



*A rigorous process got them to the promised land....*

## How Touch-A-Life is Transforming Lives and Communities



TAL Scholarship selection interview with Mrs. Asaolu and others



A candidate pose for a picture after his exam



Food sharing after the competition







**Touch-A-Life**

*transforming lives and communities*

March, 2019

## FROM THE FOUNDER

Sakura! It's a Japanese word for "cherry blossoms" and the theme of a folk song that is a favorite in that country. In the spring season, around March, the Cherry plant begins to bloom beautifully but quickly falls off shortly after their beauty peaks. It illustrates a time of renewal and the fleeting nature of life, pretty much describing our political season in Nigeria as we once again elect those who will rule us for the next four years. We at TAL are really hoping that our country would bloom and nourish us with the good of the land. We are hopeful that the candidates that are emerging from this process will have their hearts set to bring development, equity and justice to our nation. Two sectors that particularly interest us as an organization are Education and Youth development. This is

because we are convinced that there is so much we can achieve in this nation, if the huge latent human capital and potential in the younger generation is nurtured to life. In the course of working at TAL, I have met thousands of young nigerians, particularly those from less privileged backgrounds (who we all know are in the majority), and found that many of the problems they face daily can be addressed by a few policy changes. Touch-A-Life will be working in the coming years not only on the field but also by engaging our decision makers about our policy concerns. We strongly believe that the future of this country depends on the choices we make today especially those that affect the millions of youths we are blessed with in Nigeria.



**Dr. Bose Durojaiye**

Meanwhile, we will continue to spread God's love and work hard to encourage, inspire and challenge young nigerians to transform their lives.

What have we be up to in the past year? A lot more than you can imagine. This is because the more we reach out to our target, the more we realize that we have not yet scratched even the surface of the challenges we have set out to tackle. A lot happened last year and we must give God all the glory for counting us worthy to be His ambassadors to spread Christ's love to those in need. I am grateful to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of all our programs and wish all our members, sponsors, donors and volunteers a most fruitful 2019.



TAL 2018 Scholars: What are they studying?



Many of our 2018 scholars secured admission into tertiary institutions. A few of them are well into the session while the ASUU strike have kept the rest out of school. We were able to find internships and holiday jobs for a handful as well as enrolment in relevant ICT training , for others. As TAL scholars automatically become TAL volunteers, we also engaged all our 2018 scholars as ushers for our competitions and also as part time staff in the office. We also commissioned everyone of them to return to their secondary schools, at some point in the year, to motivate their juniors by staging a mini TAL motivational project through giving a series of lessons, helping with the admission process etc. We have gone ahead to make this another competition such that the best project will receive an additional bursary award for each year.

Where are these TAL 2018 Scholars now?



TAL 2018 Scholarship Selection Process in pictures







TAL Scholarship selection interview with Mrs. Asaolu and others



A candidate pose for a picture after his exam



Food sharing after the competition



**Touch-A-Life 2018 Zonal Competitions: Maths/Science and Public Speaking**

All through 2018, we were busy hosting the Touch-A-Life Mathematics and Science competition in all the 20 educational zones in Lagos State. At the same time we staged the Public speaking competitions that had nearly all the Public schools in Lagos state participating. From these events, we were able to discover the brightest and best students in the public schools. We had five winners in Mathematics and Science from each zone while for Public Speaking, three winners emerged from each of the zones. The winners from all 20 zones converged to compete for the finals on the 27th of October, 2018.



Students line up for registration



Students of Ajeromi-lfelodun, Ojo, Epe & Amuwo schools arrive for the competition



A contestant at the Mushin Public Speaking Zonal Contest



Maths and Science Competition in Yaba



Public Speaking Zonal Winners: Ifako-ljaiye, Agege and Alimoso Schools



Public Speaking Zonal winners: Apapa, Surulere and Lagos mainland Schools



Some Zonal Winners



Students waiting to start contesting



A contestant at the Oshodi Public Speaking Competition



Judges: Mrs Seriki, Pastor Oni and others



Zonal Winners: Somolu, Kosofe and Ikorodu Schools



Judges: Mr. Adejuyigbe SAN and others at a zonal competition



A student crying for not winning the Zonal Competition



Mrs. Olomola delivering a motivational speech



Mrs. Solomu, Mrs Ashiru and other judges at the Agege Zonal Competition



Mrs. Asaolu collating results



Zonal winners: Epe, Ibeju, Eti-Osa, Lagos Island Schools



Maths and Science Exam in progress



Public Speaking Competition holding at Maryland



Mrs Bolaji Momodu presents a gift to winner





Mrs Asaolu presents a gift to winner



Volunteers at a Zonal Competition



Ready to invigilate a Maths/Science Competition



Mrs. Ijeoma and other Judges in Yaba



Mrs Rewane and other judges



Students singing the National Anthem



Students working hard



Mrs Asaolu at a Zonal competition

And The 2018 Grand Finale was Fierce!

Venue was the Ikeja Grammar School Oshodi. Eight of those very intelligent children emerged as the State champions in Mathematics and Science while 3 super confident and articulate students clinched the best public speaker titles in Lagos state. All eleven of them form the A Batch of our 2019 TAL University scholars.

All the events we hosted were very well attended and much appreciated. The final winners in addition to university scholarship received a tablet each while the zonal winners were given other useful educational materials such as Kindle.



Students carefully making their points at the final Public Speaking Competition



Final Maths/Science Scholarship Competition



A cross section of students at the final competition



MC and Stand-up comedian, HoneyTongue at the event



A cross section of parents and teachers at the competition



Some School Heads and District Officials at the Competition



A cross section of students at the final competition



MC and Stand-up comedian, HoneyTongue at the event



Dr. Durojaiye addressing the contestants



Dr. Durojaiye addressing the contestants



Mrs. Kate Onadeko, delivers a motivational speech



Judges: Mrs. Oladeji, Ag. Principal Grange School, Dr. Dupe Oludipe



Judges: Mrs Mamot, owner Banana Island School and Mrs Seriki a certified Arbitrator



Volunteers: Dr Abisola Seriki and some 2018 TAL Scholars



The Grand Mathematician, Emmanuel Ekeh, Winners of 2018 competition



Winners (L-R): Tobiloba Odebowale, Ezenneka Franklin, Bethel Ezechukwu, Oluwasola Adebajo, Ayanshina Sodiq, Badmus Aishat and Tadesse Fatai



## Extending our reach this year like never before

We are most grateful to God for all He is doing through us but we are not relenting in our efforts. The need in our country is just so huge but we also see opportunities to bring hope and transformation to many through our collective action. This is why we will continue to grow the TAL nationwide scholarships as well as our TAL motivational school project systematically until every local government in Nigeria feels the impact of our work. We look forward to awarding nationwide scholarships not only in academics but also in sports and arts. We want Nigerian youths to be motivated to achieve their potential and even challenge themselves by putting in all the effort they can, to build their lives. We will also continue to support those who are homeless or about to be, with our pay monthly Accommodation .

## Appreciating you....

We appreciate everyone who has been supporting this organization in one way or the other: the Touch-A-Life ambassadors especially Mr Olatunde Adejuyigbe SAN, Dr Dupe Adeniyi and Mrs Toyin Seriki deserve special commendation for their tremendous contribution to the work not only financially but also taking out time to ensure that Touch-A-Life continues to achieve her objectives.

We are most grateful to all those who volunteered with us in the past year. We were thrilled to read some of their moving TAL volunteering stories on face book and glad that TAL is providing a platform for young people to use their time and talents to impact their communities.

We thank every 2018 scholarship sponsor, all of whom have giving liberally and generously to the work: Gobanos Ltd, Dada-Arinlade Foundation (Dr Tunji Adeniyi), Dr Victor Olubi Fatunla Foundation (Dr Dupe Adeniyi), Captain Lai Onadeko Memorial Scholarship (Mrs Kate Onadeko), Bayo Olugbemi Foundation, Mr Olatunde Adejuyigbe SAN, Mrs Abimbola Dosunmu , Madam Funmi Osunsade, Dr jay Samuel, Mrs Toyin Seriki, Dr Simi seriki, Pastor Gbenga Olayeye, Pastor Kayode Enitan, Mrs Enitan Rewane, Mrs kemi Ashiru, Mrs Efua Alabi, Mrs Lape Igbaraola, Ms Kehinde Johnson, Dr Ajibola Oguniyi, Mrs Mobolaji Momodu, Ms Abiola Quadri, Ms Teju Adeoye and Mrs Itilola Oladogba. We also thank all the regular financial members of TAL: Mrs Omobolanle Ogbodu, Dr Dupe oludipe, Mrs Yanju Olomola, Mr Olatunde Adejuyigbe SAN, Mrs Lape Igbaraola, Mrs Abimbola Dosunmu, Mrs Kate Onadeko, Dr Abimbola Aiku, Mr Meggison and Dr Lolade Wright. We will like to extend our gratitude to those who made donations in 2018 including Mrs Arike Aiyetigbo, Mrs Tolu Odunsi, Mrs Toun Dosunmu, Mrs Olaitan Badejo and Mr Moyo Agunbiade. We appreciate Grange School for continuously supplying us with textbooks for our school projects and also Wifi Academy for helping our scholars to gain vital skills in Information Technology.

We continue to be blessed with God sent helpers who believe in what we do and support us. For coming in early to give towards our 2019 projects, we thank CAPRO, Mr Adelowo Adesola, Engineer Christy Adelowo, Mr Kayode Jacobs, Dr Omolola Olajide and Otunba Bimbo Ashiru.



## Will you sponsor a scholarship ..... ?

Another scholarship year is here and our programs are ongoing. I do not want to think about the financial implication of having one hundred scholars in 2019 but we know it will come to pass.

We need more scholarship sponsors this year and are hereby appealing to everyone reading this to consider sponsoring a student either wholly or partially. Each scholar receives a hundred thousand yearly for 4 to five years for a university scholarship or for 2-3 years only for a polytechnic or technical training. We will also continue to count on our members and donors' contribution to sponsor the Touch-A-School projects, host our competitions and organize the scholarship selection process.

Kindly complete the inserted scholarship sponsor's form and return to your referring Touch-A-Life member. You may also wish to reach us through any of the contact addresses behind this newsletter.

## Interested in joining us ?

Apart from sponsoring one or more scholars, you can become a part of Touch-A-Life by making a donation towards any of our programs. You may also wish to Partner or volunteer with us by collaborating or taking up an active role in our organization either in Lagos or in any region or state in Nigeria. Please call or send us a message on any of our numbers below to discuss the sponsoring and volunteering opportunities available with us.

## Our Volunteering Stories



Touch A Life reminds me of my own journey. Some God sent people worked tirelessly to help me to fulfill my dreams of getting a university education.

This is why I volunteer with Touch-A-Life, an organisation that is impacting many young lives, bringing out their uniqueness and supporting them in fulfilling their ambitions in life.....**Biodun Ositade**



I thank God for the opportunities he placed in my life to get me to where I am today. Many in our communities here do not have even the most basic necessities like food and shelter, talkless of educational opportunities. This is why I joined Touch-A-Life to spread God's love to those in dire need in North-Eastern Nigeria.....**Hassan Magaji**



Being a TAL volunteer is an opportunity not only to serve but also to give back to my immediate community here in Akwa Ibom through TAL's platform. I'm honoured to serve with TAL. - **Richard Billions**



Volunteering in Touch-A-Life has helped me to understand the essence of life and the importance of giving back to our community. As a student of social works, my practical knowledge and field skills have improved in so many ways. I feel honored to be a part of this organization...**Taiwo Mustapha**

## CONTACTING US

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