetings.

**Ms Damilola Dare** for donating clothes for distribution at Kuramo beach.

**Mr Seye Onabolu** for sharing our work with family and friends, and linking us with **Mr Kayode Pitan**, Chairman of **RCCG's Habitation of Hope**.



How happy they are, because we care.



Children just want to play

**WANT TO HELP?**

EMAIL: [CCCINITIATIVE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CCCINITIATIVE@GMAIL.COM)

OR CALL US ON 08058711125



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## The Respite Programme

The idea for the 90-day pilot feeding programme has been developed into a 12-week respite programme for all the children we receive. The 12-week respite programme is a simple entry-point programme that offers each child respite and refuge from the streets, while we support them to return home (where possible). We will begin with 25 boys, until we have a separate facility for the girls. The children will be counseled, mentored and supported to live stable, productive lives and given the opportunity to go to school or learn a vocation. Children who are successfully returned home will still be eligible for sponsorship to go to school, where the family cannot cope. However, children who cannot be reconciled with their families will be given the opportunity to stay on after the 12 weeks as residents at our CCC Homes and receive full sponsorships. The premise of the respite programme is based on the belief that the best place for a child is their maternal/paternal home, and that all efforts should be made to enable children to be raised by their birth family before considering alternative solutions, such as residential accommodation. However, the places we offer will be as child-friendly and homely as possible.

## Our Website

The Fair Life Africa Foundation website is still under construction, but available to be viewed online at [www.fairlifeafrica.org](http://www.fairlifeafrica.org). There are a few resources which can be accessed and/or downloaded from the website. They include an informative presentation on what CCC Initiative is all about, a picture presentation on the Fun Feed on 6.2.11, and our newsletters. We also have information available on the website on how you can be a volunteer or simply become a friend of the organization. We are very grateful to **Mr Lanre Fajinmi** for all his hard work on the website.

## How Can You Help?

We are new, eager and ready to grow. If you would like to be part of our team of hard-working, inspired and enthusiastic staff, please send your CVs and introductory letters in to [fairlifeafrica@gmail.com](mailto:fairlifeafrica@gmail.com). We need volunteers to help out on Saturdays between 10 – 1pm at Kuramo Beach. We also need benefactors to donate towards our good cause, so please share what you can and also spread the word. We welcome clothing and physical donations too. For example, one carton of capri-sonne will provide drink for 40 children, and N300 will feed a child with a nutritious hot meal. We hope that you are inspired and motivated to help. Please contact us to make your contribution. We appreciate your continual support and wish you a blessed day!



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Next issue out 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011

