

OPEN DOORS FOR SPECIAL LEARNERS

Request to Friends of Nigeria, August 3, 2017 for Funding Support

From Catherine Onyemelukwe, Member

Open Doors for Special Learners was started in 1999, registered in 2000, in Jos, Nigeria.

It was founded and is run by Joanne Umolu, Ph.D. Retired Professor of Special Education, University of Jos. Joanne is an American who taught with me at the American International School in Lagos, Nigeria, in the 1970's. She and her husband moved to Jos in the late 1970's. She retired from the University of Jos just before starting Open Doors.

Open Doors receives support from a variety of organizations. The Australian High Commission, American Women's Club, Rotary, and others have helped with funds.

Children pay fees to attend. With the Nigerian economy in a sad state today, Joanne says, we have children at Open Doors who need sponsorship, either for payment of fees or for transport to and from Open Doors, or both. Right now we even have some children who are on scholarship but whose parents have stopped sending their children to school because they cannot afford to pay the bus or car that brings them to school. One hundred dollars could also help pay transport for these children who are being kept at home now: Dominion, Lucious, Emmanuel, Alfred, Queensly, and Daniel.

I would like to request a grant of \$800 to \$1000 to Open Doors for Special Learners. Joanne is in the U.S. right now visiting her daughter in Atlanta. She will only be here for two weeks. Her son Chukwuma who lives in California is able to send funds to her. (Someone gave me a donation of \$100 to use as I wished in Nigeria and I sent it to her son for onward transmission.)

The following information is from their website:

Open Doors for Special Learners serves individuals with intellectual disability and developmental delay. These include: Mental retardation, autism, ASD, cerebral palsy, dyslexia, Down syndrome, reading disability, dyslexia, speech and language delay, articulation disorder, learning disability.

The curriculum is designed to develop the potential of each individual with emphasis on acquisition of basic literacy and numeracy skills, ability to communicate and development of daily living, pre-vocational and vocational skills.

The mission of Open Doors is to provide quality educational, vocational training, speech and language therapy and physiotherapy for children and youth with intellectual disabilities.

You can read more about Open Doors [at their website](#).

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