THE CAIN LIBRARY PROJECT

CAIN EDUCATIONAL & MEDICAL FOUNDATION

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WHO WE ARE

Our Mission

CAIN (Catering to Africans In Need) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2013 with a goal to provide under-privileged communities in Africa with quality education and healthcare.

Our Values

We believe that every individual should be given access to quality education and healthcare irrespective of his/her socioeconomic status.

OUR EDUCATIONAL FACILITY

We have established the CAIN Educational Resource Centre in Ikotun, Alimosho, Lagos; a multi-purpose educational facility which has:

- A library space
- An I.C.T room
- Three classrooms / reading spaces
- A seminar room
- A large outdoor recreational space

Whilst some of these spaces are fully functional and already in use, we are still in the process of stocking our library with books and equipping our I.C.T room with hardware.

CAIN Educational Resource Center

Introduction

A library is essential for effective learning and for lifelong education. It is much more than just a storage space for books, but an important community hub of educational resources. At CAIN's Educational Resource center, we have a library that offers free educational resources to the less privileged. We have created a free public space that allows underprivileged students to safely find ideas and opportunities embedded in books. This library plays an essential role in providing safe, accessible, and 100% free educational resources in one of the largest underserved communities in Lagos. Through this library, we are giving many underprivileged individuals and families the tools they need to grow intellectually, and to find answers to questions that bother them.

Background of the Problem

Every morning when public libraries open their doors, they transform into knowledge hubs and learning centers for any community. Libraries are excellent access points to all of the knowledge in the world, and they aid in the development of human resources of any community.

Sadly, most children in underprivileged communities lack access to quality educational resources, let alone a standard, well equipped library. They can hardly boast of the basic foundations of literacy, which are proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and effective communication. In a world that is changing quickly, they can barely express themselves with confidence. To make things worse, they mostly live in neighborhoods that lack access to basic utilities and facilities like regular power supply, quiet ambience and adequate ventilation that provide an enabling environment for home learning. They barely own books; either meant for classroom lessons or for personal recreation and leisure.

This was strongly referenced in Usoro and Usanga's 2007 article, that most children in some parts of Nigeria, (especially those from rural areas or economically disadvantaged backgrounds) have their first access to books and reading materials in school, and have limited access to them at home and in the community.

Goals & Objectives of the Initiative

For a successful and continuous learning process to be achieved, there must be a conducive atmosphere for students to study. In underserved neighborhoods, libraries can provide educational equity for students and families. They can provide the people with a very healthy environment for learning as well as making notes or completing an assignment.

They can also provide a very calm and disciplined atmosphere which helps students to maintain a good concentration on their studies. Also, students can take reference books which can help them to make some quality notes. They are free to read whatever they choose and to read the book however they see fit. They wouldn't be examined or disturbed by anyone, and they can learn more in less time since the environment is peaceful and organized.

As a result, we have built a library at our resource center as part of our efforts to keep providing poor, underprivileged children with access to top-notch education. By providing books and other learning tools that will support teaching, learning, and vocabulary growth, we believe we can improve the chances of underprivileged children receiving a high quality education. Our objectives include:

- Helping underprivileged students improve their reading, speaking, and writing skills
- Providing underprivileged students with access to information, both current and retrospective
- Training underprivileged students to learn the importance of books and how to make good use of books available to them
- Providing an avenue for underprivileged students to broaden their horizon of knowledge and imagination by exposing them to a world beyond their community

To meet these objectives, we have equipped our library space with good quality furniture, ample spacing, multiple windows, air conditioner and fans for proper ventilation, and adequate lighting. In addition, we are in the process of stocking it with books and educational materials in different subjects and genres.

Target Audience

Our primary target population are secondary school students between the ages of 10 and 18 who live in impoverished and underserved neighborhoods of Ikotun/Igando, Alimosho area, Lagos state, Nigeria. According to our internal appraisal of these students, over 90% of them have limited access to quality educational resources, and they barely possess the foundational elements of literacy. The library will also be accessible to members of the community within all age groups, every Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am and 3pm, when the students are in their respective schools.

Expected Outputs & Outcomes

1. We are offering nearly ten thousand secondary school students attending various under-resourced secondary schools in the Ikotun/Igando community of Lagos, the opportunity to improve their reading, speaking, and writing skills.
2. We aim to promote quality education in these communities by providing the students with free, quality educational materials and resources to fully utilize for learning, intellectual growth, and personal development.

Genres of books to be stocked in the library include fiction, non fiction, poetry, comic, play, autobiography, history, encyclopedia, dictionary, curriculum textbooks, exam past questions and answers, and many more. Although we are still in the process of raising funds to adequately stock the library with books and educational materials in the aforementioned subjects and genres, some of our students currently utilize the library to read, study, do their homework, prepare for examinations and read for leisure.

The library remains accessible to an estimated 10,000 under-privileged students living within the vicinity of our resource center in Ikotun, and it is open every Monday to Saturday, from 9am to 6pm.

Plans for the future

Currently, our library can only accommodate 16 - 20 people. Owing to the extreme importance of the project however, and the pressing need to ensure a much stronger impact, we are developing a framework to raise more funds and establish more mini libraries in other neighborhoods of the Alimosho area of Lagos. Before the end of the first quarter of 2024, we hope to secure the necessary funds and resources to establish the first mini library outside of our Educational Resource Center.

To invite more interest from potential donors and sponsors, we will publish a report detailing our objectives and impacts, and embark on a more aggressive media campaign to help people understand the importance of the project, and why it should be extended to new communities.

In the next ten years, through close partnership and collaboration with the target communities, we hope to establish one mini library in each of the six underserved communities in the Alimosho area of Lagos. By extending our interventions to more communities, we are scaling up the project and ultimately broadening its scope and impact. We will conduct a thorough feasibility study of these neighborhoods to determine the required infrastructure and resources needed to support and accommodate the establishment of the new centers.

We believe this expansion will produce bigger outcomes and ensure stronger impact than our ongoing intervention. We will seek support from important stakeholders and funders, and form partnerships with the Alimosho Local Government, community heads, and other for-profit and nonprofit groups.

Sponsorship

We have mostly relied on the generosity of individual donors who support our mission to provide children from disadvantaged neighborhoods with equitable opportunity. We have also been privileged to receive books from Book Craft Publishers, Masobe Books, and several other benevolent individuals, literary enthusiasts, and education advocates across Nigeria.

Media & Publicity

Our main publicity channels are our social media pages on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube. We routinely publish posts to inform and educate the public about the significance of our programs and their goals. These articles frequently receive reposts from readers who stumble across them, hence increasing our exposure and visibility.

To broaden our audience and spread the word about the event, we also run paid advertisements on Facebook and Instagram. Some of our accomplishments have been highlighted on TEDx, TVC News Nigeria, and "Gist Nigeria" - a weekly current affairs program by BBC and Channels TV Nigeria. We have also written letters and made bids to media organizations regarding potential partnerships, and we are quite optimistic and enthusiastic about finding media partners to help us propagate our successes and accomplishments.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Evaluations will be conducted for impact evaluation and problem-solving. The process would help us obtain qualitative and quantitative data to make informed decisions about the project. It will help us to learn from the experience gained, to determine whether the program has served the beneficiary communities, and how it might be replicated to other communities. Some of the key outcomes that will be evaluated include:

- Beneficiaries / users' reception of the initiative
- Beneficiaries' attitude towards reading / learning
- Increased / decreased learning and intellectual development
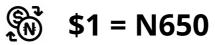
The monitoring and evaluation process will provide ongoing learning and feedback throughout the design, planning and implementation stages of the project. It will include an assessment of results at the end as related to the original objectives set for the project. Appropriate, realistic and measurable indicators would be used to track all outputs and results.

CAIN will ensure the overall supervision as well as administrative and financial management of the project. All our financial evaluations are first conducted internally then later reviewed by proficient accountants and external auditors.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

TOTAL BUDGET ($7936.2)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QTY	COST (N)	COST ($)
BOOKS	Dictionary	4	16,200	24.9
	Subject (Maths/ English for CAIN Tutorial classes)	159	371,000	570.8
	ALL Subject Textbooks for Junior Secondary Schools (Science, Social Science, Religion, Language)	28	48,900	75.2
	ALL Subject Textbooks for Senior Secondary Schools (Science, Social Science, Religion, Language)	39	102,200	157.2
	Literature: Prose/Drama/Poetry for Junior Secondary Classes	134	76,000	116.9
	Literature: Prose/Drama/Poetry for Senior Secondary Classes	20	27,600	42.5
	Fiction: Histrical fiction/Science fiction/YA fiction/Graphic/Fantasy/Thriller	98	447,089	687.8
	Non fiction	10	60,004	92.3
	Poetry	14	106,807	164.3
	Autobiography/Biogrpahy	8	47,152	72.5
	Graphic/Comics	22	474,760	730.4
	Satire	4	24,619	37.9
	Play	4	13,716	21.1
	Encyclopedia (Vol 1 - 16)	1	400,000	615.4
ADMINISTRATION	Librarian's annual salary	1	1,200,000	1846.2
EQUIPMENT & DEVICES	Kindle Reader	4	400,000	615.4
	Tablet for registration	1	120,000	184.6
	Laptop for Librarian	1	230,000	353.8
	2 camera CCTV system		95,000	146.2
LOGISTICS	Shipping & handling of books		500,000	769.2
	Ground transport		60,000	92.3
Sub total			4,821,047	7417.0
Miscellaneous (7% of subtotal)			337,473	519.2
GRAND TOTAL			5,158,520	7936.2

$1 = N650

CAIN has a strong commitment to the intellectual growth of underprivileged children and works tirelessly to provide them with the education and skills they need to compete globally and escape the cycle of poverty. As a result, we provide the following educational programs in addition to the Library Project:

ARISE (Allocating Resources to Improve School Experience)

The ARISE project has helped transform the learning experiences of over three hundred students in Ijegun Community primary school 1. About 200 textbooks in the major subjects — Mathematics and English — have been donated to the school. New white boards have also been mounted in the classrooms, including supplies of board markers and board erasers to facilitate the lecturing process. In the same vein, over 950 notebooks, including 28 dozens of pencils, and over 200 pencil erasers have been donated.

CAIN Tutorial Program (Daily event)

This is one of the key areas of intervention of the CAIN Scholars' Program, aimed at helping children from low-income families gain access to quality educational resources and educational enhancement programs. This program is currently ongoing at our resource center and it involves four highly qualified tutors taking one hundred and twenty J.S.S.1 to S.S.S.3 students (twenty students from each class) in Mathematics and English lessons. The lessons take place every Monday to Friday from 3pm to 6pm, and on Saturdays, from 10am to 1pm.

The CAIN ICT4U Project

Our goal for the CAIN ICT4U project is to empower and prepare under-privileged students for an integrated society controlled or influenced by ICT infrastructure. We also aim to promote quality education by providing students with basic ICT capabilities and skills to fully utilize ICT as a tool for learning, intellectual growth and development, and poverty alleviation. Through this project, we are giving up to 10,000 secondary school students living within Alimosho the opportunity to become computer literate and develop digital skills.

CAIN Career Enrichment Program (Monthly event)

This is a monthly developmental program created to assist underprivileged students in making informed educational and career choices. Facilitators and business leaders from various fields and professions are invited to engage with the students on career related topics; helping them to understand their core interest areas, educating them about various career paths, and empowering them to become fully engrossed in career planning at an early stage.

CAIN Cyclopedia Program (Bi-monthly event)

We created this program to enlighten our students on global issues and trends, and also broaden their minds on topics and themes related to history, politics, advancements in science and technology, medicine, engineering, arts and culture, civil rights etc, through the use of audio-visual modes of teaching. The aim is to help the students better understand how the various aspects of education have helped to improve our well-being and also aided the transformation and sustainability of our environment.

Akaeze Summer Reading Program (Annual event)

The Akaeze Summer program is a four-weekend program of literary events and activities, which includes book reading, intellectual discussions, vocabulary building, and essay writing. It's an annual educational program aimed at helping underprivileged students between the ages of 10 to 18 develop critical reading, writing, and communication skills, while educating them on important local and global issues and helping them adopt good moral values. The program utilizes a life-transforming curriculum to nurture good values and ethics by making students more responsible, empathetic, well-informed and insightful about critical moral and controversial social issues. Since 2018 till date, over 185 students have immensely benefited from this program.

CONCLUSION

All our programs are absolutely FREE and no fee is charged to participants. This is only possible through the generous support of our partners and sponsors.

We also value collaborations with individuals and organizations that provide us with services, materials, personnel and equipment. For our educational projects, we have been privileged to receive grants and donations from Davis Projects for Peace, Cornell University, employees of Microsoft and several other benevolent individuals across the world.