



Dear Prospective donors,

Request To Support Our Youth and Widow Development Programmes

We are writing to request for your support and partnership in the execution of various projects geared toward the development of the youths and impoverished widows in our community.

My name is Dr. Kizito O. Akali. I am the founder and Chairman, board of trustees, Heritage Development Initiative (HDI). I will like to use this opportunity to formally introduce you to HDI, a youth development organization, headquartered in Enyigugu in Aboh Mbaise Local Government Area of Imo state, Nigeria, and designed to empower the next generations of our community. However, anything I tell you here will pale in comparison to the rich information you will get from our website, www.hdiafrica.org. I, therefore, encourage you to visit the site whenever you have the opportunity.

HDI is a Non-Governmental Organization registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission, Nigeria in July 2014 but started operations in March 2013. We are also a California registered 501(c)(3) organization (EIN #: 47-4349058). The mission of HDI is based on the premise that if we motivate and empower the youths and widows today, they can become independent and better citizens tomorrow, and our communities will be better for it in the long run.

We have introduced, in the short term, two initiatives to accomplish this mission. The first one is to help impoverished youths and widows achieve self-reliance through an all-expense paid vocational skills acquisition training. We, thereafter, empower them with the tools they require for their trade. The second one is to administer a reasoning competitive assessment to Primary and Secondary school students to identify the bright ones amongst them, who will, eventually, benefit from our scholarship offers for their university education.

Elucidated below are the highlights of our activities and projects since the inception of HDI.

2013-2014

Seven youths were trained in various crafts, including hair dressing, electric wiring, fashion design, and tiling. The training duration was for one year. They were presented with the tools needed for their trade after the training.

Trustees: Dr. Kizito O. Akali (Founder and Chairman), Pastor Kenneth C. Akali (Member), Rev Fr. Thaddeus Uwakwe (Member), Nze Albert Mbata (Member)



270 primary school students were each awarded a package that includes notebooks, pens, pencils, and sharpener/eraser, in recognition of their academic performance.

60 secondary school students were each presented with a package consisting of notebooks, pens, pencils, sharpener/eraser, and mathematical set, in recognition of their academic performance.

2014-2015

14 youths were trained in various crafts, including video coverage, aluminium fabrication, hair dressing, fashion design, tiling, arts and printing, cake and decoration, and plumbing. They were presented with the tools for their trade in May 2nd, 2015 at our empowerment/awards ceremony.

80 impoverished widows were presented 30 bags of 50 kg rice, 30 bags of salt, and 30 cartons of tomato paste in December to help them celebrate the Christmas holidays.

We organized our first HDI Reasoning Abilities Competition (REACT) for secondary school students. We piloted this programme by initially focusing on Aboh Mbaise L.G.A secondary schools.

1. Each secondary school sent three of their brightest students from the JS and SS class respectively, making it a total of six students from each school.
2. The competition consisted of two rounds. The first round selected the top 10 students from each category (JS and SS), irrespective of their schools. A total of 102 students sat for the exercise. The second round selected the top three students from each category.
3. The goal of the exercise is to test the cognitive and reasoning abilities of the students.
4. There were three sections in the test – Verbal Reasoning, Non Verbal Reasoning, and Quantitative Reasoning. While this was not a subject competition, it was expected that the students have fluency in English and mathematics.
5. We administered both rounds of the exercise in March 2015.
6. We provided cash awards, ranging from ₦30,000 to ₦15,000, and scholastic materials to the overall top three students of each category. Scholastic materials were also given to the next top seven of each category. Recognition Plaques were given to the schools of the top three students of each category. All these were done during our empowerment/award giving ceremony in May 2nd, 2015.

54 Primary 5 and 6 students were each awarded a package that includes notebooks, pens, pencils, and sharpener/eraser, in recognition of their academic performance.

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18 secondary school students were each presented with a package consisting of notebooks, pens, pencils, sharpener/eraser, and mathematical set, in recognition of their academic performance.

2015-2016

11 youths are being trained in various crafts, including hair dressing, aluminium fabrication, tiling, computer training, weaving and embroidery, cake and decoration, and electric wiring. They will be presented with the tools for their trade during our Empowerment/Awards giving ceremony in May, 2016.

About 100 impoverished widows were presented 30 bags of 50 kg rice, 30 bags of salt, and 30 cartons of tomato paste in December to help them celebrate the Christmas holidays.

Buoyed by the success of our first HDI REACT, we extended the exercise across the whole Mbaise region. This time we attracted brilliant students from Ahiazu, Ezinihite, in addition to Aboh Mbaise, LGAs. About 150 students participated in the first round. Cash awards, scholastic materials, plaques, and other incentives were presented to the students and schools at our Empowerment/Awards giving ceremony in May 7th, 2016.

The Future

Skill Acquisition:

Our goal is to increase the number of trainees in this programme, and extend it to more communities across Mbaise.

Widows:

Our goal is to create a financial programme, where impoverished young widows can be given seed money/grant to start a new trade or help them bolster their trade and enable them sustain their young families.

HDI REACT:

Buoyed by the success of the first and second exercise, our goal is to increase the incentive to the students and increase incentives to the teachers and the schools. We anticipate that such encouragement will help increase the competitiveness of the schools. We believe, in due course, that

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the continuity of this initiative will help improve the cognitive and innovative abilities of our youths. It will encourage them to ask the question of how, why, and what if.

We are truly passionate of the programmes we have initiated so far, and are encouraged by the reports we are getting, especially from the successes of our graduates from the skills acquisition training. Unfortunately, our passion can only take us so far without the financial capacity and backing to sustain the hunger. Presently, all the projects we have engaged in, so far, was possible through the sole sponsorship of our founder.

We are, therefore, requesting the financial assistance of your group to enable us carry out most of our goals. We already have the platform set up to handle any kind of community development project, and our transparency is one that is unmatched.

Thank you for taking the time to read through our proposal. If we can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at the following phone number, +234-811-290-9490 or email, info@hdiafrica.org

Sincerely,

Dr. Kizito O. Akali (Founder and Chairman, Board of Trustees)

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