



100 Stories of Impact

In 2016, I joined OAC right after completing my youth service. It was a resolute decision to align my passion with a purposeful organization. Through online research, I stumbled upon OAC's application and eagerly shared this exciting opportunity with my friends: Jeffrey Itepu, Damilare Oshokoya, Omowunmi Lawal, and Olamide Ogunsanya. Many of us chose to join, and to this day, Olamide Ogunsanya remains actively dedicated.

Joining OAC was a defining moment for me, and even now, I hold a tender affection for the organization – a feeling I must chuckle about (LOL). The founder, whom I lovingly call Vicky, is an exceptional woman whose heart of gold touches everyone around her.

As a volunteer at OAC, I eagerly joined the programs team, driven by my passion for this area. Along the journey, I had the privilege of serving alongside Seunara Atobatele during her tenure. Engaging in numerous OAC projects enriched my experiences significantly. Subsequently, I assumed the role of leading the programs for Lagos State after Seunara's term. However, my time in that position was brief as I had to step back for a while due to a severe illness. I will forever cherish the immense love and support from the team during that challenging period. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone who stood by my side then.

Presently, having empowered over five thousand women and girls through various empowerment projects, I take immense pride in serving as the Programs Manager for the Girls Inspired Development Network, working tirelessly to uplift women and girls in marginalized communities and schools, finding great fulfillment in making a positive impact on their lives.



ADEBUKOLA C. ADEBOYE



100 Stories of Impact

I joined OneAfricanChild in 2012 during my undergraduate years and became the regional head for Ibadan chapter in 2016. I participated in the teaching of the "conflict resolution module" at Jumpstart Academy and other community development projects. It was such an insightful experience for me because it gave a firsthand experience into the practical day to day lives of the students, I also really learnt a lot from it myself.

I have quite a few fond memories, one that stands out for me is looking through photos of different activities that were taken during projects, especially the Saturday volunteer meeting at Sultan Bello Hall, University of Ibadan. I realized how much each of us have grown over the years.

OneAfricanChild gave me the platform of public speaking. I used to be very shy and introverted but when I joined the organization it was something I had to work on because of the tasks and responsibility I was assigned to carry out.

I recently relocated to the United Kingdom to pursue a second master's degree in psychology, and I currently work with an organization that supports people living with learning disabilities and mental health issues, prior to this I used to work as an EAP Psychologist with a mental health hospital in Lagos state, Nigeria.



ADEBAYO OREOLUWA SUSAN



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I heard about OAC from my friend, Ademola-Popoola Iyunoluwa. She was constantly uploading every event and outreach on her status. At that time, I had just gotten into the university and was actively looking for something outside academics. I decided to join the organization in 2019, and my first volunteering experience was going to the 6th-anniversary rally at the University of Ibadan. One thing that stood out for me and made me stay was how everyone was friendly and didn't make me feel like I was new. They made it very easy for me to participate and connect with everything, even though I didn't fully grasp what the organization was about.

In February 2020, I volunteered to plan a peace-building workshop where leaders like Miss Atinuke, Mr Muiwa, and Miss Iyunoluwa gave me the confidence I needed. Also, the teamwork was amazing, and the event was successful. Since then, I have participated in various school outreaches and teacher training programs. However, the ones that particularly stood out for me are the teacher's training at Trinity Baptist Nursery and Primary School and the students' outreach at Jumokol. At Jumokol, I had the opportunity to facilitate a session with the students, and it was the best feeling ever because prior to this time, I used to be very shy and insecure about myself, but that experience increased my self-esteem, and I knew there was something more about me more than just being behind the scenes.

I cannot talk about growth without mentioning OneAfricanChild. I have acquired several skills like facilitation, leadership, communication, and so on. OAC also built my teamwork spirit, and I got more proactive with work. Finally, I am very happy to be part of this great family and community. OAC is not an organization that takes from volunteers. I'm glad that I get to grow in volunteering and have a community where our goals are alike and aligned.



ABU BOLUWATIFE DORCAS



100 Stories of Impact

My name is Yusuf Yahaya. I am an educator, and I live and work in Ilorin, Kwara State. I am a volunteer for OneAfricanChild. I first heard about OAC in 2019 from a friend who was a volunteer. Having acclimatized myself to the aims and vision of the organization with my friend's help, I did not doubt that OAC would be a perfect conduit pipe in which I could contribute to the development and sustainability of equality education in my society.

I am proud of every OAC outreach and gathering I participated in. The one that stood out for me was the celebration of 2022 Children's Day at the Gaa Alanu community in Moro Local Government, Kwara State. Seeing the smiles on those children's faces made it all worthwhile and knowing that I and other volunteers had made a little impact was truly fulfilling. It was a fun-filled day for the children.

I have a special relationship with all volunteers of OAC with whom I have interacted, including volunteers outside my region, because OAC has many amazing and empathic people. My problem-solving and organization skills were called into question by various tasks assigned to me. I took on tasks individually and also as a team player. Therefore, I have honed my problem-solving, organization, leadership, and communication skills by volunteering with OAC.

I am proud to be associated with OAC because it is an important platform that has given youths the opportunity to give back to society.



YUSUF YAHAYA



100 Stories of Impact

Finding the right words to start with when sharing my time with OAC can be quite daunting, and that's because there are so many memories and benefits to talk about despite the relatively short time I have been a part of the OAC family. I became a part of OAC in January 2021 after a friend discussed the efforts and plans the organization was implementing in Gaa-Alanu, a place of dear memory to me. During my undergraduate years, I and my course mates had, under the supervision of our H.O.D, visited Gaa-Alanu many times not only to teach the children but also to have a feel of what they lacked in terms of formal education, as well as what they possess in terms of indigenous education. As a result, hearing about an organization that made the creation of a learning center for them a top priority sounded like wind chimes to me, and I couldn't resist being a part of such a wonderful and noble cause.

Fast forward to today, my time with OAC has taken me through several school visitations, teacher-training events, professional and personal development, as well as many outreaches, of which none was anything short of a cocktail of fun, education, enlightenment, and fulfillment. Through our many outreaches and school visitations, I have not only harnessed and honed my public speaking skills but also learnt the valuable skill of connecting with others, particularly children, at a base level such that I have been exposed to a wealth of insight into social and emotional challenges that some of them undergo even at tender ages. This, in turn, has helped me develop my emotional intelligence further.

During our school visitation to Baptist Girls Academy, Obanikoro, I recall vividly a group of young junior secondary students reaching out after our session with them was concluded, asking different questions regarding how to build their self-confidence. One of the girls had tears rolling down her eyes while expressing her difficulty with her self-esteem. Experiences like these are part of what OAC is all about, and just like the memory remains fresh in my mind, so has the impact it had on me going forward.

I have also made fantastic friends and connections through the OAC platform. While OAC does a lot for children across Nigeria and Africa at large, another notable component of OAC is her dedication to developing her volunteers both skill-wise and career-wise, and I am a living testimony to that. Aside from benefiting from the many trainings organised for volunteers on the OAC platforms, OAC provided me with the opportunity to kick-start my dream career in psychology. I work as a school psychologist, following an opportunity advertised on the OAC platform by one of the volunteers. As a result, I have learned a lot about neuro-typical and neuro-divergent children and how to provide them with the support they may require. I can tell you categorically that this really is what OAC is all about: building people across all ages and stages, irrespective of the constraints they might be surrounded by.

I look forward to having more enjoyable years with OAC. Cheers to the start of a new and ground-breaking decade!!!



WALIU BOMODEOKU



100 Stories of Impact

My mother was the driving force behind OneAfricanChild. As early as I can remember, I have observed my mother, Kadijat, show boundless kindness and compassion for those in need. She befriended those in the community that society looked down upon. I doubt she will ever understand or take credit for the impact she's made in the lives of many who come in contact with her. I am blessed that because of her, I had the courage to start OneAfricanChild; an organization that has brought hope and inspiration to thousands of children and youth, giving them the torch to discover their paths to success.

As I reflect on the journey that led me to establish OneAfricanChild, I am reminded of the transformative power of education and how it changed the trajectory of my life as a timid young girl who grew up in the suburb of Lagos to become a global advocate for education and youth civic engagement. My passion and dedication to education advocacy, from the local to the global level, didn't start overnight. It became possible as a result of the privilege I had to go to school, to learn how to read and write, to be told that I can be a voice and I can make a difference if I choose to. To have wonderful parents who sacrificed a lot to give us the best education possible. To have, however few, great role models in the community to look up to. I am reminded every day that I must never take this privilege for granted, and that has served as the driving force that propels OneAfricanChild forward.

My fondest memories with OneAfricanChild are those spent alongside the children, educators and youth leaders we collaborate with. Engaging in an outreach program is therapeutic because you come out of it feeling transformed and motivated to serve even more passionately. OneAfricanChild has empowered me to be an empathetic leader who models the culture of peace and global citizenship which lie at the heart of our identity and community-level programs.

As the Founder, it has been a truly humbling experience to witness the exceptional qualities that make OneAfricanChild stand out as an organization. From fostering genuine connections to promoting a growth mindset environment, pursuing personal and professional development, engaging in meaningful work, and celebrating diversity as the fabric of our community—these are just a few of the remarkable aspects that set OneAfricanChild apart. Our impact is best told through the lens of our 100 Impact Story, as it weaves a more powerful and compelling narrative of the significant change we've brought about over the years. I hope this narrative serves as a testament to the unique and profound mark we've left on the lives of many and I am extremely grateful for the contributions of friends, partners and key stakeholders in making this journey possible.



VICTORIA IBIWOYE



100 Stories of Impact

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT

The OAC's Innovation Challenge made a profound impact on my students, leaving an indelible mark on their development. It ignited their imaginative thinking, bolstered their self-confidence, and instilled a profound commitment to sustainability. Their remarkable first-place triumph serves as compelling evidence of their newfound assurance and refined abilities, instilling a sense of pride in me as their devoted instructor. Additionally, I must applaud the seamless communication with the event organizers and their thoughtful inclusion of rewards, not only for the students but also for participating educators.

My heartfelt gratitude extends to the OneAfricanChild Initiative, and I raise a toast to a decade of meaningful community impact.



VICTORIA ANIMASHAHUN



100 Stories of Impact

The year was 2018; I had just completed the first year of my 2-year master's degree program at the University of Ibadan. And while this was exciting, it just was not enough that I was in Ibadan only for the degree; I was feeling a void – one that needed to be filled, one that was probably once filled. Fortunately, I had met and connected with Oyindamola Oseni who was in another master's program at my department at the time. I would go on to see interesting posts about OneAfricanChild (OAC) and its activities on her social media handles; these stirred the void in me, and I asked her to show me how to join. In April, she invited me to my first OAC meeting which was held at the Pope John Paul II center within the university, and to say it's been fulfilling is indeed, to say the least.

Now, you might recall that I mentioned that the void was once filled – OAC was not the first youth-led organization I had been part of. I was an active and foremost member of the Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria (CYON) – a faith-based organization aimed at fostering the spiritual development of youth. But the thing with faith-based work is that you expect to receive the reward, here or in the hereafter. My work with OAC is one from which I do not expect to receive a reward – one where you just voluntarily give of yourself and draw joy from its resultant impact – rewards that are rather implicit, non-palpable, yet evident. In essence, OAC was filling my void in a way I had never experienced; it met my need and surpassed it!

I have participated in several school outreaches, teachers' training, advocacy campaigns, seminars & workshops, and skill acquisition programs all targeted at promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED). One that stands out for me was the educators' training on learning styles that we took to Hillcrest Nursery & Primary School, Agbowo – a low-income community within Ibadan, Nigeria. The team was led by Olumuyiwa Kotila, whose amazing skills of breaking the ice and setting the mood I have always coveted – skills that would rub off on my hitherto reticent personae and help me become better at interactions and communication. I went on to facilitate a part of the session and discussed the different learning styles/needs of children.

Other than Olumuyiwa, I have had the opportunity to work with other great youth leaders who are exemplary in many ways – Victoria Ibiwoye, Olatomiwa Olusesi, and Folakemi Fariogun, to mention only a few. I have no doubt that my overall OAC experience has contributed significantly to shaping me into the professional that I now am, and for this, I am grateful to OAC as we mark its auspicious 10th anniversary!



VICTOR EKERE



100 Stories of Impact

In 2017, I had recently moved from Abuja to Lagos and was searching for a volunteer organization where I can make an impact and teach. I reached out to my friend, who was already a member of the OneAfricanChild Foundation in Ibadan. He informed me about the Lagos chapter and provided instructions on how to register my interest to volunteer. I was pleasantly surprised at how smooth the interview and onboarding process was. At that time, Demilade Lawal served as the HR coordinator for the organization.

As a volunteer for OneAfricanChild Foundation, I participated in several outreach projects that left a lasting impact on me. I was opportune to work with and impact different groups of students in several communities in Lagos. While also forging several friendships with other volunteers, among which are Helen Dibie, Olalekan Oseni, Tinuola Oladebo, Jeffery and Jesse Itepu just to name a few.

One of the things that makes me particularly proud to be associated with OneAfricanChild is the organization's focus on digital literacy. In today's world, technology is increasingly becoming a necessary tool for success, and OneAfricanChild recognizes this. By providing access to digital tools and training, the organization is helping to ensure that young people in underserved communities are not left behind.

In addition to its focus on digital literacy, OneAfricanChild is also committed to creating a strong sense of community among its volunteers and beneficiaries. Through regular meetings and gatherings, volunteers can connect with one another and share their experiences, while beneficiaries are given the opportunity to form meaningful relationships with their peers. I had numerous positive experiences, but I am especially proud of my involvement in the "Digital Literacy (Kolibri) Project", the "Training the Trainer/Teacher Project" and the "One August Smile Project."

If I were to talk about OneAfricanChild and the impact it has made in my life to someone else, I would emphasize the organization's commitment to education and community building. I would highlight the importance of digital literacy in today's world, and the ways in which OneAfricanChild is working to bridge the digital divide. I would also speak about the sense of purpose and fulfillment that comes from being a part of such a passionate and dedicated community of volunteers, and the impact that this organization is having on the lives of young people across Africa.

Overall, OneAfricanChild Foundation has played a significant role in shaping the experiences of volunteers and contributing to their development as global citizens. The organization's focus on education and youth development is critical to improving the lives of African children and youth, and the impact it has had on volunteers is a testament to its success.



VICTOR AKINTAJU



100 Stories of Impact

I discussed my desire to volunteer for an organization in Lagos with a friend, who later introduced me to Tinuola, a volunteer for OAC. I joined OneAfricanChild through Tinuola in October 2019. My first engagement as a volunteer for OAC was during the implementation of the digital literacy program at Tarkwa Bay, a community in Eti-Osa Local Government Area (LGA) of Lagos State. For the first time in my entire life, I had to travel on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. I was intrigued at the experience, and it remained one of the memorable adventures I had with OAC. The Tarkwa Bay project created awareness of digital technology and basic programming skills for primary school pupils.

One thing with OAC programs is that each outreach has its uniqueness and flavors. During my time with OAC, I participated in several outreaches and projects, but the most interesting to me was the commemoration of the Education for Justice initiative that combined three secondary schools together at Apapa, Lagos State. The initiative sought to prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness through educational activities. The most interesting thing to me in the outreach was the team spirit of the volunteers. On that day, I met some other volunteers for the first time, and we bonded as if we had known each other for a long time.

OAC is a family of young individuals who are passionate about the future of quality and creative education in Africa. I met several people in OAC, some of whom I am still in close contact with till date. Tinuola and Osaze were the first set of people I met in OAC. At later times, I met Eyiwumi, Daniel, Lateefat, who became friends thereafter and up till now. The founder of the organization, Victoria Ibiwoye, is a definition of simplicity and professionalism. Her maturity and being approachable is one of the things that makes the organization attracts quite intelligent and creative youths across domains of their operations. She gives opportunity to everyone to learn and grow and would always support her followers in any capacity she could. I am a testament of her benevolence.

OAC is a youth-led organization that is blessed with volunteers who are always passionate about impact and development. The transparency, familyhood, friendliness and yet the professionalism of the organization is rare. OAC gives opportunities to its volunteers to become whom they aspire to be by learning through service. The organization has a culture of diversity and inclusion. This has made it attractive to varieties of talented and creative individuals that are willing to contribute to the prosperous African continent.

OneAfricanChild is one organization I would always love to volunteer for if I have the opportunity. The major reason I could not continue with my volunteering for OAC was my relocation to Abuja and my new job engagements. However, I was baptized into volunteering and giving back to society as my contribution to achieving sustainable development. In this spirit, I started volunteering for Nigerian Global Affairs Policy as a Non-Resident Policy Fellow, where I facilitated data privacy and protection policy amendment in Nigerian. I also led a team that tracked and monitored 10 local government projects in Kano State. I was one of the 20 exemplary young African who were part of the Mastercard's Youth Voices Panel initiative in 2022. I was a chapter champion for "skill for a digital age" them. I also actively participated in discussions that helped in the evaluation of how African youth access and utilize digital technologies.

In February 2022, I started TekSpunk Hub, a hub that prepares teenagers and young adults for the future of work by equipping them with marketable tech skills. This project is with a special emphasis on the female gender in order to bridge gender inequality in the tech ecosystem. On a personal level, I advocate for online and digital safety, and I am currently pursuing a career in cybersecurity and information protection.



VICTOR AKINNIBOSUN



100 Stories of Impact

I never did think beyond myself, my family, or friends. This was the norm, my comfort zone, if you will. This was going to change later in 2017. Earlier that year, in the midst of immersing myself in the tedious experience that was the Nigerian Law School ("NLS"), I had only one goal- to excel. For myself. I had made a few friends at the NLS, one of whom was Pascal. At the time, I hadn't realized that I would later become a volunteer, alongside my friend and start thinking outside of myself.

In the fourth quarter of 2017 after I had finished from the Nigerian Law School, I had seen Pascal share posts about an NGO he volunteered with, OneAfricanChild Foundation for Creative Learning. I was drawn to how happy both he and the other volunteers seemed to be after their outreaches. I could feel the communal bond between them- seemingly different persons from different backgrounds all brought together by one goal, which as Pascal would later explain to me, was to advocate for access to education for children. This warmed my heart, and I was determined to join. I then attended my first meeting in December 2017. Of course, the smiles plastered across the faces of the volunteers which I had earlier seen, was not a façade. I received a warm welcome at my first meeting and was added to the WhatsApp group. I remember thinking to myself, this felt like home. With every meeting and interaction on WhatsApp, I felt the same way.

The outreaches were no different. The volunteers all worked together to make each outreach a success. We visited schools a number of times for our outreaches and suggested modes of making learning more fun for the students. I recall Olamide (or Ola multiply as she was fondly called) would come up with creative ways to explain how the teachers could teach Math. Particularly, I recall an outreach we had at the Command Day Secondary School, Ikeja and I do so clearly because I thoroughly enjoyed the outreach, I even learned a thing or two!

Subsequently, in 2018, when I was appointed as the General Secretary, I was beside myself with excitement. Not only was I part of a community, but I also had the opportunity to do something I also did enjoy. If the Foundation's advocacy efforts inspired me, working as the General Secretary gave me a sense of fulfillment. I thought to myself, this is an opportunity to use my skills and what I love, writing, to contribute to the growth of the organization. Serving in this position made me more conscious of the reason for OAC's advocacy efforts and why it mattered. I began thinking outside myself. And with each task, I saw myself becoming a better version of me.

Currently, I'm completing my LL.M program at the University of Ottawa. I have an interest in advocating for labor rights through writing. I'm convinced it's the OAC effect and for which I am grateful.

Happy Anniversary OAC!



UJU UDE



100 Stories of Impact

"I knew about the founder of OneAfricanChild (OAC) before I learned about the organization. This was through a shared post by one of her followers on Facebook - a post that got me curious to learn more about her. I was inspired to see how a young person like me could be making such a great impact in her community. I should add that I had no plan to be a part of OAC because of location limitations at the time. I unexpectedly moved to Lagos in 2018, and I decided to take the courage to be a part of the organization.

Every outreach group and gathering I had with OAC as a volunteer was a moment of pride and fulfillment because it is an organic gathering of self-determined and positive minded youth. I had numerous positive experiences, but I am very proud of my engagement with the "Digital Literacy (Kolibri) Project." Having the privilege to work weekly with a similar set of students for months and being able to measure progress in the development of the students' cognition was a defining moment for me. I remember the expression of joy from the students at the sight of our arrival on the days of our visitation to the school and the positive report from the school administrator about how our engagement has impacted school attendance. You would expect kids in low-income communities to be this happy only at the sight of a free meal or new resources, which we did not provide them with. Their joy, which was a result of our creative learning engagement with them, made it very easy for me to navigate the stress and challenges that come with operating in Lagos and commuting to their school.

I honed my skills of working with local stakeholders and collaborating with them through my engagement as a volunteer for the organization. The development of this skill and the establishment of these relationships made it a no-brainer for me to organize events in Lagos for any group we were to work with.

When I think of OAC, I see an organization built on an organic structure and rooted in integrity, truce, transparency, and genuineness, with an opportunity to be a part of a trusted process. These are rare attributes to find in the world we live in today. OAC never micromanaged me but rather gave me a chance to find my voice and grow.

OAC is a huge contributor to how I got the opportunity to pursue a self-fulfilling master's program in Sustainable Peacebuilding at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, where I am currently learning and developing my toolbox for sustainable community development.



TINUOLA OLADEBO



100 Stories of Impact

I heard about OAC from my mum, and after a quick google search on the organization, I was sold immediately. I excitedly applied to become a volunteer, and by March 2020, I was an official member. Even though I joined at the start of the pandemic, OAC was fully functional and I could do many things online.

My earliest memory of being assigned a major task as a volunteer with OneAfricanChild was moderating the International Peace Day live session in 2020. It was a beautiful session as we discussed the importance of peace and unity during those difficult times. During Mental Health Awareness Day 2021, I also hosted a live session on 'Tools for a Thriving Child's Mental Health' with clinical psychologists, where we discussed the importance of mental health and how to promote it in young people. This event helped me raise awareness on mental health and educate young people on how to take care of their mental health.

In February 2021, I participated in the OAC Facilitation Masterclass, which equipped me in effective facilitation skills and public speaking knowledge. It was a transformative experience for me. This experience led to one of the projects I am most proud to have worked on with the organization. I was offered the opportunity to co-facilitate a Peace and Resilience Building workshop in partnership with UNESCO-IICBA. This event brought together educators from different places to discuss and find solutions to issues of violent extremism affecting the region. Through this event, we were able to educate and empower young people to become agents of peace and to build resilience in their communities.

I also participated in school visits to raise awareness about several valuable topics among pupils. This experience allowed me to connect with young people and help them understand the importance of education, health, and self-care.

Through my volunteering experience with OAC, I have enhanced my public speaking skills and charisma in delivering compelling presentations. I have also had the opportunity to make new friendships and relationships with people who share the same passion for community development, advocacy, and workforce readiness.

I am proud to be associated with OneAfricanChild because of the organization's commitment to empowering young people and building resilient communities. OAC's vision aligns with my personal values, and I believe that through our collective efforts, we can create positive change in the world.

As a volunteer with OneAfricanChild, I connected the most with Community Development and Advocacy. I have been able to contribute to the development of communities and advocate for the peace and mental wellness of young people. Through my work, I have seen the positive impact that community development and advocacy can have on people's lives, and I am committed to continuing this work in the future.



TENIOLA OLUBODE



100 Stories
of Impact

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT

Upon completing my compulsory youth service program, I arrived in Lagos while actively job hunting. A friend's photo caught my attention, depicting young people donning custom t-shirts and enjoying a beach hangout. As someone who values fun and connecting, I was intrigued and inquired further. Learning about OneAfricanChild Foundation's mission and impact on under-resourced communities resonated deeply with me. Eager to make a difference, I joined their dedicated volunteer team.

Together, we orchestrated educational programs for children in Lagos' underserved neighborhoods. One particularly poignant memory was our 1-day introduction to basic computer skills at Tarkwa Bay community. Discovering that children in a bustling metropolis like Lagos lacked numeracy, literacy, and fundamental computer skills was eye-opening. I vividly recall Oluwaferanmi, a young girl hesitant to even touch the laptop we provided. That moment was a revelation, motivating me to tackle the challenges at hand.

My involvement with OneAfricanChild Foundation significantly influenced my decision to enroll in the esteemed Teach for Nigeria Fellowship. This 2-year leadership development initiative aims to combat educational inequality in Nigeria. Presently, I serve as a Recruitment Associate, assisting in identifying the right talents for the Fellowship. Congratulations on your remarkable 10-year journey, OAC. Your legacy of transforming lives is worth celebrating.



STEPHEN ONWUGALU

Recruitment Associate, Teach for Nigeria.
Empowering Change: My Journey with OneAfricanChild Foundation



100 Stories of Impact

I have been a staunch lover of making an impact since I started my volunteering journey 2012, and even now, I have volunteered with more than 10 organizations home and abroad. The very first time I heard about OneAfricanChild was in 2018 while I was volunteering with 3 organizations at the same time. I thoroughly researched the vision and mission of OAC to see if it was in line with my vision and purpose. I immediately fell in love with the organization as not only was it in line with my goals, it was also a youth-centric organization giving opportunity for African youths to grow.

I applied to be a member 2018 with no positive response and I gave up and also got busy in a tedious research analyst role. However, during the pandemic, December 2020 specifically, I was having a chat with my friend Anu Akindele (Anumerica) after church service (while getting to know each other) and she mentioned that she volunteers at OneAfricanChild. I explained my futile journey of applying to be a member and 'voila' she linked Victoria Ibiwoye and I via phone call and since then I have been a member of OAC.

Meeting Victoria, the outstanding volunteers who work with OAC and the work we do there has been one of my major highlights as I had never felt so fulfilled with myself after every outreach, meeting and one-one chats with Victoria and the OAC family. I have built a hub/backbone of friends, buddies and intellectuals (Doyin, Anu, Blessing, Tomiwa, Dotun, Olamultiply, Ore, Justina, just to mention a few) that I can easily run to for ideas and advice when needed, and they have always been there for me.

Recently, I got admitted to the University of Birmingham to study MSc International Development. This was possible because of God's grace, some of the impacts I had harnessed from volunteering with OAC and Victoria's reference. Not only was I offered admission to a Russell group (Ivy League) school, I was given a part scholarship to further and I'm enjoying every bit of it.

Furthermore, during my studies, I had the nudge to establish an organization here in the United Kingdom (working with refugees with disabilities). The organization was to fulfill a passion that got me into the development world. I had spoken to some of my lecturers but I needed to hear from someone within my age group. I reached out to Victoria about my fear(s) of starting something new and unique in a different country. She gave me the best advice to just start and that things would fall in place as I go on. Yes, things are really beginning to align for me as I and my team started running with her advice. With the advice and her strategies, she shared, I was able to get the CEO of one of the world's leading fundraising NGOs to serve as our patron. Her reassurance and zeal in running OneAfricanChild was what pushed me to start my very own organization and I would always be grateful for these connections (of people) OAC has gifted me with.

My prayer for OneAfricanChild is that it would surpass the highest height ever thought of. Very soon OneAfricanChild would be competing with international organizations such as Plan International, Education for all, The Education Trust, Oxfam etc. in impact and influence.

Cheers to the start of a new decade. Happy Anniversary.



SEUNFUNMI OYENIYA



100 Stories of Impact

When I think about OAC, I think about friends that have become family. I got to know about OneAfricanChild from Victoria when we were in the University as undergraduates in 2013. She mentioned she was starting an NGO, she gave me the membership form which I filled immediately. I became very active from 2015/2016 thereafter and it's been a very lovely journey of growth. Every program that I did with other wonderful volunteers in OAC was a reminder to look inward and be selfless. I learnt to push myself to grow, to read more, to think about other people and also think about the world by painting a big picture, where we can provide solutions as a collective, one child at a time.

I was privileged to be a part of many programs that OAC organized and a couple stood out for me. The Teachers Training: we were empowered to train communities of teachers/educators, first by being a better facilitator ourselves via the ESD training for the volunteers. Growing up, our teachers poured so much into us and they are a big part of who we are today. I remember the training with the teachers at Military Cantonment in Lagos, they were so impressed with our facilitating skills and were eager to learn about learning disorders and social skills such as empathy, as well as red flags an educator should look out for in a child. It was a life-changing moment for me as a volunteer because they asked us to please come again and they were ready to pay for certificates for the training they received. This was the first time OAC printed certificates for our teachers training. I think my heart grew a little larger while we did the #TrainTheTeachers program. I applaud the curriculum development team for their fantastic work. The head teacher of this school is a wonderful friend till date.

Also, another event would be one of our programs at Tarkwa Bay Lagos before it was demolished. We had a number of events there, we took books, school bags and other educational materials which were shared to a large number of children in the community. As a team we made donations, bought and shared these materials to children in the community. A handful of them have never been in the four walls of a classroom, they asked questions and it was such a delight to see our volunteers provide answers to parents, teachers and children in the community.

In addition, because of OneAfricanChild, I have been able to learn servant leadership skills, I have made friends and superb connections that I will cherish for the rest of my life. OAC gives a platform to explore, think outside the box always and to reach out for more.

Finally, my very first international trip was through OAC, I am forever grateful for that opportunity to hone my skills as a facilitator/African educator. My take-home from that trip is still very relevant in my professional growth today. One of the very wonderful things about OAC is that there is a transparent structure, every information is made readily available by the management to volunteers, everyone is treated fair and equal, ideas are welcome, validated and encouraged. The advocacy, friendship and commitment I felt while serving OAC are priceless. I just want to thank this wonderful organization for such an incredible opportunity. Currently, I work as a clinical psychologist in Lagos. Skills such as empathy, collaboration and readiness are wonderful skills I worked on as a volunteer, and they have been very helpful in my professional development. I want to say congratulations to OAC on this magnificent milestone of 10 years!!! This is going to be the start of something new. Thank you.



SEUNARA ILUPEJU



100 Stories of Impact

In 2013, I stumbled upon OneAfricanChild Foundation (OAC) on the Founder's Facebook page, Mrs Victoria, where I learned about the organization's commendable work in providing underprivileged children with quality education. Being someone who has always been passionate about contributing to social impact groups that aim to improve the lives of children and women in low-income communities, I was immediately intrigued.

Two years later, I applied to volunteer and was thrilled to be accepted. OAC provided me with exceptional training and coaching opportunities, which helped me maximize my skills and talents and transformed me into a leader who can positively impact the community. I underwent six months of intensive training with other prospective volunteers under the guidance of Habeeb Kolade, Victoria Ibiwoye, and Ray Ndebi.

In 2016, I and other remarkable volunteers started the Kwara Region, and that was when the amazing impact story that has helped over 10 communities, 5,000 children, 300 teachers, and 2,000 tertiary institution students in Kwara State began to unfold. The organization's vision originated from a lady with two kids from the streets of Lagos and has helped thousands of people across Africa find their purpose while supporting their communities through quality education, peace, resilience building, and sustainable development.

Over the past eight years, I've taken on various leadership roles in OAC, such as Regional Director, Global Program Director, and Training Director. These experiences have helped shape my leadership skills and values and prepared me for diverse opportunities to impact my community and Africa at large. Moreover, my training experience working with OAC has honed my facilitation and public speaking skills, as I had the privilege to train and facilitate sessions with international organizations like UNESCO, NATCOM UNESCO, UNODC, and USIP on Education for Justice (E4J), Peace, Resilience Building, Prevention of Violence Extremism, Peace for Change, and Education for Sustainable Development. As a young person, I have also had the opportunity to work with academia, a representative from the Ministry Of Education, teachers, and children.

Every outreach program in OAC has been memorable and impactful, making it hard to choose one that stands out. I am always amazed by the support I receive from my team members and team leads, who ensure that I learn as much as possible and provide a platform for me to be my best while building valuable friendships within the organization. My experience with OAC has been transformational. I will always be grateful for the opportunities it has provided me to serve others, work with diverse youth, train teachers and educators across Africa, grow as a leader, and positively impact my community.



SEGUN OKEOWO



100 Stories of Impact

My first outing with OAC was to Abadina College within the University of Ibadan (UI), in 2014. A few days before, a friend had introduced me to OAC. The message was clear: OAC is an opportunity to make a difference within the immediate society. The decision to join was easy as I had been a beneficiary of such goodwill and drive to make things better.

I recall how we gathered at the apartment of one of us at Ebrohime road in UI, where I purchased my first OAC T-Shirt. The session at Abadina College was inspiring, as we encouraged the kids to be the best they could be. We later visited other schools and held more programs in Ibadan.

After graduating from the University, I continued with OAC in Lagos, and it has been a fun journey ever since. The outreaches in different parts of Lagos have been fulfilling. I will never forget the Children's Day event we had in Ajegunle, Lagos in 2016. We had gone to the community to celebrate the day with the eager and enthusiastic kids. The session was eventful as we shared some lessons and gifts and had general games. At some point, I engaged a couple of the children and asked the common questions adults ask kids - what would you like to be in the future? The response was not the usual shouts of pilot, doctor, lawyer, etc., but instead, I heard tailor, hairdresser. I was worried, not because we don't have successful fashion designers and hairdressers, but because I knew their reason for wanting to be those things was because they had not been exposed to more. It made me realize how much work needs to be done at the grassroots level to ensure that young ones get the right kind of information and motivation.

OAC has provided a platform for me to impact lives and do things I may have only thought of but probably never did. Even as I write this, I am reflecting on how much more work needs to be done, and how I need to play my part. It was first at OAC that I came to understand learning disabilities and how to manage them when dealing with learners. I have applied these lessons in many other settings. I have also met great people who have become lifelong friends!

OAC has forged on, making a huge impact across Africa, regardless of whether people were cheering or not. I have much respect for our founder, Victoria. Her remarkable consistency and unwavering commitment to OAC are inspiring. It is through her tireless efforts, and those of other leaders, that the organization has grown into the success it is today. OneAfricanChild is a testament that positive change is possible when we commit to it. As we celebrate the 10th anniversary, I look forward to seeing more lives changed and more chapters in Nigeria, across Africa, and beyond. Who knows? Maybe one day we'll have to change the name to OneContinentalChild!



PASCAL EKEH



100 Stories of Impact

I joined OAC in 2013. Victoria had invited me and a few other friends to her apartment on the campus of University of Ibadan. At the intimate event, she informed us of how she has been working assiduously on her new brainchild, OneAfricanChild Foundation, and all the amazing plans she has for the organization. She spoke with so much passion and enthusiasm and I was instantly sold. I saw an opportunity to contribute my quota to the development of the African youth population and I couldn't refuse. I picked up a membership form and joined the OAC train.

While at OAC, I served as the Head of Research. I was privileged to be on the frontlines in the battle against illiteracy in Africa. I participated in numerous projects and supported many outreaches. One of the fondest memories of my time at OAC is the visit to one of the orphanages in Ibadan back in 2013. It was special because that was the organization's first outing - I think, but what made it even more remarkable was that it was also my first time at an orphanage. Scenes from that event still replay randomly in my head till this day. Those kids despite having been dealt a bad hand by fate were resilient and determined to overcome every obstacle and succeed. They were gleeful and full of life. There was so much positivity in the room. The conversation I had with the kids changed my worldview and my outlook on life in general. I realised that I have been very ungrateful and have always complained about the things I didn't have, rather than focusing on all the positives in my life. I learned a very valuable life lesson from that trip.

Volunteering at OAC has been an incredibly rewarding experience, not only because of the meaningful impact we create but also because it has brought some of the most wonderful people into my life. Collaborating towards a common mission and sharing a passion for making a positive difference has fostered a unique sense of camaraderie among us. Through our shared dedication and commitment, I have formed lasting friendships with like-minded individuals who understand the true value of giving back to the community. These life-long amazing friends and connections extend beyond OAC, as we continue to support and inspire each other even after working hours. Together, we have created a strong network of compassion, empathy, and shared values, making my journey at the non-profit both fulfilling and enriched by the bonds we've forged.

Although my life has been increasingly occupied with the ever-evolving world of technology lately, volunteering still remains an integral part of who I am. The experiences and connections I've made through volunteering at OneAfricanChild Foundation have profoundly shaped my perspective and instilled in me a deep sense of responsibility to give back to others. I will always be a life-long member of OneAfricanChild Foundation and I encourage anyone thinking about joining to pick up the form and join the train like I did back in 2013.



PARTRICK SHONIBARE



100 Stories of Impact

Volunteering at OAC has been an incredibly rewarding and fulfilling experience for me. I joined the organization in the early days, and the journey has been nothing short of amazing. As someone who is passionate about education and the power it holds to transform lives, being able to contribute to an organization that is dedicated to this cause has been truly fulfilling.

Through my volunteer work, I've had the opportunity to work with students and teachers from diverse backgrounds, many from low-income communities and facing significant barriers to accessing quality education. It has been inspiring to see their enthusiasm and determination to learn, despite the challenges they face.

As a volunteer, I've had the chance to provide mentorship and support to these students, helping them to develop their skills and achieve their goals. It has been incredibly gratifying to see their progress over time, and to know that I have played a small role in helping them on their educational journey.

This experience has also had a significant impact on me. It developed my self-confidence and sense of ownership for creating change no matter how little. It also opened me to opportunities and partnerships with local and international organizations. I am always proud to say I have been privileged to plan and implement projects focused on peacebuilding, quality education, global citizenship education, and the sustainable development goals. As a current graduate student with a teaching assistantship, I can proudly say that the experiences I gathered from OAC have helped me navigate my role and better interact with my students.

Overall, volunteering with OAC has been a transformative experience for me. It has given me a sense of purpose and fulfillment and has helped me to make a positive impact in the lives of others. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be part of the organization, and I am proud of how far we have come, and look forward to more impact, growth, and progress.



OYINDAMOLA OSENI



100 Stories of Impact

My earliest memories of volunteering with OAC go back to 2013. At that time, I was looking for organizations I could volunteer with besides those I supported. So, in 2013, I reached out to Victoria via Twitter and said "you're doing a fantastic job and I would like to work with you. I want to volunteer with your organization". And that started my journey with OneAfricanChild. Since then, I have been privileged to support different projects and contribute to other activities that OAC organizes. It has been an enormous pleasure having to work with not just Victoria, but with everyone in the team. For example, I remember being part of some of the brainstorming meetings that OAC organized in Ikeja and Ibadan. It was an excellent opportunity to bring young people together to work towards the same goal, a shared vision and understanding of what it means to contribute to the development of young people in Nigeria.

The outreach I participated in and am most proud of is the school building project. That resonated because I had previously supported a primary school somewhere in Ikeja, and I understood the state in which government schools are, the challenges children public schools face and how minimal attention is given to them. As a result, I was determined to contribute my quota to ensure this project was a success. Of course, I understand that financial contributions go a long way in pushing projects. Still, I also know that the organization needs ambassadors, advocates, cheerleaders, and supporters beyond monetary donations to push its agenda. This is why seeing that we can build structures and put in infrastructure that would make teaching and learning a lot easier for teachers and students is critical. With and in the right environment, children can learn, grow, and expand their minds and creativity. This has a substantial impact on the lives of young people.

Another outreach that I am most proud of, which I would not call an outreach, is creating opportunities for the members of OAC. I do not take this for granted because I have been privileged to be in spaces or environments that allow me to extend opportunities to young people and members of fantastic organizations like OneAfricanChild. As a result of my work with UNESCO, I was able to extend opportunities for members of OAC to attend training workshops and capacity-building programs that focus on preventing violent extremism, youth empowerment and broadly on education. I'm really proud of the fact that I can extend such opportunities. I believe in opening doors for others to walk through and sending the ladder down for others to climb up. My mantra is "Your greatness is my greatness" because we must push the ideology of collaboration, not competition. We need each other to grow. We need each other to harness all the opportunities that are available

Through OAC, I have built and nurtured new friendships starting with Victoria, who is the founder. We have been friends for 10 years, which I am proud and grateful for. I have also built friendships with other people at OAC, like Segun, Blessing and other members of OAC, who are such a wonderful group of people and are doing amazing things for which I am grateful.

I am proud to be associated with OneAfricanChild because of the passion, drive, enthusiasm, and zeal that I see, not just from Victoria as the founder, but every member of OAC. It is infectious! It does not just spur you to want to be great or to be good at what you do; it shows you that, as young people, we can take a stand not just to be good, but we can take a step to drive change, development, and empowerment of our communities. For this reason, I am proud of OAC as an organization. I am proud of the young people dedicating their time and resources to changing people's lives. It is not something that I take lightly. It is something that I hold dear, and for that, I am proud to be associated with an organization like this. I am pleased to be a supporter of the energetic young people who can say that they are changing the future of education in Africa. Since my time volunteering with OAC, I have gone on to complete my master's program at the university and I have been privileged to take on different roles both with the UN as well as the AU.

My impact story connects to the team's advocacy for community development, workforce readiness, friendship, and community in global exposure. I can see that from my engagement with OAC, I have found all these different elements in one place and in one space, and I am grateful for that.



UJU SILVER



100 Stories of Impact

I first heard about OAC from Victoria through social media, probably Facebook in 2016, this was around my first year in university. What really got me interested was seeing Victoria as the founder. It was fascinating that someone from my secondary school was doing something so impactful and meaningful, combining it with a law degree. So, I started following the organization then until I eventually joined in April 2017, and it was one of the best decisions I ever made.

OAC made me care about my community as it is through building the communities closest to us that we make the most impact in the world. The experience with the organization was rewarding and skills learned, and relationships built are ones I value till this day.

The project I am most proud of was also one the last major OAC project I was a part of and that was the Peace for Change Workshop in partnership with UNESCO-IICBA that happened in Lagos in March 2021. The workshop involved youth leaders, educators, trainers, teachers etc. The workshop had many aspects including how educators can use storytelling to not only promote peace but also infuse it in their daily activities as educators. Participants were also introduced to the dangers of a single story and how not getting different perspectives can be dangerous. The workshop was a success, and the participants were encouraged to use the lessons learnt to impact their students. As a part of the media team, it was a great experience capturing moments of the event and sharing it on social media platforms.

Through my involvement with the organization, I have learnt not only how to become a better leader but also the value of teamwork. I have also built great relationships with members of the organization that I consider lifelong friends. My experience with OAC has been a huge factor in my educational, professional, and social life. I couldn't imagine what my life would be like without making the decision to volunteer for OAC.

I am currently a master's student in Computer Science rounding up my degree this year. My association with OAC was very helpful in gaining my admission and I believe it would also be useful when I apply for jobs in this part of the world.

As joining the organization was one of my best decisions, leaving OAC at the end of 2021 was one of the toughest decisions I had to make.

In a world where it seems the issues are never-ending; it is inspiring to see that OAC is still steadfast in its mission for community-building, and I am reminded that no impact is too small. Thank you, Victoria, for creating a special community of people that cares about making an impact in their communities.

Happy Anniversary OneAfricanChild!!!



TEMIDIRE BALOGUN



100 Stories of Impact

My first encounter with OneAfricanChild (OAC) was during a collaborative visit by OAC and my then undergraduate hall of residence, Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall (popularly known as Zik Hall) to Jesus Children Missions Home (JCMH, Ibadan). The event was part of the 50th anniversary Hall Week activities, and I was excited to partake in putting a smile on the faces of kids, while also helping take pictures for the Hall Week activities. It was impressive to see how OAC related with the kids and I got more insight into OAC activities through further discussion with the representatives at the event.

Gladly, I joined the organization and it's been an exciting journey for me ever since. Working with like-minded people to contribute to the development of society through creative outreaches aimed particularly at educational development. In the process of being involved, personal skills have also been harnessed and developed practically, along with the organization's effort at developing member skills and capacity.

One memorable outreach for me was the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) awareness creation programs while I was an undergraduate student at Ibadan. The preparation and execution of this outreach improved my awareness of the targets to guide countries toward a sustainable education agenda. Another memorable outreach was a sport-themed outreach with OAC Kwara (another impressive feat for me was the geographical reach of the organization across States in Nigeria and beyond), during which sport activities were used to teach life and social skills. The participating kids found this really engaging and it was unique from the usual formal classroom education setting.

My involvement with OAC has also improved my advocacy for education. Whenever I get the chance to suggest community activities in any organization or environment I find myself, educational development for kids typically tops my list. One example of such is the spelling bee contest I suggested to my church for the kids in the community which yielded a high turnout and is still being practiced annually.

Society and human capital development is a continuous effort requiring all hands-on deck. The efforts by team OAC go a long way in filling the existing gap in several parts of the world and I strongly believe there are greater things to achieve as an organization. Thank you OAC and thank you Victoria for running with this vision.



TEMIDAYO SANGOYOMI



100 Stories of Impact

It was in November 2013, when a young lady named Victoria Ibiwoye contacted me online, asking if I would be interested in being part of her organization called OneAfricanChild. She quickly stated the goals, and I remember having said yes before even knowing what the whole thing was. When I hear “children”, I’m immediately in, that’s why I joined this group. Hey, I knew nothing about Victoria either.

I discovered a lot of wonderful people. So many great minds starting with Victoria, then Tobi, Daniel, Prof X, Elizabeth A., Jeffrey K, Constant, Takondwa, Bolaji, Tosin, Henrietta, Osho. I can list the whole organization.

Samuel Osho and I worked for years in a Literary group, Kreativ Diadem. Victoria is just my sister. I visited Constant Odounfa in Cotonou where I had some creative writing workshops. I keep following many volunteers’ activities online. I took part in all activities, from Cameroon, As Head of Communication. I followed everything through pictures, videos, live discussions and also reports. I remember the two activities held early in July 2017 simultaneously with children in Kenya (OAC Kenya) at Mukuru Promotion center, and in Nigeria (OAC Lagos) at Abiola Crescent, Ikeja.

This day remains in my mind, for I discovered Mukuru and the conditions in which children lived, and how a lot finally found themselves in the hands of illegal and harmful activities. That part of Nairobi deserved special attention and our Kenya chapter did well to visit MPC and show OAC’s interest for that particular community. Children in Nairobi and Lagos felt special that day as OAC visiting them shed a living hope in their lives.

My pride with OAC is CHILDREN. I love children, especially when they feel the world is at their call; OneAfricanChild is the first family that gave me the opportunity to look closely at their needs, to feel their struggle, and strive from my end to be part of a smile-drawing journey.

Before OAC, I was more intellectual, thinking about how society would be better with adults. Now, I’m more about how children will receive what is written, and mostly how they’re considered by writers, translators and other book artists. And authors are becoming better humans, thanks to the methods I’m developing based on children’s perspectives and hopes.

Since OAC, I’ve been Vice-president of Promise Africa, another NGO working to protect vulnerable children, especially young women. As a Creative writing and reading mentor, I’m having a lot of masterclasses across Africa and those that make me think twice before they start, are those with children. They are the essence of creativity and the support of my research.

I created a successful creativity group (Ônoan), I’m the coach and agent of award-winning authors, coach of successful book promoters and spoken word artists... There is much to say, and much more to come.



RENE NDEBI



100 Stories of Impact

I am a Kenyan by birth, living in the old South Nyanza province, Migori County. I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Mount Kenya University and a certified Alternative to violence Trainer (AVP), a community mobilizer who is committed to peace, education and gender equity.

My life has always revolved around community service for the last nine years serving in Kenya and east Africa. I Joined OAC as a facilitator during the youth peace and resilience building conference which was organized in collaboration with UNESCO and I was attracted to the vision and the mission of OAC and I joined.

I have written two proposals which have been successfully implemented: the mentorship program, peace and leadership forum which was implemented in Kisumu city, Kenya. A city that is known to be facing electoral conflict after every electioneering period. I have participated in UNESCO's Youth Peace and resilience building event in Nairobi city, two school visitations at St. Timon's Rabondo Mixed secondary school in the outskirts of Migori County. With our visitations and constantly mentoring the boys and girls on career, academics, sexual reproductive health and rights, menstrual hygiene management, reduced teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. The school has recorded good performances' taking over one hundred students directly to the university.

I have also participated in countless webinars, online events and talks hence, my connections and friendship circles have widened, having numerous friends from Kwara, Ibadan and Lagos Nigeria; Meru, Nairobi, Kisumu and Kilifi Kenya. I haven't met most OAC members especially from Nigeria but this place has been a home to me as members and leaders are friendly, approachable and are always there to guide where necessary. I am proud to be here because OAC touches the lives of African children and the communities.

I am fully committed to see OAC Kenya fully registered and running no-matter what it takes, working together with both Kenyan and international members. I am proudly serving in the programs committee, curriculum and as a Kenyan regional coordinator II.



RAILA OPANY



100 Stories of Impact

My impact story is hinged on Community Development and Self Development. One of the best decisions I have made in the last three years was joining OneAfricanChild Foundation. I joined OAC in 2021 and so far I can say I found a new pathway to success.

I learnt about OAC from one of my elder sisters, Hanifat Balogun and I haven't regretted my decision to volunteer for this organization. Volunteering for OAC is what I enjoy so much, ranging from getting to attend the Peace and Resilience building workshop to GAA Alanu project and the most interesting part is the school visitations.

The peace and resilience building workshop opened me up to a lot of challenges we face as individuals and as educators and one of them is Violent Extremism. This workshop enlightened me on the root causes of Violent extremism expressed by individuals and the prevention strategies. Also, I loved the school visitations where we were able to speak to pupils about building self-esteem which is an important topic considering that people face the self-esteem challenges even at the University level today and one of ways we can curb this is by instilling the standards of good self-esteem in these children and I'm glad to be part of this project

My experience so far has been wonderful and I hope this coming year, I'll be able to do more for OAC and my community.

of making a difference



RAHMAT BALOGUN



100 Stories of Impact

I got to know about OneAfricanChild (OAC) in January 2022 through a former colleague, who is also the legal personnel at OAC. The opportunity for me to join this group of world changers came when I needed it most, I had just temporarily relocated to Ibadan on a work secondment. This location barrier posed a challenge to my active participation in the activities of the other NGO I belonged to in Lagos, hence, a need to join an educational-led NGO within my new location.

I, therefore, became a volunteer member of OAC in February 2022, this was shortly after undergoing the OAC membership screening and orientation where I discussed my passion for contributing to educational development in Nigeria including my long-term goals with Olatomiwa Olusesi (the former program coordinator) for OAC Ibadan chapter.

Since joining OAC, I have experienced first-hand what community development truly entails, it is about building communities where every member is empowered to contribute to the effective functioning of their communities. OAC has been strategic by being committed to ensuring that no child is left behind. The foundation is keen on building "quality" by making a lasting impact on every child through her community engagements. The goal of this is to see these young folks grow to become agents of change in their communities now and in the future.

Through the different school outreaches I have participated in, such as that at Estate High School Akobo in Ibadan, where we trained more than 50 students on active listening. The session with the students and the school management opened my eyes to the unique curriculum OAC provides as it holistically addresses different educational struggles young people are faced with, especially in building self-esteem, relationships, communication, and active listening among others.

Today, I am a proud volunteer member of OAC not just because of the numerous impacts she has made over the years; but most importantly, because I am a beneficiary of the educational course we promote. Through OAC, I have connected with a lot of like minds and built a better professional network.

Functioning within the curriculum development unit of OAC is one of my major achievements. Through the educational research and collaboration, I'm committed to at OAC, I have gained a broader perspective on curriculum development, especially for students at Junior high school levels. This experience has further helped me to explain different educational subject matters in simple and detailed forms to meet the needs of young people.

Through the community development experience I have gathered at OAC, I have further seen the need to continue to promote the work of the NGO and impact the lives of young people globally.



OLUWATOYIN FAVOUR OGUNESO



100 Stories of Impact

A friend invited me to a welfare outreach at an orphanage in February 2014, which little did I know would alter the course of my life. It was my first interaction with OneAfricanChild, and I joined immediately after the outreach, marking the beginning of an exciting and incredibly fulfilling experience. Joining OAC had a significant impact on my life in three ways.

Firstly, it provided me with a purpose. As an undergraduate in my third year at the University of Ibadan, I was clueless about what I was meant to do or what I was called for. I was simply passing through life at that time. However, visiting the orphanage changed all that when I met children who needed very little to have a better life. That experience sparked something in me that I never knew existed – the desire to serve others. Service has since become the driving force of my life, and I might never have discovered this path without OAC.

As program manager, I witnessed impossible feats of courage that fuelled the implementation of some of our programs. For example, sometime in 2015, we embarked on a children's day program to celebrate children in low-income communities around the University of Ibadan. We sent out invitations and secured a space and a major sponsor. We were excited and ready to have a great time. However, a day before the event, the major sponsor withdrew because of a miscommunication. We were devastated but decided to go ahead with the event.

We came together, pooled resources, sought help, and spent all night planning a modified version of the event. As morning came, we had made significant progress and were delighted. As students arrived, and we were scheduled to begin, it started raining. We were using a field, so it was hell. All our hard work was about to be ruined until something magical happened. One by one volunteers stepped out into the rain and mud engaging the children until the rain subsided. The children were elated, and we had a successful event. It was unbelievable and reinforced this belief that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world and I have sought to be one of those people everywhere I find myself.

Recently, I was admitted to a master's program to study Social Entrepreneurship at the University of Southern California. This achievement would not have been possible without OAC. From Blessing, who challenged me to apply and shared opportunities with me, to Victoria's recommendation, I found support in my OAC community. This has been true throughout my journey in OAC, even after I left. The friendship and community have inspired, supported, and provided comfort in trying times, and I am grateful.

It has been almost ten years since I visited the orphanage, and looking back, the people and communities I have impacted would not have been possible without OAC.



OLUWATOSIN OGUNSANYA



100 Stories of Impact

I joined OAC in 2020. The pandemic started, and the whole world was on lockdown. I didn't want to stay idle; I saw the call for membership on a contact's WhatsApp status. I decided to apply because I love anything SDG 4, and I am an ardent advocate for it. My aim for joining was to also build myself and make lifelong connections while helping the organization achieve its mission and vision.

Since 2020, I have visited many schools with OAC: Temitope Primary School, First Baptist Primary School, Isrina Schools, and many more. However, the experience that stood out was the OAC Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) program at Isrina Schools. I learned the importance of training for teachers/educators as they are fundamental to guaranteeing quality education. Students will have proper education if a teacher is empowered with the necessary resources and is adequately motivated. I have made meaningful friendships and long-life connections with other members of OAC. OAC is a community; we love and look out for each other while we carry out our primary assignments. I have privately contacted some members when I needed materials and advice on a new career path that I wanted to venture into due to their expertise in that field.

I am proud to be part of OAC because I have grown since joining the organization. It has increased my interest in SDG. The organization has also created a pool of opportunities for its members. OAC has given me the right dose of self-confidence that is important for me to develop skills and interact with people in my immediate community. OAC is a platform that gives you a tremendous and vast knowledge of what social impact is. We also have fun, interact, and engage while ensuring quality, equitable, and inclusive education for all African children.

I have been able to attend international workshops and conferences because of OAC. Also, as a member of OAC, I have facilitated the UNESCO-IICBA peace workshop in Lagos. I have applied the knowledge gained from outreaches and meetings in OAC in other organizations I volunteer with, which has distinguished me from others. OAC has challenged me to be better and try out new opportunities.



OLUWAPELUMI OJO



100 Stories of Impact

OneAfricanChild is one of the first organizations I ever volunteered with. I joined because I was interested in contributing to causes that empower African children through quality education. I was doing my undergrad and discovered via one of my courses that some children had learning disabilities that were not really catered to in everyday schools. When I talked about my interest online, someone responded and recommended OneAfricanChild. It's been 4 years now and being part of OneAfricanChild has definitely been one of my most fulfilling affiliations. The questions I had about how educational strategies can be implemented to cater to learning differences and challenges in children were answered in one of the first Teacher's Trainings I attended. During the training, we discussed the importance of focusing on learning styles in education, and that made a lot of sense to me. I learned that teaching should focus on catering to the individual learning styles and needs of students, instead of following a one-size-fits-all approach. This realization has stuck with me since then, and I've been able to apply it in the teaching roles I've taken up in the past few months.

I have to express, with great enthusiasm, that it has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to positively impact the lives of the children we've worked with at OneAfricanChild by simply allowing them to experience their basic rights to quality education. In this regard, the work at the Gaa Alaanu Creative Learning center—where classrooms, equipped with learning materials, were constructed for the dilapidated school in a rural community in Kwara State—was particularly meaningful to me. While creating flyers for the project, I was inspired by how the initiative forever changed the narrative of children in that community. For the first time, they too could learn and grow in an educational environment that was conducive to their development, just like their peers in more privileged communities. Choosing the pictures to use on the flyers was a bit of a challenge, because all their smiling faces were so beautiful and deserved to be shown to the world. The experience has been the most rewarding one that I've had at OneAfricanChild.

Beyond this, it has also been great to work with vibrant youths who are keen on contributing to causes that allow children with different learning needs and from underprivileged communities to have access to quality education. I continue to be inspired by all their achievements. While I learn from them, I also aspire to be as driven and knowledgeable as the youths of OneAfricanChild. I remember having a mindset shift after attending a Zoom meeting last year when we discussed mentorship. The people who spoke gave great mentorship advice. It's something I've thought of, but never had the confidence to do, with the excuse that I was also still learning. I resolved to have a mindset (and action) shift. It took a significant amount of time (and is still a work in progress). However, I've now been in three different hands-on mentorship positions that have been all fulfilling. I've been a member of OAC since 2018, and it has been a meaningful experience. I joined while schooling in Lagos. As a writer, I mostly volunteered with that skill. So, I contributed to creating a proposal and wrote minutes for a couple of meetings. When I moved cities during my NYSC—from Lagos to Ibadan—I switched to OAC Ibadan. There, I had the opportunity to do a One August Smile project; a session on cybersecurity for secondary schools' students. When I moved back to Lagos, I rejoined OAC Lagos. By this time, I had added design to my skill set and was eager to use it to add value to the organizations that I was a part of. As a member of the Media Team, I helped design our quarterly newsletters and upload/publish them on Mailchimp; an experience I really enjoyed because I got to learn new skills and tools. In addition, I had the well appreciated opportunity to design a handbook for the organization. While all of these allowed me to make an impact in the community, it also helped me significantly grow my design skills. OneAfricanChild has provided me with great understanding of how small-scale contributions and solutions provided to educational challenges can add up to make a huge impact. The outreaches and school visitations are only one part of the story. The community is strong because it strengthens its members through trainings, opportunities to volunteer, and the provision of relevant growth resources. All of this makes it possible to sustainably provide quality trainings for teachers, uplift children from low, and contribute to the cause to provide quality education for underprivileged African children. I look forward to continuing to be a part of this impactful community and contributing to the mission of providing quality education for every African child.

A portrait of Olamide Williams, a young woman with dark skin and braided hair, smiling. She is wearing a white lace-trimmed top. The background is a solid light green.

OLAMIDE WILLIAMS



100 Stories of Impact

I have been a volunteer at OneAfricanChild (OAC) since 2021, contributing my efforts to fostering child education and impacting values in young children across Africa. As we celebrate the 10-year milestone of OAC's service, I am deeply honoured to be a part.

Throughout my journey with OAC, I have had the incredible opportunity to participate in various outreach programs at different primary and secondary schools. These experiences have allowed me to engage in one-on-one conversations with the beautiful school children and actively contribute to after school programs. Witnessing the eagerness to learn and the enthusiasm of these young minds has been truly heartwarming and inspiring.

What sets OAC apart is the amazing community it has built—a community of passionate and friendly individuals who share a common goal: to empower Africa and nurture its growth into a successful place. The sense of camaraderie and dedication among the volunteers is unparalleled, making me feel like I belong to a family that is working towards a brighter future for Africa.

Being part of this transformative community has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I take great pride in the remarkable achievements that OAC has accomplished over the past 10 years. From fostering child education to instilling important values in young hearts, the impact of OAC's work is truly significant and far-reaching. I am dedicated to continuing my journey as a volunteer, driving positive change, and creating a lasting impact in the lives of the children we serve.

As we celebrate OAC's 10 years of service, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire organization, its founders, volunteers, and partners who have made this journey possible. Together, we are sowing the seeds of knowledge, compassion, and empowerment that will shape the future of Africa.



UGWUANI NMESOMA



100 Stories of Impact

I have always loved giving back to my community, but I never really had a good 'WHY'. It was this zeal that made me join OneAfricanChild Foundation. Upon joining I became more enlightened on the topic of Global citizenship and I was able to define and hone my why. Today, my business thrives upon that very why and is continuing to grow.

I cannot talk about my training in leadership without mentioning OAC. We were always having series of trainings and outreaches and that helped me in 2 ways:

I was able to learn and practice the art of facilitation and the planning of corporate events, from watching others and helping out as often as I could. Also, My mind was also opened up to the realities that other people live in and I was even more inspired to be the change my world needs.

Overtime in my different roles on different projects, my colleagues and bosses never failed to talk about how resourceful I am. This is because I always knew the best person for the job or always had a link to someone who could get the job done. Most of these 'resources' are people I met at OAC. Personally, I have also benefited from the relationships OAC gifted me. I owe a good chunk of my rich network of friends to OAC.

I have also watched my sisters, who joined OAC through, grow from timid to Audacious in a matter of months. I saw them display leadership skills amongst others and it just speaks to the fact that OAC is a place where you are given the platform to grow and open your mind to how things are done globally. I am glad I joined OAC when I did, and Yes, OAC isn't just changing the world around, the change is starting from within and that I believe is the most commendable thing.



OLUWAPELUMI LAWAL AKINTAN



100 Stories of Impact

When I think of several aspects of my life, I can't help but be grateful for the role OneAfricanChild Foundation for Creative Learning has played in making me who I am today. I joined OAC on the 5th of February 2016 when I accompanied a friend to a literacy event OAC had in partnership with Young Protege Leadership Foundation at Metamorphosis College, Mowe, Ogun State. I enjoyed every part of it and I decided to join OAC so I can be a part of an organization that contributes to quality education in Africa.

I have so many beautiful memories of my time in OAC till date. I most particularly love the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) training that we had for the volunteers and educators. OAC is passionate about empowering educators with necessary skills that will help them to instill value in the children they teach, both academically and non-academically. I am so glad that I am privileged to serve as a volunteer in OAC and carry out some projects in some schools in Nigeria.

I remember the project we had on World Read Aloud Day 2016 at Asoland College, Lagos. Some other schools and communities I remember that we have visited for projects are Maryland School, King's Crown Children School, Ajegunle, Tarkwa Bay, NASFAT School Iyana-Ipaja and many more. I have been privileged to facilitate some sessions at the schools we have visited and it warms my heart every time to see the large number of children that benefit from the great work that OAC does in advocating for Quality Education.

OneAfricanChild Foundation has also helped me grow my network. I have met amazing people and formed meaningful relationships from OAC. I have friends and volunteers that I relate with often like Victoria Ibiwoye, Bukola Adeboye, Blessing Akpevwe, Pascal Ekeh, Temitope Arise, Damilare Adenola, Olalekan Oseni, Olamide Akintolu, Isaac Osuntuyi, Oyindamola Oseni etc.

Most of the soft skills I have today, such as Critical Thinking, Emotional Intelligence, Leadership, amongst others, were developed during my time in OAC. My career has seen positive impact and growth, thanks to OAC. I started my career as a Project Manager in 2017 as a result of the skills I gained when I held leadership positions in OAC. My first job as a Project Manager was for an Education-Employment centered project and it was through OAC I got the job. I can proudly say that I am a better person today because of OAC. I cannot talk about my growth and development as a person without referring to OAC.

Since my time in OAC, I have initiated and managed several community development projects. I currently work as the Programs and Project Manager at an EdTech company. I am proud to be affiliated with OAC and OAC will always be family to me. Thank you OAC and happy anniversary!



OLUWADAMILOLA AKINBOWALE



100 Stories of Impact

Embracing the mantra that when we help ourselves, we find moments of happiness, however when we help others, we find lasting fulfillment. I am Olumuyiwa Kotila, a dedicated advocate for Sustainable Development Goal 4 - ensuring inclusive, equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities. Education, the nourishment of the mind, stands second only to sustenance itself. In my relentless pursuit of driving change and uplifting my community, I stumbled across a publication for a call for volunteers in 2016. My curiosity led me to explore the organization's ethos, where their vision and mission resonated profoundly within me. Completing the online membership form marked the genesis of my remarkable and transformational journey with OneAfricanChild Foundation For Creative Learning.

Becoming part of OneAfricanChild Foundation in May 2016 bestowed upon me a treasure trove of cherished memories. As a volunteer with OneAfricanChild, I have been granted the rare privilege to serve in leadership capacity. In this capacity, I've learned that leadership isn't about wielding power, but about standing shoulder to shoulder with the team, propelling progress toward the organization's goals.

I've had the utmost privilege to collaborate with incredible volunteers within OAC, who have bestowed upon me invaluable lessons in service to humanity; their mentorship has sculpted me into a better leader, drawing out my latent potentials. A symphony of collaboration, motivation, and steadfast pursuit of our goals reverberated through our teamwork. Nurturing these relationships emerged as a pivotal strength, contributing to our remarkable productivity and achievement of our objectives in the organization.

I have been part of many initiatives in the organization, and I will just like to mention a few, in 2019 I was part of the team that led the partnership with GlobalSportsInitiative Germany, in taking Sports to secondary schools to foster team bonding, networking, global citizenship education, problem solving skills, leadership skills, peace building and conflict resolution, fun games, and many sustainable development tools among students. This outreach impacted over 3,500 students across 7 secondary schools in the city of Ibadan.

Another cherished memory for me was the time I was privileged to be part of the team that sensitized the students of Abadina College Ibadan about the essential skills to thrive in the 21st century. I had the privilege to interact with about 500 students on quality education through peace building and Global Citizenship. Conversations flowed, dreams were shared, and the drive to impact their communities was ignited. I listened to them talk about what they want to become and the change they want to influence in their communities. Engaging with the students of Abadina College was a memorable experience for me as their dreams and aspirations for personal growth and community betterment filled the air.

I agree with this saying that we will untimely be judged not on the dreams we made come true for ourselves, but for the dreams we made come true for others. Volunteering with OneAfricanChild Foundation isn't just an activity for me; it's my essence. As the horizon unfolds, my commitment and dedication to advancing the organization's mission of providing equitable and quality education to underprivileged children remains unwavering.

In celebration of this 10th year anniversary, gratitude swells within me, a river of thanks directed to my OAC family. Thank you for your continuous engagement to ensure all African children have access to quality education. Thank you for engaging youth to change the narrative of their community and pursue a safe space that enables them to take responsibility and become global citizens. Thank you for the countless impacts. Happy 10th year Anniversary OneAfricanChild Foundation and cheers to more impactful years.



OLUMUYIWA KOTILA



100 Stories of Impact

As we celebrate OneAfricanChild's 10th anniversary, I find myself reflecting on the journey that led me to this incredible organization. Joining OAC in 2017 was a stroke of luck, fate, and chance that I will forever be grateful for. A search on the internet, fuelled by my passion for providing quality and inclusive education to young people in marginalized communities, led me to join OAC as a volunteer. Writing this, I am overwhelmed by a feeling of nostalgia and reminded of how I felt at home from the first meeting.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of leading and contributing to several projects across various marginalized communities. However, one project stands out to me - a partnership with Global Sports Initiative (Based in Germany) in 2019. Through this project, we were able to teach soft skills such as leadership, self-confidence, and communication to over 750 students across 6 schools, using sports. I saw how learning does not have to be conformed to a linear pattern. The impact we were able to make on these young minds, using such a unique method, made this project one that I will never forget.

What I appreciate most about OAC is the incredible people I have met through this organization. The volunteers who have given their time and resources to make a difference in the lives of others. The fact that OAC has been able to consistently run for ten years, with passionate volunteers driving the mission forward, is a testament to the strength of this organization. For the organization, it's not just about what volunteers can offer; OAC is equally invested in how volunteers can develop themselves personally and professionally. Through OAC, I have learned valuable skills that have served as a springboard to the work I now do at THRiVE, a nonprofit organization that I founded, centered around lowering barriers for young people to become transformational leaders across different sectors and industries.

Looking back, I am grateful for every child, teacher, school, and community that has benefited from our projects. It brings great joy to know that OAC has been able to amplify the wings of so many young people, allowing them to soar and become beacons of hope in their communities and families. As we celebrate this milestone, I am filled with optimism about the possibilities that exist for OAC to continue changing the narratives of education in sub-Saharan Africa.

Cheers to more years of growth, impact, and success!



OLATOMIWA OLUSESI



100 Stories of Impact

During my NYSC days in 2015, I registered to join OneAfricanChild Foundation for Creative Learning through my dear friend, Adebukola Adeboye. I signed up but couldn't attend meetings because they constantly clashed with my workdays. I was tired of giving one excuse or the other, but the pioneer never gave up on me, as she was fond of checking up; this selfless act made me not despair about joining this great organization with like-minded friends! I finally had the time and then became the most popular Olamultiply (because I will always make elementary mathematics fun with you, that you will wish I was your mathematics teacher in primary school, lol).

Here, I've made real-time family and friends from this reputable organization. Whenever I'm down on certain situations around me, there are always people in the team I can confide in and lean on. OAC has given me the wings to fly both locally and globally. My first-ever international trip was achieved courtesy of this awesome platform.

I remember one of our major trips to a low-income community surrounded by water. We had lots of training in this community, both with the teachers and students. I was always excited to jump on any opportunity to reach out to people in the underserved community because, as we impact other people's lives, we are also building capacity!

I've lost count of the precious opportunities the platform OAC has offered me as a volunteer and how many communities we have impacted. I've bonded with friends from Germany, Kenya, the Benin Republic, and other countries in the shortest time, thanks to OAC! I've served in several capacities for the organization, and every unit has strengthened and exposed me to valuable things I now use for my personal development. I will always be grateful to the organization and Victoria for starting the organization. If not, I don't know what I would have become. My husband will boldly say that he joined OAC before me, and I met the founder before he met her. My family will always dedicate their time to the organization anytime and any day because I am where I am today because of God, OAC and her amazing volunteers.

I will always recommend OAC to any vibrant youth around me. If I count the 100 most valuable friends in my network, 60% will be from OAC, as I always look forward to the regular physical meetings because of the networking aspect and the energisers from amazing members.



OLAMIDE AKINTOLU



100 Stories of Impact

"Before discovering OneAfricanChild (OAC), my life centered around my passion for technology and a desire to contribute to meaningful causes. A friend introduced me to OAC, sharing inspiring stories about their work in underserved communities. Intrigued by their mission, I decided to witness their impact firsthand, which marked the beginning of a life-changing journey.

Stepping into one of OAC's community outreaches, I was immediately captivated by the empowering atmosphere they created. The dedication and enthusiasm of the team members and the joy on the faces of the children left an indelible impression on me. It was then that I knew I had to be a part of this incredible organization.

Joining OAC, I soon found myself contributing my technical expertise to their Digital Literacy project. As we introduced students to the world of technology, I witnessed their curiosity bloom into knowledge and their confidence soar. The weekly Digital Literacy sessions at a local school became the highlight of my involvement. Watching the students eagerly absorb new skills and witnessing the impact on their lives reaffirmed the significance of our collective efforts.

Working with OAC opened my eyes to the power of education and community empowerment. The organization's commitment to transparency, integrity, and genuine care for the communities they serve inspired me to do more. Alongside passionate changemakers, I found my voice and a sense of purpose as a technical professional striving for positive change.

Despite challenges, OAC's resilience and unwavering dedication to its mission shone through. The impact on the students' lives and the communities we touched was profound, and it motivated me to persist even in the face of adversity.

My journey with OAC has transformed me in ways I could have never imagined. It has instilled in me a deep sense of responsibility to contribute to the world around me positively. OAC not only empowered the underserved communities it served but also empowered me to believe in my ability to create meaningful change.

As I move forward, I carry the lessons learned, the connections made, and the experiences shared with OAC. It has given me a firm purpose as a technical professional committed to empowering communities through education and technology. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity OAC provided me and excited about the future possibilities that lie ahead in the pursuit of creating a brighter world."



OLALEKAN OSENI



100 Stories of Impact

I remember my very first interaction with the organization was back in early 2019. My university colleagues had posted on their social media platforms about the outreaches and social work that they were doing with OneAfricanChild Foundation and I thought to myself "Such beautiful work that they are doing. Impacting these young lives with so much happiness and zeal" I knew that I needed to be part of them because I was also at the time looking to volunteer with an organization that made such remarkable impacts in our communities. That marked the beginning of a beautiful journey that has characterized a lot of personal and community growth. We've had a myriad of activities through the years that have been very progressive and impacted our communities positively but one that stands out for me was my first engagement in 2019 when we gave Compassion Educational center a facelift so that the children could have a conducive environment for learning. The school targeted the children that came from vulnerable backgrounds and offered them a chance at education and improving their lives. We had the children at the Educational center join us. We painted the classrooms, repaired their desks and shared lunch with them. Seeing their smiles and interacting with them was an encouragement to keep going and push for the mission and vision of the Foundation.

The foundation has also been a source of blissful friendships that continue to be cultivated even countries apart with the sharing of experiences that show how much more we are alike than different.

As frequently asked by my work colleagues, friends, family and even those who have seen the work we do, when I tell and describe to them about the work we do at OneAfricanChild Foundation, they are inspired and awed at how much the youth are doing to uplift our communities. Some even think that it's a full-time job (chuckles) given the hours we put in to make sure our impact is felt. Just being part of this community of changemakers is a proud moment for me, especially during the school mentorship engagements. For each one of the volunteers, I see relentless hope for the African child and what we offer to the world.

I've been part of the Foundation for some years now and one thing that I remain grateful for is how we encourage each other to embrace different roles within the organization. I have been the Regional Director for close to three years now and my leadership skills have and continue to be sharpened every day.



NINA OWUOR



100 Stories of Impact

I joined OAC in my final year of university. At the time, I wanted to volunteer and I didn't know anything about how to start. My friend, Omolola Odeniyi, then told me about OAC and the meetings in "love garden". She convinced me to come for one of their meetings. After listening to Victoria speak and the passion and vision she had for OAC, I was sold. I wanted to make an impact in people's lives and Victoria convinced me that it starts from the children.

Back in university, I was not very good with public appearances, I tend to be very reserved and felt the need to blend into the crowd as much as possible. As a result of this, I avoided tasks where I was the person at the forefront. So, I would only do tasks that involved not being seen like, spreading the word about OAC via social media. I ended up going for just one OAC outreach at a secondary school somewhere around Bodija (not entirely sure the exact address). Though I enjoyed the whole experience, I never went for any other one after that because of my anxiety.

Fast forward to after UI, my friend, Lola, who invited me to join OAC, started her own NGO called Heart's Connect in Lagos and she called me to help with her first community outreach which was more about giving out fliers and telling people what the NGO was about. I was able to somehow discard my fear of interacting with strangers and helped her out with this small task. I continued to follow up Victoria and OAC on all social media platforms.

During my service year in 2015, I went on to lead a small project centered around physical activity titled "Just Move" under the Red Cross Society. I was able to apply everything I learnt with OAC from planning to logistics and execution. This also helped in getting me my first job after service at Cedarcrest Hospitals as a Physiotherapy Assistant. I went on to join Lagos Food Bank Initiative (LFBI) as a member of their medical team for their outreach, and Key Learning Solutions which is a small NGO that donates children's books and reads to children in public schools around the Ajah area.

I am currently getting an MSc in Clinical Exercise Physiology at the University of Hull, where I volunteer as a Befriender with Age Well East, an NGO helping people deal with loneliness. I am also a Research and Content Intern with Project C Foundation, an NGO geared at addressing mental health issues amongst international students. All these would not have been possible without my first dip in the ocean with OAC. At the time, it felt like a tiny addition to my schoolwork, but it turned out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Victoria has been a constant inspiration for me. Seeing all she has achieved via social media has constantly renewed my passion to strive to make a difference in people's lives regardless of how small it is. Happy Anniversary OneAfricanChild!



NGOZI OKWUNDU



100 Stories of Impact

Through my studentship in the University of Ibadan, I learned about OneAfricanChild. I remember being with my mentor David Okanlawo who said, "You should check out OAC, they do great community service." I had immediately reached out to Iyun, a mutual friend who put me through the formalities. I recall my first meeting and interview with OAC Ibadan, everyone was so kind, I didn't feel out of place in fact, it felt like I had been a member all along. There was a lot of laughter, sharing and learning. Everyone seemed so intentional about everyone. OAC felt like home.

For the past three years, I have learned and unlearned from my colleagues in OAC. It is amazing to see young people like me who are doing hard things, goal driven and result oriented. I mean, young people were empowering themselves and members of their community.

The organization's effort in the Gaa Alanu school project has always left me mesmerized as their efforts to ensure the accessibility and availability of quality education is one that aligns with my values and aspirations of positive change in the society. My outreach experiences with OAC have significantly impacted me as my days often ended with moments of reflection and admiration of the commitment of the OAC community.

Primarily, people go to school to equip themselves with knowledge, skills and competencies that are essential for their personal development. It therefore goes without saying that it also provides you with psychological, social and networking skills. With these being said, I can say that I have grown and I have changed throughout my stay in the University of Ibadan. OAC has groomed me into an audacious woman who is willing to try. I just want to do it. Seeing my colleagues winning, growing, developing and challenging the status quo. I have now adapted a winning mentality, applying, volunteering and working towards set goals.

I have been able to apply for internships, competitions, taken up leadership positions and taken part in a variety of community service. Sometimes, feedback isn't very rosy but OAC has not only trained me for winning, it has also prepared me for rejections and how to deal with it. OAC is truly the community that empowers you and emphasizes its members' growth through its CV workshops, Evolve conference and all the meetings attended.



NELLYCHRIS OMEONU



100 Stories
of Impact

DONORS AND PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT

Since I was a teenager, I have been engaged in work for peace, nature, international solidarity, mental health and human rights. After 50 years of idealistic work I have learned deeper insight, and I don't regret anything. The contact I have had with OneAfricanChild has been the most inspiring I have experienced.

I have always had a special interest for Africa. After my beloved wife Anne Margrete died in August 2013, I got Victoria Ibiwoye as one of my first African friends on facebook. So I have followed OAC from the start. At first I did not understand much of OAC. The loss of my wife and the responsibility for two teenagers dominated my days. But gradually I realized what fantastic work people in OAC do, and the potential OAC has in positive change for people all over Africa.

10 years
of making a difference



TORMOD BAKKE



100 Stories of Impact

I first learned about OneAfricanChild in 2019 from a neighbor of mine who was a member at the time. He sent me a link, and I immediately flooded him with questions about the organization, anticipating how I could get accepted without stress. He then explained how OAC operates to me, and I was simply waiting for a response from OAC, which I received after waiting for about three months. I remember that evening I was out with friends and they thought I had just won the lottery since I was so excited. I verified my availability for the in-person interview that evening because I had grown bored of waiting. That was how I became a member of the OneAfricanChild organization.

I have had the opportunity to take part in a variety of outreach initiatives over my four years at OAC, but being a part of the Gaa-Alanu Creative Learning center has been my favorite. I am now hoping for the project's success. I gained experience managing people, interacting with people, working in groups, and communicating with people who are more advanced than me. My favorite experience as a volunteer with OneAfricanChild Organization has been working on this particular project. I will always be appreciative of the minds who came up with this idea because it fulfills a lifelong dream of mine to make children who have little or no access to western education smile.

At OneAfricanChild, I have made a lot of friends, but I specifically value the relationships I have with Abdulazeez Gunu, Oyetoke Habeeb, and Haneefah Balogun. Anytime I need them, they are always available. Abdulazeez accompanied me to his hometown to do my questionnaire evaluation and also assisted me when I desired it, as I can recall when I did my final thesis as an undergraduate. For providing me with such wonderful individuals, I am grateful to OAC.

Being a volunteer at OAC makes me proud because, up until recently, I detested public speaking, but these days I'm always eager to speak in front of everyone. I didn't like group work at first because I thought that if I had an original idea, I should pursue it alone until it was successful. However, I now prefer group work to one-man work, and I now support OAC because I encourage my friends to join as volunteers so they can gain insight and have the chance to interact with positive people.

Many things have been accomplished for me since I joined OneAfricanChild. Through a link shared with the group, I was able to apply for a scholarship in product design, and as I transitioned from a clueless undergraduate to a graduate with a variety of academic accomplishments.



MONSURAH ABDULHAMED



100 Stories of Impact

I got to know of OAC through social media posts from my friends and course-mates since 2020 and out of curiosity I decided to check up the internet myself to get information. I finally joined OAC in 2021 and it has been a beautiful experience so far.

There is no bigger joy than doing a task for the first time perfectly. I was told to organize a school outreach within the space of two weeks. I got a primary school called Hallelujah Model School in Bodija, Ibadan, and the whole plan (from dropping letter to the D-day of visiting the school) fell in place and the students were very happy to have us, the school proprietor called the next day to say a big thank you to the team because of the excellent feedback he got.

My relationship with my course mate in OAC has gone beyond mere friendship and of course I made new friends and built stronger relationships with people such as Folakemi, who is someone I can quickly run to incase I need help on anything within and outside OAC, she is my real Gee and I have more sweet people like that in OAC.

The way a father is always proud of a good child is the same way I'm proud to be associated with OAC because this organization has done and is still doing beautiful things out there. It is known within and outside Nigeria for its greatness and I don't think there is anyone that doesn't want to associate with greatness. I strongly believe that many people are out there looking at us in OAC and they have been impacted by what we do. I know at least two people who have joined OAC through me.

I can boldly say that OAC has helped conquer some of my fears. I remember my first interview with Mr Tomiwa, I mentioned I was weary of leadership roles but today I'm the regional coordinator for OAC Ibadan and I know I'm putting in my best in that position. Also, my level of confidence has increased when addressing people and I am able to talk boldly in any given circumstance provided I have valuable contributions. I strongly believe that with OAC I can achieve more personal development to reach my goals in life.



MICHAEL OSHINAME



100 Stories of Impact

Volunteering with OneAfricanChild Foundation has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It all started in 2017, when I first got involved in visiting a children's home and mentoring children in a local school. I still remember the excitement and enthusiasm of the children; their eyes filled with curiosity and wonder as they soaked in the lessons and games we taught them. It was a transformative experience, and I knew then that I had found a place to start my journey as a changemaker.

Since then, I've had the privilege of participating in a wide variety of projects and outreach initiatives through OneAfricanChild Foundation. One of the most meaningful was the school renovation project that I led. Through our fundraising efforts, we were able to provide the resources needed to renovate a school and make it a more conducive learning environment for the children.

But the impact of my work with OneAfricanChild Foundation goes beyond just one project or initiative. Through my involvement with the organization, I've had the opportunity to meet countless inspiring individuals who are dedicated to making a positive impact in their communities. People like my fellow volunteer, Ms. Emma Nyabisi, who has become a close friend and collaborator on other projects. Through such friendships, I've been able to develop a deep understanding of the challenges facing African children and youth, as well as the incredible resilience and strength of the communities working to support them.

Perhaps most importantly, my time with OneAfricanChild Foundation has taught me the value of community development and advocacy. Through the organization's various programs and initiatives, I've seen firsthand the power of education, leadership development, and community engagement in promoting sustainable change. I'm proud to be associated with an organization that is committed to empowering African children and youth, and that is making a real difference in the lives of so many young people across the continent.

Looking back, it's hard to believe just how much I've accomplished since my time with OneAfricanChild Foundation began. I've continued to pursue my passion for education, advocacy, and empowerment in various ways. Currently, I'm working as a project manager outside of Kenya, where I'm focused on designing programs that provide quality education, advocacy, and empowerment to school-going children. I have also been selected for various fellowships and other opportunities as a result of my volunteer work with OneAfricanChild Foundation. These include fellowships focused on leadership development, community engagement, and social impact, all of which have allowed me to further hone my skills and make new connections in the field.

In conclusion, volunteering with OneAfricanChild Foundation has been an incredible journey of growth, learning, and discovery. It's a journey that has taught me the true meaning of friendship, community, and advocacy, and that has inspired me to continue working towards a better future for all African children and youth.



MERCY KENDI MUTHOMI



100 Stories of Impact

My Journey with OneAfricanChild has been nothing short of awesome. I got to know about the organization through its community development activities. And I can say that through my journey as a volunteer, it is one of the experiences that stands out for me.

This volunteer opportunity has given me the platform to give back to the community, by impacting them with the skills and moral set needed for the journey ahead of them. Whilst impacting the teachers and the children, I have been able to relate with both on a deeper level, to understand where they are coming from, and to have a solution-approach that works for their situation, which is amazing.

One of the good things about being involved in community development is that it helps in 'Public Speaking' and 'Solution-oriented mentality'. I can say that community development has left its mark on me in this regard. So, I affirm that OneAfricanChild is an organization that impacts everyone involved in it.

I look forward to more community development projects with the team and I say Cheers to more years ahead. ☑

*10 years
of making a difference*



MERCY AKINTUNDE



100 Stories of Impact

DONORS AND PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT

We first became introduced to OneAfricanChild in 2019 through their application to our Kolibri Hardware Grants Program. The aim of this grant program was to provide pass-through funds for the acquisition of hardware to education programs interested in implementing Kolibri, Learning Equality's suite of open and adaptable products and tools for offline-first teaching and learning. We were inspired by the community that OAC had grown from a small team into an incredible force of over 250 volunteer mentors, advocates and facilitators.

OAC is a shining example of the importance of having youth-led organizations contributing to the broader educational landscape.

In the course of the two years of the grant program, OAC exemplified engaged and responsive collaboration. They shared feedback on their use of Kolibri and the ways in which they were introducing it to the teachers and community in Tarkwa Bay, supplemented by reports, photos and videos throughout the length of the program. When the pandemic hit, they smoothly transitioned into Zoom webinars and workshops and continued to integrate Kolibri into their plans.

In recent years, we have appreciated the invitations from OAC to engage as co-facilitators in their teacher training workshops. These have been valuable professional development moments for members of our team, both as presenters and as listeners. We learn something new each time about ways to introduce certain concepts or fun icebreakers to try with our own organization's trainings. Seeing the emphasis that OAC puts on introducing innovative pedagogical strategies like blended learning or active learning into their trainings also reinforces our commitment to focusing on these areas within our platform and our educator support work. OAC has a trusted pulse on how to support educators in best practices with teaching and learning.

We are proud to call OAC both our friends and collaborators and look forward to the next 10 years together!



LEARNING EQUALITY - CARINE DIAZ



100 Stories of Impact

Being a part of OAC was an intrinsic move at a point after I graduated from the university and took up a teaching job in a primary/secondary school in Lagos. Having experienced the varying qualities of Education in Nigeria during my teaching practice and at my then-place-of-work, I arrived at the peak of wanting a positive change, I was more than willing to contribute my own quota to the process.

In recent times, it has become imperative to flatten the curve of inequality in the Quality of Education, as so many important stakeholders in the Education sector are doing little or nothing to step up the prevailing situation. I then decided to be a part of the change agent by joining a team of vibrant youths who advocate for Quality Education as well as take actions to reach out to low-income communities with less exposure to modern and quality Education with the use of creative methods and innovative tools.

Each and every engagement with OAC will remain memorable as there were numerous events that were able to achieve desired outcomes.

The organization helped me to take up responsibilities, as fellow youths selflessly try to be the catalyst to societal Education needs. I was opportune to be a part of the programs department; a small team where we plan events, programmes for successful outcomes.

To top the chart, I was lucky to speak with high school students during the 2018 Children's Day on career orientation and choice of courses. I was elated to see the expression of satisfaction and disappearance of doubts from the faces of the students.

There is also an annual project of the OAC tagged the One August Smile; few years back, I engaged pupils of a primary school in Lagos where I spoke to them during their summer classes on the importance of developing soft skills needed to live in peace with everyone and achieve a just and fair community that is safe for all.

I pledge to continue to be a part of this work so we can achieve Quality Education for all, societal and economic growth as well as peace and harmony.



LATIFAT OGUNKUNLE



100 Stories of Impact

All my life, I have always loved outreach, especially outreaches that involved kids. I always felt that reaching out and helping underprivileged kids was a calling; I remember writing a note to myself in my third year in secondary school about this being a responsibility for the future. I had this same conversation with Tomiwa Olusesi (who has now become one of my favorite humans), sharing this “burden” in 2017, and he told me about OneAfricanChild. My first outreach in OAC was a career talk at Abadina high school, Ibadan, and I remember I had to stand in front of hundreds of students supporting the main speaker. I was scared because that was the first time I ever had to speak in front of so many people. After this event, and I realized I didn’t die from standing before these many people (lol), my confidence grew.

I remember getting a message/call from Mr. Muyiwa Kotila asking me to give a talk on behalf of OAC (we had a collaboration with Bamboo college), but he was not going to be there because he had to travel, and I said I could not do it because how was I supposed to give a talk to over 500 students with no support (ahh), but Mr. Muiywa who is probably one of the most supportive people said: “I trust you, you will do this well.” Out of my respect for him, I agreed and prepared for the talk, and on the day of the event, I gave that talk, and it went great. As I was about to step off the stage, I saw Mr. Muiywa in the middle of the crowd, and I remember shouting excitedly, “Mr. Muiywa, but you told me you would not be here” he said he just needed me to believe I could do anything I set my heart to. This event lives fresh in my mind, and every time I am scared, I remember this. My favorite part after this event, I was walking randomly inside the University of Ibadan, and

I randomly heard someone scream my name (I was definitely sure it was me because not so many people bear my name) I looked back and saw a lady selling groundnuts, and she said she knew me from her school where I gave a talk, and she learned a lot from the talk. This warmed my heart so much (I felt like a child who was given candy)

OneAfricanChild has helped me build very valuable relationships. I am particularly grateful for two relationships with Victoria Ibiwoye and Mr. Muiywa Kotila. These two people have been one of the most supportive people in my life and not just in my growth in the NGO world but in my academic career. Sometimes Victoria will send the most unexpected but timely messages encouraging me and checking up on my progress. While applying for my Ph.D. program, Victoria helped review all my documents without issues. With Mr. Muiywa, a very similar story. Mr. Muiywa is dependable and probably has the loudest clap when you are doing something (someone you call your greatest cheerleader).

Being associated with a people or a community I can beat my chest for is the major reason I am proud to be here. I see the efforts and the impact we continue to make. Most importantly, I see the growth we witness as an organization. Specifically, how it has impacted me, OAC gave me the first official platform to build skills like teamwork, public speaking, and leadership, which has helped me grow drastically. In addition, through OAC, I had the opportunity to serve as a Youth leader representing Nigeria at the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). Volunteering with OAC and GPE also served as a strong point for me during my graduate school applications, which I am grateful for.

I still volunteer with OneAfricanChild; right now, I am an Anthropology Doctoral student at the Pennsylvania State University, US.



IYUNOLUWA ADEMOLA-POPOOLA



100 Stories of Impact

Joining OAC in 2016, was a new and exciting journey for me as this was the first time I was volunteering for any organization and this singular act marked the beginning of a life changing event. experience filled with lots of growth and learning opportunities to become a better leader as I have always seen myself.

Being a part of this organization has exposed me to numerous projects, campaigns, and outreaches revolving around leadership, peace and resilience building, education, and innovative learning styles amongst others. One project I am most proud of to be a part of was the Peace Building Workshop in collaboration with UNESCO IICBA during my time as the Regional Director of OAC Lagos. I had the chance to facilitate alongside other Volunteers who were empowered with facilitation skills through the organization and got paid for the engagement. It was an exciting moment for me as I was able to transfer knowledge in the most unique way while passing a vital message to participants.

OAC has helped me build relationships that transcend beyond volunteering, I have made life-long friendships, mentors and I have also gotten clients for my business. OAC is beyond a team of volunteers, it's an institution of Global Youth Leaders who are destined to change the world and I am proud to be a part of it.

OAC has opened me up to various possibilities which has helped me grow through the years, I joined OAC as a National Diploma holder, I have gone on to complete my Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and practiced in Nigeria for 3 years, held multiple positions in the Organization from serving as The Regional Programs Manager to The Regional Director in Lagos, to the Global Team Lead for Media and Communications for two years. I am currently studying for a postgraduate degree in International Business in the United Kingdom while still putting my communication and facilitating skills into practice by providing professional speaking services for corporate and social events across the world.



ITEPU JESSE EHIDIAMEH



100 Stories
of Impact

DONORS AND PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT

I first learned about the OAC when Victoria Ibiwoye, the organization's founder, was featured in Opportunity Desk blog in early 2015, where she discussed her motivation for founding the organization. I had the great pleasure of connecting with Victoria a few weeks later at the Generation Change Fellowship workshop in Kampala, Uganda. Victoria's unshakable commitment to advancing education across the African continent touched me from the moment we met.

Our partnership with OAC has been nothing short of amazing. One of our most unforgettable experiences was collaborating in 2020 to train 200 teachers in Yobe and Lagos states. The ability of OAC to adapt and tailor educational programmes to meet participants' specific needs was game-changing. Victoria and her team displayed an in-depth awareness of how educational institutions can play a role in fostering peace and combating violent extremism, ensuring that our training had a lasting impact on the participants.

The OAC team's unwavering efforts to promote quality education have undoubtedly greatly affected many people's lives. I am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such an extraordinary organization and look forward to continuing our journey together. Congratulations OAC on your 10th anniversary!



IMRANA BUBA

Founder, Youth Initiative Against Terrorism



100 Stories of Impact

I joined OAC from its inception in 2013. Victoria Ibiwoye and I met on social media and we created a friendship that was influenced by our interest in shaping our society. She shared her vision for a better education for African children and I flew with it as I have always been passionate about changing the educational climate in Nigeria and Africa in general.

Years down the line, I held significant positions in OAC and partook in various community and educational projects such as visitations to orphanages, remand and special homes for children, Makoko, Tarkwa Bay, Ajegunle and other locations in Lagos state, schools and training facilities as well as collaborative projects with other social and educational organizations in Nigeria and globally, while undergoing trainings and skill acquisitions. I recall the KOLIBRI project which is an interesting approach to education and learning that was introduced to communities in Lagos state that could not afford quality education. We donated materials, stationery and study tools to kids while teaching them how to learn through it.

I have met many people and made relationships over the years that I value so much. I met Fabian and Kaijja from Germany, while on a collaborative project in Lagos, and members of OAC like Moses Johnson, Paschal, Tinuola, Damilola, Demilade, Bukola, Tosin, and so many other people. I am glad I found OAC and made an impact. I am also a better person and active member of my society due to experience gained from working with the organization. I have found political activism and social impact as a means to changing my country and making it a better place for future leaders.



TOBILOBA BAMUYIWA



100 Stories of Impact

It is with great honor and appreciation that I write this message to express my gratitude for the invitation to feature in your 100 Stories of Impact report. The opportunity to reflect on the positive impact of OneAfricanChild Foundation has been an emotional journey for me.

My earliest memories of volunteering with OAC date back to the year 2014/2015, a time when I was discovering my passion and how to give back to my community. Victoria Ibiwoye introduced me to the organization, and since then, I have been involved in contributing in my little way, to the operations of the organization.

As a volunteer, I participated in some outreach projects and "Training the Trainer" events that left a lasting impact on me. It was an excellent opportunity to contribute to several successful outreach projects to schools in places like Makoko, Ikorodu, and Tarkwa Bay at the time. The excitement on the children's faces on arrival of our volunteer team, and as they learn new things, is a moment that will forever be etched in my memory.

OneAfricanChild Foundation has provided me with the opportunity to make many lifelong friendships and connections with like-minded individuals who share my passion for community development. I have special memories of working with all volunteers, and I am most proud of how the leaders of OAC at the time recognized the need for training, and its impact on volunteers.

I am proud to be associated with OAC because of the significant impact it has made in the lives of children and young adults in underserved communities. The organization's focus on providing access to education, training, and amenities has opened doors for many young people who would have otherwise been left behind.

Since my time with OAC, I have built my family, and a career in the Product Management industry; where I leverage Information Systems to solve complex business problems. I now live in Alberta, Canada, and I am open to connecting with other OAC volunteers in my locality and beyond.

The following themes in the report connect the most with me: Advocacy, Community Development, Friendship and Community and Global Exposure

Once again, I express my sincere appreciation to the OneAfricanChild team for the invitation to contribute to the 100 Stories of Impact report. It is an honor to be part of such a remarkable cause.



LANRE BOLAJI-OWONIFARI



100 Stories of Impact

When I reflect on my journey with OAC, I am filled with gratitude for the transformative experiences it has brought into my life. I joined OAC during my undergrad with little knowledge of the organization's mission and initiatives. All that drove me was the zeal to impact young Africans.

One vivid memory that continues to resonate with me is my first outreach with the OAC Ibadan team to an orphanage home, it was a great experience. The smiles, laughter, and gratitude exchanged during the outreach left an indelible mark on my heart.

My journey with OAC has been filled with personal growth, impactful encounters, and the joy of making a difference. I am grateful for the opportunities it has provided me and excited for the continued journey of transforming the lives of young Africans.

ONE AFRICAN CHILD
10 years
of making a difference



KAYODE OGUNREMI



100 Stories of Impact

OneAfricanChild was the first organization I ever joined upon gaining admission into university of Ibadan and that decision has to be one of the best decisions I've ever made.

Volunteering with OAC provided me the opportunity to achieve my goal of impacting lives, children especially. The various school visitations and training to educate and empower children both in low-income and private schools provided me a platform to positively influence and reach children I wouldn't have been able to reach. I also got to understand better the intricacies of communicating and relating with children effectively which helped a great deal in October 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic when I began providing educational and personal development trainings for children in my community and established a community library with over 500 books that helps make literacy a fundamental part of the lives of children in my community and other communities. This act of service earned me the conferment of "Change maker Driving Progress for Girls Education in Nigeria", by UNESCO.

Having learnt and served as the General Secretary, Ibadan region for years and in other departments - such as the Curriculum and Programs, Grants and Fundraising (for the Gaa Alanu Creative Learning center) - as well as the implementation of other programs and projects such as the One August Smile, OAC has contributed greatly and immensely to my personal development, work ethics, self-esteem and has provided me the opportunity to thrive.

Her commitment to investing in her volunteers by organizing various workshops, checkups and conversations on the international group page is one I greatly admire! OAC is changing the life of a child, one at a time and I'm glad I get to be a part of this UNIQUE STORY OF IMPACT and definitely more than excited at what is to come!



KAWTHAR OMISORE



100 Stories of Impact

I joined OAC in May 2017 immediately after returning to Lagos from my NYSC. I quite remember getting to the venue about 1 hour earlier than the start of the meeting because I overestimated my travel time from Badagry to Ikeja. I met Victoria (Founder of OAC) at the venue, and we had about 20 minutes of chat as I shared how I got to learn about OAC from a friend Jeffery Itepu and how I have read about the good things they have done to date. It was a fascinating experience as other volunteers began to come in and I could see the passion and commitment of young people coming together to provide solutions to education in our society.

I have been part of several projects in OAC, one of my favorite projects is the Media and Information Literacy Workshop held at Standard High Mark School in 2018 where over 40 young pupils and their teachers were enlightened about the use of Media for positive outreach and involvement in the 21st century.

OAC has also served as a family and a professional place for many of us where we got to meet like-minded people and share our burdens and opportunities with one another. I met other wonderful volunteers in OAC whom I became friends with, learned about their work personally and professionally, and kept a good relationship with them. I am super proud to be associated with OneAfricanChild Foundation because it has helped me personally to understand that you can do your little to support others in need and what you think is little goes a very long way. I am also proud of OAC because it gave me the opportunity to lend my voice, and skills to help others. Being part of this experience gives me the utmost joy.

While volunteering with OAC, I have built an immeasurable quality network with other volunteers from the organization. I got into several fellowship programs such as: The Tony Elumelu Foundation, Lagos Nigeria 2017, YALI West Africa, Accra, Ghana 2018, Atlas Corps Fellowship Washington DC, 2018-2019, Presidential Precinct, Virginia USA 2018, Global Entrepreneur Institute 2020, and I recently completed my MBA program at Kogod School of Business – American University, Washington DC. I am currently setting up my LLC in the United States and working on publishing and launching my first book.

I am glad to be part of the OAC community and very proud of the over 10 years of hard work Victoria and all the other volunteers have put into the organization to impact children and their communities.



JOSHUA SHODUNKE



100 Stories of Impact

I was introduced to OneAfricanChild through Opportunity Desk where I read about Victoria Ibiwoye, who was featured as Person of the Month in 2015. Her story of changing lives in her community one child at a time inspired me. I realized that making a difference does not necessarily require touching the lives of many but impacting one person at a time is equally important. As a result, I joined the vibrant, innovative team of volunteers to advance access to quality education for all.

Our first project at OAC Kenya was at Mukuru Rehabilitation center in July 2016, its success defined the course and set the tempo for our organization. From painting classrooms, one-on-one sessions with school children, providing learning materials, and stocking libraries, among other impactful projects, our aim promoted learning among children. It is during these sessions that my love for children found a place of expression, and I learned great lessons from them. I agree with Paulo Coelho that children can teach adults three things: to be happy for no reason, to always be busy with something, and to know how to demand with all their might that which they desire.

Working with children has taught me that investing in them early significantly shapes their future in terms of the values we inculcate in them. Children learn more from what they see adults doing rather than when we only teach them. I have come to appreciate the uniqueness of each child, recognizing that one may possess strengths in one aspect over the other, but that does not mean they are failures.

My experience at OneAfricanChild is fulfilling, and synonymous with serving the future that I will not be there to live in, but the values and ideals will live through them. While encountering new challenges every day, I am proud of the work OAC is doing in raising a generation of problem solvers, critical thinkers, and innovators who are part of the solution.

Working at OneAfricanChild shaped my leadership skills and inspired me to find an environmental conservation organization that works primarily with children to address climate change. Drawing on my experience working with young people at OAC, I was recognized among the top 100 Young African Conservation Leaders in 2022.

My greatest moment at OneAfricanChild was receiving the 2017 Youth Volunteer of the Year award in Kenya. To this day, it remains a symbol of the hard work and dedication of the team of volunteers who worked tirelessly to give the organization a strong start during its inception here in Kenya. Overall, OneAfricanChild has helped me discover my leadership potential through service to humanity.



JEFFREY KOSGEI



100 Stories of Impact

I am Jeffrey Itepu, a business leader with about 10 years of experience, and my journey to entrepreneurship started in 2012 when I began volunteering for the non-profit organization Enactus. It was during my time as a youth corp member in Nigeria in 2016 that I discovered OneAfricanChild Foundation for Creative Learning and decided to join the organization. Little did I know that this decision would have a profound impact on my life and career.

I started my journey with OneAfricanChild as a training director in the Lagos chapter and eventually became the Global Programs Director. Through my involvement with the organization, I gained invaluable skills in leadership, project management, and community development. The ethos of social impact that I imbibed from OneAfricanChild shaped my approach to business, and I have since built three successful businesses centered around creating prosperity for Africans through simplified asset ownership.

One of the highlights of my involvement with OneAfricanChild is the Education Sponsorship of Economically Disadvantaged Children in Lagos, the Kolibri Project for digital literacy, and the Peace Building Campaign for Secondary School Students in Nigeria and Kenya.

In 2018, I hosted a conference on volunteering, where I had the opportunity to expose over 250 Nigerians to the power of volunteerism. Inspired by my experiences with OneAfricanChild, I also authored a book titled "The Volunteer: Becoming Better by Serving Others," which aims to promote the value of volunteering and its positive impact on individuals and communities.

But my impact goes beyond just volunteering and entrepreneurship. I am also involved in other non-profit initiatives such as Project Empower an Alimajiri and Al-Fihri Open University, where I continue to contribute my skills and expertise to make a difference in the lives of others.

Looking back, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities and experiences that OneAfricanChild has provided me. The organization has not only enriched my life but has also given me a platform to create meaningful change in communities. I am proud to be part of OneAfricanChild's journey and to contribute to its "100 Stories of Impact" report as we commemorate its tenth anniversary.

As I reflect on my journey with OneAfricanChild, I am filled with a sense of fulfillment and gratitude. The organization has not only shaped my career but has also connected me with inspiring leaders who have become lifelong friends and family. Through my involvement with OneAfricanChild, I have learned the true power of volunteerism and social entrepreneurship in creating positive change in communities. I am committed to continuing my efforts in empowering communities and making a difference in the lives of others, guided by the core values of integrity, humility, excellence, loyalty, and partnership.

I look forward to the next chapter of my journey with OneAfricanChild and to sharing my detailed impact story in the "100 Stories of Impact" report as we celebrate the organization's tenth anniversary.



JEFFREY ITEPU



100 Stories of Impact

I joined OAC about 9 years ago when I was a student in the university. Before joining I never made an impact in my environment or understood the importance of giving back to the community. I met Victoria by chance and I have never met someone so passionate about improving the lives and quality of education of kids in the community. I was sold, I wanted to be a part of this organization. Throughout my time in OAC, I engaged in events that shaped me as a human and made me understand the meaning of true humanity. I particularly remember my first outreach to a motherless baby's home in Bodija, Ibadan. I would never forget the smiles on the kids when we brought in gifts and spent the whole day with them having fun.

After university, I went on to do my youth service where I joined a Social Services Youth Club where I engaged in raising funds and engaged in mentorship for secondary school students in Jabi Lake High for 7 months. This made me have a sense of fulfillment and none of this would be if I didn't have that background from OAC. I truly appreciate OAC for impacting the lives of the African child and also shaping me into a better person who cares about her community.

10 years
of making a difference



IKEOLUWAPO ONI



100 Stories of Impact

I joined OAC in my second year as an Undergraduate at the University. It was my first volunteering experience and it has been one of the greatest experiences and opportunities of my life. Volunteering and working with the incredible and talented team of people that are dedicated to giving back to society has been inspiring. I had the opportunity to serve as the regional media director and as a member of the curriculum team. I had the opportunity to work on the materials on mental models used in one of our outreaches, I have had to collaborate with educators on research and putting together materials used to pass information which has been an educating experience.. One of my favorite activities with OAC is the school outreach and volunteers meeting. Our outreaches have personally helped me see that children really have hope for the future. They are inspired by our joint effort as a team to strive for access and quality education and are interested in getting to a position where they can educate and give back to their society.

I have seen our teams evolve and personally, getting to handle a session or anchoring a school outreach or meeting has made me a better speaker and boosted my confidence. OAC has taught me how true the quote 'teamwork makes the dream work' is.

Today, I am grateful to be part of this community. I would not change it for anything.

*10 years
of making a difference*



HARUNA MARYAM



100 Stories of Impact

Wow wow wow, where do I start from? To think it's been 10 amazing years of not merely existing but making an impact in the lives of the young African children and youth volunteers.

I remember that beautiful day Ms Victoria shared her dream of having an African child focused foundation with me. I was elated and immediately got on board. I'm glad I did.

This initiative was founded around a time in my life where I was going through a lot personally and it felt like I was at my lowest. Being a part of this was a breath of fresh air for me. For this, I am really grateful I joined. I remember how I looked forward to every WhatsApp meeting we had which actually were the highlight of my days.

I count it an honour to be one of the pioneer members of OAC and I will forever cherish these memories.

Thank you. Happy 10th anniversary to OneAfricanChild.



HANNAH MUGABI



100 Stories of Impact

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT

I met Victoria Ibiwoye, the founder of OneAfricanChild (OAC) in 2017 at the International Peace Day event at the United Nations Information center (UNIC) in Lagos. I was deeply inspired by the work she does with OAC and I knew she is someone I would love to learn from. I connected with Victoria on this day and since then my career progression in the education and international development space has taken an upward trajectory. In 2018, OAC partnered with Peace First to support young people between the ages of 13 - 25 years with a sub-grant of \$250 to do social justice work. I applied through the process and got the money and implemented Skill2Rural Bootcamp, a National Programme where children between the ages of 9 - 18 years living in underserved communities co-create solutions to the problems and challenges they face in their communities using design thinking whilst developing 21st-Century skills such as critical thinking, creativity, emotional intelligence, and so on. From starting in one state in which OAC happens to be a partner, the programme accompanied by a mentoring programme has seen over 7,550 children and young people, more than 50 schools in 6 states in Nigeria develop life and 21st-Century skills needed to integrate into the workforce and future of work.

Moreover, I went ahead to later work with Peace First as the first Regional Manager for Sub-Saharan Africa supporting thousands of young people to do social change work in more than 30 countries in the region and later becoming a board member of the same organization. This would not have been possible if Victoria did not share this opportunity with me or I did not have any connection with the organization. It is always a pleasure to speak with Victoria because you come out feeling reassured that you have been heard. She is one of those who inspire me to do genuine change work with utmost sincerity and integrity. She is a role model and a mentor and I do not even take the opportunity to know her for granted. She would always be the one to speak for you behind closed doors, and the way she has led her team and volunteers and connected them to opportunities is something that I aspire to as a founder myself.

AS OAC celebrates its 10th anniversary, I hope they attract huge resources because huge resources in the hands of a great organization can revolutionize change and it is a pleasure to be affiliated with an organization that models what it means to truly support young people.

Happy 10th Anniversary OAC!



HAMMED KAYODE ALABI

Founder and CEO

Kayode Alabi Leadership and Career Initiative - (KLCI)



100 Stories of Impact

My definition of volunteering is a process whereby an individual or group of people gather around a problem in society and proffer sustainable and feasible solutions towards that particular cause. Growing up, I always had the chance to read about United Nations International Children's Emergency Funds (UNICEF) programs towards children's development in Africa. I always wished I could participate in such volunteer work in my community. It was not until I got into the university in 2019 that I got to know OAC through a friend of mine, Bankole Aisha, when I saw on her WhatsApp status an educational outreach they had at the Gaa-Alanu KWASU community, Malete in Kwara State. I knew this was an opportunity to start my journey towards volunteering.

I later joined OneAfricanChild and was amazed at the immense opportunities available. I had to keep my head down to learn the ropes of volunteering and what it entails. I am constantly learning how to volunteer by participating in educational outreaches and visitations to many schools and participating in the organization's capacity-building programs for volunteers to grow.

The visitation outreach that positively impacted me was the Gaa-Alanu project embarked upon by the organization in which I had the privilege of volunteering as the on-site project supervisor due to my knowledge of the construction industry. Seeing the joy on the faces of the parents who came around to show appreciation and pray made me glad because the construction of those classrooms in the KWASU community will impact their wards positively and the community at large.

Another notable outreach was the OAC Peace Building Workshop in 2020 at Kwara Hotel, in which I learnt about what the world would be like living in a peaceful environment with one another.

Learning in this organization has been great with mentorship from the top volunteers within the region, i.e. Mr. Segun, Haneefah, Mr. Muyiwa, Mr. Tomiwa and Mama Africa, Victoria (my OAC BUDDY). Facilitating has been impactful, especially working with Mr. Muyiwa, who makes the volunteering task seamless, bringing out the best in me. I have utilized the skills that OAC instilled in me to make myself better in advocating for sustainable changes in my community following the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. I plan to graduate from university and start working towards developing the society that groomed me.

What a journey it has been with OneAfricanChild!

Happy 10th anniversary, cheeeeeeeeers! More years of positive impact!

Thank you OAC.



HABEEB OYETOKE



100 Stories of Impact

I had a great time working with the team at OneAfricanChild, first as one of the organization's early volunteers, then as the Global Director of Programs, working with a number of enthusiastic and selfless young people who were keen to increase access to education for children in low-income communities. I led program officers across Lagos, Ibadan, Kenya, Port-Harcourt and Kwara as well as smaller individual-led initiatives in Benin Republic, Malawi and Cameroon in designing and delivering education programs ranging across global citizen education, education for sustainable development, peace and conflict resolution, use of education technology, career development etc.

I had always been interested in access to quality education, and working with OneAfricanChild provided an excellent opportunity to broaden my understanding of how limitations in access to education deeply affected children in low-income communities. It also introduced me to the different ways small communities and small groups of people were trying to overcome these challenges with little resources available to them. This provided me with an invaluable experience which continues to drive my interest in delivering quality education for low-income communities at scale.

One of my most memorable experiences was our work at Tarkwa Bay, a remote island in Lagos whose community has now been displaced. Before this displacement by the government, our team visited the community numerous times, scaling the waters in small wooden canoes. Those were the first times I rode in those. I was inspired by the work the teachers and leaders in the community were doing to provide quality education for the children despite the obvious obstacles and how they welcomed our support enthusiastically because they also wanted more for their children. I was grateful for the opportunities to interact with these children, helping them learn new skills and learning about some challenges they faced while trying to commit to their education. I also had the invaluable opportunity of listening to teachers who work in these areas, teaching them new skills and learning from their experience of supporting children in these focus communities. Without OneAfricanChild, I wouldn't have found myself in communities like this. OneAfricanChild provided me with early exposure to the education challenges children in these areas face daily, how their teachers are working to solve some of these problems, and the opportunities to work with young leaders to build our skills to support these small education institutions doing the fundamental work of leaving no child behind. OAC embodied the importance of external organizations working with local education leaders in target communities, rather than independently, to effectively drive learning outcomes. OneAfricanChild continues to focus on hard-to-reach areas like this, which also exist in places that we think are modern cities and towns, building strong relationships with local education leaders and empowering young people with the skills and platform to deliver and support education initiatives that help children and teachers move forward.

My experience at OAC has played an important role in my journey in education. Today, my work at the Impact@Scale Labs revolves around supporting local education-focused organizations across Latin America, Africa and Asia with funding, resources and strategy support needed to test and deliver innovations and platforms that improve learning outcomes for children in low-income communities at scale.



HABEEB KOLADE



100 Stories of Impact

As OAC celebrates 10 years of Impact, I'm motivated to reflect on my journey with an organization built on commitment and hard work of young people like me. In my own words, if I was to describe OAC using three words, I'd use Community, Capacity-Building and Impact.

On Community, as an undergraduate I knew I wanted to be a part of a community of young people advocating for a good cause but was also keen on meeting new people. There were many options when I started digging in into the broader community of University of Ibadan and in my second year which was in 2013, I finally settled to join OAC as a volunteer majorly because advocating for quality education, going out for outreaches and building peacebuilding and leadership skills were the core of our work which readily aligned with my core values at that time.

In OAC, I found community, long- time relationships and acquaintances. Not only through physical meetups or outreaches but also through our online community of young people across Nigeria which eventually evolved into an international community of young change makers. The community was always bubbling with online activities and was also a good dumping ground for global opportunities as it was in this community I came across an opportunity which was shared on the platform that opened new doors for me in my career journey.

Capacity Building: After serving as a volunteer-member from 2013- 2015, participating in the organization's initiative, attending meetings and genuinely just connecting with people, in 2015 (all through to 2017), I was saddled with the opportunity of serving as Program's Director for Ibadan, Nigeria. This position really shaped me on so many levels. During my time as Program's Director, I was in charge of project management within the organization-Ibadan chapter. Taking a full 360 degree turn on Planning Organising, Staffing, Leading, Evaluating programs and in some occasions drive initiatives towards recruiting new volunteers. It was a really great time serving in this role. Still relishing on some of the initiatives I led that left a huge impact on me.

Some of which include "An outreach to a public secondary school in UI to train students and teachers on peace building and creative ways to learn. We had also designed the outreach in such a way that we'd first play a movie: "Like Star on Earth"- which tells an inspiring story of Ishaan, an 8-year old boy suffering from dyslexia, a learning difficulty and how a school teacher who saw past that helped his student with not just navigating learning but also helping him discover his creative talent as an artist. This outreach was profound not just to the students but teachers who shared feedback on how it was eye-opening to them. Besides these opportunities to put myself out there to lead and build my leadership capacity, there were also other learning opportunities being provided by the organization to train volunteers on different skills, ranging from leadership, peace building, career tips etc. These training sessions came really handy for me as I grew in my leadership and career journey.

Impact: For someone like me who had impact as one of the reasons for joining OAC, I'd say that this wasn't far-fetched. From organising programs during my time as Program's Director, to participating in other initiatives, impact was the lifeblood of the organization. OAC readily provided the platform for me to truly be a part of the change I wanted to see in my community and I'm grateful for that.

While, I'm still a volunteer at OAC (having renewed my commitment), since my early times at OAC, I've gone ahead to being a 2019 Google Policy Fellow across Sub Saharan Africa(an opportunity I heard about from the platform), to being Called to the Nigerian Bar, to working with some amazing organizations from LEAP Africa, Ventures Platform, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office- managing high impact projects and supporting the tech-ecosystem in Nigeria! Currently, I work as the Head of Operations at DFS Lab- an investment and consulting firm working with clients across the world and supporting founders building the future of Africa's digital economy.

A huge congratulations to the entire team for clocking 10! And to the leadership for their incredible work!.



GIFT AGBORO



100 Stories of Impact

A life lived without a platform to impact or give to a society, which to a great extent has helped one achieve a reasonable level of progress, is indeed one without purpose. The above introductory sentence resurrected the urge to serve / give back no matter how little it may be and thank you OAC for coming through.

My journey as a Volunteer with OneAfricanChild Foundation, began in the year 2018 when I was still residing in Enugu state, Southeast Nigeria. I constantly saw pictures of OAC on a close friend's social media handle and out of curiosity, I had to do research to understand what it means, the drive and passion. After reading, I immediately keyed into the vision and when I moved to LAGOS from Enugu then, I called my friend who immediately invited me for a physical meeting (the number was not so much then but the tenacity as well as team bonding was strong with a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere). We went for the interview, and it was amazing. That was the beginning of selfless service via this blessed foundation.

Over the years, with the group, a lot of life impactful and awesome outreach and programs have been planned/organized as well as executed. Amongst the many executed, one is constantly reminding me of the need to remain selfless, thankful, and appreciative no matter the circumstance. I was opportune to join in for an outreach at Tarkwa Bay, Lagos Island, Southwest of Nigeria. We had to literally move via speed boats to the location (a slump in that part of Lagos state) to encourage the community especially kids who had no good educational infrastructure, power supply or even housing network. The beauty about this experience was the fact that the team made the kids all come to the community meeting square (a huge number) and we all had an impactful moment of storytelling, encouragement, gift sharing issuance of scholarships to a few kids while we sought for more sponsors (Vic, you are really a rear gem).

Asides the impact and outreaches we have been able to execute over the years, I have made quite a few wonderful friends whose passion for community service is next to none and till date, we keep in touch regardless of our diverse professional backgrounds. OAC made me more flexible (coming from an engineering background to mix up with people from other amazing fields, was good for me) and this has helped me even as a facilitator of a teen based group I tend to coordinate all in a bid to give young people from not so privileged background the seed they need and will use to understand how mighty they are if they can only believe in themselves hence I have become an advocate to positive change in every sphere of life I find myself.

Currently, I am a Facilities Manager at UPDCFM Limited a renowned Facilities Management Company in Nigeria (I can be reached on 08133742934 for all Facilities Management consultancy or management) known for its customer centric as well as satisfaction culture. To a great extent, the knowledge I have gained from OAC has really helped me in communication and application of empathy/emotional intelligence in solving complex issues and I am grateful to be a part of this WONDERFUL FAMILY.



GEORGE ANYANWU



100 Stories of Impact

I joined OAC as a volunteer video editor in the media team led by Daniel. I remember watching raw videos of educational outreaches and projects in remote areas and would always marvel at the passion and desire of other volunteers like me. I was proud to be part of such an impact-driven vision.

Being a part of this beautiful family of like-minded people has taught me invaluable skills such as leadership, teamwork, and communication. I have developed a deeper understanding of social issues, particularly the subject of Education and the importance of community service.

One of the outreaches I participated in that I'm really proud of was the Teachers' Training held at the University of Ibadan. As a teacher, I gained hands-on experience in public speaking, emotional intelligence and management which has helped me in my teaching roles in schools in Nigeria and especially in my current role in France.

I remember the first day I'd spoken to Victoria over the phone, her meekness, positive attitude and humility spoke louder than her voice and I said to myself, this is a real leader. I thought I had seen it all until I met Mr Kotila, the present Executive Director of OAC and the team, who are jovial, compassionate and intentional. It was refreshing to see how they related warmly and respectfully to new volunteers and acted as if they had known them for a long while. Even the reserved volunteers who weren't willing to talk were quick to join discussions and the group activities, thanks to the relationship management of the amazing team.

OAC also connected me to a childhood friend whose contact I had lost for so many years. We met during one of our outreaches and it was such a proud moment. Huge thanks to the valuable friendships OAC gave me. I have also met some amazing individuals who have become mentors, colleagues, and friends. I have had the opportunity to attend conferences and networking events, where I have learned from experts in the field of education and made valuable connections.

While I briefly worked in a school for people with special needs as a classroom teacher, the skills and programs organized by OAC had prepared me adequately to organize periodic developmental and empowerment programs in the school for the students. These programs have had immense impacts in the lives of teachers and students alike. Indeed, the OAC impact on my professional life has been significant.



GBENGA IGE



100 Stories of Impact

ONEAFRICANCHILD has definitely had a huge impact on me since I joined in 2013. Being one of the founding members of OAC has helped develop my networking skills, interpersonal skills, and leadership skills through attending several meetings, masterclasses and trainings with other members of the team and that was like one of the best decisions I ever made.

Victoria Ibiwoye, my childhood friend, introduced me to her initiative in 2013, was in my year 2 in the university, and ever since then it has been an awesome experience for me, going for outreaches in primary and secondary schools in the slum areas of Lagos state, motherless homes/charity homes empowering young children and putting smiles on their faces, gave me so much joy and hope, knowing that every child deserves to be educated and everyone can make a difference in a child that needs to be educated.

In 2016, I attended OAC Ikorodu ORAL Hygiene project, which was organized for children where they were taught good oral and dental hygiene and letting them know the importance of the teeth and functions of each tooth in the body, which was packed with lots of fun activities and mind-blowing games for the kids, It was really an awesome experience and the children learnt a lot about personal hygiene.

Again, I remembered the Independence Day outreach we had at the slum areas of Takwa Bay community. In 2018, we went to Peculiar nursery and pry school, to empower the educators/teachers and put smiles on the faces of the pupils. Also, we went back to Tarkwa Bay for International Day of the Girl Child and KOLIBRI training. That day, I learnt a new and simpler way of reciting the multiplication tables, which I never knew. I made a lot of networks and friends, being an introvert, it was really hard but joining OAC really changed a lot and I am really grateful because meeting and working with people with varying backgrounds, has opened my mind and thoughts on different approaches to leadership and volunteering, now I am a better leader, and a better team player and I am proud of myself that I made that decision to be part of a team that positively impact the life of an African child.

I am currently a Supply chain Team Lead in one of the largest FMCG Companies in Africa, and still a member of OAC Lagos. Being part of OAC gives me joy and inspires me to do more to my society. I have also been able to understand the true meaning of volunteerism and the joy and peace it gives. Thank you Victoria, for giving me this opportunity to be a changemaker. THANK YOU OAC, and CONGRATULATIONS.



GBEMISOLA OMOTEHINSE



100 Stories of Impact

Many organizations exist but OAC is one that I hold in high esteem. When I was in my first year in the university, I saw OAC's flier of an awareness walk for quality and inclusive education on my roommate's phone and decided to be a part. After the walk, I made one of the best decisions in my life which was to register and become a member of OneAfricanChild. I did myself good by getting into an environment that allows for thriving and OAC's structure is one that upholds thriving by practicing inclusivity; everyone matters.

The holistic approach of things in OAC allowed for my communication and interrelationship skills to be sharpened which set me up for better days that came. Outreaches felt like mine because OAC makes you see it as yours. Thus, any opportunity to make an impact awakened every sense of responsibility in me. Also, I never had to lose the sense of unity as projects and outreaches required collective effort with people of like minds. OAC afforded me the opportunity to meet people of relevance who have proceeded to being my friends and even business partners. These individuals have also helped in shaping core parts of my life. As such, I am grateful for the gift of these individuals. Sharing opportunities is a norm in OAC and I have been a beneficiary of some of these opportunities like HundrED youth ambassadorship and winning a coupon for Clifton's strengths finder assessment which helped me to recognize my core strengths and use them as appropriate.

I have also moved from speaking only English as an international language to speaking French with an A2 level proficiency. I believe in the butterfly effect, that change begins from the seemingly little things. OneAfricanChild has helped me play my little part in changing the world and I am proud to be one with OAC.



FOLAKEMI FARIOGUN



100 Stories of Impact

I joined OneAfricanChild (OAC) in 2018 through my friend who has now turned a sister. I had always wanted to give back to society, and I was inspired by OAC's work. One particular story that touched me was Victoria's, which showed me that I should never underestimate myself and always strive to make a positive impact.

I am most proud of our outreach project on Building Self-confidence at an all-girls school in Obanikoro in 2022. Although I struggled with stage fright, the students were receptive, and one of them even shared how my message impacted her. This experience was rewarding because I didn't think I conveyed the message effectively. It taught me that even small efforts can make a big impact.

Through OneAfricanChild, I have formed valuable relationships. The OAC community has always been supportive, checking up on me even when I haven't been as active. Attending OAC events has helped me develop my communication skills, and I'm grateful for the kindness and connections that I have made. I recognize that OAC is an organization that serves its members just as much as it serves the wider community.

OneAfricanChild is more than just an organization to me. It's a community of individuals who are passionate about education and making a positive impact in the lives of others. Through my involvement with OAC, I have had countless opportunities for personal and professional growth, such as attending the facilitation masterclass, which broadened my understanding of effective facilitation. The organization's focus on education and community development has profoundly impacted my life, and I am proud to be associated with OAC.

Since my time with OAC, I have pursued a career as a business analyst at my company. The skills and knowledge I gained from OAC's masterclass and other opportunities have been invaluable in helping me navigate my day-to-day activities and improve my project management skills. Currently, I am still working as a business analyst. The leadership and communication skills I developed through my involvement with OAC have benefited my personal and professional work.

Overall, I am grateful for the foundation that OAC helped me build and the opportunities it provided me. I look forward to continuing to make an impact in my personal and professional life while also giving back to my community.



FEYIKEMI AKIBU



100 Stories of Impact

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT

The OneAfricanChild Innovation Challenge Program was a ride to the discovery and utilization of potential, both on my path as a mentor and with the students. Starting from interacting with members of our community, finding solutions to a prevalent problem, and acquiring skills to implement the project. It was fulfilling to experience guiding young minds to discover a problem in their community and find a solution. This experience has definitely inspired the students, especially the exposure to global perspectives from young minds in the USA during their collaboration session. For example, Fortunate, one of the students now believes he can be in the same class as students in the USA and is targeting having his undergraduate degree in the USA.

The students are working on developing a multimedia ed-tech platform that allows peers to teach each other, as research has shown this can increase efficiency in an education process. To further their goals, as a result of one of the classes on prototype design by Mighty Minds Africa, the students have started their tech journey, equipping themselves with skills to build a user interface and user experience for future products. The Prize money from Mighty Minds Africa has been helpful in initiating discussions with developers, and we believe this project, on a mission, to democratize formal education in Nigeria will make a lot of impact. Overall, the students and I have been more conscious of the problems in our community and actively seek to provide solutions. The OneAfricanChild Innovation Challenge is a remarkable one indeed.



FAITH MUSTAPHA

Team Peer Learning, Kwara State



100 Stories of Impact

"What do I really want to do with my life? What career path should I really pursue? What are my interests and how do they tie to choosing a career path?" - all these and more were the many questions that plagued my mind. As a young graduate who just completed the Nigerian mandatory one-year youth service corps in November of 2018, I was stuck at the valley of decision. My eureka moment came when I joined OneAfricanChild (OAC) on January 18, 2019. Joining OAC in 2019, I was amazed at the breadth of work that was done to provide underserved children and youth in Africa wings to fly through global citizenship education programs. My best days were the volunteer hangout meetings. Besides the meetings being an opportunity to brainstorm ongoing and upcoming projects, I had come to love and appreciate the depth of friendship and togetherness that existed in the organization.

My fond memories at OAC include the Christmas party organized December of 2019, the peace building advocacy project where we all had to carry out a creative project on what peacebuilding meant to us, the world education day advocacy project where we all had the opportunity to express on our respective social media channels what education meant to us, the career mapping and goal setting workshop and many others. Chief of my fond memories was taking part in the Learning Equality Project organized at Peculiar Children School, Tarkwa Bay, where we provided kids at the community with global learning resources through KolibriFly.

Tying these experiences back to my eureka moment, volunteering helped me discover that I enjoyed doing work that impacted people and community directly. My experience at OAC opened me up to opportunities in human and social development as a career exploration starting point. I decided to pursue this interest and curiosity further by undertaking a master's degree program in public administration at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, Regina, Canada. As a student in the MPA program, I would eagerly use OAC as a case study for any of my coursework that required an international perspective, especially if it related to sustainable development. While my career path isn't fully defined yet, I am grateful for the opportunity OAC provided me in discovering my interests and passion. And as I proceed on my journey of curiosity, I would always remember OAC as the catalyst that kick-started the very first step.



FAITH BABALOLA



100 Stories of Impact

Growing up with a desire for quality and inclusive education, I found myself in a position where I wanted to help other children, especially in Africa, to access the same. The same desire was met when I joined OneAfricanChild Foundation in 2018 after a friend posted the organization on one of our WhatsApp groups. I saw that the organization's values and vision aligned to what I wanted to do in my community. During my undergraduate years, I founded an organization called the Kenyan Child Initiative with similar vision, unfortunately, I was not able to realize our vision. Therefore, when I got the chance to join OAC, I saw it as a perfect avenue for providing my services and sharing my dream to the world.

OAC has provided many of the volunteers with a lot of opportunities that have helped us advance our personal, professional and networking lives. Particularly, OAC has helped me realize my leadership skills through involvement in its leadership platform. In 2020, I led the Media and Communication team where we were able to develop and execute some projects that were critical to the organization. It was a role that was challenging, but at the same time gave me an opportunity to learn valuable leadership, interpersonal and communication skills.

One of the invaluable benefits of being a member of OAC is the network that the organization introduces you to. I have had the privilege of networking with different individuals, both members and non-members of the organization. Recently, I was able to connect with my long-time friend that I met in OAC, who opened up opportunities for me as a leader. We had planned to travel to each other's country before the pandemic, but this was made impossible by the pandemic. We were fortunate to relocate to the USA, where we were able to meet.

Further, through the support of the organization, I have been able to enroll into an LL.M degree at Northeastern University. At the university, I have also been privileged to network, as well as use many opportunities to grow myself and contribute to society. Therefore, being part of the OAC family is something that I will never take for granted. Happy Anniversary OneAfricanChild and thank You for transforming Africa's education system.



EMMA NYABISI



100 Stories of Impact

My journey with OneAfricanChild started in March 2021. Mr. Kayode Ogunremi and Miss Popoola Iyunoluwa, who were both my course mates during undergrad, usually put on the foundation's shirt to meetings and outreaches, so I was curious as to what OAC stands for, so I asked to know more about OAC. I was really thrilled by the clarity I got and I couldn't wait to join the foundation to contribute my effort to the growth of the foundation through giving back to the society.

I was inspired by its aim and visions of the progressive development of Children in the society to make them realize how much they can achieve which has no bounds or limit!

I have not had the opportunity to attend a lot of outreaches, but the few I have been able to attend were really great and I was so proud of it all. But, if I were to pick a favorite, it would be my debut. Oh my God! That pleasant day, I was anxious about facilitating as it was my first time in front of students and it was really a great time; the way we interacted, connected, was absolutely superb, the students and I had a really great time.

My time with OAC created an avenue to meet a lot of great people, and also created another avenue for a deeper connection with my existing friends. For instance, Mr. Olusesi Olutomiwa was my coach for football during the undergrad days. I won my first gold medal and trophy with him. Who would have thought I would still meet with him, interact well with him like I am able to now, because he graduated long before I did. Today, I have gotten a lot of advice from him that has impacted me greatly. Also, Mr. Kotila Olumuyiwa, is a really great person with a great personality, such a great leader, really resourceful and benevolent. I really appreciate him a lot, and I am so glad I met him through OAC. These are few of all other gifts as people that OAC gave me. Thank you all for all you do, you're all really wonderful. Thank you OAC for creating an avenue to meet such great and wonderful individuals. I am really happy and glad!

I am very proud to be associated with the foundation that focuses on the educational development of children in the society, which is the bedrock of a standard society. Through outreaches, the foundation has been able to equip students with the basic skills needed for success in life. The foundation does not only focus on just outreaches, but its members too have benefitted from the big basket of OAC, through trainings, capacity building workshops, advocacy campaigns, and empowerment programs aimed at equipping participants with skills for life and work. I have spread the news widely about the foundation and how important being part of an NGO is and how OAC is really focused on developing its members and creating an avenue to showcase one's capability and prowess to influence the life of people around us.

I joined OAC before I graduated in my final year at university, and I was able to learn a lot from the meetings and the outreaches. This influenced my service year, during which I was able to, with the help of my colleagues, influence the life of the children of the community for the better, education wise, and most of them began to develop aspirations on how to further their education; seeing beyond farming and building a family after secondary education.



DOLAPO OLANIYAN



100 Stories of Impact

Returning to the University of Ibadan in 2018 for my graduate studies in Virology, I wanted to do something different for myself outside of academia; serving in Katsina state for a year had changed my perspective on how impactful community-directed efforts could be and the forms these efforts could manifest. A friend who was a volunteer with the OneAfricanChild foundation pitched the organization's vision and goals to me and I was immediately hooked on being a part of this amazing group of individuals. While I had little experience with quality education-specific efforts, I saw it as an opportunity to grow while also transferring whatever skills I had to broadening the reach and effect of the organization.

The two things created quite an impression on me during the first few months volunteering with the organization, first was the commitment of the volunteers and the depth of excellence shown by the volunteers; it showed a innate sense of ownership and passion that has stayed with me and I have learnt to apply to every phase of my life. Volunteers were as excited about reaching the school next door as they were attending a UNESCO-funded training.

One of the first things I did as a volunteer was find a team within the organization where I fitted the best and this was the media and communications team; I believed that the organization's impact needed to be communicated and put out for the world to see and interact with. I learned a lot about working with a team of creatives, the importance of commitment over talent only, developing frameworks and working with collaborators such as Learning Equality and SOLE Colombia. Participating in outreaches for children of various ages and also showcasing the impact of the efforts of our volunteers were moments I enjoyed the most from my volunteering experience, but training teachers and creating a platform for everyday young people to become impact makers through the STEAM contest and SOLE-group conversations are memories I cannot forget.

Volunteering with the OneAfricanChild Foundation has not just given me a great foundation but also an amazing community of friends, this was central to the success of my graduate school application and admission into the Doctoral Program at the Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, PA. Having a group I could be accountable to, share ideas, vet documents, prepare for interviews and pull together in the same direction was a much needed boost for such a rigorous experience. When I think about the OneAfricanChild foundation, an image of ownership and commitment always comes to mind; I am reminded about the far-reaching impact such values have in changing our world for the better.



DANIEL OKPAISE



100 Stories of Impact

My involvement with OneAfricanChild Foundation plays a crucial role in my growth process and contributing to humanitarian services to give back to society. OAC is a driver of change as a global force in promoting education for every child's brightest hope for the future. I am excited to be part of this change. My involvement with OAC has engaged me in various capacity-building projects and workshops with the organization. As a member of the organization, I have worked on projects funded by international organizations such as Learning Equality and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP).

Despite the education sector in the country being hard hit by conflict, I worked with a team that significantly expanded a digital education project in 2018 for several children in a remote area of Tarkwa Bay, Lagos, improving their digital learning skills and providing learning resources. In 2021, I also participated in a Peace Building workshop project to prevent misdemeanors in learning institutions. In all of these, I have built a network of people in fundraising, project management and impact assessment. This has better positioned me as a valuable part of any volunteering team. I now possess experience that allows me to actively contribute to societal development.

I have sought to create value by serving as a Board Member of OAC and contributing my financial expertise to the organization's growth. I have been able to analyse financial trends to help the organization create strategic plans. As a professional Finance Analyst, I have put my skills to good use through strategic partnerships with institutional donors while also providing recommendations in various investment vehicles. I am proud of the work OAC is doing and also glad that I am a part of it.



DAMILARE ADENOLA



100 Stories of Impact

My first encounter with OAC was in 2015 when I met Victoria Ibiwoye in Accra, Ghana. This has been life changing. I was at a point in my life where I was looking for an engagement to be more active in my community, and OAC came at the right moment. Back to Cotonou, my home city in Benin Republic, Victoria and I continued exchanging online and she introduced me to the big OAC family. Coming from a Francophone country, I was actually in Ghana for English, and volunteering with OAC made English become my working language. My good command of English and French has been an excellent advantage for me in my professional career.

With OAC, I learned so much! I became more aware of concepts related to leadership, self-awareness, Global Citizenship Education (GCED), violent extremism prevention and peacebuilding. Most importantly, I learned how to engage with children and effectively share knowledge with them. I became a trainer and learned how powerful education is to transform people's lives and create positive change in communities. Volunteering with OAC gave me a profound love for children and made me understand that with "One child at a time", we could change our whole society.

I have been active online and in-person, contributing to OAC's curriculum and participating in the implementation of different projects including the Art for Peace and Environment project, in partnership with Peace First. Years after the end of the project, it has been nominated as one of the three best EIU (Education for International Understanding) practices in the world, by UNESCO in 2023.

After 8 years of collaboration, I am proud to still volunteer for OAC and I am glad to contribute to the implementation of our programs by any means possible. These years working with OAC made me understand that creating impact is not about money, but about the willingness to act for the change we desire.

OAC has been an incredible source of motivation and opportunities for me, and also for hundreds of youth volunteers and children who have access to quality education because of our projects. During the last 10 years, we have come a long way, and I have no doubt that this is just the beginning.

Happy Anniversary OneAfricanChild!



CONSTANT ODOUNFA



100 Stories of Impact

My earliest memories of volunteering with OneAfricanChild (OAC) are filled with warmth and excitement. I remember the first time I attended an OAC event, which was an outreach program at a local primary school in Lagos, Nigeria. I was nervous but eager to get involved and make a positive impact. As soon as I arrived at the meeting point, I was greeted by other members of the OAC team, who were all so friendly and welcoming. We spent the day playing games, teaching and distributing school supplies to the children. At the end of the day, I felt a sense of fulfillment knowing that I had played a small role in making their day brighter.

One outreach project that I am most proud of was my experience teaching students at Tarkwa Bay, a coastal community in Lagos, Nigeria, using the Kolibri digital platform. Tarkwa Bay is an underserved community with limited access to educational resources, and it was inspiring to be a part of a project that aimed to bridge that gap. During my time in Tarkwa Bay, I had the opportunity to work with students across different age groups and learning levels and I was struck by their enthusiasm. It was obvious that the students were motivated to make the most of the opportunity. My presence, along with the support of the other trainers, helped to make a difference by providing the students with access to a digital platform that would have otherwise been out of reach. I was able to witness firsthand how the Kolibri platform helped to engage the students, making learning more accessible, interactive, and enjoyable. Overall, being a part of this project was an incredibly rewarding experience, and I felt proud to have contributed to the education of students in an underserved community.

Through my involvement with OneAfricanChild, I have had the opportunity to connect with many amazing individuals who share a passion for education and community development. One of the special relationships that I have made through this organization is with a fellow volunteer who shares my enthusiasm for learning and board games. In addition to my fellow volunteers, I have also had the privilege of working with several students, teachers, and partners who have left a lasting impression on me. One particular student stands out in my mind, as I recall the immense determination she exhibited towards learning. Despite facing numerous challenges from her classmates, she remained committed to learning and growing, and I was inspired by her resilience. I have been fortunate to connect with individuals who share my commitment to education and community development, and I look forward to continuing to build these relationships in the future.

I am incredibly proud to be associated with OneAfricanChild because of the organization's unwavering commitment to education and community development. OneAfricanChild is more than just a volunteer group; it is a community of passionate individuals who are dedicated to creating positive change in the world. The impact that OneAfricanChild has made in my life has been immense. Through my involvement with the organization, I have had the opportunity to work with amazing individuals from diverse backgrounds, each with a unique perspective and skill set. I have been inspired by the passion and dedication of my fellow volunteers, and I have learned a great deal from our collaborations. If I were to talk about OneAfricanChild and the impact it has made in my life to someone else, I would emphasize the organization's commitment to education, community development, and empowerment. I would share my personal experiences and the stories of the amazing individuals I have worked with through OneAfricanChild. I would encourage them to get involved and become a part of this inspiring community of change-makers.

Since my time with OneAfricanChild, I have had the opportunity to pursue my passion for product design. I have worked with cross-functional teams to conceptualize and design intuitive products that meet the needs of our users. One of my proudest accomplishments since my time with OneAfricanChild has been the successful launch of a software product designed by me and my team. Through user research, iterative design, and close collaboration with our development team, we were able to create a product that not only met but exceeded our users' expectations. I am grateful for the experiences and skills I gained during my time with OneAfricanChild, which have helped me to succeed in my current career. I remain committed to giving back to my community and supporting organizations like OneAfricanChild that are dedicated to making a positive impact in the world. The themes my message connects with most are Community Development, Advocacy, and Friendship and Community.



CINDY EMEH



100 Stories of Impact

An aspect of life that gives me fulfillment is being able to contribute to my community. OneAfricanChild has helped me create a meaningful path by giving back to my community and improving my life generally. I joined OneAfricanChild foundation in 2016, and the organization has paved the way for a well-rounded experience outside of the education I have received. The organization is filled with great minds who make things happen through their program, and I was lucky enough to be selected to work as a project intern. I collaborated with a team their timeless commitment and dedication.

In 2020, the organization created an internship to transfer lifelong competencies such as effective communication, creativity, collaboration and active citizenship to project interns to create and deliver a five-year work plan for the sustainability of the organization's mission and objectives. I also helped in creating educational activities for learners in Nigeria to this point.

Through my engagement with OneAfricanChild, I have had the opportunity to work with youths with powerful ideas to change the world. This equipped me with leadership and effective communication skills such as report writing, presentation, public speaking and project evaluation. I participated in organizing a peace and resilience-building workshop for teachers and youth leaders in Nigeria. The foundation provided room for development through facilitation. As a teacher, I am able to apply some of these skills in the classroom. These are skills I did not learn while I was a student but learnt through active participation and engagement with the foundation, I was able to hone and apply these skills.

OneAfricanChild foundation is a place to grow and discover one's capabilities. It's great to have so many people. Knowing that I am contributing positively to the lives of many and putting smiles on their faces through the foundation is so fulfilling. It has been a great privilege to work with everyone, and I look forward to achieving even more with the organization.

CHRISTIANA IBIWOYE





100 Stories of Impact

In my second year at the University of Ibadan, I vividly recall spotting someone in an OAC t-shirt that caught my attention. As someone driven to make a difference in my community, I felt an instant connection to the organization. The encounter was life changing as the mission resonated deeply with me, and I found a community of like-minded individuals who shared my passion for positive impact.

OAC connected me with people dedicated to improving our community. Together, we organized educational programs, skill-building workshops, street outreaches and more. This experience was very rewarding and fulfilling as it allowed me to learn and grow while creating a difference.

One of the outreach projects that I participated in and I'm most proud of was the street outreach we had on Children's Day. Our goal was to bring joy to children in our community. We visited several streets in Ibadan, equipped with children's day packs to distribute to the children we encountered. It was heartwarming to see the smile on their faces as they eagerly collected their Children's Day packs.

However, amidst the excitement, we encountered a young boy who refused to smile even after collecting his Children's Day pack. We approached him and spoke to him, but he was still unwilling to show any emotion. We realized that he had a tough exterior and must have been going through a difficult time. Our team took the time to sit with him and listen to his story, which was a testament to the power of empathy and the importance of showing kindness to others. We spoke to him and tried to encourage him, assuring him that things would get better and that he had a bright future ahead of him. Our interaction with the boy reminded me that our outreach project on Children's Day was more than just material gifts. It was about showing empathy, kindness, and letting children know they are loved and valued.

Through my involvement in this organization, I have developed invaluable skills that have helped me become a better leader and team player. My experience with OAC has also been a major factor in my professional development, as it has taught me the importance of empathy and collaboration.

Currently, I work as a Product Manager at Standard Chartered Bank, where I am also a member of the Diversity and Inclusion group. My work with the D&I group involves supporting people from diverse backgrounds and ensuring that everyone feels included in the workplace through creative initiatives.

In a world where we often feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the problems we face, it's inspiring to see people making a tangible difference. The OAC community is a reminder that our smallest actions can have a big impact. Thank you, Victoria, for following your dreams and creating something truly special.

Happy Anniversary OneAfricanChild!



BOLANLE ADENIRAN



100 Stories of Impact

I joined OAC in 2013 upon the invitation of Arthur Yaw, a founding member who was in my undergraduate fellowship. I did not know a lot about volunteering at the time, but I liked the thought of being a part of a group that was intentional about creating a positive impact on children from low-income communities. I still remember the first few events we went for in Ibadan community schools. All the outreaches changed my life as much as it did the children's lives.

My favorite memory was in 2019 when Oyindamola, Tinu and I went to Tarkwa Bay during the digital literacy partnership with Learning Equality. I taught students in 2 classes, and I was amazed at the level of responsiveness from them. The day is clear in my mind because we spent the whole day engaging the children, and even with all the exhaustion, we took some pictures with the elated and grateful students, which I have come to cherish till this day. Coincidentally, all three of us are in the US for graduate studies. My first impression was how the students were able to creatively carry out simple tasks on the tabs we came with, independent of any support from us. It made me wonder how these communities would thrive if they were adequately supported by the government and education stakeholders.

I got the opportunity to travel to Japan (my first international trip) by virtue of being in OAC, but the biggest dividends for me in OneAfricanChild has been my friendships. I met both my closest friend and partner while volunteering. I recently traveled to see my Kenyan friend, Emma for the first time since our virtual communications as co-volunteers in OAC. I introduced OAC to Faith Onome, who turned out to be a committed member, but she is only one of the many people I have recommended the organization to because I believe that every young person needs to align themselves to a goal or organization that seeks to promote the quality of the lives of people. It is also a great platform to develop leadership and organizational skills. Aside from the leverage it will give as you apply to schools, programs and corporate organizations, one will learn virtues like leadership, empathy, project management, and community development among others.

OAC created a support group in 2021 for volunteers to further their studies abroad. This was helpful as I completed my graduate application with the support of my accountability partner, Oyinda. This is a story I really like to share, as we traveled to the US one month apart to begin our graduate programmes.



BLESSING UWISIKE



100 Stories of Impact

One of my new year resolutions in 2019 was to do something different. I was of the opinion that if you do the same thing, you will get the same result and I decided to do something I had never done before. In January 2019, I spoke to colleagues if they know any volunteering community that I can be a part of, quite a few were mentioned and I applied to all expectant of feedback.

To my amazement, I got a text or an email and was invited for an interview. I was surprised, like "wow, interview? This must be serious". I was determined and also excited about the new opportunity. I prepared ahead and went there in time given the distance from my house, in fact, I got there before anybody else. I was amazed at the young minds that anchored the interview. I waited for the meeting, saw young adults, sharing what they are passionate about, there and then I knew I was in the place I have always wanted to be. Surprisingly, I met a few familiar faces from undergraduate days in University of Ibadan. When I met Victoria for the first time, I was so proud of what she has achieved and how far she has come. I was excited to be a part of the team, I was proudly speaking about all that we stand for and did my best in contributing to the goals of the organization and Lagos Chapter.

One of the projects that stood out for me was the individualized project or one you can have in Teams usually held in August. I, Temidire and Lateef embarked on empowering young children in one displaced community at Yaba on how to make wristbands with beads. This is a project I will never forget. I was excited, motivated and it was a success, my team members came through for me. I look back on the pictures, the smile on the faces of the children and I was glad we did it. Being a part of the team also brought out some leadership skills I did not know I had. In November 2019, I was asked to anchor our 6th year anniversary Lagos chapter. I worked with exceptionally brilliant minds, they gave their all, and they went all out to make the event a success.

OneAfricanChild has birthed individuals who are doing great things in various spheres of life, all thanks to the innovative and creative woman (Victoria) who took the step to founding an exceptional community that makes a difference always! OAC will always be a part of my life and I am grateful for the friends and relationships I have made from the community, especially the people I worked with on projects. I read the stories and see testimonials on social media and I am proud to have been a part of the organization.

I am currently married with my daughter and resident in England, working as a Health Care Assistant and I am passionate about my job and making a difference in the lives of whoever I come in contact with. I am rest assured that OAC will force the change in our generation, and more lives will be impacted across the globe.

Happy Anniversary and many more to celebrate!



EYIWUNMI OSANAIYE



100 Stories of Impact

My most memorable outreach with OAC was at the Tarkwa Bay community. This event was my first outing after I was accepted to volunteer with the organization. We had visited as a team to follow up on some of the partnerships with the community. I did not lead any specific activity on the day, but I was assigned to help manage small group activities. This event was the defining moment where I confirmed I had made a good decision to be a part of the organization. I saw the honesty and passion with which volunteers interacted with the community members. The love and familiarity that I witnessed during the interactions were palpable. Beyond the emotive aspects of these interactions, I was very proud of the quality of content and the modes of delivery that were engaged at this outreach. At the end of the day, on the canoe ride back to Lagos Island, I was very certain that I wanted to belong to this community of volunteers, and I wanted to impact my community alongside passionate and brilliant young people.

Over the years, I have benefitted from the network that OAC afforded me, both professionally, and personally. Some of my closest friendships were formed within the organization, and these individuals have been supportive through some of the very difficult moments of my life. I have also been blessed to have celebrated some of the major wins in my life with these beautiful friends. I would truly say that I have gained a world more than I imagined since joining OAC as a volunteer.

Beyond being a catalyst and change agent for young persons and educators who partner with the organization, OAC offers tremendous values to volunteers through training, networking, leadership experiences. I am proud to be associated with the vision of OAC and I feel very privileged to be walking on this path with many young leaders who strive to make the world a better place for many people. I have been privileged to have led workshops and training on behalf of the organization. These experiences continue to advance my personal and professional skill set, and they contribute immensely to my career success.



ELIZABETH WAHAB



100 Stories of Impact

When I think of that one decision I made that significantly influenced the course of my life, I think OAC. Not mincing words, joining OAC is one of the best things that happened to me. Articulating OAC's impact on my life in a one-page document is mission impossible, but I will try.

I joined OAC as a timid young lady who avoided interactions with people and I was welcomed with very open arms, typical of OAC as I would find out. Volunteering with OAC brought me out of my shell and for the first time in my teenage years, I learnt commitment and devotion. I saw something worth investing my time into- the smile, exposure and enthusiasm of the children as well as networking with people that have now moved from being just colleagues to friends. I have been privileged to serve OAC in various roles that form a good part of my leadership experience. OAC afforded me my first international facilitation experience amongst many enlightening experiences. Thanks to OAC, that timid lady gained confidence, relational skills, human resource skills and facilitation skills. I gained knowledge on global issues and became exposed to realities beyond me which led to refining my desires from just wanting to help people, to providing psychological help to families and children.

One thing peculiar about OAC is the inclination towards creative learning, it makes all the difference and creates the balance our system needs. A few of the many impactful events that stood out for me was the global sports event, where children got to learn soft skills through sports, it brought life to things they had learnt about teamwork, leadership, empathy- and that, to me, was a great impact, a practical lesson stuck in their memory. All our teachers' training also stood out for me. Seeing teachers open to young people teaching them things they did not know was just beautiful. I saw the light and passion in their eyes, and I had renewed hope for things to come.

My volunteering experience was an avenue to learn about myself and I gained clarity on what I would enjoy doing for the rest of my life. I decided to switch fields from biochemistry to psychology. I now have a master's degree in family and child psychology from the university of Chester, England and I am still on the path to becoming a licensed psychologist at Nottingham Trent University, England.

I have grown, made lifelong friends, served and evolved thanks to the amazing platform OAC is.



DEMILADE LAWAL



100 Stories of Impact

My first contact with OneAfricanChild Foundation (OAC) was through a dear friend, Lola. We had gathered to celebrate her birthday at Jesus Children Missions home, Ibadan, where I met Victoria who told me about OAC. When Victoria and Lola shared the vision of the organization with me, I got excited hearing about it, and so I joined OAC. When I joined OAC, I thought it might just be volunteering with young like-minded people to reach out to less privileged communities, but unknown to me was a world of learning I was about to step into.

Like many would agree, OAC is a wonderful opportunity and platform not only to volunteer, not only to give back to the community, not only to put a smile on that child's face or give that young leader of tomorrow the hope they need to make their dreams true. OAC has been an engaging platform to learn, to grow, to be better, to do better and to also build long lasting friendships. It is an organization focused on impacting societies and the lives of its volunteers, including mine.

Like every great encounter, words would fail to capture my experiences and appreciation of OAC. I do know that in OAC there is always more room for a volunteer, for that child, and for that leader to grow and be that change. As we celebrate the years of impact and more years of impact, we'd still be "gabbing it, gabbing it, rolling it together and giving it!".
Happy Anniversary OneAfricanChild!!!!



CHINYERE IHUEGBU



100 Stories of Impact

In the heart of Africa, where hope blooms and dreams take flight, OneAfricanChild for Creative Learning (OAC) has been a beacon of light, igniting the flames of education and creativity across Nigeria and Kenya. At the helm of this transformative mission stands a dedicated teacher and visionary leader, whose commitment and passion have left an indelible mark on countless lives. I have had the privilege of being a part of this inspiring journey as the Director of Education for OAC in Kenya in 2021.

In 2020, I first came into contact with OAC. I had received an invitation from a fellow educator to attend an OAC-organized online teacher's session. After the fantastic course, I thought of volunteering my knowledge and expertise to OAC and joined the organization. My objective was always crystal clear: to use the power of education to inspire young minds and catalyze change. Working together with OAC was a natural fit since we both believed in the power of creativity and innovation to bridge the educational gap in Africa. I have weaved a tapestry of accomplishments throughout my time in office, with each thread signifying a step forward in the pursuit of our noble mission.

One of my proudest accomplishments has been the art of networking. Through OAC's vibrant network, I have forged connections with like-minded individuals, organizations, and educators, each one a brick in the foundation of a brighter future. These collaborations have enriched our programs, infused fresh perspectives, and widened the horizons of possibilities. Together, we have united under the banner of education, driven by the belief that by working hand in hand, we can create a ripple effect that extends far beyond borders.

But the journey didn't stop at networking. At OAC, we understand that learning is a continuous process. As an educator, I eagerly embraced every opportunity to grow, evolve, and enhance my skills. Participating in training sessions and workshops allowed me to glean insights from experts in the field, deepening my understanding of educational methodologies, innovative pedagogies, and the nuances of nurturing creativity. These moments of learning were not only personally enriching but also instrumental in elevating the quality of education we provided to our students.

In the heart of Kenya, I witnessed the transformation that OAC brings to young lives. Our mentorship programs have empowered students to unlock their potential and embrace their uniqueness. Through reading, art, storytelling, and interactive learning experiences, we have fostered a love for education that transcends traditional boundaries. The smiles that light up the faces of our students are a testament to the impact we have made, and the ripples of positive change extend not only to these young minds but to their families and communities as well.

As I reflect on my three-year journey with OneAfricanChild for Creative Learning, I am filled with gratitude and a profound sense of purpose. The volunteering role has been a canvas on which I have painted stories of hope, growth, and empowerment. The shared moments of joy, the challenges overcome, and the unwavering commitment of our team have left an indelible imprint on my heart.

As OAC continues to shine its light across Nigeria and Kenya, I am reminded that our journey is far from over. The path ahead is adorned with new possibilities, new connections to be established, and new minds to inspire. Together, we will continue to nurture the flames of mentorship, knowledge, and empowerment, igniting a brighter future for Africa, one child at a time.

The writer is a teacher of English and Literature at Shamrock International School Nairobi- Kenya and a volunteer at OAC.



CALEB NYAKUNDI



100 Stories of Impact

The OAC-Kenya experiences are ones that I hold dear to my heart. I joined the organization after meeting Victoria, the founder, in one of the workshops on peace initiatives with the United States Institute of Peace in Morocco. She explained to me what OAC was all about, and immediately, I wanted to join as its vision perfectly aligned with my passion and interests. As it happened, OAC had just started a branch in Kenya, and I was elated to become a part of it.

OAC interested me in many ways. We not only worked with children (which I truly love), but also were given an opportunity to give back to the marginalized groups, while learning invaluable skills throughout the period. These skills included organizing events, designing training workshops in topics relevant to children, and executing the actual workshops in creative and fun ways. In addition, I improved my communication skills – both oral and written – and gained the ability to develop and deliver creative and interactive visuals and speeches to different audiences, including children. These skills have been useful in communicating with my social and professional networks, and I feel so proud to have been a part of OAC-Kenya.

Our target audience, the marginalized children, had gone through a lot in their lives. They were facing/had faced extremely difficult situations, so it required a certain level of emotional intelligence and empathy to truly inspire and mentor them and enable them to have a positive outlook in life. It was of course not easy, but having other volunteers who joined hands to rally behind, and encourage those children who deeply and genuinely cared about these issues, made it a worthwhile endeavor. These volunteers were equally passionate about the empowerment programs that we were implementing, further strengthening collaborative efforts and enabling learning and sharing of knowledge amongst the team. As a result, I was able to establish important, ongoing personal and professional relationships that have proved invaluable to date, as we keep in touch and assist each other to develop and grow professionally.

During my time at OAC-Kenya, I was impressed by both the process and the results of our interventions. During the process, we planned activities together, organized team building exercises, donated to our beneficiaries, and played and shared meals together with the children. The result was even more encouraging, as we inspired hope and empowered numerous children with both hands-on and soft skills to enable them to succeed in life. The one outreach project that stood out for me was our visit to the Compassionate Hand for the Disabled Foundation in Nairobi. The project was aimed at promoting inclusive learning for all, to achieve Education for Sustainable Development. We listened to the children's stories as we engaged them in numerous activities, including helping them to express their feelings and emotions through art. It was an exhilarating moment, filled with all types of emotions, as we helped the children uncover the world filled with so many possibilities.

OAC continues to work with these and other children across the globe, and I am proud of what the organization has accomplished, and the work that it continues to do to develop our communities.



BRIAN JUMA



100 Stories of Impact

"Impact" is one of the words I have gotten used to hearing at OneAfricanChild. The first-ever program I participated in was the Peace for Change workshop, where interdisciplinary youth leaders converged in Nigeria and Kenya to talk about what peace means to them and their diverse communities. That was an eye-opening experience for me, hearing and seeing the similarities in what we all consider a peaceful community, irrespective of religious, tribal, or physical differences.

OAC has taught me that making a difference in one life is more important than having a hoard of followers. The word "impact" comes to mind again, because that is what OAC works towards as an organization and instills in its volunteers.

OAC shared the opportunity of the UNESCO-APCEIU 8th youth leadership workshop in 2022, and my participation in that program has been life-changing. I gained access to an in-depth understanding of global citizenship education and how my actions and inactions can impact my community. The experience gained from that program gave me the courage to put forward a community initiative idea I had and get a grant to scale the idea. The overall experience from conception to actualization has helped me understand more about the relevance of impact and how changing the perspective of one child can affect the lifestyle of his immediate family and an entire community.

The leadership experience I have got from OAC, as the HR director for Lagos, has also impacted my regular work as a young female HR professional in the Oil & Gas sector where I am usually the only woman in the room. It has helped me speak up more, share ideas better and get more women into the room.



BLESSING AWAMBA



100 Stories of Impact

I learnt about OneAfricanChild Foundation after attending an Emotional Intelligence Masterclass and got clarity from one of the facilitators mid-2019. I attended a few impactful monthly meetings and I knew I was just where I wanted to be.

Late 2019, I had to relocate to Kwara State and the then Regional Director, OAC Ibadan who is now the Executive Director, ensured I got in touch with the Regional Director, OAC Kwara and I became a full-fledged member early 2020. I attended quite a number of outreaches and programmes organized by OneAfricanChild Foundation but the one that stands out for me was the Peace and Resilience Building Workshop organized in conjunction with UNESCO IICBA where I facilitated a session and was in charge of wall inscriptions and break out rooms. I felt a sense of belonging to be saddled with responsibilities and I felt a part of something bigger than myself. It was an amazing experience.

Over the years, working on projects with other volunteers; sharing memories, experiences and Impactful. The team has grown to be a close-knit one. Shared knowledge, experiences, coaching one another and lending helping hands where necessary have been the highlight of the Kwara Team since I joined. Team members have been supportive and strong go-getters.

OneAfricanChild Foundation is an organization I am most proud of. I have learned, relearned and unlearned social and emotional values that contribute to my daily affairs as a human and as a Leader. I have learnt and practiced empathy, teamwork and resilience.

I currently serve as the Focal Point for OAC Kwara, I had earlier served as the HR Manager and Programs assistant. Overseeing the Gaa Alaanu Project and steering the affairs of the Team got me my present job as it proved that I can manage a team. I can now boldly call myself a facilitator thanks to several SEL Trainings in schools around.

My message connects the most with Community Development, Workforce Readiness and Global Exposure. I celebrate an amazing organization at 10! Cheers to more decades of impact!



BALOGUN HANIFAT OMOLARA



100 Stories of Impact

OneAfricanChild Foundation has been a place of fulfillment of purpose to me and it will be one of those opportunities I will be forever grateful for. I joined OneAfricanChild in the year 2018 as I just finished with my National Youth Service program and the urge to continue with community projects and global impacts was great. It was a great experience being welcomed into the community of like minds, with the goal of making an impact and changing the lives of children. It really felt like home and every single act of service; the regular meetings, the workshops, the community service, the training programs and the mentoring sessions made it more fulfilling.

One of the projects in which I was opportune to participate in was in celebration of Children's Day and we visited a school in Mushin to teach the pupils on digital literacy and how to make use of the computers for learning. The joy and excitement on the faces of the pupils was enough to last me a lifetime as they enjoyed every session which included games and winning loads of freebies.

During my time in OAC, I served as the Regional Secretary and it was one of those times, I must truly admit that I learned on the job, and this was made possible because the foundation helped me to perform my duties despite the busy schedules and this, I am grateful for. I really enjoyed every meeting and every session with every volunteer both physically or virtually.

OneAfricanChild Foundation is not just about giving, and this is what amazes me the most, it's also about sharing; sharing of values, sharing of love among every volunteer and sharing of genuine friendships and relationships, and I am grateful for the connections that I made during my stay in the family. These connections which have been nurtured over time have moved on to be of much better value when it comes to navigating through life stages and everyone has been helpful in one way or the other.

I am proud and will always be proud to be associated with the family, the core values, the impact made locally and globally, the leadership, the team and the mode of operations, including the commitment to the cause makes me really proud. Also, since my time with OneAfricanChild, I have been able to find more meaning in giving back to the community and making an impact in every little way I can.

Most importantly, I am excited and grateful that OAC will be celebrating 10 years of making an impact, improving the standard of life of African Children, breaking obstacles and making education accessible to those who can't afford it. It calls for celebration. I am grateful for OAC and it will forever hold a special place in my heart.



AYOMIDE ADEDIJI



100 Stories of Impact

A vibrant and seasoned volunteer, known as Scholar Ola at my university (UNILORIN), intrigued me to join OAC. Scholar Ola is not just a first-class scholar but also a pioneer and an active member of communities dedicated to growth and giving back to society. His role as an OAC volunteer at Unilorin was inspiring.

Currently, I'm immersed in my Civil Engineering Internship at Lagos Island. Encouraged by Scholar Ola, I navigated the application process to join OAC Lagos. My first meeting with OAC was an unforgettable experience, one of the best days of that month. OAC is a collective of beautiful, intelligent, and community-driven individuals who excel in planning and executing their goals. The spirit of OAC, as goal-getters, is contagious, and I've wholeheartedly embraced it since joining.

As a new member, I'm excited to be a part of the Sustainability Team, working on the ongoing Gaa Alanu School project. I am committed to making a positive impact on OAC's growth in Lagos, at UNILORIN, and wherever my journey takes me worldwide.

OAC has opened my eyes to the importance of being an impact-driven individual. Giving back to the community in any form is an absolute joy. Thank you, OAC, for this incredible opportunity to be part of such a dynamic and purposeful community.

of making a difference



AYOKUNLE ABIOLA



100 Stories of Impact

The LinkedIn activities of Mr. Okeowo Daniel were the pointers that drew my attention to OneAfricanChild in early 2019. I was so impressed by the organization's activities, from school outreaches to peace advocacy and teachers' training. I wasn't just moved by the activities, but I felt connected. Growing up, one of my life goals was to change the narrative of the African educational system to a standard type. Thus, as soon as I learnt about OAC, I started looking for a way to join the organization. I reached out to Mr. Daniel, who guided me through the application process.

After I joined, I got to experience that OAC is a family, not just an organization. I was happily welcomed and onboarded. Beyond the work in the organization, the leadership team is intentional about the growth and development of the members. They organize developmental programs and share testimonials and opportunities. I was like, "See, OAC is my Rehoboth!"

Not long after I joined, OAC kicked off the school building project at Gaa-Alaanu in Kwara State, Nigeria. I think that's my favorite project at OAC after the school outreaches. Since I reside in Kwara, I was privileged to be part of the team that frequently visited the village where the project was being developed. I always feel this sense of fulfillment whenever the project is mentioned, I am with the children, we are traveling to the location or the fundraising process. I am always like, "Wow! I am so grateful to be changing the narrative in the little way I can."

Ever since my association with OneAfricanChild, I have been able to go on several volunteering activities with the organization. I used my experiences at OAC to start an educational initiative that promotes quality education and skill development among secondary school students. I have also been able to participate in several international programs like the Millennium Fellowship of the United Nations Academic Impact.

I am so happy to be a member of OAC, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.



EMMANUEL OPATOLA



100 Stories of Impact

It's been exactly two years of making an impact since joining OneAfricanChild Foundation for Creative Learning in 2021. OAC is a unique and exciting platform. The same year (2021), the distinguished AU/UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa shortlisted me for a virtual international session on "Peace Building and Prevention of Violence through Education," courtesy of OAC.

The training I received by being a part of the program broadened my knowledge about the effectiveness of our work, i.e. using experiential learning projects, educating tutors in contemporary learning styles, and curriculum building for underserved communities.

OAC has modeled me into becoming a youth of substance. Via this fantastic organization, I've networked with the best team members and gained insights about courage, empathy, and altruism - the qualities of an effective leader!

My experience with OAC has sharpened my skills, and I have developed new ones too. Lastly, the fundamental principles and values that drew me here are something for which I am eternally grateful.

*10 years
of making a difference*



DOTUN OGUNSANYA



100 Stories of Impact

Since I started volunteering with OneAfricanChild Foundation for Creative Learning, it has been refreshing all the way. My greatest highlight was the opportunity to be part of the education for Sustainable Development (ESD) teacher training at Isrina Schools. I got to speak to the schoolteachers and enlightened them on better classroom practices. It was a great opportunity of self-discovery for me, and it brought a sense of fulfillment. Every outreach I have attended so far means a lot to me as I get to give my little quota to humanity.

My volunteering and facilitation experience in Almondsprings School Lagos on "Active Listening" was exceptional as I built a good rapport and relationship with the students. I took my time to get to know them, listen to their concerns and interests, and show a genuine interest in their well-being. With the help of my team members, we planned creative and engaging activities that were fun, interactive, and educational. I also tailored my activities to meet the learning needs and styles of the students, ensuring that everyone is engaged.

My team and I encouraged participation by participating in class discussions, group activities, and other learning opportunities. We created a safe and inclusive environment where all students felt comfortable sharing their thoughts and ideas. As a Facilitator, I made sure there was constructive feedback to students, outlining their strengths and areas for improvement. My team and I praised students for their efforts and accomplishments and provided specific guidance on improving their skills, especially on the lessons taught for the day.

With OneAfricanChild Foundation, so far, I have developed valuable skills and training. I have also learnt facilitation and recruitment by working in the Human Resource team. I also get to meet new people and build more life experiences.



AUGUSTINA MORDI



100 Stories of Impact

As a young and driven student at the University of Ibadan, I was eager to make a difference in the world. When I heard about the OneAfricanChild Foundation for Creative Learning (OAC) from my sister, I knew that it was something I wanted to be a part of. And so, as a 100-level student, I joined the organization, ready to contribute my skills and make a tangible impact. Little did I know that my journey with OAC would not only change the world around me but also change me as a person. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to serve as the regional director for Ibadan, the global programs director, and even represent the foundation at the Collective Consultation of NGOs in Tunisia, where I spoke on a high-level panel focused on curriculums and assessments.

Through my work with OAC, I have also had the opportunity to mentor students in secondary schools across the country, sharing my passion for learning and helping to inspire the next generation of leaders. And along the way, I have made some of the most remarkable friendships with some of the world's most talented people, expanding my horizons and learning from diverse perspectives.

But perhaps what I am most proud of is being associated with OAC. This organization not only changes the world around it but also changes the people it comes in contact with. From the self-development opportunities to the chance to make a real-world impact, my time with OAC has taught me valuable skills and competencies that have proved invaluable in my time as a project manager for many different teams.

Looking back, I realize that my journey with OAC has been one of personal growth and transformation. Through my experiences, I have learned that it is possible to make a difference in the world while also finding myself and developing as a person. And for that, I will always be grateful to OAC for the opportunities it has provided me and the impact it has made on my life.

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of OneAfricanChild Foundation for Creative Learning, I am reminded of the incredible impact this organization has had not only on my life but on the lives of countless others. Over the past decade, OAC has served as a beacon of hope and opportunity, providing self-development opportunities and creating real-world impact in communities across Africa.

As I look to the future, I am excited to see what the next 10 years will bring for OAC and the incredible individuals who make up its membership.

So, to all those who are considering joining OAC or supporting its mission in some other way, I encourage you to take the leap. You never know where it might take you or the impact you might make on the world around you. Thank you, OAC, for an amazing 10 years, and here's to many more.



ATINUKE ADENIRAN



100 Stories of Impact

As an enthusiast of quality education, it's always been my desire to be part of a community of resilient change-makers and visionaries who envision a better education system and relentlessly work towards achieving the SDG4 goal. I long connected with the founder (Victoria Ibiwoye) on LinkedIn before I figured out that my colleague (Olamide Akintolu, aka, Olamultiply) volunteers with OAC. Late 2020, I reached out to Olamultiply telling her about my interest in volunteering with the organization. She did well by linking me up with Victoria, we had a chat, did some paperwork and I was inducted into the organization.

At the beginning of 2021, the opportunity to serve in different positions and capacity opened to all volunteers and I jumped on the Programs Director position for Lagos region. First came the title then the work. We had a peace workshop sponsored by UNESCO IICBA for Q1 that same year, shortly after I assumed the position and it was quite intense but I must say I enjoyed every bit of it, the teamwork, organization, outcomes, testimonials, it was for me, a noteworthy experience. I believe strongly that the experience did pave the way for me 3 months after the workshop, at my job interview as a Program Coordinator.

OAC is to me a family, I have met amazing people, from the founder to my OAC Lagos co-volunteers, and some of them in Ilorin and Ibadan, Nigeria likewise in Kenya. It's hard to believe I haven't met with some of them in person because of the kind of relationship we have built.

I would say I'm privileged to be a part of this community because much more than a community, we have a close knitted bond of a family and that is golden!

Congratulations to OAC @10. Cheers to many more years impacting lives!!



ANUOLUWAPO AKINGBEMILA



100 Stories of Impact

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT

In a world dominated by the constant buzz of information and the cacophony of voices, the art of active listening often takes a backseat. However, the visit by "OneAfricanChild," a non-governmental organization committed to nurturing the creative and innovative potential of young minds, brought the importance of active listening to the forefront of our educational mission here at Almondsprings Schools. This essay explores the profound impact this visit has had on our students, shedding light on the transformative journey they embarked upon as they embraced the art of active listening.

OneAfricanChild's visit to our school was nothing short of a catalyst for change. Their focus on equipping young minds with the essential skill of active listening resonated deeply with our educational philosophy. The students, eager to absorb new knowledge and experiences, approached this opportunity with enthusiasm.

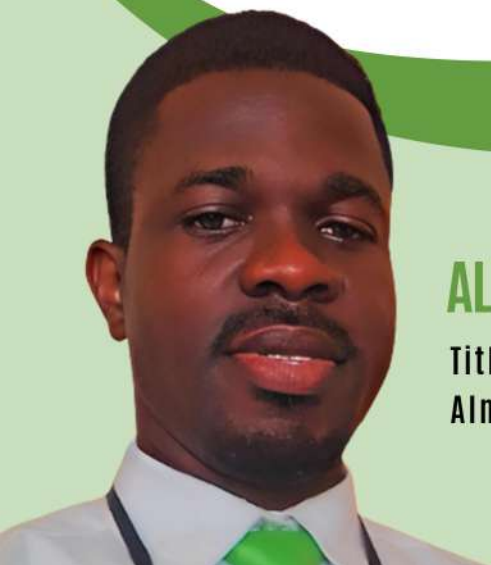
Enhanced Communication Skills: The most immediate and apparent impact of this visit was the noticeable enhancement in our students' communication skills. Active listening, a cornerstone of effective communication, involves not just hearing but understanding, processing, and responding to what is being said. As the principal, I have observed a marked improvement in the way our students engage in conversations, both with their peers and with adults. They now ask more thoughtful questions, seek clarification when necessary, and offer meaningful contributions to discussions.

Improved Academic Performance: Active listening is not confined to the realm of interpersonal communication; it extends its benefits to academic pursuits. Our students have reported better comprehension of their lessons, improved retention of information, and increased participation in classroom discussions. They have discovered that active listening is not a passive act but an active engagement with the subject matter, leading to better academic outcomes.

Empathy and Understanding: One of the most profound transformations I have witnessed is the development of empathy and understanding among our students. Active listening requires students to put themselves in the shoes of the speaker, to understand their perspectives, and to acknowledge their emotions. This newfound empathy has translated into improved relationships among peers, reduced conflicts, and a more harmonious school environment.

Confidence and Self-Expression: Active listening is a two-way street; it involves not only listening to others but also expressing oneself effectively. Our students have not only become better listeners but also more confident speakers. They have learned that their opinions and ideas are valued, which has bolstered their self-esteem and empowered them to voice their thoughts with conviction.

The visit by "OneAfricanChild" to Almondsprings Schools has ignited a transformative journey for our students, one centered around the art of active listening. The impact has been far-reaching, touching various aspects of their lives, from academic performance to interpersonal relationships. As the principal, I am profoundly grateful for this partnership, and I look forward to witnessing the continued growth and development of our students as they carry the torch of active listening into the future. This experience has reaffirmed our commitment to nurturing not just academic excellence but also the essential life skills that will empower our students to thrive in an ever-evolving world.



ALMONDSPRINGS - MR. OSIBERU SUNDAY (Principal)

Title: The Transformative Power of Active Listening: Impact on Almondsprings Students



100 Stories of Impact

OneAfricanChild has always been from home for me as the Founder, Victoria was my senior in secondary school who I was quite familiar with. My interest in volunteering started from seeing her posts on how she gives back to society. This inspired me to join the organization officially in the year 2018, which awakened my passion for impacting lives and community development. In the course of this, I discovered that there are still many children who are educationally and socially backward despite the level of the nation's civilization. This made me enthusiastic and motivated to give back to society in the best way I can. One of the best decisions I ever made. Ever since I became a part of the OAC family, I have attended several personal and community development programs, trainings and events organized by the organization where I have had the opportunity to learn, unlearn and relearn. I have also facilitated, trained and educated many children, educators as well as youths that have the same passion and desire towards building a better community. I was privileged to be one of the programs directors in the Kwara region in the year 2021, this put me in a position where I organized, facilitated and supervised programs, events and trainings alongside fellow executives and other volunteers in and beyond the region. I also participated and am still participating towards the success of the ongoing project of building OAC's first Creative Learning center in Gaa Alaanu, Kwara state.

So far, I have been able to hone my leadership, problem-solving, program management, creative vision, organization and community engagement skills. Thankfully, my co-volunteers are dedicated and hardworking, bringing each proposed project to a success thereby building a better community where the future of the underprivileged is secured.

Presently, I work at a Fintech company and plan to further my education next year as well as contribute more actively in the organization, to help actualize the success of ongoing projects and future ones and ultimately build a sustainable environment for educated children and also help the organization grow.

OAC has indeed been a great influence in my life and in the lives of as many people as we are able to meet and empower. As we clock 10 years, I am super proud of Victoria's journey and how she has embraced us all in her vision and dreams of building a better and sustainable community. Cheers to 10.



ALBARKA ASIMI



100 Stories of Impact

OneAfricanChild first caught my attention when I was a 2001 student at the University of Ilorin. I learned about it on a WhatsApp group and decided to get in touch; fortunately, I was contacted by Mr. Segun, who invited me to a meeting at Bekadims in Ilorin. I attended the meeting and met a small group of people. I felt at ease and comfortable like it was not my first-time meeting with them. Coming from an area like Agege where I witnessed most kids not being able to further their education past secondary school, the meeting made me realize that this is an organization I want to volunteer for. OAC felt like home and the appropriate place to be to make an impact. Sequel to that, we had teacher training and I was incredibly delighted to see public school teachers receiving the appropriate training on how to teach. Being a public-school alumnus myself, I was thrilled to attend and most importantly, to assist with facilitation; that singular action boosted my confidence and made me come out of my shell.

Volunteering at OAC has required me to take part in a variety of outreach programs, but the ones that consistently stood out to me were the Community Development programs; seeing children from villages that many of us had never heard of being happy at our sight is so beautiful to see, and even seeing their parents continually thank the organization and volunteers for what we do is spectacular, I constantly look forward to going on outreach projects to these communities, especially since we started the center for Creative Learning at the Gaa Alaanu community in Malete, Kwara State, and seeing how far we have come in making these kids have a school in their community a success.

OneAfricanChild has given me so many good friends that I now consider my family, like Mr Segun, Haneefah, Habeeb, Gunu, Atewe, Rodiah, and many others. These people I met randomly at OAC and have come through in one way or another for me outside OAC; I always look forward to our meetings because it always feels like a family meeting, more like bonding. I am grateful to OneAfricanChild for giving me these amazing people because, without OAC, I wouldn't have met these people.

I used to be a person who would operate under the table, but since I joined OAC, one thing about me has changed: my confidence level. I wished to remain unnoticed and unobserved. As a result of everyone being required to participate in OAC, I have consistently broken-down barriers, put myself out there, and had an impact on those who have crossed my path since joining. There is no time to hide under the table or be timid to come out of your shell; it has forced me to accomplish so many things I never thought I would be able to do, like becoming the Vice President of my department while I was in school since I was a two-time financial director in my region. I was encouraged to do more since I saw how well I did at OAC and was convinced that if I could do this at OAC, I could do anything. Finally, I would like to say that ONEAFRICANCHILD has assisted me in overcoming my obstacles and breaking out of my shell.



AISHA BANKOLE



100 Stories
of Impact

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT

My first contact with OneAfricanChild Foundation was with the founder, Victoria Ibiwoye over a decade ago. She was a university undergraduate who taught at an after-school lesson that I attended. Victoria's commitment to education and selfless service was a trait that I appreciated and emulated. Many months after she had started OneAfricanChild – an organization born out of the struggle endured during one of Nigeria's long lecturers' strikes that plagued the country's education system, I became one of the students that she mentored. As a beneficiary of OAC's incredible work, I could safely attest that I am, indeed, one of the African Children. It, therefore, exudes a deep sense of gratitude in me that we celebrate a decade of impacting African lives.

I later became one of the volunteers of OneAfricanChild Foundation. I participated in outreaches to orphanage homes in Ibadan and educated young students from disadvantaged communities about the Sustainable Development Goals and global citizenship. For many years, OAC became a platform for young people to give back to society in their own little way.

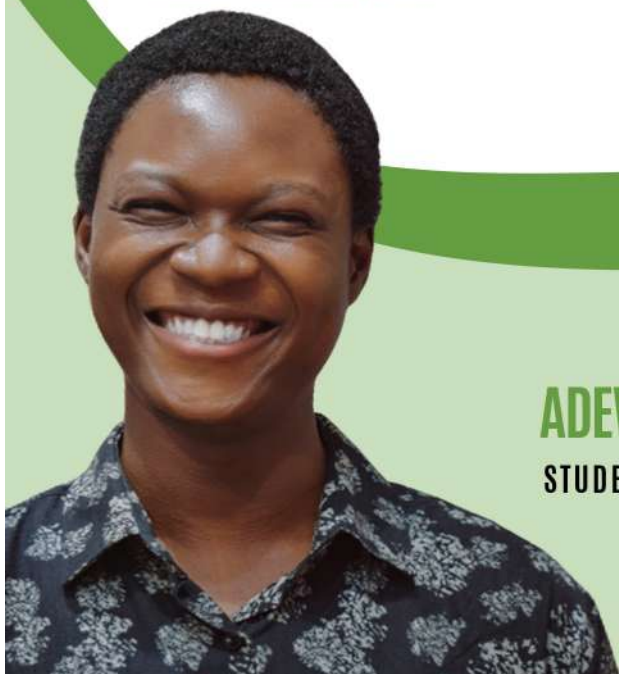
OneAfricanChild Foundation has not only helped children get the right education that they deserve, but OAC has also invested in the volunteers that serve as the army behind the organization. I am particularly intrigued by how much OAC is willing to connect their volunteers to local and international opportunities, support volunteer's personal projects, and also connect them to scholarships to further their education both at home and abroad.

My first project on climate change in a local community in Ibadan received substantial support from OneAfricanChild Foundation. I couldn't be more grateful as the project achieved its aim of creating awareness about climate change and waste management. OAC is deeply rooted in people and community and its existence over the years has inspired people like me and others to establish or participate in diverse charitable causes.

I have always believed that the essence of our collective humanity is the hope that we will always be saved by others. It is that intuitive humane assurance that stiffens our fragile reality in a strong web of hope. And so, as we celebrate this decade of remarkable achievement, we must acknowledge and appreciate those whose selfless spirit of service found a place in OneAfricanChild Foundation to express and act on their own goodwill.

As we begin the journey for another decade, I could only imagine and be satisfied with the assurance that the African Child would always matter because OAC exists.

Happy Anniversary OAC!



ADEWALE OLASUPO

STUDENT



100 Stories of Impact

Working as a classroom teacher in 2021, I came across an employment opportunity I saw on LinkedIn and shared with my spouse. I didn't put so much thought into it when I saw this advert for the role of the Programs Specialist as I wasn't fully into programs. He sent back the job brief to me and encouraged me to apply. This was the beginning of getting to know the great work OneAfricanChild Foundation was doing.

I have always been passionate about education, and teaching made me understand the plight of teachers and learners more. I sought change, and OneAfricanChild provided the platform for me to do that. I read about OAC and was impressed with their work. Eventually, I joined the family.

I call OAC 'family' because that is the kind of organization it is. The relationship between the leadership and the volunteers is closely knit. Over time, I have noticed this working closely with my colleagues Olumuyiwa Kotila (the Executive Director) and Victoria Ibiwoye (the Founder of OneAfricanChild Foundation). I have been given the opportunity to thrive, learn on the job, and master excellent skills. The volunteer network I've grown so close to is absolutely amazing. They make working in OAC easier and are dedicated to impacting learners with skills necessary beyond the classroom.

As a shy person, I had growing concerns, but I became confident as I interacted with the leadership and the volunteers. OAC made me come out of my shell. In recent times, I've coordinated many school outreaches and teachers' training workshops. I remember the last teachers' training workshop I had. I had settled down to research and practiced many times before the day. It was an insightful session, and I met unique and brilliant educators who wanted to change the education space.

I could not easily speak in front of people, but OAC has given me the opportunity to grow and face my fears. Through OAC, I have been privileged to meet wonderful people, engage with partners, come up with creative ideas, and curate resource materials.

A portrait of Adedoyin Lebimoyo, a young Black woman with her hair styled in a bun, smiling and resting her chin on her hand.

ADEDOYIN LEBIMOYO