

# Annual Report 2018

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This is the Annual Report of Phebe Benevolent Foundation for the period November 2017 – October 2018



# Message from our Chair



I am delighted to be the new Chair of Phebe Foundation. As the Founder will state in other parts of this Annual Report, it has been an eventful year for the Foundation. I will say for me, it's also been quite sobering. Early this year, the city of Abeokuta, our operational base, witnessed one of the most severe floods in recent times. This happened in a populated area where low income earners, small traders and the very poor, generally live or work. The damage to homes and impact on livelihoods is still being felt 5-months after. We know that there's still so much more we need to do.

As a secondary school teacher, I regularly see the effects of parents that are unable to pay essential levies – their children are often refused access into the classroom. Some students are denied registration to sit for exams because their parents can't afford the N15,000 costs. I'm so pleased to be able to refer such students to Phebe Foundation for assistance.

As a local church Pastor, I see and hear the anguish of mothers, petty traders, widows and other vulnerable people affected by the economic situation, being unable to feed their family or keep their children in education. Sadly, we live in a society without welfare; so unexpected events such as job loss, illness, bereavement, etc can be the trigger for poverty and destitution.

This is why I'm committed to doing more to help Phebe achieve its vision to create a more caring society. I pray many others will join me through, financial giving, sponsorships, positive collaborations and of course by reaching out to vulnerable people in the area you live or those you think may be in need. We all know someone who needs our help and I believe that every little helps. N1,000 spent on a phone recharge card can be the cost of two daily meals for a family going through a financial crisis. Together we can make the change and create a more caring and fair society. I challenge you today.

I'd like to give particular thanks to Mr Alliu and his staff team for their dedication to working with Phebe Foundation to raise the educational attainment levels of students in their school; which will hopefully lead to better life opportunities to break poverty cycles. I also want to thank our Founder for the immense work she does to raise necessary funds and in promoting Phebe Foundation.

You will see in other sections of this Annual Report, some of the successes we've had in the last 12-months. We need to do more and with your help, we will.

Peace and Hope

***Ibukun Olafioye (Pastor)***

Chair, Phebe Benevolent Foundation

# Our Outcomes

## Our Vision

To create a more benevolent and caring society that supports the most needy and vulnerable in our communities in times of crisis or in exceptional circumstances; by providing necessary assistance and more opportunities for a better life.

## Objectives for the Year

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our 4-year plan for developing our vision and purpose. The main focus for this year continued to be financial accountability, building a strong support network and partnership base. For this, Phebe Foundation was duly registered by the Ogun State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development as a recognised NGO working in the state. We were visited and inspected by ministry officials to meet compliance and regulations. We are presently preparing for our annual audit to ensure financial accountability. We are also preparing for registration with the Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNGO). We will seek to build on our new networks in the following year to engage with other NGOs and community groups to collaborate on fundraising and new projects.

## Projects and Grant Outcomes

The Foundation continued to develop and enhance its much needed welfare grant and education support programmes. We received a number of exceptional circumstances requests, requiring a higher level of grant amounts awarded to individual beneficiaries. Therefore in 2017-2018, we assisted;

- 18 individuals through our financial welfare programmes
- 23 students through our education support programme
- 65 students in our adopted school in Abeokuta were supported through the exam preparation classes.



# Finance

The Foundation raised a total of \*N1,096,500 (approx N1.1M) in cash donations this year, from sponsors and individual supporters; of which N500K was restricted 2-yr sponsored funding for the Exam Preparation Classes in our adopted school. Every donation to Phebe Foundation makes a difference to all our beneficiaries.

We continued to spend less than 10% on our running costs; which was mainly for administration, regulatory registrations and hospitality. We have no salaried member on the Board; they are all active volunteers and oversee the management of the Foundation's activities. We also rely on other volunteers and 'pro bono' opportunities to assist with our projects.

The Foundation is extremely grateful to the Hendonian Charitable Trust UK and Rotary Club of Hendon UK for their financial support. Also to our Founder and Trustees for their contributions.

## Based on donations received or pledged and sponsorship, significant spend includes;

- Education support grants (Exam registration, levies): N300k
- Exam Preparation Classes: N200k \*\*
- Welfare and financial assistance: N250k
- Website development and publicity materials: N70k\*\*\*
- Service costs on building at Oke-Ata, Abeokuta; utilities: N100k
- Foundation running costs: administration, transport, hospitality and banking: N100k

\* N=Naira

\*\* Restricted funding

\*\*\* Direct sponsorship/funding not paid direct to Phebe

## Corporate Governance

There were no changes made to the current Board membership but we are seeking to co-opt new members in the coming year. The Trustees elected Pastor Ibukun as the new Chair of the BOT.



# Our Stories

Ola

## Ola: Student grant beneficiary

We received a referral to support a 12-year old boy excluded from classes as his mother had not been able to pay public school levies which was now overdue. This resulted in him not being allowed into the classroom, as a non-payer. He had already missed classes for a week before being referred. Ola was determined to commit to his education while hoping that his mother will raise the necessary money to pay the school levies. He made efforts to get class notes from his friends to try to keep up-to-date with classroom teaching and also studied on his own at home. While his mother tried to raise the money, he faced the possibility of missing essential promotional tests if he continued to be excluded from classes due to non-payment of the school levies. Phebe Foundation made the necessary checks and also spoke to Ola's mother. We discovered she was a widow and in very poor financial circumstances. Phebe Foundation paid the outstanding school levies for Ola and also gave additional financial assistance to his mother.

Ayo

## Ayo: Education support

We received a referral from a school about a young secondary school student who despite some disability caused by his Albino status, was generally considered a well performing student. Suddenly his grades began to fall. He was eventually asked to repeat a class due to failing his key promotional exams. Phebe met with Ayo and his teachers. We also met his mother. We established that Ayo's eyesight was failing and he was not able to see the classroom board clearly. He didn't want to worry his parents and was trying to cope on his own. He hadn't done an eye test for a long time due to the family not being able to afford the cost of glasses. Phebe arranged for him to have an eye test and he was issued with new glasses. We also arranged an additional appointment with an ophthalmologist to check for any further issues with his vision. We have referred Ayo to a specialist NGO that helps people with disabilities and sight problems, to provide further assistance. Phebe has committed to the cost of annual eye-tests for Ayo until completion of his secondary education and we continue to monitor his progress at school and with his grades.

Fasilat

## Fasilat: Adult beneficiary

We received a request from a petty trader, who hawks cooked rice on the streets and depends on daily profits to feed her family. Fasilat has 2 children she is bringing up on her own with no support from their father. She recently had some of her cooking materials and trade tools damaged; this was affecting her small food business, resulting in a struggle to take care of her children. Phebe made checks to confirm the situation presented to us. We provided financial assistance to help buy materials and stock to support her small trade; thereby helping to prevent Fasilat from falling into extreme poverty.

# Our Stories

Shade

## Shade: Adult beneficiary

We received a request for assistance from an undergraduate in one of the universities in Ogun State. Shade has been sponsoring her own university education as her parents are poor. University education was a way to improve her own life opportunities. Shade is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and was struggling to find money to compete her registration for the news academic session. While our main education support is for students in primary and secondary education, we accepted this as an exceptional case; since the possibility of this determined young lady dropping out of university was extremely high. After due diligence checks, Phebe awarded a grant to Shade to register for the new session and continue with her university education.

Peter

## Peter: Student beneficiary

We received a referral to support an academically gifted student who was at risk of not being able to register for upcoming WAEC/GCE exams due to his parents inability to pay the required registration fee and associated cost. Phebe met with Peter, his teachers and his parents. We established that his parents are very low-income earners (mother sells vegetables and father is a motorcycle taxi operator and recently had major repair costs). They survived on daily profits and meeting education costs or saving money was always a struggle. Peter has 2 younger siblings but every effort was made to ensure Peter did not drop out as he was a brilliant student. Phebe funded the exam registration and also gave some assistance to the parents. We continue to monitor Peter's progress and are seeking ways to support him further through other NGOs or Educational Trusts.

At the time of writing this report, we received information that in one school alone in Abeokuta; 57 students were unable to write WAEC/GCE exams last year due to not being able to afford the registration cost of N15,000. As a result they were not able to sit for their exams and they ALL dropped out of education for that year.

EPC

## Exam Preparation Classes: outcomes and initial evaluation

Phebe Foundation is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of providing EPC in our adopted rural town school. We consider this project one of our key priorities for funding. The school and students have embraced this support to help improve grades and attainment levels at key stage exams. We know that exam failure can lead to a student dropping out of education; as parents who are already struggling to keep their children in education may withhold support to continue. Phebe was extremely pleased to receive data from the Ogun State Ministry of Education, Science & Technology that all the students from our adopted school PASSED the 2017 Basic Education Certificate Examinations. There is more to do.

For more information about our projects, please visit our website [www.phebefoundation.net](http://www.phebefoundation.net)

# CEO update

We've had an eventful year, with some highs and some regrettable lows. Thankfully, most of our objectives were met but a few changes had to be made.

Last year, Phebe Foundation made a commitment to develop a refuge accommodation and linked services for women fleeing domestic violence. This was with the aim of piloting domestic violence services and support along the lines of what is found in the diaspora. A lot of support was received for this project from practitioners in the UK and stakeholders in Nigeria. However, after further consultations with State ministry and Federal agency officials responsible for this sector work, the Board reached the very difficult conclusion that this project carried a number of operational and reputational risks; and therefore needed to be suspended or re-evaluated. As we still retain permission to use the building proposed for the refuge accommodation, I've been tasked to develop a use that would incorporate some of the original objectives for this community asset. This will be a priority for the coming year. My research and discussions have connected me to so many people and I'm grateful for their advice and suggestions, as we plan for what will be a unique resource for Phebe and the wider NGO sector. I want to give particular thanks for guidance and advice from;

- Dame Julie Okah-Donli (DG NAPTIP)
- Mrs Fadairo (Ogun State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development)
- Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease (Community Change and Leadership Consultant, UK)

I'm confident that we now have a clear focus for our resources and activities. So basically this has been a year of reviews, networking, promoting Phebe and discussing partnerships with vision-builders and supporters. I want to give special thanks to;

- Archdeacon John Hawkins (Patron, Phebe Foundation)
- Mr Folabi Andu (Nigerian British Business Forum)
- Mrs Theobdoia Ibekwe-Oyebade (PR consultant and Actress)
- Ms Bunmi Mustafa (Kisirine Events Management)
- Archdeacon O B Ajomale (Archdeacon of Ibadan Anglican Diocese)
- Barrister Esther Ogun

Helping individuals in times of financial crisis or in exceptional circumstances, remains our priority. Development of new projects and activities which can create opportunities and make a difference will also continue. Some of these may have to be in partnership with others to achieve the desired impact and outcomes in our local communities.

Our 3-year fundraising strategy is in place and we're confident that we will reach our revised target (donations and sponsorships) by December 2020 as we build on our new networks and discussions with potential sponsors, to develop innovative new projects that will help to change lives. With *your* help, we will.

Best wishes

*Michelle.* Founder and Interim CEO



# An Appeal From Phebe Foundation

We are always looking for opportunities to work with local community groups and other NGOs in our main area of operation; Ogun State of Nigeria. We also seek to engage with diaspora based organisations and individuals who want to 'give back' or support our vision to create a more caring society. We are committed to due diligence, transparency and accountability in our operations.

To discuss partnership working or how to get involved with Phebe Foundation's activities through sponsorship, donations or to assist with fundraising, please contact us;

Via e-mail:

[phebefoundation@outlook.com](mailto:phebefoundation@outlook.com)

By text or phone

Tel.: [+234 \(0\) 813 3432 839](tel:+234(0)8133432839)

[+44 \(0\) 7956 390025](tel:+44(0)7956390025)

WhatsApp message: [+234 \(0\) 813 3432 839](tel:+234(0)8133432839)

For more information about our projects and how you can help, please visit our website at

[www.phebefoundation.net](http://www.phebefoundation.net)

## Ways to give: Bank Payments

Nigerian Bank Transfer, please make payments to: **Phebe Benevolent Foundation: GTB Account 0217090824**

International Bank Transfer – **IBAN NUMBER GB47MIDL40051568446992. Beneficiary A/C No. as above**

MoneyTransfer via reputable exchange company (UK FCA regulated or Other): **Payments to GTB account as above.**

If any issues with these payment methods, please email [phebefoundation@outlook.com](mailto:phebefoundation@outlook.com)

