

Ipaja Community Link

Newsletter – October to December 2008

Do Something Different This Christmas Become A Hope Giver

Christmas is coming.

For those of us who are Christians or who like the festive Christmas spirit lets remember what true Christmas use to be about.

A period of giving to the less fortunate and spreading tidings of hope and joy to all.

I have recently relocated back to Nigeria to run the operations of Development Impact For Nigeria's main Nigeria partner – Ipaja Community Link [ICL].

One of ICL's 4 core areas of work is providing skills and enterprise training to members of the local community. We are presently targeting women groups, faiths groups, unemployed youths and graduates and people living with HIV/AIDS through a number of creative initiatives.

Women [both young and old] are in our free 6 month morning programme learning [a] dress making and sewing [b] catering and baking [c] accessories – bead making , hat making and bag making [d] textile designing. Our first batch of trainees will be completing their training in February 2009.

In January 2009 we will be starting a programme aimed at young unemployed graduates, under-graduates and youth corpers who want to become entrepreneurs. Working in collaboration with Africa Leadership Forum's Entrepreneurship Development Centre, ICL aims to sponsor 40 to 50 young people to the center's 1 month intensive Graduate Training Scheme. Each participant will cost ICL just N10,000.

At the end of the programme successful participants will be helped by the centre to source affordable funding for their potential business while ICL will provide ongoing business counseling and advice.

For unemployed secondary school leavers ICL aims to work in partnership with the local government and local businesses to

start the Ipaja Youth Apprenticeship Programme in which we aim to place between 30 to 50 youths on a 1 year placement with local craft persons and artisans. Each placement, which will include a travel allowance, will cost in the area of N50,000 per youth per year.

This is now how you come in. Decide this Christmas to be different and daring. Decide to make a Christmas gift of just £100 to someone you don't know. Decide to partner with DIFN to help change lives for the better in Nigeria.

NONE of our trainees or clients we work with is looking for hand outs; they are simply looking for a honest way out of poverty and a means to make a decent living and to contribute to the development of Nigeria. Come and work with us today to make this happen.

Please, send a cheque payable to DIFN and post this to Ade Fashade, Gen Secretary DIFN, c/o 4 Maple Close, Chelmsford CM2 9HP today. If you can't donate £100, that's fine too, any amount will go some way to changing someone's life this Christmas.

I will be back in London for a month from January 1st and DIFN will be holding 2 information sessions in London and 1 out of London in January. Dates are yet to be confirmed but we will keep you posted.

In the mean time Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Yomi Oloko – Coordinator, Ipaja Community Link

NB: If you are based in Nigeria and would like to donate towards the work of Ipaja Community Link please visit us at: 3 Rabiati Ogunbiyi Close, Off Candos Road, Baruwa, Ipaja Lagos
Phone: Yomi 07029698523 / Mercy 08037157222 / ICL Office 017401080
Email: icl@difn.org.uk

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES IN NIGERIA

Ever Considered Becoming A Diaspora Volunteer Taking Part in short placements to Nigeria for periods of 3 to 6 weeks. If you are a skilled and experiences professional then drop an email off at info@difn.org.uk.

DIFN's Nigeria partner is in discussion with local government councils that would appreciate the services of Nigeria [and others] who could be involved in staff training, policy development, programme planning among others.

We are also looking for young people living in the UK between the ages of 18 to 24 who would like to take part in a summer field trip to Lagos, Nigeria to participate in our Youth Development programme taking place in August. For more information email: info@difn.org.uk.

Bowu ni!

Hello, my name is Jennifer Byram. I am from the UK and I am a volunteer with Ipaja Community Link (ICL) for twelve months through Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO).

I am delighted to be in Nigeria and volunteering with Ipaja Community Link. I have been working in the development sector for two years with Christian Aid, a leading international development NGO and a key funder of ICL, at the head office in London. I was the Volunteering and Community Action Officer responsible for supporting and facilitating all national and regional volunteering activities. I began my placement with ICL at the end of last month and am enthusiastic and hopeful that during my time with ICL I will be able to share my skills from Christian Aid to help develop and strengthen ICL's youth and community volunteer programme, profile and organisational and fundraising capacity whilst all the time working closely with both VSO and Christian Aid in Nigeria.

Nigeria faces many development problems, but ICL are initiating and supporting programmes which are creating opportunities, giving hope and providing effective solutions for the Ipaja community. I have been here for almost two months now and I have been so impressed with all of the projects that I have seen so far, especially the skills acquisition programme for women and the enthusiasm of the youths who are helping us to get the youth volunteer programme and youth group up and running.



Me with some of the ladies on the skills acquisition programme with one of their delicious cakes!

What has become clear over the time that I have been here, is that the demand is really here for the work that ICL is doing in Ipaja, but in order for the programmes to run successfully – and be as far reaching as possible – we need more money. If you can donate something to help someone out of poverty this Christmas, your money will be life-changing. I have met many of the women on the skills acquisition programme who are learning new skills every day and will hopefully be able to set up their own small business once they complete the training. This is so inspiring – and we want to reach out to even more people like them! I ask that you consider making a donation, however large or small, towards our work.

These are exciting times for ICL; I feel very lucky to be here and I am very much looking forward to the year ahead! If you would like to contact me to ask questions about my placement, about VSO, Christian Aid or how I'm doing adjusting to life in Lagos, please do as I would love to hear from you.

Mobile: 0705 636 9269 (or 00234 705 636 9269 if calling from the UK)

Email: jenniferbyram@hotmail.co.uk

These websites may also be useful to you for further information:

ICL: www.difn.org.uk

VSO: www.vso.org.uk

Christian Aid: www.christianaid.org.uk

Thank you again; I look forward to hearing from you and to sending you an update on time with ICL in the next newsletter!

With warm wishes this Christmas,
Jennifer



Me with the other staff of Ipaja Community Link!