



Motto: Connecting Humanity

NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2017

1 IN 5 Children Live in POVERTY

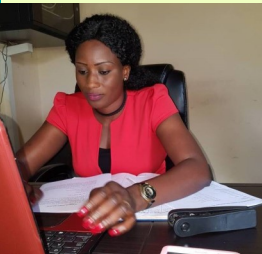


President's Message

Dear friends,

You are welcome to Grace Foundation's maiden newsletter in April 2017.

On this edition, I will like to briefly dwell on the poverty situation in The Gambia as it relates to children's inability to harness the Global universal Primary Education System without inter-



ruption. The Gambia being a very poor country in the West Africa Sub-region, parents find it very difficult to send all of their children to school. For example, a family with 6-7 children will have to pick which of the children to send to school, and in most cases, only one or two of these children are given opportunity to assess education. And 60-75% of those lucky ones are surely boys while the girls are sent to the street to engage in selling which in most cases regrettably expose them to all source of abuses, like teenage pregnancies, rape and physical abuse on the girl child.

In the light of the above, Grace foundation (GF) embarked on a mission to rid the streets of children, especially the "girl child" by spotting these innocent children in the street as they hawk items given to them to sell by their parents or guardians. We interview them, and take them home to their parent for their approval to have their children taken to school for free with daily meals.

For sustainability, Grace foundation plans to create community gardens that will provide a long term source of food, income and education.

When this project begins in January 2018, it will mean a constant resource of food for students and children. It will also engage the local farmers as they will be on ground to see that the food grown will be readily available for the children's consumption with some of the farmers given stipends as the produce will solely belong to the school feeding project.

Finally, Grace Foundation will continue to strive for the education of street children because we believe they also have a right to education and good and healthy meals daily.

Our plan is that no child should be in the street selling or begging in the Gambia at end of 2020.

Mrs. Madeline Jabang
President

PROVIDING FREE MEALS AT SCHOOLS FOR POOR AND STREET CHILDREN IN THE GAMBIA



Grace Foundation feeding program at Omega Nursery School in Sinchu Sorrie Community Gambia



Grace foundation partnership with Omega Nursery school in Sinchu Sorrie Community began in September 2016, That was when we approached the management of Omega Nursery school requesting that they absorbed into their school the children rescued from street trading. These children where all taken to school and provided with free meals at school along with the rest of the pupils in the

school.

When we started with Omega Nursery school in 2016, there were only 63 registered pupils, now with our engagement, the population of the school has risen to 373 pupils in ONE YEAR.

"The introduction of free meals in our school has boosted the enrolment dramatically. I am happy, very happy indeed that Grace Foundation choosed our school. In fact we are already planning to erect a new block to accommodate more children"

says Mrs. Joy Amobi
Headmistress
Omega Nursery school.



Editorial



Dear All,
This newsletter of Grace Foundation gives you an update of the activities carried out by the organization since inception in 2016 in the Grater Banjul area of the Gambia.

Our personal experiences along with the perception of the people we work with will give you an insight into their personal commitment to Grace Foundation's activities.

Grace Foundation feeding programs, visitation from the Lebanese international School, parents visitation and scholarship programs, all contributing favourably to our projects to give a meaning to the lives of the needy in our community.

At Grace Foundation, we know that hunger intimidates, and hunger bullies, so we are determined to kick hunger out of our schools. Thankfully, the commitment of Mrs. Madeline Jabang to kick hunger out in our school and rid the streets of children engaged in street labour cannot be over emphasised . I thank you all on behalf of Grace Foundation all those who stand for the integrity of the charitable organization. We welcome your contributions and Ideas for the continued success of our projects.

Pastor Famous David Uhunmwangho
Secretary General

A VISIT OF GRACE

It was a gracious day for us at Grace Foundation when the students of The

***“Hunger is a Bully
Hunger Intimidates
Only through your generous contributions can the work here continue to flourish”— Mrs. Madeline Jabang***



Lebanese International School paid us a visit in support of the organization's feeding program.

Hence we tagged it **A VISIT OF GRACE!**

We at Grace Foundation really do appreciate the gesture and empathy demonstrated by the student of this great school. We therefore call on individual, groups and organization that share our vision and mission in and outside The Gambia to follow this noble step by paying us other **VISITS OF GRACE.**



1 IN 5 Children Live in POVERTY

HELP US make a DIFFERENCE
DONATE TODAY

GRACE FOUNDATION

Our vision is to provide a safe and secure environment for the children of the community to grow and thrive. We are committed to providing quality education and training to the children of the community to enable them to become self-reliant and productive members of society.

MISSION

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STATEMENT

Our vision is to provide a safe and secure environment for the children of the community to grow and thrive. We are committed to providing quality education and training to the children of the community to enable them to become self-reliant and productive members of society.

Grace Foundation (GF) giving hope to the hopeless



BREAKFAST TIME AT WISDOM NURSERY SCHOOL
 Children at breakfast in one of our partner schools in Serekunda area in Kaniffing Municipal Council. This partnership began since 2016 and still waxing strong.



GRACE KITCHEN



Grace Foundation Volunteer cooks in the kitchen preparing lunch for the pupils

LUNCH TIME



Pupils enjoying their meals during lunch break



From The Founder/ Director's Desk



***Mr. Nelson Aigbe
Founder/Director***

Good Day All,

The idea of Grace founded existence is to stem the growing numbers of poor and vulnerable children engaged in street trading with no hope of going to school. My nineteen(19) years teaching experience in the classroom had brought me very close to many children and the encounter they go through in and out of school daily.

These children will be in school for a term or two and the next time you see them, they will be selling “cold water or other items” in the street. I had observed many children who go to school on hungry stomach daily because they are so poor to afford breakfast and lunch in school, so they resort to begging their friends for “bites” and in some cases they are mocked and embarrassed.

Five(5) years ago, I cornered a pupil in my class whom I had been observing closely for not mingling with other pupils during breakfast and lunch recess. His name was Suleiman, and he was nine years old. “my stomach pains everyday because I

come to school hungry and I am ashamed to ask my friends for food each day they eat at school for fear of intimidation and insult.” he said.

Two weeks later, Suleiman stopped coming to school and when I asked his friends about him, they told me he now sells cold water at westfield area of the Gambia.

Therese, a girl child of eleven(11) years old was the brightest pupil in her class and one of the best in the school. She was indeed the class prefect in 2011 but dropped out of school because her parents are so poor. Her class mate directed me to where she was selling fish pies for a woman she works for, and she wanted to run when she saw me but I appealed to her not to. Tears in her eyes, she told me everyday she saw her friends going to school she cries but got no choice but to do this to support her parents since there will be no food for her to eat at home if she doesn't do this.

Nine (9) years old Suleiman is now fourteen(14) and in a Junior secondary school, while Therese is now seventeen(17) years old and in Senior secondary school. Both of them are now absorbed into Grace foundation scholarship and school feeding projects along with thousands of other children taken from the streets and sent to the classrooms.

Like Suleiman and Therese, we identified these children in the street as they sell or beg for alms, we interview them, take them home to their parents or guardians. We educate their parent on the importance of withdrawing their children from the street in favour of access to education and free meals at school.

All the parents eagerly embrace these provisions with thanks and gratitude by personally taking their children to school everyday. As Mr. Camara, a parent puts it “ *it isn't that I did not know that education is best for my children but I am so poor that I cannot feed my six(6) children, so I regrettably had to send them to the streets to engage in trading*” Interestingly, four of Mr. Camara six(6) children have been rescued from the street and now incorporated into Grace Foundation projects in schools. Unfortunately, His two eldest daughters aged 14 and 16 years old who were engaged in street trading got pregnant and are now single parents in the street.

Since inception of these projects, there have been tremendous increase in pupils admission in schools, truancy is no more, and pupils academic performance have doubled overwhelmingly.

A parent commented in her local language, ‘Wollof’ “*I no longer think of how to provide breakfast and lunch for my daughter now that she eats good and nutritious food in school. In fact my daughter no longer bother to ask for lunch at home which in most cases may not even be available. Mr. Nelson's engagement with children has made him aware of the difficulties our children go through daily. I thank him and all the members in Grace Foundation for giving us (parents) this great relief to education.*” she said

In Grace Foundation, we know there is indignity in hunger, so we give our children a friendly atmosphere and serve them with respect and dignity which I believe they truly deserve. Ours is to empower our children academically though healthy meals to stay a step ahead as we build great leaders for a better tomorrow.

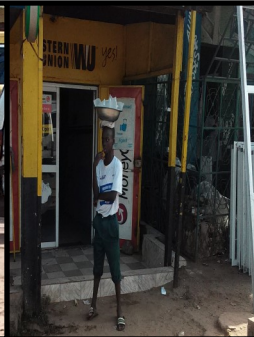
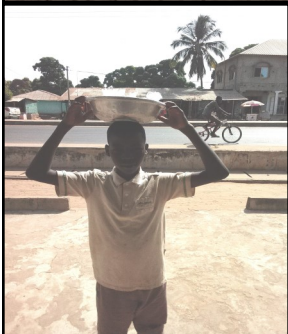
It is our Life work, it is our purpose — Mr. Nelson Aigbe , Founder, Grace Foundation (GF).



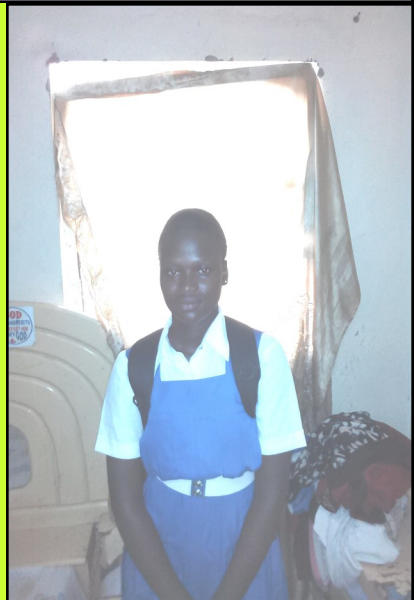
Mr. Nelson talking to a visibly happy parents on the decision by Grace Foundation to absorb their daughter into their project



On different locations, Children in street hawking "cold water" when they should be in the classroom studying like the rest of their mates who are in school.



Another good story from Grace Foundation's intervention in Education



Therese Set for school

YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your contributions can help educate a child because your

- \$15 will buy stationeries for a child
- \$25 will provide school bag for a child
- \$50 will provide Uniforms
- \$100 will provide lunch for 2000 pupils
- \$150 will provide seedlings for school gardens
- \$700 will buy 2000 Acres of land

Donations

For your support kindly send your donations to:
 Trust Bank Limited (Gambia)
 Account Name: Grace Foundation (GF)
 Account Number: 110-243272-01
 Swift Code: TBLTGMGM

For further inquiries please contact:

gracefoundation.gm@gmail.com

Twitter: [@Gracefoundatio7](https://twitter.com/Gracefoundatio7)

Telephone: (00220) 994 88 46

998 18 60



Learning Time at St. Peter Nursery School



St. Peters Nursery school is another partner school of Grace Foundation Feeding program. Here you see pupils submitting their class assignments to their teacher for vetting.

LOOKING AHEAD

In the next one year we hope to deliver four Thousand (4000) poor and vulnerable children from the streets into the classrooms. Without publicity we've been able to absorb and developed 2000 children in the projects.

In January 2018, we intend to create a sustainable and long-lasting way of ensuring resources to continue the feeding program through community gardens. I believe community gardens will be of help to our situation as they provide a long-term source of food, income and education. The food of-course would be grown on sites close to, if not on school grounds (depending on the location) and would mean a constant resource of food for students and children.

Also, if possible in the future, the community gardens could turn into a source of income for the schools, if we were inclined to begin selling the produce to the local communities.

The ability to educate about agricultural practices, cooking, and local gardening I believe would also be valuable to students, pupils, and the local communities at large.

I believe this potential option to help our partner schools would be possible in our context.

GRACE FOUNDATION (GF)
Motto: Connecting Humanity

“Start doing the necessary, then you do the possible and you start doing the impossible”— Mr. Nelson Aigbe

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