



# SEAT OF WISDOM

*Library & Academy*



2025 Newsletter

✦ Celebrating 10 Years ✦

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## Seat of Wisdom Library Staff



## Seat of Wisdom Academy Staff





## SMALL STEPS TO VICTORY

Father Sylvester A. Nnaso, M.A., D. Min., Founder

I would like to begin this my 10th Year Anniversary newsletter article by saying O Lord, I'm very grateful for all you've done for us! Going through the memory lane, I can confidently say that Seat of Wisdom Library is a revolutionary institution standing tall in a disadvantaged community, called Abatete in Nigeria. By definition "A revolution is a radical and fundamental transformation in a society..."

It was the summer of 2007 that Doug McDougall and I paid a visit to Abatete to inform the community leaders about our plan to build a standard library to improve their standard of education. After receiving their resounding endorsement, my newly formed board members and I went to work, and step by step we built the Seat of Wisdom Library. The rest followed gradually years after.



The inauguration of this great institution took place on December 31st, 2015. No one expected such a high-level transforming edifice in such a disadvantaged community. Abatete has no economic stability or essential necessities like constant electricity or water supply. To move forward with the project, we provided solar powered water supply in the area. There was excitement in the community mixed with confusion, because we've refined their traditional system of education different from what was familiar to them. We fixed their confusion by providing adequate training programs to meet their needs.

Seat of Wisdom library is possible through the support of many key players. There are: Jim Chrzan, Erin Fowler, Doug McDougall, Mark J. Serpe and of course, Frank Polizzi Jr., Ify Okeke, Dr. Ikechukwu Bosah, Arianna Varhanik, Jim & Deb Ward, Robert and Teresa Fandel, some members of Abatete national and Chicago organizations, some parishes in the Rockford Diocese and Chicago Archdiocese; my past and present parishes of assignments, my school kids in Hampshire and McHenry; our Patrons, Tom and Rosemary Muldowney, and the Dumoulin Farms.

We also wish to thank and bless our beloved volunteers, supporters, Ladies Guild, Knights of Columbus, and of course, my amazing parish and library staff. Thank you very much for all you have done for the Lord through the Seat of Wisdom project. Psalm 92:2 says, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord." Similarly, Saint Ignatius of Loyola chatted, "All good things are done for the glory of God."

Our 10th Year Anniversary is indeed a celebration of great joy and thanksgiving to God for His divine blessings on our labor of love. Saint Paul in his First Letter to the Thessalonians wrote "In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus" (1Thessalonians 5:18). We are doing our best to display the splendor of God's glory through this amazing institution. We are grateful to the Lord, for giving us all His spirit of generosity to help those in need. He said that it is in giving thanks we allow ourselves to draw from His divine grace and energy.

As we mark our 10th Year Anniversary this year, I pray to you O Lord, to bless the beautiful men and women, your adopted children who have been part of this transforming project, our mission of love, your corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The beginning of this project in the summer of 2007 was extremely difficult for various reasons, which is true of so many good projects. But despite the challenges, the Lord supplied us with enough supporters who stood by us through the thick and thin of it all.





Thank you all for your unwavering support and prayers, In the early part of 2010, my board members and I were struggling financially to keep the project moving forward; it was like driving a car with flat tires; we were heading nowhere fast enough to make a difference. That was when the Holy Spirit sent our patrons, Tom and Rosemary, to offer us a lifeline.

In Hampshire, another Irish family stepped forward- the Dumoulin's family, who adopted me into their faith-filled Irish family. They gave me the support of a blood relative in all my ministerial work. From the Saint Charles Borromeo School, Andrew Taing, Josh and Kathy Gisseler, my school children and my best altar servers brought their whole family into the league. Have I mentioned Teresa Cottrell, beloved mother of

late Veronica Cottrell, who continued to love her deceased daughter through "VV" Cottrell Angel Fund? What about Lisa Zurawski and her family, Chief Nathan and Chinwe Ogbatue who have been sponsoring our annual spelling bee competition since 2017, Fred and Roni Schmidt, Christopher and Janice Olson family, Steve and Cindy Jerger, my Easter family? What about Late Rebecca Donovan and Olasunmbo O. Beluolisa, who continued to do good on earth while spending time in heaven through their sponsorship of our computer training program? We highly appreciate you, Charlotte Greil, Jeanette Teller, and George Boulet, for your wonderful support. You have been our cornerstones and the little fingers of God in this project!

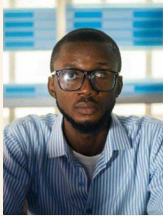
What you have done is priceless and highly praised by heaven and earth. This celebration wouldn't have been possible without your support for the good of others. I strongly agree with Saint Teresa of Avila who said that "There are more tears shed over answered prayers than over unanswered prayers." Therefore, we do not have to wait for miracles to happen to trust God because God continually reveals the immeasurable riches of His glory, big and small in our lives in ordinary ways. I feel the presence of the Lord through this project. I feel your love and support through this project.

My heart is filled with love, gratitude and prayers for you my American friends for helping to make my dream come true. Since 1776, United States of America has been a nation of people who dream and work very hard to make the dreams come true. Your sacrificial giving is highly appreciated, and it has become a cup of blessing and a healing remedy to many. You're my angels!

I believe God put us in this world for the sake others, for the countless souls we are connected. Life is about love, shared value, and kindness we offer. Even if one day no one remembers our names, the ripples of our actions will continue to shape the world in ways we may never see. My dear friends, happiness is discovered in small things and in our cherished memories, so live boldly, love deeply, and leave behind a legacy of goodness. Let your love be sincere, bigger and always stronger than your fears.

Saint Terese of Avila once said, "Accustom yourself continually to make many acts of love, for they enkindle and melt the soul." Saint Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians, added "Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15: 58).

Thank you, Lord, for sending many angels into my life and for sending us into the world to be your heralds proclaiming your love, mercy and kindness to the world. There is a song done by some top American musicians which says, "We are the world; we are the children of God to make a better day. So, let's start giving." No amount of giving is too big or too small to donate for a worthy cause. Just keep on giving with love and the Lord of LOVE will richly bless you! In every age O Lord, you have been our refuge. Mary, Seat of Wisdom, Pray for us!



## A DIFFICULT ROAD TO TRAVEL

By Nnaemeka Peter Okolugo, SOW Library Manager

Lives can and do change. I know this fact through almost half a decade of working and being a crucial part of this institution that is focused on making tangible impact to the lives of the people– the Seat of Wisdom Library. It is not rocketing science to figure out that it is difficult to succeed when one does not know what it is that he doesn't know, because where is the information required to stir him to a different path?

It will all be foolery to expect something different from someone who has just known one thing all his life and nothing else without first taking the sacrifices and pains required to point him to a different approach. Not doing the needful to elevate people from point A to B will only leave them with the dark side of freedom – the freedom to fail. Misinformation is just as bad as lack of it – the former being used to keep people acting or thinking in a kind of way that is often flawed, and the later a 'blissful ignorance.'

Legends were told of the exploitations and corruptions that took place during the colonial era, stories so disturbing that it would make one think long and hard. In recent times, agencies and government institutions are guilty of same historical exploitations and failed initiatives. These stories and events subconsciously created a deep mistrust that only consistent efficiency and proper service delivery can overcome.



Moreso in rural communities where the pressing matter is always food and survival, there is always a conflict with what the community prioritize, and the services introduced which sometimes hinders proper collaboration. Even the best intentions are hindered when the tools to achieve them are inadequate, or the manpower to work with are scarce. To fully operate at a top-notch and qualitative level, the appropriate skilled labor needed for various setups and maintenances are sourced from far away which leads to delay in some cases and an obvious increase in running cost.

Oftentimes, we are victims of our own generosity. It is sad to see people only wonder and imagine the abundance we must have stacked up somewhere to be able to be as charitable with some of our programs. These set of people who feel entitled to your charity and do not think they owe you any form of gratitude will keep telling you to your face of how much you are keeping away from them.



Frankly, this is a big pothole that commitment to duty alone cannot fix. The pick and grab mentality and not thinking of how to promote and sustain an institution that is beneficial to the community. Most people in rural communities like ours are only worried about “now,” never thinking of tomorrow, never seeing beyond their noses.

It is not out of place to mention how draining it is emotionally to serve in a community like ours. Witnessing firsthand the sufferings and systemic inequality makes you want to pour all of yourself out, which creates compassion fatigue. We pray and hope for better times, but in the meantime, our little consistent drops of water just might make a mighty ocean. It’s been a decade now, and the goal hasn’t changed. The goal to achieve high literacy rate and to promote access to e-learning in our community. Tough take, but even the smallest result is so fulfilling.



In a world ruled with “Naturalism” where most people want to do what is considered “natural” to them, we dare to go the other way. Don’t we all naturally want to hurt someone who hurts us? Don’t we all naturally want to eat till we almost get sick? Don’t we all naturally want to pack up and run when it gets tough? But if we give in to this natural tendency, there’s absolutely no way we can make our society better. So, chin up comrades!

Serving in a disadvantaged community is considered noble, but it comes with challenges that test resilience and commitment. These challenges strengthen compassion. When serious effort is expended, when disability is acknowledged and opportunities exposed through training and coaching, miracles can happen.





# THE BENEFITS OF COMPUTER LITERACY

By Chika Virginia Onyia, Computer Instructor

In 2015, Seat of Wisdom Library launched a computer literacy program to address the community's need for digital skills. At the time, many students, teachers, and residents lacked basic knowledge, making the rapidly expanding digital world seem inaccessible. The program's introduction was timely and has since demonstrated the positive impact of education and opportunity.

Computer literacy is more than the ability to type or browse the internet. It is the foundation of modern communication, work, and learning. The internet and digital devices connect people, allow them to share information, and open doors to countless opportunities. Without these skills, people are at risk of being left behind. As cyberspace grows rapidly, computer literacy is no longer a luxury; it has become a necessity.

The Seat of Wisdom's Library computer program responds to this reality by creating a space where people of all ages can learn, practice, and grow. Students are taught how to use tools like Microsoft Word and Excel to complete school projects. Teachers discover how to incorporate digital resources into their lessons, making learning more engaging. Job seekers receive guidance on how to apply for opportunities online, while adults and parents learn how to use the internet safely for communication, banking, and business.

## IT Certification

One of the strengths of the program is its focus on IT Certification. For many, this has been a life-changing step. Certification is not just a piece of paper; it is proof of competence, recognized in schools, workplaces, and professional settings around the world. For example, some young people who completed the training were later able to secure internships and jobs because they could present certificates to show their skills. Teachers, too, found that certification added to their credibility, enabling them to use technology with confidence in their classrooms.

The program's impact extends beyond technical skills. Parents report that their children now help them with online forms and communication. Older community members, previously excluded from digital interactions, now use email and



Computer Literacy Training Grads



social media to stay connected. These achievements foster a sense of pride, independence, and inclusion.

The library's initiative has also strengthened the community. Equipping people with digital knowledge has created a culture of confidence and adaptability. Opportunities that once seemed impossible are now within reach, and people are motivated to continue learning and improving.

### Looking Ahead

Although the program has achieved amazing results, Seat of Wisdom's Library plans to expand training to reach more people in the community and neighboring areas. Upgrades to facilities, including modern computers and improved internet access, are also planned to ensure participants have access to current technology.

The program also hopes to introduce advanced courses in areas like coding, digital design, and online business skills. This will prepare participants not just for today's digital needs, but also for the opportunities of tomorrow. Stronger partnerships with schools, employers, and organizations are also being considered, so that participants can smoothly transition from training into real opportunities. Above all, the plan is to make digital education a continuous journey. Technology will keep changing, and the program intends to keep adapting, so that every student, teacher, and community member can remain confident and capable in the face of those changes.

### Conclusion

Seat of Wisdom's Library computer literacy and IT certification program is more than a training course; it empowers the community by investing in knowledge and providing opportunities for all. As technology evolves, this program ensures the community remains prepared and confident for the future.



Computer Room Tour



## INTERNING AT SOW

By Cynthia Chidiebere Nwufo, Computer Science Student

I am Cynthia C. Nwufo from Owellani Nsukwu Abatete, Anambra State in Nigeria. I attended Guardian Angel Nursery and Primary School, Abatete, and for my secondary school education, I attended St. Monica's College Ogbunike. I am currently a Student of Nwafor Orizu College of Education Nsugbe. My course of study is Computer Science.

In 2025, I was introduced to Seat of Wisdom Library computer training school by my parents. They encouraged me to take the free 3 month computer training program offered by the institution. I accepted and I was not disappointed at all. It was one of the best decisions of my youth. During the training, I learned so much from the program, which ranges from basic computer skills to graphic design. The environment was friendly, the instructors were helpful, and it made me feel confident using computer technology. This experience was what inspired me to pursue computer science in college.



COMPUTER TRAINING GRADS

When it was time for my internship, I didn't have to think twice about choosing Seat of Wisdom Library for my practical experience because I wanted to give back, continue learning, and be part of the great work SOWL is doing to empower young people of our community. My internship at SOWL has been a time of continued growth and learning.

I've improved my communication skills by interacting with other staff and students, gained more confidence in myself, and even helped to train others. This is my first job experience with practical training. I now understand the value of patience, teamwork, and excellence in service.

I'm forever grateful for the opportunity SOWL gave me. My prayer is that the vision of SOWL continues to grow from strength to strength and reach more youths across Nigeria. I wish the team success, wisdom, and God's favors as they keep transforming more lives in Jesus' name. Amen!



# 2025 SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

This year, 26 schools gathered at SOW Academy for the annual Spelling Bee. Students state-wide come to test their academic abilities in this increasingly popular event! Philanthropists even attended the competition to award scholarships to some students! Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Chiefs Nathan & Agnes Ogbatue, this event will continue to be a great success every year.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL CHAMPIONS



**1ST PLACE:** Seat of Wisdom Academy Abatete,  
represented by **CHRISTABEL NWABUEZE**

**2ND PLACE:** Maria Ines Primary School Obosi,  
represented by **BLESSING INNOCENT**

**3RD PLACE:** Sedes Sapientiae Dei Primary School Awada,  
represented by **ANTHONY PRINCE CHARLES**

## SECONDARY SCHOOL CHAMPIONS



**1ST PLACE:** God's Favour International School Awkuzu,  
represented by **CHIMUANYA CHUYA**

**2ND PLACE:** Archbishop Heerey Technical College Ogidi,  
represented by **CLETUS ONUKWILI**

**3RD PLACE:** QRC Eziowelle,  
represented by **CHISOM UKWANDU**



ALL COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS



SOWA TEACHERS SUPPORT THE STUDENTS



SOWA SPELLING COMPETITORS



CELEBRATING 1ST PLACE VICTORY!



## CARE BEYOND THE COUNTER

By Jennifer Chikodili Obieze, Pharmacist

### NNADIEBUBE PHARMACY

Your wellness journey starts at Nnadiesbube Pharmacy located at the Seat of Wisdom library complex.

In today's fast-paced world, healthcare is often reduced to quick doctor visits, hurried prescriptions, and impersonal transactions. But at Nnadiesbube Pharmacy, we believe true healthcare is built on trust, compassion, and a commitment to going the extra mile, because your wellbeing matters beyond the counter. It's about building relationships, offering personalised support, and being a trusted partner in your wellness journey.



### MORE THAN JUST A PRESCRIPTION PICK-UP

Gone are those days when pharmacies were merely dispensaries. At Nnadiesbube Pharmacy, we offer:

**Personalised consultations:** Need advice on medications, side effects, or over the counter options?

Our pharmacist is here to listen and guide you.

**Wellness support:** From managing chronic conditions to recommending vitamins and supplements, we help you take a proactive approach to health.

**Preventive care:** Regular health screenings and lifestyle tips to keep you ahead of health issues.

### BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, NOT JUST TRANSACTIONS

Human connection is what sets a great pharmacy apart. We take time to:

**Know your name:** Because you are not just a customer, you are part of our community.

**Understand your needs:** Whether it's finding a more affordable medication or adjusting a treatment plan, we advocate for you.

**Follow up:** We check in to ensure your medications are working for you. Care doesn't end when you leave the store.

### A HELPING HAND WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

Whether you are dealing with an unexpected illness, struggling with medication costs, or just feeling Overwhelmed, we are here to:

**Recommend cost-effective alternatives.**

**Provide emotional support:** Because sometimes, a caring conversation makes all the difference.





## COMMUNITY-CENTERED CARE

We believe that healthcare thrives when we invest in the wellbeing of our entire community. It isn't just about treating illness – it's about fostering long term wellness through education, prevention, and connection. Many people face barriers to proper healthcare, whether due to cost, lack of transportation, or simply not knowing where to turn for trusted advice. As your neighbourhood pharmacy, we bridge these gaps by:

**Supporting mental health and emotional wellbeing.**

**Providing accessible care:** No appointment? No problem. Walk in for consultations, screenings etc. We offer free blood pressure check, nutrition, and chronic disease management counselling.

## OUR PROMISE TO YOU

At Nnadiesbube Pharmacy, we don't just fill prescriptions – we fill gaps in healthcare with:

**Expertise** – Your health is in knowledgeable hands.

**Empathy** – We listen, we care, we act.

**Excellence** – From accurate prescriptions to friendly service, we uphold the highest standards.

Your health deserves more than a transaction – it deserves care beyond the counter!

## NEED ADVICE?

Call us at 09169436692. Visit us at: Nnadiesbube Pharmacy at Seat of Wisdom Library, Abatete – Oraukwu Road, Eke – Abatete, Anambra State. We are at your service. Thanks for your patronage!

**NNADIEBUBE PHARMACY**  
....Care Beyond the Counter  
M [nnadiesbubepharmacy@gmail.com](mailto:nnadiesbubepharmacy@gmail.com)

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- Prescription services
- Wellness check ups.
- Consultation
- Quality and affordable drugs.

**ADDRESS:** Abatete - Oraukwu Road, Eke Abatete, Anambra State / @ Seat of Wisdom Library Abatete



# ENCOURAGING LOVE FOR LEARNING

By Sr. Anthonia Chioma Ezebuilo, SOWA Principal

Learning is a fundamental process that enables individuals to adapt, grow, and navigate their environment. It is also the process of acquiring knowledge, skills, behaviors, or attitudes through experience, study, or teaching. It involves the integration with existing knowledge, leading to a change in understanding or behavior.

However, cultivating love for learning is foundational to personal growth, academic success, and lifelong fulfillment. We know that love is a complex and multifaceted emotion characterized by affection and care towards someone or something. Love for learning is a deep, intrinsic interest in acquiring knowledge, skills, and experiences. It encompasses curiosity, a desire for exploration, and the enjoyment of engaging with new ideas. Learners with a love for learning often seek out opportunities to expand their understanding, embrace challenges, and find joy in the process of discovery. This passion can enhance personal growth, creativity, and adaptability throughout life. Here are some practical ways to inspire and nurture this passion in learners of all ages:

**CREATE A SIMULATING ENVIRONMENT** Fill the learning space with a variety of books, educational games, and interactive tools. Incorporate technologies that makes learning engaging, ensuring that the learning environment is comfortable and inviting.

**ENCOURAGE CURIOSITY** Stimulate critical thinking by asking questions that require more than YES or NO answers, encouraging learners to explore their thoughts and reasoning. Help individuals discover their interests and passions. We use these as a springboard to delve into various subjects.

**MODEL LIFELONG LEARNING** We demonstrate our love for learning by sharing our own learning experiences, discussing books you have read, courses you are taking, or skills you are developing. Engage in learning activities together, whether through joint projects, book club, or attending workshops, showcasing that learning is a lifelong endeavor.

**INCORPORATE PLAY** Use game-based learning approaches to make education fun, introducing elements like competition, rewards, or challenges to motivate learners. Allow learners to express what they have learned through creative outlets.

**PROMOTE A GROWTH MINDSET** Teach individuals that setbacks are part of the learning process. Celebrate efforts and perseverance, not just outcomes. Provide praise that focuses on the process rather than inherent intelligence.

**CONNECT LEARNING TO REAL LIFE** Show how learning applies to everyday life by linking concepts to real-world scenarios. We organize trips to museums, science centers, or community events that provide hands on learning experiences beyond the classroom.

**ENCOURAGE REFLECTION** Learners must maintain journals to reflect. Reflection can deepen one's understanding and foster a lifelong love for learning. Create opportunities for learners to give and receive constructive feedback, enhancing their critical thinking skills.

Encouraging a love for learning is a dynamic process that involves creative supportive environments, fostering curiosity, integrating real-life experiences. By implementing these practical strategies, we can inspire learners to embrace knowledge joyfully and with enthusiasm, setting the stage for a lifetime of exploration and growth.





## SALON WITH A DIFFERENCE

By Ukamaka B. Chidume, SOWL Supervisor

The Seat of Wisdom La Pax beauty salon is widely recognized as the number one choice Unisex Salon in the area. We are known for delivering unique services which have made our salon stand out from the crowd. These unique services are easily attributed to our passion, and lots of dedication and consistency which is a common feature in our institution.

We have gained a long-standing reputation which guarantees more customers visit our salon for the best experience. All our customers receive VIP treatment, which has helped us to maintain tracks of loyal customer base and a continuous booking from our clients who are being rewarded annually for their patronage.



La Pax salon is known for its aesthetic appeal which creates a memorable and luxurious, sensory experience for all our clients. We are also known for impeccable cleanliness. All our equipments are spotless and meticulously organized. This feature has made all our clients feel special during their visits. They always feel very relaxed and comfortable and we always pride ourselves on our welcoming staff and bright, clean environment.

We are equipped with well-skilled and knowledgeable stylists and barbers which have helped us to offer highly innovative and specialized services. We also use and recommend high-quality

hair care products that enhance hair health and styling results.

We are versatile in offering wide range of services from haircuts and styling to hair coloring, hair braiding, nail fixing and lashes, manicures and pedicures, and lots of other services. All these wonderful experiences set us apart from other salons in the area and cultivates an unforgettable salon experience that turns a first-time visitor to a life-long client. It is said that "Beauty is Personal." We are just here to make it feel effortless.



## WE ARE PLEASED AND APPRECIATIVE

By Emmanuella Chidiebele Okafor

### A+ SUPERMARKET

For many decades, Abatete locals lived without any standard convenience stores like those seen in cities like Onitsha, Nkpor, and Awka. Whenever the people of Abatete wanted to get some groceries like beverages and household goods, they must travel to the nearby cities for it. Everything, however, changed when A+ Supermarket came into Abatete through Seat of Wisdom institution. This convenience store (supermarket) stands as a beacon of hope, marking progress and demonstrating that development had made its way to Abatete. The indigenes are pleased and are rejoicing over the gift of A+ Supermarket in their community.

Before the arrival of A+ Supermarket to Abatete, many low-income households stayed months and even years without having access to common things like a bar of chocolate, a cup of ice-cream, wristwatch, perfumes, and so on because they couldn't afford the transportation fare to travel to the cities to get their desired needs. Such unfair gaps, and divides, have all been bridged, because of the presence of A+ Supermarket in Abatete, which has brought so much joy to many hearts.



A 52-year-old trader, Mama Ngozi, who gave us a review said:

**"A+ SUPERMARKET IS NOTHING SHORT OF A BLESSING TO ME. BEFORE, I HAD TO GO ALL THE WAY TO ONITSHA JUST TO BUY THINGS FOR MY SMALL RETAIL SHOP. IF IT RAINED, THE ROAD BECAME TERRIBLE AND THERE WOULD BE SO MUCH GO-SLOW (TRAFFIC). BUT NOW, EVERYTHING I NEED IS AVAILABLE IN A+ SUPERMARKET, ABATETE. I DON'T HAVE TO STRESS MYSELF ANYMORE, AND I AM JOYFUL ABOUT THE NEW DEVELOPMENT."**

With A+ supermarket close by, daily essentials are no longer luxuries. Bread, rice, cooking oil, canned foods, even medicine and toiletries are all within walking distance. Life has become easier, and stress has drastically reduced in the community. Festive seasons in Abatete are brighter today than ever because A+ Supermarket has made it much easier for people to plan events during these seasons; they are always fully stocked with all the things needed to plan events; items like drinks, decoration materials, party packs, flour etc. Everything is now available locally, making celebrations more colorful and less stressful. One of our customers said "Before A+ supermarket came into Abatete, to organize a wedding was a wahala (stressful) for us; now, we can buy everything we need in our community. We are very excited."



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A+ Supermarket did not just bring goods close to the people of Abatete, it equally brought many job opportunities, about 40 people are employed in our institution, working in various departments. We all know that with good jobs comes salaries, and with salaries comes dignity. This has helped to reduce the number of young people migrating to the cities seeking jobs.

First, small retail shop owners feared that A+ supermarket would drive them out of business. But instead, many discovered a new partnership. Some of them supply local goods like palm oil, snacks, eggs, and so on to A+ Supermarket. Others are still thriving from selling smaller quantities of items that the supermarket sells in bulk.

Rather than threatening the local economy, A+ Supermarket has strengthened it, and ended up creating a healthier balance between modern commerce and traditional trade. Papa Okwudili, who operates a corner kiosk in the heart of the neighborhood, references the new A+ Supermarket when he says:

“THE SUPERMARKET DID NOT KILL MY SHOP. MY REGULAR CUSTOMERS STILL COME FOR THEIR DAILY NEEDS AND APPRECIATE THE PERSONAL INTERACTIONS WE SHARE. I WAS INITIALLY WORRIED, BUT I’VE FOUND THAT PEOPLE VALUE THE FAMILIAR TOUCH AND CONVENIENCE I OFFER. IN FACT, WHEN PEOPLE BUY PLENTY THINGS AT A+ SUPERMARKET, THEY STILL COME TO ME FOR SMALL ITEMS. IT HAS EVEN HELPED ME, AS I GO THERE EVERY AFTERNOON AND EVENING FOR COLD DRINKS AND ICE CREAM, BECAUSE THEY ALWAYS HAVE SOLAR ENERGY SUPPLY TO KEEP DRINKS AND OTHER ITEMS COLD.”

From jobs to convenience, from unity to progress, A+ Supermarket has completely reshaped life in Abatete. It has turned hardship into ease, anxiety into confidence, and isolation into connection. When the doors of A+ supermarket open each morning, and people walk in with smiles and shopping baskets in their hands, one phrase continues to echo through the community:

“WE REJOICE AND WE ARE GLAD, FOR THE GIFT OF A+ SUPERMARKET IN ABATETE.”





## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS & BOOK RELEASE

By Arianna Chioma Varhanik

In December this year, SOW proudly celebrates 10 years since the library officially opened to the public. We wanted to create an event to commemorate this milestone with all those who contributed to making the library and academy a reality through the years, and therefore hosted a grand fundraiser/celebration this March in McHenry, Illinois, USA. With about 200 guests in attendance, we had a festive and lively gathering!

Complete with a fusion of delicious Nigerian favorites and American food options, attendees feasted to the sounds of live music from our best local Elvis impersonator, listened to inspirational words from Fr. Nnaso and other notable SOW contributors, and received signed copies of Fr. Nnaso's new book, *A Precious Gift*.

The generosity of the attendees was unparalleled, as SOW was able to make major upgrades as a result of the fundraiser, including purchasing a new school bus! This will give more children around the community of Abatete access to quality education and opportunities.

It was vitalizing to be surrounded by a beautiful community of people from all walks of life who gathered together to support and honor Fr. Nnaso and his incredible ongoing library project. Celebrating with this diverse assortment of guests was a tangible visualization of the strength that comes from people unifying under the same inspirational goal. It was a time of joy and excitement over everything accomplished, while eagerly anticipating all the plans for SOW still to come.



BOOK SIGNING



SERVING THE DELIGHTFUL MEAL



RAFFLE DRAWING



TALKING WITH GUESTS



DISTRIBUTING CERTIFICATES



ELVIS SERENADES AND GIFTS GUESTS BEARS



A VIEW OF THE BANQUET



## A LETTER OF APPRECIATION

SEAT OF WISDOM LIBRARY AND ACADEMY WILL OFTEN SPONSOR PROMISING STUDENTS WHO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION, TO EASE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN AND MAKE FURTHER SCHOOLING MORE ACHIEVABLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY. THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS RECEIVED FROM SOW'S 2025 INSPIRATIONAL AWARD RECIPIENT, UDEGBE GLORY MMESOMACHUKWU.

Seat of Wisdom Library,  
Abatete.

Dear Fr. Nnaso,

Heartfelt gratitude for the inspirational award to Fr. Nnaso and the management of Seat of Wisdom Library, Abatete.

I'm writing this to express my heartfelt gratitude for awarding me the scholarship of the sum #150,000.00.

I felt deeply honored to be chosen as a recipient of this generous award, and I'm incredibly grateful for the support of Seat of Wisdom Library and your sponsorship.

This scholarship is a significant milestone in my academic journey, and it will greatly assist me in pursuing my education without financial struggle. Your generosity has lightened my burden and motivated me to strive for excellence in my studies.

Once again, thank you for your kindness, generosity, and investment to my future. I will work hard to honor this opportunity.

Yours faithfully,

Udegbe Glory Mmesomachukwu



# VERONICA “VV” COTTRELL ANGEL FUND

By Jennifer Cottrell

## ABOUT THE ANGEL FUND

Veronica was born on June 22,1980 and passed away on August 13,1997 at a young age of 17 years. As a young girl, it was evident Veronica had a kind heart and a bubbly personality, and she was surrounded by a large circle of friends. Her love of children was undeniable- she was frequently asked to babysit family members and within her neighborhood.

An empath by nature, Veronica was part of the Snowball club in school, which is a peer counseling group of older students helping their younger peers navigate through personal or academic challenges. Veronica’s high school principal said of her, “Veronica was a real sweet young girl who was very dedicated to her schoolwork and her activities. Her death will impact us throughout the year because she was such an integral part of her class.”

Veronica loved to read and was often found sitting in a chair quietly flipping through a new book. She had an inquisitive mind and loved to learn; she was an excellent student and earned top grades. By high school she was consistently listed on the honor roll, and was also inducted into the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and was ranked in the top 10% of her high school class.

Months before her passing, Veronica was searching for the college that would be the best fit for her dream of becoming a nurse or possibly a teacher. Had she lived, we are certain Veronica would’ve found success in whichever community service field she chose. She was a dedicated servant at heart.

The Veronica “VV” Angel Fund was established to assist indigent students realize their full potential. The fund provides tuition assistance and school supplies, such as shoes and book bags. Occasionally, the funds are used to celebrate a students’ birthday, as many of them have not had the opportunity to celebrate due to poverty. The Cottrell family hopes the fund will be a lasting memorial of Veronica’s legacy: one of kindness and compassion, the desire to learn, and using your gifts to love and serve your community.



Part of the VV Cottrell Angel Group  
Birthday Celebration Sponsorship



2025 Recipients of the Angel Fund

## VV ANGEL FUND RECIPIENTS

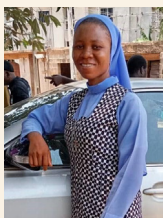
Ifechukwu Nwajiugo  
Chinemelum Okakpu  
Chikodili Ezeigwe

Chiamaka Nwachukwu  
Mmachukwu Chidume  
Chimeremeze Chidume

Osinachi Okeke  
Okoye Ifeoma (Daycare)  
Onyia Eliana (Daycare)

Kamsiyo Enendu  
Ibemesi Ebuka  
Christabel Nwabueze





## 2025 SOWA EXCURSION

By Sr. Anthonia Chioma Ezebuilo, SOWA Principal

### THE VV ANGEL FUND SPONSORED A STUDENT FIELD TRIP TO A LOCAL MUSEUM THIS YEAR

As the saying goes; "All work without play makes Jack a dull boy." This implies in all walks of life, which termed excursion. There are different excursion centers and types of excursion like educational excursion, religious excursion, cultural excursion, professional excursion just to mention but a few. All are to make life fascinating. An excursion is a trip or outing for sightseeing, relaxation, and so on. It is a momentary deviation from the regular activities, which allows people to exploit new places, act as a stress buster, give practical knowledge, provide a unique learning environment, and create memorable moments.



SOWA Students Visiting the Museum

Educational excursion are short trips by learners under the supervision of the school management. Based on the method of delivering academic concepts, educational excursion is one of the methods schools nowadays have employed into their curriculum which makes studying engrossing and fascinating. However, Seat of Wisdom Academy Abatete cannot be left behind in this academic method; that is why on the 6th day of February 2025, our learners went for educational excursion at NRI MUSEUM located at Enugwu-Ukwu in Anambra state, Nigeria. In attendance are the head teacher, six teachers, and forty nine learners learners.

At the time we arrived at the museum, we met four staff including the manager. A warm welcome was accorded to us. We did the registration, after which the manager directed Mr. Akubuke Danis, the chaperone, to take us round. Mr. Akubuke started by grouping the learners into three groups for easy exercise.

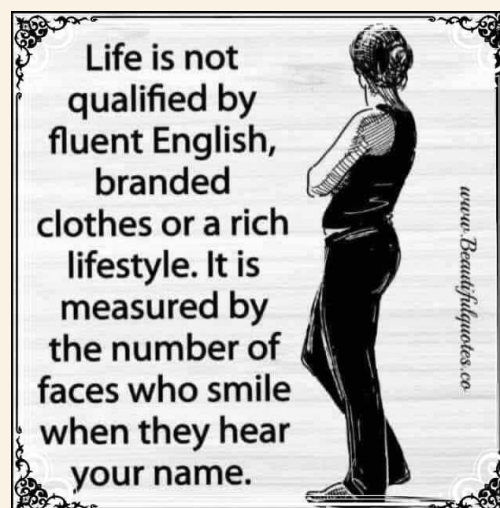
Moreover, according to the instructor, the museum has three departments. First was the ancient mud house with thatch roof with these artifact in it; namely food dishes (oku), local gun (egbe ntu), chair for the titled men (oche ndi ichie), limestone (nzu), round wooden table, calabash, local lantern (npananka), etc. Second department is where carved items like wooden doors, images that represent the four market days in Igbo land, a widow etc. The third contains old bicycle, historical masquerade, skull of an antelope, paintings of slave trade, beautiful African rich culture, images of some oracles etc.

Finally, we had a light refreshment. All thanks to our proprietor Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Sylvester Amamchukwu Nnaso and his excellent team for including this in our curriculum as well implementing it to guarantee a holistic education for our learners.

## LIFE LESSONS

Albert Einstein once said, "Weak people take revenge, strong people forgive, intelligent people ignore." This quote speaks volumes about human behavior, emotional intelligence, and the power of our responses to adversity. Here are nine profound lessons from it:

1. **Revenge is a Reflection of Weakness.** Seeking revenge often comes from hurt, insecurity, or lack of self-control. Weak people feel the need to retaliate because they believe justice must come through their own actions. However, revenge rarely brings true satisfaction. Instead, it keeps you emotionally attached to the very thing that hurt you. True strength lies in letting go rather than holding on to negativity.
2. **Forgiveness is a Strength, Not a Weakness.** Many mistake forgiveness for weakness, but it takes great emotional maturity to forgive. Forgiveness does not mean excusing the wrong; it means freeing yourself from the burden of resentment. Strong people understand that holding onto grudges only harms their own mental and emotional well-being. They choose peace over bitterness.
3. **Intelligence is Knowing When to Walk Away.** Smart people recognize that some battles are simply not worth their time. Ignoring negativity doesn't mean they are unaware or incapable of responding—it means they have better things to focus on. Intelligence is about choosing priorities wisely and not allowing negative energy to consume their mind.
4. **Emotions Should Be Managed, Not Dictate Actions.** Revenge is often an emotional reaction to pain or injustice. However, allowing emotions to control your actions can lead to self-destructive decisions. Strong and intelligent individuals know how to process their emotions without letting them dictate their actions. Instead of reacting impulsively, they respond with wisdom.
5. **Growth is More Important Than Retaliation.** People who focus on revenge are stuck in the past, replaying negative events. However, true progress comes from moving forward rather than looking back. Time and energy spent on revenge could be used for personal development, building success, and achieving greater things. The best way to "get back" at someone is not through revenge—but through your own growth and accomplishments.





**POSITION** are  
temporary  
**RANKS** and **TITLES** are  
limited.  
But the way you treat  
people, will always be  
**remember.**

6. Your Ego is Not Your Friend. Most people seek revenge not because they need justice, but because their ego feels wounded. Intelligent people recognize that not every insult or wrongdoing deserves a reaction. Instead of letting pride control them, they focus on long-term gains rather than short-term emotional victories.

7. Not Every Battle is Worth Fighting. Life is full of conflicts, but not all of them deserve your energy. Strong and intelligent people choose their battles wisely. If something does not contribute to their goals, happiness, or personal peace, they walk away. The ability to ignore distractions, drama, and negativity is a sign of high emotional intelligence.

8. Inner Peace Comes from Letting Go. Revenge, anger, and resentment only poison your own mind. Forgiveness and indifference, on the other hand, bring freedom and inner peace. When you learn to release negativity, you open yourself up to new opportunities, happiness, and a better quality of life. The most intelligent people prioritize their peace of mind over proving a point.

9. Success is the Ultimate Response. The best way to handle negativity, betrayal, or injustice is not through revenge, but through rising above it. Success is the greatest form of "revenge" because it proves that you are unaffected and unstoppable. When you channel your energy into productivity instead of retaliation, you ultimately achieve more and leave those who wronged you behind.

Final Thoughts: Einstein's quote reminds us that true power lies in self-control, wisdom, and emotional intelligence. Weak people react impulsively, strong people choose to rise above pain, and intelligent people recognize that some things don't deserve a response at all. Instead of wasting energy on revenge, focus on growth, success, and peace of mind—because in the end, your greatest asset is not your ability to get even, but your ability to move forward and win in life.

© Basil Mutelia



**Never stop doing little things  
for others. Sometimes those  
little things occupy the  
biggest part of their hearts.**





SOWA'S 2025 Graduation, with Extra Festivities to Commemorate the 10 Year Anniversary



2025 School Graduation Mass



2025 Back to School Summer Party





Students Visiting from Other Local Schools Are Lead on A Library Tour



Spelling Bee Secondary School Competitors



Spelling Bee Primary School Competitors



SOWA Holds Special Celebration for Spelling Bee Win



SOWA Christmas Celebration



Annual Eye Exams for SOWA Students



Santa Visits SOW!





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TERESA L. COTTRELL ("VV" COTTRELL ANGEL FUND)

TOM & ROSEMARY MULDOWNNEY



## COMPUTER TRAINING SPONSORS 2025

These donors collectively sponsor over 100 students annually,  
providing them with Seat of Wisdom computer training.

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MICHAEL BOSAH

NNAMDI OGUANYIA

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OLASUNMBO BELUOLISA'S MEMORIAL FDN.

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JOACHIN & CHINWE MBONU

PATRICIA AGHANWA





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# 2025 FOUNDER'S REPORT

By Father Sylvester A. Nnaso, M.A., D. Min., Founder

During the inauguration of this library in December of 2015, I mentioned that I will continue to work on this project until it becomes the pride of Abatete. I strongly believe that I have kept my promise. I sincerely cherish the support of my family, board members, parishioners, and friends of Seat of Wisdom Library worldwide, especially my school children in the United States, and my hardworking library staff. Seat of Wisdom Library has truly made a difference in Abatete community, not only by its magnificent structures, and peaceful and exceptional clean environment for learning, but also by the many lives it is changing, day by day, especially with the elementary school addition. Here are some improvements and achievements we have made since the inauguration:



## UPDATES AND ADDITIONS

We now have a total of 38 staff.

182 students were sponsored in our 2024 computer literacy training sponsorship program.

We are sponsoring 1 university student, 2 high school students, and 12 in our primary school.

We continued our annual Spelling Bee with 26 schools in attendance, and won 1st place in the primary school competition!

Our reading club, summer lessons, and summer Back-to-School Party continue to be fun events for our community children.

SOW Library continues to host group tours.

Veronica Cottrell Angel Fund keeps helping students with various needs in our school.

We helped 191 individuals with various kinds of needs throughout the year through our charitable giving foundation.

The new Nnadiesbube Pharmacy successfully opened and is running smoothly.

We acquired a new school bus for student transportation.

We have a total of 142 students attending SOW Academy!





**TOM MULDOWNNEY**  
Seat of Wisdom Patron







## THE SEAT OF WISDOM *Library Project*

In 2007, a young Catholic priest named Rev. Fr. Dr. S. A. Nnaso from Enugwu Nsukwu, Abatete began to pursue his passion for education and community building; and working together with some of his friends from McHenry, Illinois, USA; refined the traditional meaning of education in Abatete by establishing the first and only digital library in the history of Abatete named Seat of Wisdom.

Since the inception of the library in December of 2015, it has sponsored more than 1600 students in computer training, 260 schools in Spelling Bee annual competition, and 900 students in the Library Reading Club!

Fr. Nnaso was honored by the Abatete community in December of 2017 as Ichie Nnadiesube of Abatete.

### OUR MOTTO

To promote love  
of learning and access  
to higher education.

