

THE PARTNER

SI4DEV'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

JUNE 2018 • ISSUE 4 • FREE

GLOBALGIVING ACCELERATOR CROWDFUNDING

SI4DEV is seeking \$10000 to buy Cassava and Palm fruit Processing Machines For 100 Uyo Farmers.

DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

We engaged four secondary schools, and joined the global campaign on the dangers of drug abuse.

IT'S THE WORLD SICKLE CELL DAY 2018

June 19th is used to celebrate and create awareness about sickle cell disease and the proper cure.



From the Editor



Nkem Akinsoto

RAISING FUNDS TO BUY CROP PROCESSING MACHINES FOR UYO FARMERS

SI4DEV is seeking \$10000 to buy Cassava and Palm fruit Processing Machines For 100 Farmers which will bring economic independence for these farmers and their families, including women and children, in six villages in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. This project is part of the Global Giving Accelerator by our US affiliate – The Spring Development Initiative and is managed by our Partner, Grace Jimbo, who is also the team lead for the SI4DEV Uyo location group.

The cassava and palm processing machines will increase the farmers' revenue by reducing waste due to decay and maximizing harvest used or sold to market. We will also leverage strong partnerships for additional in-kind technical support and knowledge transfer and build on existing structures to ensure active community participation and sustainability.

Those in Nigeria can make payments to our Naira account and we transfer to the GG fund on their behalf.

Bank: GTBank (Guaranty Trust Bank)

Bank Name: Strategy and Innovation for Development Initiative

Account Number: 0366172770 (Naira)

HOW IT WORKS

The Global Giving Accelerator is a virtual training program and crowd funding campaign that helps organizations like ours take fundraising to the next level.

We receive:

Free virtual training on crowd funding best practices, access to Global Giving's fundraising tools and services, 1-on-1 support during a 3-week crowd funding campaign and opportunities to earn a share of \$20,000+ in bonus prizes and incentive funds.

To graduate, we have to raise at least \$5,000 total from a minimum of 40 different donors for one selected project.

When we successfully meet this target, we secure a permanent fundraising spot on the Global Giving platform, with the ability to crowd fund several other projects. There are also bonus prizes for most funds raised and most unique donors granted to projects raising at least \$5,000 from 40 unique donors.

So, we want to appeal to everyone to help us out. No amount is too small! The more the merrier! We want to graduate and win that permanent spot.

Global Giving is the first and largest global crowd funding community that connects nonprofits, donors, and companies in nearly every country around the world. That said, we're not just using the Accelerator to raise funds (which we totally appreciate the opportunity!) but we are also leveraging it to develop our volunteer and organizational capacity to plan and carry out online crowd funding and other marketing and fundraising campaigns.



Partner Perspective – Lessons Learned from January to June 2018

Nnamso Esu



Every year, I take on a personal challenge to learn new things and grow outside my career/work. From reading a new book to making a new friend every day for a year, each of my challenges have served a purpose greater than myself, and each day brings a new lesson to learn. Based on lessons that 182.5 days of 2018 taught me, I would like to share with you five (5) things that I believe everyone should work on in July to December 2018.

1. Become someone that everybody needs regardless of the reason: This year, many people sought my advice and asked my help on various issues. This doesn't mean I was brilliant or more knowledgeable than they were, but rather they knew that I was willing to share knowledge and help them find their path in life. My life has turned out to be much richer because of the lessons I learn from the people I help. In the end, I have found out that it is not only what we do that attracts people and friends, but also how we think. Pride is harmful because it gives out negative vibrations and, in the end,, you are left alone. Appreciate others and share the limelight. If we change how we think about others, be helpful and kind, we can become persons that everyone needs regardless of the reason.

2. Make a list of all the important connections you want: Getting ahead in life is as much about whom you know as what you know. Whether it is for your business, career, or developing a plan, making (and using) connections is crucial. When 2018 started, I made a list of people who have already achieved what I want to achieve, and then ruthlessly started jacking them into my life, one after another. I made at least two new connections every month and used them. As a beginner, start by tapping into the people you already know—friends and family—and continue expanding your network. You do not necessarily need to make connections with only those within your career; be as diverse as possible because people outside your field can still provide you with a wealth of information. With the increasing power of social media, fill out your profile as completely as you can and get talking. Social media is a great avenue to make new useful connections, if utilised properly. Finally, find a mentor (s) within your connections.

3. Love what you do, see solutions instead of problems, and always find new ways to do better: It is a common misconception

that people are happier and more productive when they pursue their dreams/passions. However, I have observed that many successful people instead, fall in love with what they're doing, which is much more important. If you love what you're doing, then it will turn into your passion and your work will be great, and your life will be great. I love what I do, and I am becoming very passionate about research. My work and life are greater now. Many young people love whining, instead of standing eager, ready and willing to find solutions to the problems and make that agenda a reality. The underlying principle is quite simple: rather than focusing on the problem, the target is solutions. Then, don't shy away from showing off your skills and new solutions.

4. Do one big thing every year: Getting things done is exciting and motivating, but it's also overwhelming, because there are so many things to do. However, each year, you should always think of one big thing you want to do. For example, write a book, launch a new project or change jobs. In principle, strive for one big leap each year. Once you have thought about it, write down a few daily, weekly or monthly little tasks you might also want to be done to contribute to the achievement of your big thing. In February 2018, I wanted to change people, and I started a youth organisation (Youth leadership development Initiative), with a Mission to empower young people to develop positive values, character, leadership skills, entrepreneurship skills and attitude that aid the fulfilment of their purpose through career coaching, mentorship and trainings that would enable them to compete and function effectively in their communities. This big task required me to search for the right team, resources and knowledge. I think we are growing to new heights and we can't wait to see what end of 2018 has in stored for us.

5. Tie your minds to good ideas, and always connect with your experiences, hopes and puzzles: Don't let bad ideas, puzzles and experiences dictate your life because you are going to lose. Use them as learning aids to help you think of better ideas. When people focus on bad ideas and experiences, that voice leads them to for example; shutting startups, abandoning blogs, leaving beautifully written novels unfinished and letting themselves down. So, Don't Let Your Mind Be Your Worst Enemy. The good news is that good ideas aren't reserved for a special group of people; they can come to anyone if you change your mind-set.

Always, write down any good idea that comes in your mind and review your ideas frequently, reflect on them and erase those that no longer make sense after some time of experience and learning. I have realized recently that great ideas come any time when you aren't trying to think of them, but the key to mind mapping is to take note of every idea that comes up. Additionally, you can set yourself and your environment up to be ready for your next great idea, and always take time to reflect/connect with your experiences.

DRUG AWARENESS CAMPAIGN - COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL IBOGENE

Aiyekushin Monisola

REPORT ON DRUG AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AND PLANNED INAGURATION OF DRUG FREE AND BOOK CLUBS

Based on our needs assessment in the past months, we discovered that drug abuse and a poor reading culture are major challenges among the young people in Bayelsa state.



As a location group we embarked on a sensitization campaign on drug abuse as well as a talk on building an effective reading habit at Community Secondary School Igbogene. We printed 500 stickers and five flex banners on drug abuse which costed 5000naira which was disbursed by the SI4DEV program manager.

Names of SI4DEV partners and volunteers who participated

- 1 Aiyekusehin Monisola
- 2 Henry Afor
- 3 Etesike timipa
- 4 Titilope Ijaoye
- 5 Njoku Edith

Actual number or estimate of children or youth impacted

A total number of 113 students were reached.

Outcomes – including partnership opportunities, next steps and action items.

We were not able to inaugurate the clubs because the school authority wanted us to reach a larger number, the social master Mr. Akunama was with us all through the event and asked for us to reschedule for another time where we can reach the entire student population of about 1000. We distributed some stickers.

Lessons Learned – What could we have done better?

We discovered some lapses: our follow up was poor, the school authority was not properly informed of what we were coming for as such mobilisation of the students were poor which led to only few students being part of the campaign, though we agreed to reschedule another time that would be agreed upon by the school.

SOMETIMES, IT'S OK TO CUT IT OFF!

Nneka Nebeolisa

If you're someone who's into hair care or someone who loves hair and natural hair specifically, you should be familiar with the word "Split-ends" Well if you're not familiar with the word, don't worry I *gat* you. Split-ends is a hair condition which causes a single strand of hair to divide from the tip/end of hair and keep developing upwards to the roots of the hair and finally results in breaking of the hair strands and an unhealthy short hair. So, if you've been wondering why your hair hasn't passed a certain length, this might just be one of the reasons because your hair grows every single time except you have some medical conditions. There is no known cure for split-ends rather than cutting the affected parts off or else, the division just continues developing until it gets to the roots and

when it gets to the roots, it delays hair growth very drastically.

I used this example because I feel like it explains everything I'll be talking about. There are certain things, people, environment, or even ideas that have kept many people in a stagnant position for so long. I like to classify them as "Strongholds". These things prevent us from making progress. Sometimes we make progress but then these strongholds make our progress crumble and crash easily. You try as hard as you can to succeed but you just keep failing due to these "Strongholds". Because we're Africans we tend to believe that when we fail, it's our enemy who's at work. Well it may be true, but I do not totally agree with that idea. Our failures in life are 80% dependent on the type of information we allow into our minds. The other 20% is

dependent on what you do with it. Either you throw it away, or you dwell on it.

So, what do you do to with strongholds? CUT THEM OFF. It might be that person who always tells you you're not good enough and will never be good enough, it maybe the books you read that tells you that becoming your dream self is extremely difficult and someone in your caliber can never make it or it might your favorite TV show that tells you that if you're not from a wealthy family you can never be influential or even go places. Well take that extra step today and CUT THEM OFF.

Cutting strongholds off may be difficult but the profit is limitless. You'll cut that thing that's tearing you apart today and I assure you that in the future, you'll look back and see the progress you've made by not taking those "Strongholds" along with you.

SI4DEV Makurdi Location - Drug Abuse Outreach

Emmanuella Ikomon



Background: This activity was organized in order to commemorate the International day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The SI4DEV makurdi location group carried out an outreach at NKST Secondary School High Level Makurdi, Benue State.

Objectives: To sensitize young people against abuse of drugs.

Overview of the Activity: the activity took place during the students long break period (10am); we had just about 30 minutes. The students were assembled in the school hall, students from different classes both senior and junior secondary.

Bem gave a brief introduction of SI4DEV and introduced the next speaker, Emmanuella. The students defined Drug Abuse as the total reliance on a drug for relief or strength especially when not prescribed by a professional.

Bem Timothy facilitated the next session and it was about the type of drugs abused. The students mentioned Tramadol, Codeine, Cannabis, Bem added inhalants such as soakaway, spiroyra etc.

The third session was facilitated by Mrs. Fatima Hassan, who is a mental health specialist, the effects of drug abuse. She informed the children that when you abuse drugs you become intoxicated which can lead to insanity and eventually death, she also mentioned other short-term effects which negated the abuse of drugs.

During the final session, cardboard sheets were shared out to the students which had already been shared into 10 groups. They were instructed to illustrate what they have learnt on paper while working together as a team.

Number of Students: 56 students were in attendance

Challenges: we had very little time because it was their break period the Principal allotted to us. We were unable to monitor the illustrations of the students and we eventually had to let them go because we were taking the period for the first lesson after break.



Getting Over Your Past

Manchang Philemon



We all have a past, which could be our excuses, our fear, our prison or even our obsession. But to the future one thing is certain, until we break those chains that tie us to our prison, we can never move forward.

Bitterness is like a chain around the neck of your potentials, goals, dreams; choking the life out of your freedom and joy, making even the sweet taste of success turn sour in your mouth.

It is very hard for humans to let go of the past which might have resulted from their ignorance, but it doesn't still matter. All you need to do is learn to receive forgiveness from God and from those that you may

have hurt and also offer it to those who may hurt you. When you do these, your heart will be tender, your spirit will be light, your mind will be free, your vision will be clear, and your speech will be filled with kindness. Life is too short to be an "inmate" in the "prison" of past mistakes. Have you heard of that prison? Its jailers are guilt and regret and if you let them, they'll hold you captive, torturing you with images of what could have been, if only you let them be.

Always remember that remorse has no power to change the past. It only robs you of your peace and happiness. Therefore, let go of your past and be free of its snares.

What is Poverty? The Revelational Question of Ugochukwu – Part 3

Ukaigwe Roberts

Great minds this story is touchy, and it's based on true life. Read and be blessed.

Like his normal routine back in the University that fateful morning 4:45am in Uturu a village in the Eastern part of his country tagged the region of the rising sun. He had watched the situation of things back home not straight, normal nor rosy.

He wakes up every morning and thanks the divine one for another new day, studies the special book of wisdom that talks about the divine one, his principles and the way to lead his life and finally to his academic material and self-development material to become a better person in morals and all that is to be.

Like a flash he paused while studying the book titled "The Jewish Code" in his hostel room that fateful morning when a question popped up and the question was so strong and touchy. That question was; "What is Poverty?"

He thought of the right combination of words to coin out a definition but at that moment he seems to blank out with ideas and concepts on what exactly to say, he always has dictionary on his table while studying so he laid hold of it and searched for the word "Poverty". The dictionary defines poverty as state of being poor, scarcity and lack.

The definition from the dictionary gave him an idea of the right words to coin out and he defined poverty as "eating from hand to mouth". This made him understand the very fact of not having all that he desires as he can't make all ends meet, which means he had identified a problem which needs a serious, urgent and permanent solution. The question of solution and how to go about it led him to another brainstorming session that morning and it dawn on him that many things are involved in the cause of trying to solve the problem of poverty which is first "Self-discovery" which is imperative for purpose.

When purpose is discovered the strategic skills required to make impact that will

translate into something tangible called "Money".



Ukaigwe Roberts

He asked himself aloud that fateful morning; "What is Purpose?" and all this broke him down all in the quest to make sure the cancer poverty leaves him and his unborn generation alone.

He even went ahead to question himself about the calibre of friends he has and the impact they are having on everything he does ranging from his relationship with the divine one, his academics, and his financials, then he remembered the popular proverbs that says, "birds of the same feather flock together". Luckily, he has the right people around him if the not the drastic decision of letting some go away was about to be made.

After all the series of question he asked himself the answer started popping and the first word he heard was "It all rises and falls in the mind" and he remembered a book authored by a popular female preacher titled "The battle field of the mind" which made him more curious and focused to know the way forward out of this menace called Poverty.

Then the definition of purpose came which is defined by a wise man as Essence of living and he said to himself that Cars are conveyor of people (transport), electric

bulbs are here for brightening our environment, Air Conditioners and fans are here to cool us up, telephones for communication. All these in-animate objects meeting their essence to humanity. He became so excited as all this gives him clue to what he is trying to know about himself.

He also went ahead to discover that humans in their capacities serve different purpose in different platforms/spheres using their gifting, talent, qualifications etc that is why many footballers, musicians, writers, poet, Academia have been able to chase away poverty because they are serving purpose and making impact. He also remembered business owners who are doing same which made him ask himself another deep question; "Where do I fit in?"

This question of purpose he asked himself is very difficult as he really needs to know and make sure he toils in the right direction. What is that one thing that makes a whole lot of difference? He answered "Business" then what type of business? Is it buying and selling, Production or service rendering?

From childhood he has love for the art of business but this time the intangibles are his focal area which means he has to use his gifts in the form of hobbies to make money, meet people's need, make impact and everybody smiles home.

Right away on that table, that fateful morning a new shift was caused in his paradigm. A new man was born and that was the beginning of a new era in his life.

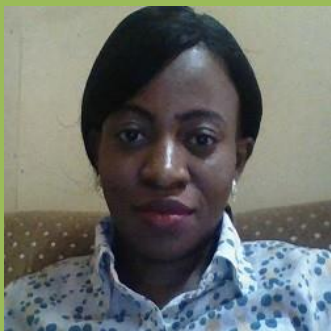
.....To be Continued...

Thanks for reading please I hope this story of Ugochukwu inspires you to become a better person and make the impact the world is looking for. You are the best in the world and no one can do that one thing you are born to do best than you.

Cheers and always be you.

INTEGRITY PAYS

AKO EYO



This might sound like a ‘Tales by Moonlight’ story, but I’m sure that we need more stories like this to help us consider some matters of life. As adults, one probable reason why we have become rigid and full of issues is because we had long left our Cinderella and Barney and Lion King stories behind to focus on God knows what. The more we keep being serious, the more

complexities we face. The struggle is endless, so let’s find time to listen to childish stories, for within them, we would find happiness and simple solutions to our complex problems. Come join me!

Nkereuwem lived with his poor widowed mother in Ikot-Nsit, a small village in Ishiet Kingdom. He may never have had the life of every other comfortable child but his mother and late father had taught him one invaluable virtue - integrity! Uwem as he was often called remained truthful to himself, his family and community. One day, the King of Ishiet Kingdom realized he was growing old and needed a successor to his throne. King Edom had lost his entire family when an opposing kingdom struck his palace impromptu. The king therefore decided to groom a young man who would be the successor to his throne. The town crier went around announcing that all young men in the village gather before the king’s palace on the noon of the following day and 14-year-old Uwem decided to be there though he had not known what would become of the gathering.

At the gathering, the king addressed the young men, saying he had a plan for them all, but that they would need to show him that they were good farmers. He therefore ordered his guards to distribute some grains of maize and requested that they all plant them in nurseries of polythene bags and return later with their sprouted crops which would then be transplanted to a large piece of land. The young men left with their seeds. Two weeks later, Uwem saw no signs of spouting from his nursery bags. He wondered what had gone wrong. By now, other young men had begun to boast of how the crops had germinated and were growing. Uwem felt so depressed, but his mother encouraged him to be patient.

On the day when the young men were to appear before the king, his mother asked if he really wanted to go, seeing that he had nothing to present: not even one nursery bag had a cotyledon on it, but he insisted that he would go with his bare faced nurseries.

“Wouldn’t it portray you as a lazy and incompetent farmer?” his mother asked again, trying to reassure him that it was better to sit at home than appear to showcase his flaws.

“Don’t worry Mama, I have done nothing wrong. I tried my best, but the seeds just refused to germinate, it isn’t my fault. However, I must appear before the king as he had instructed, irrespective of these outcomes.” “Okay Uwem my son, I wish you the best. May God be with you and may the spirit of your late father guide you.”

“Thank you Mama!” Uwem set off for an unsure fate.

At the gathering, he met several young men with their flourishing crops. He felt ashamed as they mocked him with four bags of barren

nurseries at his feet. The king walked around and nodded his head. “Indeed, I can see great farmers among you; hardworking men who are set for great reward. You have all shown great wisdom and deserve applause.” The men clapped their hands, nodding.

The king then walked towards Uwem. “Youngman, what are these in front of you?” Uwem prostrated, “My king they are my nurseries.” The other young men burst into laughter. “You must be kidding! How dare you come with these things?” “I’m sorry my King, I tried my best, but they did not germinate.” Uwem said unhappily.

“And you dare come here to present a barren nursery in the presence of hundreds of flourishing ones, groomed by young men like you? And do you mean that the seeds I, King Akan gave you are not good seeds?” He looked at other young men, “Please what do we call this boy?” There were several responses including lazy, naïve, incompetent, ignorant, disobedient, and stubborn. But the king began to clap. The young men couldn’t understand why the king was clapping. Then, the king said “From nothing, I have seen a people who create something. I have seen people who fell from the cloud without being born. Can a dead man live again? I ask you all?” The youths looked at one another, some confused, some perceiving what the king was driving at.

“What is your name young man?”

“Nkereuwem.”

“Indeed, as your name implies, you have thought of life; that life is not a game of competition, that life is not about anyone else but yourself; that the fundamental backbone of life is truth!” King Akan turned again to the youths and said “I gave all of you dead seeds. Maize seeds that had been parboiled and then sun-dried. Tell me, how could they have germinated? Yet you all appeared before me with sprouted seeds! When you saw that your seeds couldn’t sprout, you quickly swapped them with viable seeds just to please me. I am sure many of you joined the train because you didn’t want to be left out. But Nkereuwem here would rather please his conscience than the king, and in spite of shame, appeared before me to speak the truth. I have found no other man with such uprightness and integrity, neither have I found anyone else with such braveness. Today, I make you Nkereumen, the successor to my throne! Now every other person, leave with your crops deceit!”

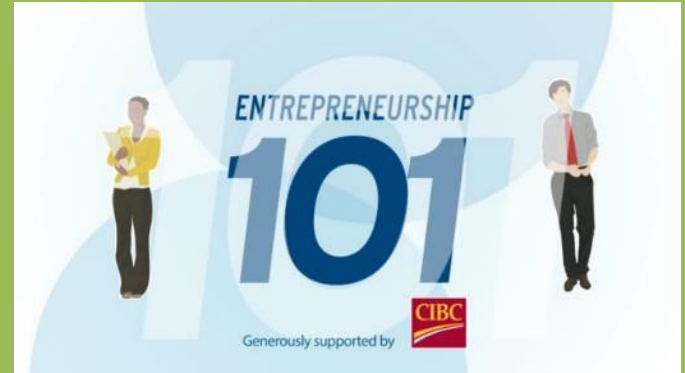
“I was so worried my son. How did it go?” said his mum when Uwem finally returned “It went well Mama. It was nothing but a test. The king actually gave us dead seeds, but others swapped theirs with good seeds in order to please him. He found me worthy in character and made me heir to his throne” His mum jumped in excitement and began to dance “Abasi sosong oooooo!”... and the family continued rejoicing ever after.

Sometimes when we refuse to do things aright or try to imitate the false lives of others, we put ourselves at risk. It is often best to remain true to ourselves and the society. Let’s pray that rather than cut corners, God gives us the strength to handle our circumstances with wisdom and uprightness, so that our integrity can make us stand out as sheep among wolves.

START UP YOUR ENTREPRENEURSHIP JOURNEY

Nnamso Esu

Entrepreneurship is pursuing an opportunity regardless of the resources currently available.



As a full-time worker, working 8am -6pm or 9am-7pm, is it possible for you to start up your own business, groom it to the extent that one day you could comfortably resign your job to focus on that business? The answer is YES.

I am one of the advocates of one setting up a SIDE-BUSINESS because you cannot tell what tomorrow would bring. I know friends and relations who had jobs and suddenly lost their jobs. All of us can vividly remember the massive retrenchment in the banking industry following the “Global Economy Melt-down”.

Do you have a business idea? Have you validated the business idea? Is it something you have a strong passion for? What is stopping you from actualizing that idea as a side-business?

If you master the art of scaling your side business idea while keeping your job, you will have no trouble succeeding once you are fully self-employed.

By Side business I mean those businesses you can set up while still retaining your job. Those businesses you can still do along with your normal day's employment.

When you start out on a new business idea, always make sure it aligns with both your core competencies and interests. It starts with learning how to discover your STRENGTHS as an entrepreneur and build on such strength. For instance, let's assume you discover that one of your strength is PERSUASION, you are good at marketing and getting people to buy, you can build on such strength, develop yourself as a good marketing expert and make a living marketing other people's goods and services.

The big challenge for most of us who have full-time jobs setting up a side business is the TIME factor. The truth is that setting up and running a side business involves a lot of SACRIFICE. But do you know that most of the world's most successful entrepreneurs struggled with this same TIME factor when they started their business for the first time while still keeping their day's job.

Are there benefits to setting up your side business?

1. It helps you start off your entrepreneurial journey.
2. You gain first-hand experience what running a business looks like especially in Nigeria.
3. It provides you with an alternative source of income. Your side business can provide you with income you can use to augment your salary.
4. It provides a Plan-B option for you when LIFE HAPPENS
5. It helps you to give back to the society (Job Creation).

Are you a teacher, a civil servant, a company worker, etc, how do you use your holidays and vacations? Can you use it to LEARN A SKILL? That skill can be your SAVING GRACE tomorrow.

Are you a parent? How do you want your children to spend their holidays? Why not enroll them in vocational skill development in that nearby tailor shop, carpentry workshop, welder shop, catering school, etc.?

Are you a School Owner? Why not think of incorporating entrepreneurial skills development and vocational trainings as part of your summer camp programmes to attract parents who have interest in these areas?

Today, the Federal Government of Nigeria sponsors facilitators to NYSC Orientation camps to go train our youth corps members on entrepreneurship skills. Why? Simply because they have come to the realization that government cannot and will not be able to employ the thousands of graduates that are churn out of our institutions of higher learning yearly. Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SME) are the largest employers of labor in any part of the world.

Entrepreneurship development is one of the solutions to the unemployment facing our country today. Start that side business today and launch that your entrepreneurial dream.

SI4DEV LAGOS MAGODO – DRUG ABUSE OUTREACH TO QUEENS’ COLLEGE

Nwamaka Osu



Background

In line with the recent ban on codeine importation in Nigeria, and the rate of drug abuse recorded amongst youths today, Si4dev Lagos_Magodo group proposed an outreach to secondary schools, to enlighten the students about the dangers of drug abuse.

We wrote to two secondary schools, namely: The International School, University of Lagos, Akoka-Yaba and Queens’ College, Yaba both in Lagos State.

After weeks of diligent follow up by Miss. Julie Obi, we were invited by Queens College to speak to the students briefly at the assembly ground on Friday June 29, 2018. We were informed that the students were starting exams, and so it was not possible to avail us the two hours with the students, as we had requested.

They however, promised to inform us of a later and more convenient date in September, when the students return from vacation.

We arrived at the school at 7am and were given a warm welcome by the Principal and staff. The assembly began at 7:30 am and after the school activities, we were introduced by the principal to address the students.

The spokesperson for the group, Miss. Nwamaka Osu introduced herself, the other members of the group and Si4dev. She spoke extensively about SI4DEV, what we do and the purpose and importance of the visit.

She briefly explained the meaning of drug abuse, different kind of drugs that people abuse, which include prescription drugs such as cough syrups which contain codeine. She further explained that drug abuse is the reason behind 85% of cases of people who end up in the psychiatric wards, and most of the time, people get into drugs due to peer pressure, and because someone simply asked them to try it.

She ended by thanking the Management of the school, for the opportunity given, and promised that we would revisit the school for an elaborate campaign, at a later date that the school would give to us. Mr. Taiwo explained that it is wrong for parents who are not medical doctors, to administer drugs to their children, without proper tests and medical advice.

The Principal thanked us immensely for coming and promised that the school management would inform us of a later and more convenient date in September, when the students return from vacation.

In attendance were:

1. Julie Obi
2. Nwamaka Osu
3. Ojo Adewuyi Taiwo M.

FREE ONLINE TRAINING ON GRANT WRITING BY SI4DEV PARTNERS!!

SI4DEV knows that getting access to grants to fund our social works is one worry for partners as they plan to carry out some of their community development projects. Therefore, we advertised the Appalachian State University in collaboration with SOZO network’s maiden edition of a grant writing course in Lagos and Abuja, to which some SI4DEV Partners were accepted.

GRANT WRITING COURSE

These members, Joy Iseki and Jide were certified to cascade the knowledge gained from this course to passionate like-minded individuals who wants to have access to funds for their community social works. And they have been gracious enough to offer to share with the rest of us. All SI4DEV Partners and Volunteers who are interested, as well as our supporters in the NGO sector are encouraged to join this 6 days, 2hours daily training about grant writing from June 21st to 26th at 7 PM Nigerian Time.

They will share all materials given at the workshop, and also give out details of the organizations funding social works in Africa, exclusively. All these for FREE!! To join, please click group link

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/2W7bqAoR6Ed2H3NmyOVCRY>

The link will be revoked by 7PM Nigerian time, Wednesday June 20, 2018.

SI4DEV JOS VISITS GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL HWOLSHE

Dabis Sugwe

The strategy and innovation for development Jos partners visited government secondary school Hwolshe today on the 8th of June, 2018. The Jos partners arrived at the school premises at exactly 7:25am to the commencement of the program by 7:30am.

The program was in two parts. The first part which was taken by two volunteers and the second part is for questions and answers.

Mr Philemon Manchang took the first part which is basically on the definition of some terminologies which include drug, abuse, addiction, drug abuse and drug addiction and also the explanation on the types of drug abuse. Mr Dabis the state coordinator took the aspect of discussing on the effect and consequence of drug abuse and causes of drug abuse among students and youths in the society.

The second part took place which was on questions and answers. Two questions arose from the students and they were answered successfully.

The program ended with an appreciation from the state coordinator to the principal and the school management for giving us time and support.

One of the staff in the school indicated interest in partnering with the NGO. He further said that the school has an existing club on drug abuse and it wants to work with the organization in organising activities within the school.

The staff, Mr. Sunday Jinyil said some students in the school are drug addicts and if those students and the young ones coming up are not educated on drug abuse, then we don't have a future.

The principal herself also expressed her joy over our visit and keeping to time and our promised visit. Adding that they don't have anything to offer us but may God bless us all.



Our program ended successfully and we are looking forward to reaching out to many schools in our dear Plateau State.

The following volunteers were present during the program.

- Dabis Sugwe
- Philemon Manchang
- Gorip Rotshak
- Shagal Mariyom K
- Nendima Wambuda

Uyo Fundraiser - Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Grace Jimbo

I want to start by thanking the early donors to our project to support Uyo farmers. In the past week, I met with members of the SI4DEV team in Akwa Ibom State who are serving as the Project Advisory and Management Team (PAMT) to deliberate on the step by step implementation of our fundraising plan.

The PAMT will provide technical assistance to ensure that the project is implemented in line with the objectives of the funding and will provide monthly reports to funders. We agreed that ahead of the kickoff of the Global Giving Accelerator crowd funding campaign, we will engage again community influencers, including community leaders to join them in regular meetings as the foundation of the Sustainability Plan.

On June 10, I called a meeting with the village head and some of the proposed committee of the Uyo project to brief them of the outcome of the application and the online global giving challenge and see if we can get any financial support from the village head council.



Earlier, community leaders had endorsed this project and pledged support with human resources and land for the installation of the processing equipment. The meeting held successfully at the

village head council hall by 5pm.

There were 10 council members in attendance, including 5 women and 3 youth. At the start, the chief is in red cap and at the end before we took the group picture, he went to change in his traditional regalia. This is a gesture of highest regard and shows that they are fully supportive of the fundraiser.



We are glad at their willingness to work with us, and especially the chief being accessible to our requests. The chief donated N2000 and another 5 council members promised to send in donations by Thursday June 14.

We mean to continue as we have started and appreciate your early support and hope you can share this fundraiser with your friends and network too.

Warm regards,

Grace Jimbo (Uyo team)

We Won Bonus Day Top Prize!

Nkem Akinsoto



Happy weekend everyone! I am still in awe at all we accomplished during the GlobalGiving Accelerator Bonus Day on Wednesday June 20 – thank you all so much!

Our project to “Help Build Processing Machines for 100 Uyo Farmers” is at 90% funded! We have raised \$13,201 so far out of a funding goal of \$14,000! This total haul means we graduated as a permanent partner on the global giving platform, we also won \$1000 bonus prize for topping the bonus day leaderboard!

Right now, we’re #2 on the general accelerator leaderboard! [Check here]. As we head into the last week of the Accelerator, please keep in mind that there are various campaign bonus prizes, including homepage time and social media promotion still up for grabs. We need just 5 more donors and \$800 to maximize our chances. See the graphic below for a breakdown of the prize structure.

In less than a year since the launch of SI4DEV, we have provided capacity building, practical learning, and collaborative forums for over 200 volunteer partners and 3,000 direct beneficiaries of our health, education, advocacy and community development projects in more than 20 locations in Nigeria. Please spread the word, share and forward this post right now to your friends and networks.

That Unique Voice

Zick Ralph

How would you feel if everything you say is generally accepted by everybody? Isn't it going to be great if whatever you say doesn't have to be scrutinized?

Wouldn't it be nice to have the answers to all questions, without anybody doubt your contributions?

Basically, as all questions is stated out there it wasn't like that for Daniel, who grew up in a family of eight (8), he was always found carrying out mischievous activities, like stealing and molesting younger kids in his area. Daniel is already sixteen (16) but had never achieved anything reasonable to see fit, he's statement even to his parents were always seen as nothing but a paradox, that was how Daniel was seen by everybody around, and that heed every other good quality he would have possibly possessed that made everything about him not acceptable and kept his unique nature and voice not seen.

Daniel is (17) seventeen and he's always with group of hoodlums, that made is parents had a skeptical belief about a positive future for Daniel, but there was something they haven't tried.

Daniel had an uncle that lives in the city that was known to be very strict, his parents has agreed unanimously to send him there for another kind of handling. Daniel was angry but there was nothing he could do to revoke his parent's decision.

It was time for Daniel to leave for the city, after several advice from his parents that sounded like warning, he packed up and left with his elder brother for the city. On their way his elder brother gave him few advice that changed him for good, and the words where " Daniel in life some person's get a second chance to change from being bad to a good person, your life style has not been adding positive value to you and the society, there by hindering your potential

and your unique voice, it's high time you changed and try the other way of being a better pass in life " those words had changed Daniel's mentality and vision for life, his stay with his uncle was wonderful.

When Daniel returned he has become a totally different man with great words and values to his parents and society in no time. Everybody saw the change in him and always seeking knowledge from him, Daniel has made himself unique, his voice is now what people wants to here for sacrosanct conclusion.

Which value are you adding to the society?

How do people perceive your words?

Are you adding value to the society? Or your relevance doesn't matter?

We all live and survive for each other, read books, increase your value from other's experience, stretch out helping hands, and work earnestly to make the society a peaceful and wonderful place.



10 THINGS TO KNOW - SICKLE CELL DISEASE!

Francis Eghehan

June 19th is set aside yearly to celebrate and create awareness about sickle cell disease and the proper cure of the sickle cell disease. According to wikipedia, Sickle Cell Anemia is a Disease where the Red Blood Cells are stuck into the Blood Vessels which are small and due to which it causes lot of Blockage for the proper flow of the Blood in the Body. Due to this problem, the Body does not get the proper Oxygen due to which it results in the Headaches, Heart issues, Severe Infections, Stroke, Damage of the Organ/ Failure and many more.

Did you know?

1. Sickle Cell Disease is a major public health issue of concern worldwide that is completely preventable?
2. Sickle cell disease occurs when a person inherits two abnormal copies of the haemoglobin gene, one from each parent?
3. Nigeria has the largest population of people with Sickle Cell Disease in the world, with over 150,000 babies born with the disease while about 25% of adults throughout the country have the sickle cell trait, AS?
4. Sickle cell disease is the most prevalent genetic disease in the World Health Organization's (WHO) African Region?
5. Persons with AS haemoglobin have sickle cell traits, and are referred to as sickle cell carriers, while those with hemoglobin SS only (Hb SS) suffers from sickle cell disease?
6. And carriers should not marry AS or SS blood groups?
7. Stigma about sickle cell disease should be avoided?
8. Victims of sickle cell disease can be treated here in Nigeria?
9. Organizations such as Sickle cell foundation Nigeria, Sickle cell advocacy and management initiative, CrimsonBow sickle cell initiative, Genotype foundation, Tony may foundation, Sickle cell aid foundation, Couple and kids initiative, Noah's ark initiative, Soulage foundation, Nirvana Initiative, AvoEri Health Initiative etc are all advocating for SCD awareness and support for victims?
10. Have you checked your genotype? Is your love compatible?

My Experience Walking for Hope and World Sickle Cell Day 2018

Julie Obi



June 19 is the day fixed by the United Nations to commemorate the World Sickle Cell Day as a way to advocate and raise awareness of the sickle cell disorder. Ahead of that date on June 16, I joined the event tagged: Red Umbrella Walk by the Coalition of Sickle Cell NGOs in Lagos on a charity walk on the theme: SCD: A Walk for Hope.



The walk started at the Teslim Balogun Stadium Surulere as early as 7am. Some of the messages at the walk were to know your genotype before marriage, and also to screen all children at birth or soon after. Parents should be taught to understand that having a sickle cell child is not the end of the world; the child just need care and support. Also, the general public should be educated to know that sickle cell disease is not Ogbanje, and the mindset of consulting native doctors should be stopped.



Families with sickle cell members should be encouraged to visit a clinical counselor on sickle cell matters or a medical doctor. I'm glad I took part in the walk and I encourage each of us to talk to their neighbors and colleagues at home and work with the proper information on sickle cell disease. I personally had a lot of fun as you can see from my smiles. Thank you all for reading.

SI4DEV Partners Program – 3 Months Impact

SI4DEV ACCOMPLISHMENTS THROUGH THE PARTNERS PROGRAM

As the SI4DEV Partners go into the mentoring module for the second half of the program, here is a round-up of highlight of events over the first three months.

1. Two SI4DEV scholarship beneficiaries graduated from a Nonprofit Accelerator program after 6 weeks of courses and practicum.

2. Ten Partners received SI4DEV recommendations for applications to further personal or career development (scholarships and international conferences). Several Partners attended – either personally or on behalf of SI4DEV – state-level, national and international training and advocacy events that work towards a more transparent government and more accountability.

3. SI4DEV successfully held a World Health Day 2018 social media campaign, amplifying 30 partner voices using hashtags #healthforall #UniversalHealthCoverage @FMOHNigeria



4. For Malaria day 2018, a Gombe partner donated 30 insecticide treated mosquito nets and de-wormed 98 adults and children. Partners in Akwa Ibom also distributed 50 bednets to pregnant women and new mothers at the community hospital.

5. SI4DEV reached over 2000 beneficiaries for Global Youth Service Day with hand washing skills and personal development activities, food and other donations. We also campaigned online and offline, promoting youth voter registration for elections. The social investment projects by team Kano is already yielding fruit as

the Almajiri School in Kano has now been approved as a conventional government school.



6. The Partner monthly magazine – launched in April 2018 and now in the second edition – showcases grassroots projects, community-specific action plans, and presentations at various occasions by partners as well as articles to make their voices heard at all levels.

7. Partners completed 8 Ambassadors Small Grants proposals which were submitted to the United States Embassy to support small community projects for key populations. One of the proposals was pre-selected for further information and progress to the second round. Other proposals and partnership requests were also submitted to various organizations, including TY Danjuma Foundation, Malaria Consortium, TANA Netting, etc. Our proposal for the Global Youth Empowerment Fund (GYEF) made it into the second round and through this, we have signed initial MOUs with other organizations towards completing the project.



8. There are 10 ongoing or completed physical surveys, stakeholder engagement and community need assessment using paper-based and online tools to collate responses on current gaps and proposed solutions.

9. 20 Benue students with the help of our partners advocated for peace using art in the Bezos Foundation supported Facing Difference Challenge by Students Rebuild.

10. We have activated 118 Partners and 76 volunteers in 32 locations. All location teams have had at least one face to face meeting with an average of 7 members in attendance, some teams have held regularly scheduled monthly meetings, and 20 locations have been mobilized with T-shirts for better identification.

11. In May, we kicked off our drug abuse campaign with 5 poster designs. Kano, Fagge location team and the Umuahia team carried out the campaigns in their respective locations, to post-secondary young adults and to secondary school students respectively. The Kano event reached about 30 participants while the Umuahia event impacted about 50 students.

12. The Owerri, Ibadan, Kaduna, Kano Nassarawa, Warri and Gombe location groups held Children's Day events (May 25 – 28, 2018) to which elements of our #SayNoToDrugs campaign were included where possible. In total, over 500 children ages 5 – 18 were impacted by the combined outreach.

Join us to Make Our Crowdfunding Bonus Day a Success – Donate NOW!

Nkem Akinsoto

I am absolutely excited by our progress in the GlobalGiving Accelerator online fundraising campaign. GlobalGiving has supported thousands of organizations in the past and is a trusted donation platform. This post is to share some more details about this fundraising Accelerator program with you.

1. Today June 20 is Bonus day with a \$10,000 incentive fund and other cash prizes up for grabs. The fund will be proportionally divided among organization based on how much they raise, and the top fundraiser gets extra \$1000! For example, if we raise 10% of the Bonus Day total, we will receive an additional \$1000! Every donation we receive today will be matched by GlobalGiving, and the more we raise, the more matching funding we will earn. Donations can be made via Credit/Debit cards, Paypal, Wire Transfers, checks, gift cards, etc.

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/crop-processing-machines-for-100-farmers-in-uyo/>

Those in Nigeria can make payments to our Naira account and we transfer to the GG fund immediately!

Bank: GTBank (Guaranty Trust Bank)

Bank Name: Strategy and Innovation for Development Initiative

Account Number: 0366172770 (Naira)

2. The program started June 11 and ends June 29. Our target is to raise at least \$5000 from 40 different donors. At this time, we are at \$2100 from 28 donors, that is about \$2900 and 12 donors to go. If we meet this target, we get a permanent spot on GlobalGiving, and can raise funds for other projects too. Projects with the most funds raised and the most donors get \$3000 and \$2000 cash prizes respectively!



3. Recurring (or “monthly”) donations are available for donors who want to continue supporting this project or our organization. The organization that has the most recurring donors at the end of the Accelerator will receive a \$1,000 bonus prize! Also, recurring donations get matched 100% after the 4th donation and recurring donors count double towards our goal of 40 donors.

You can support us right now with a one-off gift for the Bonus day or sign on as recurring donors at any time.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do. We'll appreciate if you can share the project and any of the pictures below with as many friends and family members as you can.

LEADERSHIP AND THE SOCIETY

Arome David



A great leader is someone with the passion of helping others move to higher heights. The growth and progress of any society is tied to the quality and effectiveness of its leader as no society or country can advance or grow beyond a certain limit, when a leader does not have a clear vision and lack basic leadership skills.

Understanding of the working dynamics of leader, which is all encompassing and people centered, is a key element that makes the society work. As a leader in our various capacities, it is very important not to abuse the awesome privilege given to us. We must demonstrate quality leadership in our places of work, society and beyond our respective country. I see leadership as a privilege to serve and not a right; having the mindset to serve people at all levels will help re-position you as leader to perform exceptionally well, in the delivery of your duties.

More so, a leader should not see his or herself as a dictator. You need to let the people you lead also contribute by bringing to bear their thoughts, ideas and suggestions that would bring about effective service delivery. Furthermore, a leader should be someone who listens, pay attention to details, an open-minded person and welcoming always.

All these thoughts passed through my mind when the Abuja team visited the Ruga community, a large shanty town just behind Wuye, last week Saturday. We met with the chief and community secretary, and from our discussion with them and observation, the community has no electricity, school and insufficient water. The community heads were very open to us and I look forward to working with them, improving the circumstances of the local people, but also building my own leadership skills too.

Knowing Your Value

Nneka Nebeolisa

Value is a common word we use on a regular basis but not many know of its deep meaning. I decided that before I'll discuss whatever I'm going to be saying here, I'll have to define the word "Value" and that took me to my dictionary. My dictionary defines value to be:

1. The quality (positive or negative) that renders something desirable or valuable.
2. The degree of importance given to something.

Side note > we're not going to be discussing about material things here. We're talking "SELF-VALUE". So, do me a favor. Clear out the previous definition you just read from your head and go back up to the definition again but this time around, make sure to replace every "Something" with "Myself" and then come back to this line. Are you done? Okay. Well now ask yourself this: "How Valuable Am I?" And just before you dish out any answer, ponder about it very carefully. The answer to it may not be the nicest and it may not be easy to tell yourself the truth but it's worth everything.

Let me tell you about a friend I had at school. This friend was highly respected. And when I say respected, I mean by almost everyone at school. Name it, boys, girls, and lecturers, almost everyone. But you know what; she's from a very poor family. I used to think she was respected by people because she was older than we all are, but I found out that she was just a year older than I am. I was wowed. I decided to know what it is that makes her so special and with my CIA skills, I noticed her character, moves, dressing etc. All her qualities were excellent but there was one thing that caught my attention. Which is that * She knows her abilities but also never forgets her limits which she's never ashamed to talk about. She may wear the lowest class of shoes and dresses, but her character was classic.

The way she talks, and walks is very charming. She carries herself like a queen even though she would have to trek from her house to class which is a very long distance. She would rather look ugly than be found begging to borrow clothes from other girls. And this is all because she knows her True-Values and she knows that they're not in the clothes she wears neither are they in her pocket. She knows it's inside of her.

Till today, I still admire her for this and I wish everyone in the world knows this and sticks to it and our world will be a better place because there would be less stealing, cheating, robbery, corruption etc. if we all know that true value isn't about wealth. A lot of us focus so much on the idea that tells us that we have to be rich before we'll get to be valued in our communities.



Thus, we work so little on our inner self and attitude which is where our true value lies. Is it true that even though you make the highest amounts of money, you've never influenced a single person but rather destroy it, or never motivate people but only talk them down, never share with people around you but only take away? People may claim to respect you when you're around, but when you're not around? True value isn't always about when you're present. It's more defined when you're absent. And that's what we call Legacy.

I hope this inspires you to choose that your value wouldn't be one that's just very feeble but one that's strong and cannot be broken no matter how people try.

The Not too Young to Run Bill gets Presidential Assent ...Lessons learnt

Grace Jimbo



The Not too Young to Run Bill also known as the age reduction bill was conceived by a civil society group known as YIAGA Africa on May 2016. The bill seeks alteration in section 65, 106, 131, 17 of the Constitution which is to reduce the age for elective position for House of Assembly and House of Representative from 30-

year-old to 25-years-old, Senate and Governorship from 35 year old to 30 year old and office of the President from 40 to 30 year old. The bill also seeks to promote independent candidature.

This bill was sponsored by Hon. Tony Nwulu in the House of Representative and Senator AbdulAziz Nyako.

On May 31st, 2018, President Muhammadu Buhari signed the bill, making it an Act of the National Assembly. However, the age limit for Senators and Governors was not reduced; this is an issue that will be addressed in future.

Three keys lessons:

1. Nigerian Youth are not 'Lazy'; we are focused, resilient and hardworking. It is imperative to know that 55 youth-led organizations gave the president an 8-day ultimatum on May 21st to assent the bill. The Youth led peace protest and never gave up!
2. The power of unity; all the youth organizations worked as a team to make their voices louder and effective.
3. Ability to know what works best. The use of the social media campaign was strategic. Majority of Nigeria Youth use the social media so the #not too young to run hashtag gained massive support. It became a global social media campaign.

If we can do this, we can do it again in 2019 election. Let's not get distracted by the President's joke that the youth should wait after 2019 to contest for presidential election. Let's get to work, we have the legal backing!

Grace Jimbo

What is Poverty? The Revelational Question of Ugochukwu – Part 2

Ukaigweh Roberts



The emerging of a new era in his life led another question which is; what are these gifts and talent that needs to be shaped for effective skillfulness which will yield good result that will make impact in the life of people? And immediately he started listing them out on a piece of paper and at the end of the day his strength zone was discovered which is developing content, speaking, research, social work, consultancy.

He started out a mini consulting firm as a student on campus where he made research for students, he spoke in seminars where he taught students and potentials on purpose, also involved himself in social work with his friends to prisons, villages and schools.

He started studying in line with his new area of specialty to stand out, attended conferences, listened to audio tapes and watched videos to make this new found love a reality.

All this to conquer poverty and become that person he dreamt to be from childhood, but he was never told the terrain in the world out there will not be bed of roses as the campus environment.

After school, he went to serve his fatherland which is a compulsory for every graduate of his country which he did judiciously. Because he already has a good relationship with the Divine One (God) he fraternized with the people of like mind who had same believe with him called Jesus Corpers in that locality where he was sent to carry out his one-year service. Under the umbrella of Jesus Corper, he volunteered in various capacities and this good act made him win the heart of the people he worked for ranging from the management, to the staff, to the students, which made the lead facilitator of the school make a statement in his final clearance; “He is a mentor to these kids”.

After the service year, he was invited for an interview by a telecom company in one of the mega cities in his country via referral of a colleague back in the university, but the bottleneck in the system called “Corruption” caused him the job. After the interview process, he called the friend who referred him, and he was told bluntly by the Human Resource Manager that Ugochukwu was the best in the whole interview process, but the Director has the best reason why Ugo was not selected.

Days went by and Ugo has nothing doing and frustration was on the increase and many things ran through his mind, suicide inclusive which is the reason why he went ahead to get his company registered because of the humiliation of job seeking so he could kick start his passion.

He was shortlisted by the government for an empowerment programme where young entrepreneurs are given soft loans to start their business the bottled neck system killed it again. He decided to work on commission for a real estate firm to raise some funds for his dream but that did not work, and he kept pushing, he ventured into multilevel marketing still no positive result.

After all is said and done, Ugochukwu met an old friend whom he knew from childhood, who had grown his business from scratch into some millions. Fortunately, the friend was from the same region of the Rising Sun.

The people from the region are known to have a gift and expertise for business. This friend of his also does volunteering for a reputable international NGO and he has been trained as a delegate and at that moment they were running an initiative and gave Ugochukwu chance to participate and that was the beginning of a new things about to happen in Ugo’s life.

Ugochukwu’s performance was awesome as a participant that the officials of the organisation liked him and he is in their good books to be and to be considered for training in the next delegate training.

He has clear vision of where he is headed but needs that one thing that makes a whole difference to hit the lime light of business.

So, he has started saving in an account he opened many years ago which has no access for withdrawal and writing to earn while volunteering to make impact in his community and the one outside his.

He finds peace in what he does. As he derives joy in the impact made in the lives of other people, believing that is the thing that makes a whole lot of difference which will eventually lead him to his primary objective in life.

Thank you for reading. This is just the beginning of better things ahead for Ugochukwu. Never give up, believe in your heart always that you can make it and follow up with a corresponding action that will give you the desired result.

God Bless you. Be inspired always

Keep winning
Keep smiling
Keep loving
Keep living
Keep your head high always
Roberts say so.

MOMENTS WE HAVE LIVED -I

Ako Eyo

Like the traditional CCTV camera that capture and record scenes within their focus area, the brain records every moment we experience and tends to do a quick rewind at the point of transition from life to death. These flashes of moment tell us that our lives were all about us and nobody else, and that the only business each of us had was to live our own life. In most cases, when people get this at dying moments, they aren't privileged to be given a second chance to live. How sad!

I tell you that these happen in snaps of seconds; moments of the person's life appear in flashes from the most recent moment, counting down to the day he or she was born. Some people who also experienced near-death situations say theirs happened in a hap-hazard fashion, but there were flashes of moments that often brought them to their beginning. And when I say, "near-death situation," I don't mean close-to-death experiences when people are still conscious, making them experience shock while they are very much alive but a subconscious state one transcends into when one is dying.

My story can be scary, but I wouldn't make it so frightening. Let me just give you a surface overview.

When I was younger, I got involved in an auto crash while crossing a street. The way it happened was terrible. I got flung from one car unto an on-coming vehicle on the other side of the road, then to the roadside. It was like what happens in football match when one footballer heads the ball to his team mate, who in turn heads the ball in another direction. Picture me being the ball. At that moment, I didn't feel any pain; the only thing I heard was "boom!", "boom!" "boom!" As I finally got settled, a flock of people headed in my direction and turned my body, making me face upwards. I saw the faces of these people all staring at me.

Anyway, let me continue my story. The people stared at me, talking in panic. But the truth is that I didn't hear them- their words were muffling in my ears. Then, their picture began to wane in my eyes as darkness began to set in, to the time that I experienced a blackout.

Just immediately, the flash began! It began from their faces to the accident to the time I was crossing the road like a quick rewind; rewinding through moments I had lived! Some moments lasted longer. One of such was the memorable moment when Nigeria scored the final goal during Atlanta 96' which qualified us for the football gold medal at the Olympics. There was this "Goooooaaaaa!" that echoed in the environment for more than 15 minutes. I had witnessed my father run out of our house in excitement and people in the neighborhood do funny things. The flash of this moment lasted maybe 2 or 3 seconds. Another moment I recall that lasted in the flashes of moments was a day when I was so excited as a baby. I was in my walker when my elder brother and an older relative played with me in front of our house back in Sokoto. I giggled severally. Then, the rewind resumed and played to when I was born. Another blackout set in! It took me into wandering endlessly in a strange land, to a point when I tried to find my way back. And no, I didn't get to the "place of judgment time" to be sent to heaven or hell. I don't have an idea of what that looks like. Some people who have been privileged to resurrect from real death say they got there and returned. I was probably in the interlude between life and death- say coma or whatever. One very tasking job was getting into my body at the hospital. I tried fruitlessly, struggling to get into my own body. After so much efforts and time, I was able to get in with the tip of my fingers and toes. Proper alignment helped me! It makes me wonder how many people in similar condition try to do this and finally give up on reuniting their spirits or souls and bodies. This might sound mystical and out of this world and isn't the focus of this article, so let me go straight to the point.

Every single moment experienced counts. No dying person's flashback tells the life of a certain governor or beggar, but their very own. It wouldn't tell how Davido is giving Chioma assurance, No! It would tell of the day to day life.

Cesar Kuriyama shoots one second of video every day as part of an ongoing project to collect all the special bits of his life. You need to watch the 8-minutes TED talk "One Second Every Day" by this man who realized that every day counts in one's history. The truth is that the moments we live are the greatest treasures we have. It makes me wonder why people forget their own experiences but tell the stories of others- stories they cannot validate. The only person you can give a true testimony of is yourself because you have been with yourself from the first second of your life till now.

Sometimes, I help people fill online forms with their biodata and education, work experiences, as well as other personal information. It's surprising how many need to calculate the year they concluded primary school or when they had their second promotion for instance. Also, when I talk with some of my old friends on what happened in class on a certain day and how they reacted, they say "Oh, really? How come you remember? I can't remember most things I did in secondary school" but these are people who can analyze Obama's life! If people don't write about their lives, would we be given the opportunities to study such literatures and talk about them? On the other hand, writing an autobiography like Ben Carson's "Gifted Hands" would be an uphill task for those who don't take time to notice or recall their life moments.

Maybe it was that incidence that occurred years ago that flung me into a life of reflection like some others who consider their 'rebirth', or probably, that my return from coma shot up my memory-retaining capacity. What I'm grateful for is that I didn't die, because at a much younger age, I had lost my best friend in an accident when returning from school one fateful day. I now think about life, observe and recall moments I've lived because that's what life is about. For me, stories are to be told and not suppressed. Therefore, our stories- whether positive or negative- should be told to teach lessons and our experiences should be shared to guide others.

The only business we have in this life is to live our lives: that is our one and true business. So, as we strive to lead good and impactful lives, let us endeavor to remember the moments we have lived.

Thank you for Reading!

Ako Eyo

keep
learning.

In ‘Yippee, We Are Writing!’ I thanked all those who write here. Again, if you have posted any write up, be it a report on your group’s activities or your personal efforts towards sustainable development, an enlightening piece on an international day or societal concern or an inspirational article, thank you for the good job. You have done well and please keep it up.

Now, for those who read, we would want to specially thank you for taking time to read our articles. If you have been reading and commenting, great job, please continue the good work! However, if you read but never comment, we understand that you don’t necessarily have to. It’s okay if you don’t, just keep reading. We hope that you have loved our articles and that you have overlooked our mistakes- both typographical and logical but we also hope that we have made you learn one thing or another, and most especially, touched your life in a way.

When I go to my backend, I see that my articles get many views. I don’t see the names of people who read them, but I know that

these anonymous people keep reading because the trend seems to continue. I mean I get about 50-100 views on each article I publish on SI4DEV website. That’s encouraging. I’m sure that that’s the same for every other partner’s posts.

You see, the reason why we post is not because we want to become famous or grow tokens. It’s because we are using our universal gift to share our thoughts and touch lives. I wrote something on universal gift, you might want to read it here.

It’s good to know that you are reading. Thanks once again! And to our Program Manager who takes the pains to go through the contents of blog posts before publishing, thank you so much! Sometimes you even change our titles to fit the message. Nice job, keep it up! And keep giving us the opportunity to express ourselves.

In all, I will want to end by saying readers are leaders and as we learn from the ants, everybody’s post is worth reading because we can discover some truths about trivial things which we never took time to consider or even get a chance to correct the reader or make suggestions. So, let’s never say for instance, “He isn’t John Maxwell, Zig Ziglar or Brian Tracy, so why should I read his write up?” Let’s earn to pick up pieces of helpful information from renowned and unknown authors. Unknown writers often introduce uncommon perspectives worthy of note. Therefore, let’s keep exploring.

Keep reading and keep leading. Thank you!

Now let all the SI4DEV bloggers together thank our readers and tell what we would like them to hear. Let us also appreciate the countless efforts of our Program Manager.

LEARNING AS A CONTINUING PROCESS

Francis Eghehan



The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning. As the SI4DEV Partners go into the mentoring module for the second half of the program, it reminds me of the fact that at different stages of our lives we are engaged in the process of gaining fresh or amending existing knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences for efficiency and effectiveness. The ability to learn is possessed by humans, animals, and some machines

Learning is a process — a journey not just an act. A self – directed learning process is arguably the most powerful model for facilitating and inspiring individual, group and organizational learning and development. The willingness to learn is a choice that everyone has been gifted with. Everyday life throws at us, opportunities to learn, but we decide whether to utilize these opportunities or not. Although there are different avenues of learning, reading presents a window for the reader to learn from the knowledge and experiential point of view of the writer.

In the words of Dr. Seuss “The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you will go”

Why You Must Lead by Example

Felicia Robert



There is nothing more infuriating than a hypocritical leader. There is a boss who regularly leaves the office early for personal business/plans but demands everyone stay until exactly 5 P.M. and there is a manager who assigns impossible tasks, then shirks responsibility when the outcome is (predictably) less than desired. Leaders are those who make good things happen. And one of the ways they do it is by giving people a reason to believe and to follow. That's simple and easy to say, but it takes a lifetime of trying to put into practice. There are no shortcuts, but there are signposts. The job of a manager is to get the system running; it is the job of the leader to turn on the system, and, more especially, to get others to turn it on and to do this a leader must;

Put the team first,
Handle the tough stuff,
Set the right example,
Act the part.

Taking over the top job, be it team leader or CEO, is never easy. When it is done the right way, it is called leadership; when it is done the wrong way, it is called a disaster. It falls on the person in charge to give the team a reason to believe in his/her talents and ability to get the team to work together. There's hardly anything worse for team morale than leaders who practice the "Do as I say, not as I do" philosophy, and when this happens, you can almost see the loss of enthusiasm and goodwill among the team members.

Leaders who say one thing and seeing doing another – always feel like betrayals. They can be very destructive.

Everyone in leadership position has a responsibility to the team he/she is leading. The team looks to you for guidance and strength, and a big part of the responsibility is to lead team with your own actions.

Why is it so important to lead by example; and what happens when you don't?

There's an old saying about the difference between a manager and a leader: "Managers do things right. Leaders do the right things." (It's best to be both a manager and a leader – they're just different processes). As a leader, part of your job is to inspire the people around you to push themselves – and, in turn, the team/company – to greatness.

When a leader says one thing and do another, the team will ask, "If he doesn't do it, why should they?" A leader's hypocrisy fosters resentment, suspicion, mistrust and doubt. To be a truly effective leader, you must lead by example.

Leadership only succeeds when it shows others how to extend and push for greatness. Your team should look at you and think, "If she can do it, I can, too." True leaders do not whip their team into shape from the back of the pack — that's a dictatorship. They lead the charge, while carrying their share of the weight.

People are put into positions of authority, but it is up to the individual to earn the respect and trust of his followers. When followers see the leader doing what is right for the team; that is, supporting, developing, nurturing, and defending in good times and bad, they grant their trust. The same trust-building revenue applies to individuals. Managers who put the interests of their people first by finding ways to help them grow, develop, and take on more responsibilities cease to be mere managers; they are leaders of men and women who have earned their rank by giving their people a reason to believe.

To Achieve Results a Leader must;

- Demonstrate character. It forms the foundation of everything a leader says and does.
- Lighten up and take the work seriously
- Check your ego at the door (and keep it there).
- Be accountable for your actions and responsible for the actions of others
- Management is the discipline of detail. Leadership is the art of thinking beyond details in order to make things better.
- Promote resilience. There is no shame in getting knocked down; it's getting back up that matters.
- Encourage dissent about issues but promote civility around people.
- Get in the habit of asking questions but do not expect easy answers. Make it safe for people to ask you questions, too.
- Manage around obstacles. The path to fulfilled goals is seldom straight.
- Drive innovation by encouraging everyone on the team to think and act creatively. Good ideas can come from anyone at any time.
- Create a winning culture so people feel confident about themselves and their work.
- Change always happens. Learn to anticipate, embrace, and adapt to it and teach others to do the same.
- Teach others "the how" —then get out of the way and let people do their jobs.
- Honor tradition but seek to do things that benefit people today and for tomorrow.
- Get off the pedestal. Leadership is less about who you are than what you do

Leading by example is the fastest way to train a team. When you hold yourself to a high standard, your team will look to gain your approval by doing the same. They will rise to their expectations of excellence, integrity, and respect when you give them the same. And when your team is composed of excellence, you are sure to see success.

REPORT ON THE SI4DEV UYO, AKWA IBOM BRAINSTORMING MEETING

Aniekan Ukpabio

DATE: 3rd June, 2018

ATTENDANCE: The meeting had the following in attendance:

Grace Jimbo
Felicia Rober-Elijah
Utibe Emmah
Aniekan Ukpabio
Mercy James
Ejogha Brown

OPENING

The meeting started with an opening prayer, which was taken by Felicia at about 4:40pm

MATTERS OF THE DAY

Grace welcomed SI4Dev partners and intimated partners about the essence of the meeting was to brainstorm projects and activities that can be carried out for the priorities listed F and G as highlighted in Uyo needs Assessment report.

She equally informed members about the global giving project. She implored partners to be ever ready for the kick off date to ensure the success of the programme.

She also brought to the notice of partners that we are expected to write monthly report or at least quarterly report. She said the task will be shared among members.

RESOLUTIONS OF PARTNERS

Partners at the meeting resolved that advocacy visit should be paid to the following individuals and places.

National Directorate of Employment (NDE)

Uyo local Government Area Chairman

Social Investment Scheme

Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)

Commissioner for Youth and sports

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Environment

Market Union (Uyo Market)

Partners also resolved to carry out the following to curb Alcoholism and drug abuse:

Adopt two secondary schools (boarding and day schools)

Establish a Junior SI4DEV club that will be called "Champions Club"

Carry trainings and seminars for Jss2 and SS2 in the adopted schools that will address corruption, cultism, substance abuse, examination malpractices and other social vices.

ACTION POINTS

1. *Dissemination of reports and letters:* This will be done by Utibe and Felicia.
2. *Preparation of work plan for June 2018:* It was agreed that Grace and Utibe will handle this
3. *Submission of brainstorming report:* This was assigned to Aniekan Ukpabio

The meeting came to a close at about 6:59pm with a closing prayer, taken by Ejogha Brown.

SI4DEV Minna Location Group June face to face meeting Ifeoluwa

The meeting was held at Mawo school on the 8th day of June 2018. In attendance

1. Ifeoluwa Victoria Ayo
2. Mary Anthony
3. Grace
4. Simon
5. Apology/ Permission
6. Adakayi John
7. Bashir Bosso
8. Hauwa

The meeting started by 4:45 pm with an opening prayer from Grace, thereafter, Ifeoluwa welcomed everyone to the meeting. Minutes of the last meeting held on 25th of May 2018 was read out and action points that had been taken were told to the team.

Matters Arising

Drug Abuse Awareness

As agreed on the WhatsApp group, that the awareness would be done in 5 schools within Minna. We agreed on 1 private school and 4 public/government schools, these are:

1. Mawo International School (our host school and private school)

2. Maryam Babagida Girls Science School
3. Father O'Coniel Science School
4. Zarume School
5. Government Girls Secondary School

We choose more of government schools because must children/youth who are involved in substance/drug abuse go to these schools.

The awareness was agreed to take place immediately after the Salah break. Letters would be distributed to the schools before the Salah break.

Other materials that could make the awareness fun and easy would be prepared by the team.

Shatta Community Needs Assessment

The Shatta community head had been visited as agreed in our last meeting. We agreed to increase the number of survey forms from 100 to 150 as we were informed by the community head that there are 5 villages under it. A date for the assessment was agreed to be chosen on the WhatsApp group as other members were not around.

Closing Remark

Ifeoluwa thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed with prayer by Simon.

Report on Training for Strengthening Youth as Anti-Corruption Advocates

Grace Jimbo and Mercy James

Background of the workshop: The training was held to strengthened fight against corruption, implemented by CSO of Youth Alive Foundation funded through the DFID Nigeria's Anti-corruption in Nigeria (Acorn) programme. Two representatives of Strategy and innovation for Development Initiatives (SI4DEV) participated in the training. This training took place on 21st and 22nd May 2018 at YAF Hall, 26 Esuene Street Uyo.



Objectives of the workshop:

- Educate participants on corruption.
- Educate participants on consequences of corruption in our nation.
- Educate on how to manage conflict.
- Train participants on how to approach and create awareness on corruption to the public.

Discussion:

The workshop seeks to achieve a reduction in corruption because corruption undermines democracy and the rules of law and it leads to violation of human rights. It erodes public trust in government.

It hurt the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining government's ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice and discouraging foreign investment and aid.

The workshop increases participant's knowledge that research has shown that youths represent a significant part of Nigeria's population, tend to be more exposed to bribery and therefore partly vulnerable to corruption, as they are involved in almost every aspect of the society. They are involved as student, pupils, workers, customers and citizens.

At the workshop different types of corruption and what constitutes corruption practice in Nigeria and the challenges that an Anti-corruption advocate will face when he or she approach the resistance group.

After the lunch break:

How to manage conflict was introduced to the participants, the causes of conflicts, the stage of conflict and how it can be prevented.

The participants understand there are non-violent and violent conflict and their levels and how is to be handled.

The instructor listed the causes of conflicts which are: poor governance, lack of equal economic or social opportunities or inadequate political participation of a group, unequal access to natural resources all this under structural causes and Proximate causes that when combined with the structural causes can lead to escalation stage.

On the second day of the workshop:

Participants were trained on social and behaviour change communication.

SBCC is an interactive, researched and planning process aimed at changing social conditions and individual behaviors.

The core elements are:

1. Advocacy to raise resource and political and social leadership commitment for change goals.
2. Social/community mobilization for wider participation and ownership.
3. Behavior change communication for changes in knowledge attitudes and practices.

The training helped participants to understand the role of SBCC/Social norms in fighting corruption.

After lunch break on the second day.

The participants were trained on monitoring and Evaluation, their differences, purposes and the five level of indicators which are: inputs, process output, outcome and impact.

We were trained on what should be monitored and evaluated, and what M&E information is used for.

Recommendations:

Youths can play a pivotal role in the fight against corruption because they tend to be more open to wide scale socio-political transformation and have less vested interested in maintaining the status.

Young people are an integral element for the success of a cultural change in attitudes and behavior towards corruption and shaping of the values of tomorrow since they represent the future of our country.

Conclusion:

Human beings have basic needs which they seek to fulfill. When they are denied these needs, conflict might ensue, or they'll be willing to influence by corrupt political leaders and be bribe

Action plans:

- YAF are to visit secondary and University and involved international and social media to create awareness.
- SI4DEV Uyo location to contain awareness on corruption in their work plan development.
- SI4DEV partners and volunteers to hold community meetings in churches, schools and village gathering to create awareness on Corruption.

Report by Mercy James (SI4DEV volunteer)

Ending the Global Giving Accelerator on a High Note



Thank you all so much! Our Globalgiving fundraiser to “Help Build Processing Machines For 100 Uyo Farmers” is almost fully funded! We have raised \$13,280 so far out of a funding goal of \$14,000! We’re currently #4 on the general accelerator leaderboard as we head into the final day of the Accelerator. But it is not over yet! There are various campaign bonus prizes, including homepage time and social media promotion still up for grabs. We need just 5 more donors and \$800 to maximize our

chances. Globalgiving makes donating online super easy. Visit the page with the link below and click on the donate button – the site will guide you through the rest.

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/crop-processing-machines-for-100-farmers-in-uyo/>

You can also make payments to our Naira account and we transfer to the GG fund immediately:

Bank: GTBank (Guaranty Trust Bank)

Bank Name: Strategy and Innovation for Development Initiative

Account Number: 0366172770 (Naira)

Let me give you some background, it’s been less than a year since the launch of SI4DEV, and we have provided capacity building, practical learning, and collaborative forums for over 200 volunteer partners and over 3,000 direct beneficiaries of our health, education, advocacy and community development projects in more than 20 locations in Nigeria. Help us take the next step by helping us graduate our GlobalGiving Accelerator program.

We also just found out that our crowdfunding campaign to build a crop processing facility for 100 Uyo Farmers is going to make history in the area. The village leader, His Highness Chief Thompson Ekpo shared his thoughts saying, “this is first time an organization is bringing an project that will assist the villagers economically.” Please support this community with your donation to bring economic independence to 100 farmers including women and children.

Speaking on the Spring Development Initiative fundraiser, the community project leader, Deacon Akebong Johnson, the community project leader could hardly believe that people all over the world were donating to help the village find it’s footing. “We are very happy.”

So please keep the Spring Development Initiative and our SI4DEV partners in mind as we round up the accelerator. We appreciate your support! Help us meet our goal and win more cash and bonus prizes from #Globalgiving

FABULOUS FRIENDSHIP

Francis Eghehan

A lot of us have been involved in friendships, we have had our different experiences that keep pointing to the fact that we are made for connection (friendship). +

Have you imagined that you probably have a mouth and can speak? Our mouth is for connection. “To have a friend and be a friend is what makes life worthwhile” – unknown.

There are friends who become closer than even our blood relations, like the Bible puts it “There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother”.

From childhood, some of us have had opportunities of contacting very lovely friends, those with who new shared lovely moments, played together, ate together, laughed, cried, went through challenging times together, and even had to disagree over certain issues bordering on our individual values.

Way back in my secondary school days, I had a friend whose memory has become a precious jewel to me. Though Ake was a little older than I, he happened to be a very close pally through the years. We both had mutual interest in our studies, games, and hobbies. Most times when I “step on the toes” of some other classmates who were also older than me, they find it difficult to get at me, simply because they know my friend will come to my defense.

Each time I recall some of those memory, I keep wondering to myself what it was that I contributed towards the quality of my

friendships. At that level one thing I can remember is the fact that I always complemented my friend in areas he may not be as strong as I was. I try as much as possible to discover how I can strengthen the ties between us by being dependable and trustworthy.

Another thing that has contributed immensely to my friendships is the fact that there was always commitment to check on my friends through regular visits when it matters most.

It is easy to claim that one has been a faithful friend considering what you may have gone through for the sake of friendships. Think about some friendships you have had that have gone sour, think about the comments made while the friendship was in troubled times, then ask yourself – all the expectations that I put in my friendship;

- Am I faithful?
- Am I trustworthy?
- Am I available?
- Do I visit?
- Do I share of my resources?

You can be a better friend to the people around you. Consider the people closest to you and decide to develop your connection. A fabulous friendship multiplies the good in life.

Hope to write on how I found my BESTMAN soonest.

Online Training on Business Plan/Idea Brainstorming by SI4DEV Partner

Report by Nnamso Esu

REPORT OF BUSINESS IDEA/PLAN BRAINSTORMING ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAM COHORT 1 ORGANIZED BY YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE AND SUPPORTED BY STRATEGY AND INNOVATION FOR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (SI4DEV)

Description and Purpose/needs:

In line with the SI4DEV Strategic goal quoted 'We aspire to develop a nationally recognized framework that allows local leaders to successfully drive and improve entrepreneurship and educational development in their communities' Youth Leadership development initiative organized free 5 weeks business ideas/plan brainstorming online training program for 100 participants through WhatsApp in Nigeria, Sudan, South Africa, Cameroon, Burundi and Rwanda.



Brainstorming Business Idea is an online training programme for people who want to start a business but are not sure of the business idea to pursue. The program assists the potential entrepreneur describes a concrete business idea, identify potential sources of ideas, generate business ideas and select the most suitable idea to pursue. In order to produce a business plan, a potential entrepreneur needs to have a clear idea of the business they propose to start. This program is designed to help emerging entrepreneurs draw up a business plan.

Topics covered during the online training are:

1. Conducting a resource assessment and brainstorming idea
2. Feasibility study and thinking about startup capital
3. Market research (customer surveys, competitor analysis and SWOT analysis)
4. Operational plan (create a mission statement, financial management, operational planning, developing your team and organograms, Risk management and health & safety)
5. Marketing and sales plan (setting up your selling price, marketing and 4ps, sales plan and techniques)
6. Financial Plan (cost, income, profit, startup budget, balance sheet, cash flow, break even analysis and ratios)

Of the 100 participants, 50 successfully completed the entire module of the training and received a certificate of achievement, 5 of the successful ones were from SI4DEV Ika.

Facilitator

Nnamso Esu, a passionate entrepreneur, HND Electrical Electronics Engineering Technology, member Nigeria Association

of Technology in Engineering, trained by African Management Initiative (AMI) in business management and consultancy, a fellow of The Youth Entrepreneurship Support (YES) Programme, a scheme by BOI, EDC and FGN. He is an SI4DEV Partner, a fellow of the YALI West Africa emerging leader program (business and entrepreneurship) and certified google digital marketing fundamental qualification.

Participant comments and recommendations:

1. Mr. Ayefu Isaiah (Nigeria)

It has been quite an honor to be a participant of the business idea/plan brainstorming online program organized by youth leadership development initiative.

The youth leadership development has impacted me so far positively to think outside the box.

I learned how to manage risk, how to have a competitive advantage over my competitors in the market have been synced into my blood stream. I can boldly say I can tackle my competitors and risks. Furthermore, it has opened my mind to various business ideas to venture into. Also, the rudiments of business that was exposed to me has helped station my mind to face unforeseen contingences. And also, the resource person clearly presented the paper in a simpler and concise way. In a nut shell, I can boldly affirm that the program has done justice in transmitting me from an unlearned individual to a learned and hungry fellow. Thank youth leadership development initiative.

2. Lauret Dushime (Rwanda)

I really appreciate your initiative to empower younger Africans through entrepreneurial skills training. Be blessed.

3. Adeseyan Adeboye(Sudan)

Awesome program, please keep it up.

4. Mukaza Bujumbura (Burundi)

Thank you, youth leadership development initiative, for giving me this golden opportunity to gain more knowledge about generating business idea and plan, I am now have more confident in marketing and sales plan and financial plan section of business plan. This program has further helped me to foster and build great business and entrepreneurship skills through a whole lot of practical experience gained during the program. I want to give five stars to the facilitator for his wonderful presentation. I therefore recommend this program to any organizations for sponsorship.

Thank you note:

Thank you for participating in our brainstorming business idea/plan online training program cohort 1. We strongly believed that you learned a lot from the program and also ready to use the knowledge acquired to improve your business and transform your community. Below is your attached certificate of achievement.

Once again, Congratulations!

Youth leadership development initiative

Storytelling – Focusing on the Impact of What You Do

Ako Eyo

“Do you know the number of people I feed in this State on a monthly basis? Each day, I put foods on the tables of hundreds of people. I feed people... I contribute to feeding over 10,000 people monthly,” my friend who is an Agriculture Extension worker would always remind me each time I chatted her up and discovered that she was in a farm in one interior village or the other and became bothered. She would always respond that she didn’t deserve such pity; that she was touching thousands of lives.

You too can speak in this manner. But what is it about? I will explain and after citing an example, I will tell you how you can.

My friend is very passionate about her profession- she boldly says that she is a farmer. Hmmm! But what even surprised me more was how she always saw the outcome of her efforts from a social impact perspective. Recently, I have emulated my friend too. And as my small and not yet famous friend quotes large figures like “...feeding 10,000+ people in Oyo State monthly,” I too have joined the league of those who tell the outcomes of their work in the society.

You see, my friend isn’t being egoistic, neither do her statements imply that she is a charity organization. She merely seats to calculate the tons of agricultural products she mobilizes from farms, thinks of how many people buy them in markets and the number of meals they can produce. So when she says she contributes to feeding thousands of people, she is telling nothing but the truth.

Recently, I wanted to change the pattern of my proposals, cover letters and resume. I wanted a winning style, so I began researching. One thing I discovered was that rather than telling what you can do or itemizing your strengths, skills, hobbies, etc., using anecdotes of what you did or do is far more convincing. I also discovered that using figures pays off and that showcasing the result of your work in your society is a very good way to tell of your impact.

In redesigning my CV cover letter, I asked myself, “But what do I write concerning my job?” Truly, I have the passion to touch lives and that is why I get involved in many community development services and non-governmental organizations, because I want to help make the world become a better place. However, it was after a thorough reflection that I came to discover that in my job, I could be boastful as my friend.

I work behind-the-camera and usually, Reporters, Presenters, Producers and even Marketers make us feel that we are just there to broadcast what they have really worked hard to source and put together. We often hear, “I spent the whole day on the field today, please make sure you air it!” or “Engineer, the overhead mic in Studio 3 is not working, please come and fix it” or “Which EP is at DSNG today? We are on Network News tonight.” “The teleprompter speed, it is too fast, I can’t present with it. I need it adjusted,” “Roll! ... After this advert we take Episode 43 of 700 Club, 2 jingles, then we join network to come down at 3:30”. LOL! I had said, “This is what I have been doing for seven years, wow! Where can figures come in? What do I write in my cover letter?”

It was time to think! I analyzed the end results of my efforts; the number of hours I work per day, the number of days in a week I

transmit, and then in a year and years and how that translates into volumes of programmes. I did serious calculation. And wow! It resulted in over 18,000 hours of TV transmission, about 35,000 programmes and at least 50,000,000 views and massive enlightenment! Cool! Now, I was talking business. This was me who used to say, “My job doesn’t touch lives as I desire.”

Having worked in 4 locations, my transfers were now an advantage, so I added “Served 4 regions of Nigeria, reaching out to more than 240 communities.” Wow! Now the numbers were increasing. Look at how thoughts of end results brought out the impact of what I do, and these are no boasts.

Now, I come to you. What do you do? Do you know how far your efforts go to making impacts in the society? Can you do some analysis and calculations to translate that into numbers? Examine the following options:

1. Rather than say “I’m the manager of a boutique where I oversee staff and sales,” why not say “I lead a team of passionate employees and work towards our goal of making people look good and improving self-confidence... We add to 500 personal wardrobes and the society monthly and have contributed to over 10,000 appearances in the past three years”.
2. Instead of saying, “I’m a skilled mathematician and have worked as Mathematics Teacher in a secondary school for 8 years where I teach JSS1 to SS3,” why not say “I have groomed over 500 students in mathematics and aided their calculative abilities. Achieved 70% increase in student performances in JSCE and SSCE in the subject in the past 6 years; influenced the choices of my students, especially girls into choosing STEM careers. Today, most of my old students are graduates and are thriving in various brilliant fields of endeavor.”
3. You can substitute “I have been selling books since I finished my NYSC in 2016, I know that I can handle the job of a librarian because I am skilled at sorting and arranging books.” with “Of all freelance jobs, I choose book selling because I wanted to contribute to awareness and changing of lives. As a book seller, I care about the impact books make on people. I would often checkup those who bought books to know how far they had gone with reading and what they had learnt. 80% of them usually testified in the positive. I have sold about 4,000 books since inception. As a librarian, I will ensure that the library will transform as many lives as possible!”

Understanding what you do and the impact you have generated through it is not just for publicity, it should not only be recalled when you are applying for an opportunity or preparing for an interview. It should be the inner conviction and happiness that you have; one which gives you the assurance that your efforts are making the world a better place.

Every single person must take out time to reflect in how their jobs or services have helped their community, society or the world at large. It’s high time you sat down to reflect, calculate, write down, know and tell how you are making an impact through what you do.

Don't Allow Fear of Better Options Stop You from Making Tough Decisions

Manchang Philemon

The freedom of choice enhances feelings of autonomy, freedom and promotes one's sense of personal control. But increased choice may be detrimental to decision making. Sometimes we face too many attractive choices, we feel anxious about missing out on anything that looks exciting. It's perfectly normal to strive for a better option but when you are obsessed with everything, you are missing or will miss when you decide, and you will constantly be in the state of indecision. I was a victim of this at a point in my life. I remembered vividly when I was faced with too many choices to make. I was admitted to study civil engineering in a polytechnic and another to enroll in interim joint matriculation board program popularly called IJMB. IJMB to many is risky because they believe you may end up not securing admission in to 200L in the university. Worse of all is that you can't use IJMB result to secure job! My Dad was on the side that I should go to the polytechnic, reasons that since I have been at home for 4years without admission and I can also use my ND certificate to secure job. To cut it short, I was confused about the choice to make but I later decided to pursue my dream of going to the university to study chemical engineering through the IJMB even though it was hard decision for me.

A saying that "learning to choose is hard. Learning to choose well is harder. And learning to choose well in a world of unlimited possibilities is harder, perhaps the hardest". Only then did I realize what that means. My choice was satisfactory rather than the optimal solution.

There are people who make better decision (Maximizer) but they are less satisfied with those decisions and there are people who make decision that seems to address most needs, settle for a good enough option, not necessarily the very the one with the best outcome (Satisfier).

A satisfier is less likely to experience regret even if a better option presents itself after decision has already been made. He also uses aspirations level when choosing different path or action.

My submission

We are always face with the challenges of making right decision. Fear of better option is the reason we can make a tough decision. But I employ us to enter a satisficing decision-making strategy.

Most good decisions will involve these steps:

-Figure out your goal or goals.

-Evaluate the importance of each goal.

-Array the options.

-Evaluate how likely each of the option is to meet your goal.

-Pick the winning option.

Use the consequences of your choice to modify your goals, their importance, and the way you evaluate future possibility.

In the many decision-making processes, you take, you can make "best" choice; be intuitive, don't worry too much about getting the very best all the time, and evaluate each outcome on its own merits rather than against others. Thank you.

What is your Definition of Life? By Ukwai Igwe Roberts

Most times I take appraisal of my life to know what I have done right and what I haven't. The life I have affected positively and how well I did it. All these factors all points to what I have been doing with this one-time opportunity I call "Life-Line".

This singular act makes me ask deep questions that will baffle many of you reading these lines, as simple as the question may sound I bet you it is not only if you can look deep within.

What is life?

Just someone few hours ago I was reading the write up of a partner who wrote about a Pharmacist turned poet after she had a near death experience and that singular experience turned her whole perspective about life. Her name is Iyoka.

For me as an individual my definition of life will not come from a biological point of view because in as much as human are component of different elements the we live goes beyond the air we breathe in and out.

LIFE is Purpose. Life is SERVICE. Life is Love for others. Life is Impact. Life is all that makes others become better. And the definition could go on and on.

My life has always been dedicated to services ranging from my days of primary education from the cradle to the secondary education in the military school and to my tertiary education.

Impact is something that must be made if we must fulfill purpose here on earth and fulfilling purpose entails meeting the need of others. Several platforms have provided me with opportunity to serve in various capacity and I must say that I feel very emotional writing this now to you my reader. I have literally seen miracles happen in the life of people through me where children who had no money to pay their fee smile because someone said to them "Yes".

Platforms under the umbrella of Golden Heart Foundation, Strategy and Innovation for Development Initiatives, Generations for

Peace, City of Greatness Youth Centre International and Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI) have helped me develop my leadership skill in various aspects. On this note I will like to bring to our notice that I have been accepted as a delegate to participate in the **INTERNATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS ASSEMBLY IN THE UNITED STATES** which come up August 6th - 15th.

The monetary value required of me to make this dream a reality for me to participate is \$4000 which covers all that I need while in the summit.

Looking at the knowledge that will be gained and the impact that will be made afterwards I decided to bring it to the knowledge of the great members of this great community for crowd funding process.

Thank you for taking out time to read this. Please reach out to me if you'll like to support me.

PHOTOS - WORLD DRUG DAY 2018 WITH SI4DEV TEAMS ACROSS NIGERIA



The UN General Assembly marks 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to show how serious they are about supporting action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.

Building on the success of last year, the theme for 2018 is: "Listen First - Listening



to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe." It is an initiative to increase support for prevention of drug use that is based on science and is thus an effective investment in the well-being of children and youth, their families and their communities.

SI4DEV location groups in **Kaduna, Niger, Benue and Rivers States** joined the global campaign to warn of the dangers of drug abuse and reached out to students in school or spoke in press conferences to highlight best practices for preventing drug abuse in youth.



According to the UNODC, "research suggests that early-to late adolescence is a critical risk period for the initiation of substance use. By breaking the chain of social, neurobiological and psychological factors and inequalities that increase susceptibility to drug use disorders, we can help young people to grow up healthy and safe."

Prevention is truly better than cure.



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