



DISABILITY
EMPOWERMENT
FOUNDATION

May – June 2025

D.E.F news letter

WELCOME TO THE
LATEST EDITION OF
D.E.F NEWSLETTER,
YOUR SOURCE FOR
ESSENTIAL
INFORMATION,,
ACTIVITIES AND
UPDATES FROM
DISABILITY
EMPOWERMENT
FOUNDATION

BE A CHANGE AGENT

Disability Empowerment Foundation (D.E.F.) is on the front line advocating for change in attitude amongst the ecclesia and general community in Nigeria, to improve life and provide opportunities for persons affected by intellectual and developmental disabilities to live their best lives.

This issue of the newsletter is a summary report on the three years of DEF action and ministry. Going forward, we plan to use one newsletter each year as an annual report.

**EQUITABLE
ACCESS TO
QUALITY
EDUCATION**

Thank you for your generous donation to the Disability Empowerment Foundation (DEF). We are thrilled to have your support. Through your donation we have been able to raise some money towards our mission goals. You truly make the difference for us, and we are extremely grateful!

For those who still want to donate, you can do so on our **donation link below**

DONATE NOW

Please feel free to share the link with your families and friends too. Other ways you can join us:

AS A VOLUNTEER

AS AN ADVOCATE

Our on-going project is the renovation of the Training Centre for the Blind. The Training Centre for the Blind is a vocational school situated at Ogbomoso, Oyo State in Nigeria, where instruction in one or more branches of knowledge takes place for persons with visual impairment. Education is the bedrock of any society, and ensuring education for everyone is fundamental to an enduring and inclusive community and enabling society.

DEF is working closely with local educational authorities and government agencies in Nigeria to address the disparity in educational opportunities and ensure inclusive education for persons with disabilities and the expected positive impact on students and the community.

We are currently in partnership with the Agency for Living with Disabilities, one of the agencies of the Oyo State Government, Ibadan. Our joint project is the renovation of the Training Centre for the Blind at Ogbomoso, Ibadan, Oyo State.

**DISABILITY
EMPOWERMENT
FOUNDATION**

Let's
Build
Together

CHARITY RENOVATION PROJECT
*Renovation of the
Training Center for the
BLIND*
Ogbomoso, Oyo State,
Nigeria.



HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

\$50,000

SCAN THE CODE OR
CLICK DONATE NOW TO SEE
**DONATION AND
PROJECT INFORMATION**

PROJECT COORDINATOR
**ARC. MOBOLAJI
ADENIYI FNIA**

**CREATE
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW**
DONATE NOW!



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 disabilityempowermentfdn@gmail.com

How can you help?

See details of the **Charity Renovation Project** ([Click Here](#)).

The donation will be channelled towards the on-going repair of the leaking roofs and ceilings of the toilets and classroom buildings respectively.

\$50,000

Fifty Thousand Dollars

is required to complete these repairs. We need your help to make these students' dream a reality. D.E.F will ensure your funds are used for this purpose.

OUR PROJECTS

Our mission projects include...

1 Community Disability Training/Education Project

2 Empowerment and Skill Acquisition Support Project

3 Special Needs School Renovation Project

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. COMMUNITY DISABILITY TRAINING/EDUCATION PROJECT

Local and Community Outreaches

Since 2021, Disability Empowerment Foundation (DEF) has reached out to over 50 locally-led disability agencies and ministries (caregivers) that serve and support over 100 residents within the disability community in Nigeria and provided them with all-inclusive person-centered training, workshops and programs.



Disability Empowerment Foundation provided a 3-day workshop to the staff of Divine Senior Citizens Palace, Akobo Estate, one of the agencies of

persons with disabilities in Ibadan. This Centre serves over 45 residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities, ranging from autism and down syndrome to physical and learning disabilities. During this 3-day workshop, Disability Empowerment Foundation also provided food items to support the agency in the provision of quality of life, good health, and wellbeing for their residents.



Disability Awareness and Inclusion Conferences

DEF provided disability awareness education – seminars and conferences- for more than 150 religious leaders and workers on social inclusion of persons with disabilities in faith constituencies and in the broader community in Nigeria and Canada.

Early 2022, Disability Empowerment Foundation through its Disability Awareness Campaign at Baptist College of Theology, Iggede Ekiti, Ondo State, created the platform that led to the opening of opportunities for disabled persons who have received a call to be trained at the college as Pastors.



The campaign also engendered the college movement to remove barriers, change attitudes, and raise awareness of the potential of people with disabilities for ministries and community development.

As part of our mission goals to provide educational and training programs and services to facilitate the social inclusion of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, DEF organized a **State-Wide Disability Awareness and Inclusion Conferences** tagged “DAIC”

Disability Awareness and Inclusion Conference (DAIC 2022)



The 2022 Disability Empowerment Conference was held at the International Conference, University of Ibadan, Ibadan on Thursday, July 21, 2022 with a theme “Redefining Church Culture of Inclusion and Embracing Friendship with Persons with Developmental and Intellectual Disability.”

It was the latest milestone in a series of a few disability conferences held in Nigeria. The 2022 Conference was held at the International Conference, University of Ibadan. The conference brought together leaders and workers from a range of organisations and institutions that relate with persons with disabilities.

Grace, one of the Conference speakers who has developmental challenges and who lives in a rehabilitation centre in Ibadan, Nigeria says, “ we are the handwork of the almighty God and we are specially made by God, but unfortunately life is miserable for us disabled and the reason why I said that is because some disabled are seriously in lack of some basic necessities of life such as food and shelter. There are still unmet needs for people like me.”

Rev Bill Gaventa, a consultant/trainer and a founder emeritus of the Institute of Theology and Disability, USA, declares, “many still think of the world of disability as one they have no desire to visit, one to avoid, one that’s pitied and feared, one in which just one feature of a person’s life, their disability is used to judge everything about the person even before we know them.”



Disability Awareness and Inclusion Conference (DAIC 2023)



The 2023 Conference was held in Lagos, Nigeria with the theme, “Fellowship and Friendship with Persons with Developmental Disabilities in Faith Based communities in Nigeria.” Individuals and families that are affected with disabilities were given the opportunity (the platform) to share their stories and experiences.

The key take aways from the 2023 Conference were

- 1) Understanding people with disabilities is crucial for fostering an inclusive and compassionate society.
- 2) Hearing them talk about their struggles helps to close any perceived gap between them and others.

Disability Awareness and Inclusion Conference (DAIC 2024)



About 180 participants attended including caregivers, civil servants, faith community leaders, religious workers, and persons with disabilities and their families.

The three conferences were well attended by persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their families, and also people from all walks of life.

Through these three conferences, our Foundation was able to

- 1** Create more awareness within the faith-based communities and a wider society, provide enhanced support for persons that are impacted with developmental disabilities, and create platforms for them to give their voices for their empowerment and possible contributions to the larger society.
- 2** Enhance collaboration between faith-based organisations and disability service and advocacy institutions on how best to support persons impacted with disabilities and their family.
- 3** Promote the inclusion and belonging of PWDs with particular focus and emphasis on improvement in their quality of life.
- 4** Attract a growing number of people who have since joined our DEF mission as volunteers and playing various incredible roles.

2. Empowerment and Skill Acquisition Support Project

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

DEF has helped over 60 students with physical and mental challenges with skills acquisition equipment to empower and enhance their quality of life through our fundraising events.

Early in the year 2023, in the pursuit of our missions in ensuring the empowerment and enhancement of the quality of life for persons with disabilities, Disability Empowerment Foundation came up with an intervention plan after an assessment visit to the school for the disabled at Oke-Igbo, Ondo State. The school is for students who are physically and mentally challenged.



Our Foundation bought sewing machines, laptops and a colour LaserJet printer, and barbing equipment valued at

N1,392,500 M / \$2,847.12

for the proper functioning of the Skills Acquisition Centre of the school.

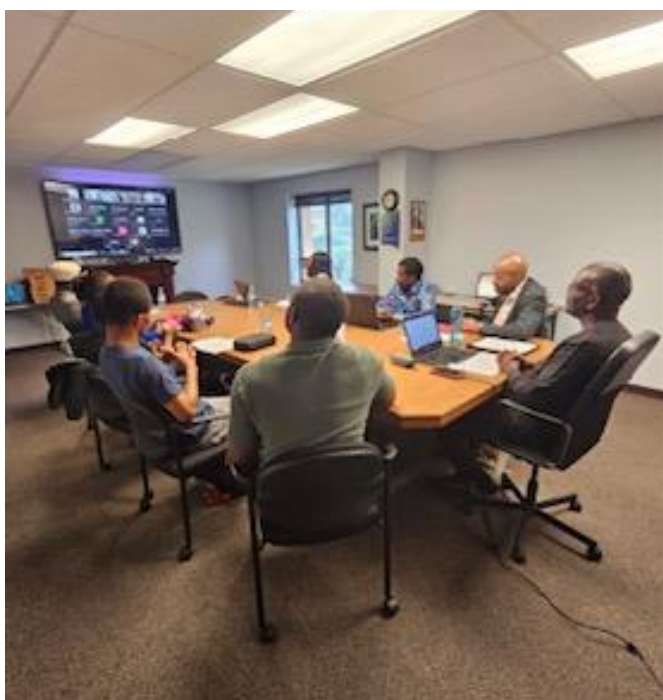
The equipment was commissioned in November 2023.

Our purposeful collective intervention has helped to create new perspectives for the government and other stakeholders and added value to the quality-of-care services that are being provided to the disadvantaged persons in the school and in the community in Ondo State.

Building Capacity For Inclusive Community 2024

Disability Empowerment Foundation (DEF) and the Canadian Association for Black Health and Safety Professionals (CABHSP) jointly organized a “CAPACITY BUILDING SEMINAR.” which was held on Saturday.

The seminar provided mentoring initiatives to empower black families with disabilities and encouraged community participation through collaboration.



Including people with disabilities in all aspects of society ensures a more accurate representation of the population as a whole. Their experiences and perspectives enrich discussions, problem-solving, and creativity.

“Alberta has the third largest population of African Caribbean black Community in all of Canada and it is growing, and individuals and families living with disabilities within this minority group are faced with greater challenges. One of the important things Disability Empowerment Foundation is advocating for is building stronger government support for persons living with disabilities.”

- MLA David Shepherd, Edmonton, Canada

The Road Ahead

Special Needs Schools Renovation Project



Our current focus is renovating the training center for the blind at Ogbomosho, Ibadan, Oyo State. Our building project team, led by one of our Board members, Arc. Mobolaji Adeniyi, the President of The Nigeria Institute of Architects, visited the training site at Ogbomosho, Ibadan, Nigeria recently.

The team came up with the site report for the renovations of the center with the total estimated cost of **N55million (about Canadian \$50,000):**

- 1 Changing of glass louvre blades window to metal louvres window of the new boys' and girls' hostels
- 2 The repair of the powerhouse building
- 3 The replacement of the wash hand basin and the WC and the tiling of the wall and the floor of the Workshop building and the kitchen
- 4 The repair of the kitchen walls and ceiling both external and internal
- 5 Removal and Installation of roof of the administrative block
- 6 Purchase and Installation of 16 metal windows and 16 metal doors for the old male hostel
- 7 Electricals

The total funds needed to kick start the first phase of the renovation project,

N25million

(about \$22,000 Canadian Dollars)

Have not been reached yet. We are just approaching 5% of the estimate for the first phase of the project.

Donations are still in progress.

D.E.F Board of Directors and Advisory Council

Our leadership team comprises of experts, consultants, and care professionals. Currently, the Board of D.E.F consists of:

Olutayo Stephen Shodipo	President	Nigeria/Canada
Olugbenga Victor Olumekun	Chairman	Nigeria
Kolawole Carew	Co-Chairman	Canada
Abiola Abiodun Shodipo	Executive Secretary	Nigeria
Phyllis Aidoo	Secretary Canada	Canada
Titus A. Soetan	Financial Secretary	Nigeria
Taiwo Okeyedun	Operations	Canada
Mobolaji Adeniyi	Project Director	Nigeria
Bill Gaventa	Consultant	USA
Shannon Robertson	Director	Canada
Rachel Adepate Lateju	Director	Nigeria
Adetoyese Akinyemi Osobu	Director	United Kingdom
Kehinde Olabimtan	Advisor	Canada
The Great Commission Foundation	Financial Agent	Canada

MARCH 2022 – DECEMBER 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS

- The Nigerian Baptist Convention, Oke Bola, Ibadan, Nigeria.
- Southgate (Maclaurin Memorial) Baptist Church, Edmonton, Canada.
- Alive Believers Church & Community Centre, Liverpool, United Kingdom.
- Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Harvest Centre, Stafford, United Kingdom.
- Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Champions Parish, Edmonton, Canada.
- M.A. & Associates, No 66, Adeyi Avenue, Bodija, Ibadan, Nigeria.
- Canadian Association for Black Health and Safety Professionals (CABHSP), Canada.
- The Great Commission Foundation (GCF), Canada.
- Oyo State Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Secretariat, Opposite Governor's Office, Ibadan, Oyo State.

OFFICE LOCATION

Nigeria

No 2, Block 21, Olorunda–Abaa Road,
Lagelu Local Government Ibadan,
Oyo State. Nigeria

Canada

282 Albany Drive NW,
Edmonton, Alberta. T6V 0L3,
Canada

Join Us in Our Mission

We invite you to join us in the journey toward a more inclusive world. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Donate:** Your support fuels our initiatives and helps us create lasting change.
- **Volunteer:** Be a part of our dedicated team of volunteers and make a direct impact in the lives of individuals with disabilities.
- **Advocate:** Raise your voice alongside ours. Advocate for disability rights, challenge stereotypes, and promote inclusivity.

We firmly believe that by working together, we can ensure that every person, regardless of their abilities, enjoys the same rights and opportunities. People with disabilities bring unique perspectives, strengths, and talents to our society.

Embracing diversity and promoting inclusivity benefits everyone, creating a more vibrant and resilient community.

By supporting accessibility, education, and employment opportunities, we can empower disabled individuals to thrive.

Together, we can build a society where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Join us in our mission to make inclusion a reality for all.

Contact us

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Website: www.gcfcanada.com/disability-empowerment-foundation