



2015 Akwa Ibom State Service Trip

weareayaya.com

AYAYA: Akwa Ibom Youth and
Young Adult Association





2015 AYAYA Service Trip Attendees

Executive Summary

On May 20th, AYAYA members from the United States returned to Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria for the 3rd Annual Mission Trip! Furthering our mission of immersion and service to our beloved country, we were able to reach great new heights and made this our most successful trip to date. This experience gave us the opportunity to visit 6 different orphanages in

various local government areas with donations of food, school supplies, hygiene items, clothes, and much more. In addition, we were able to participate in the annual Children's Day activities and attend the inauguration of His Excellency, Deacon Udom Emmanuel, Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom.

Participating Members

Enobong Umoh
Andima Umoren
Tracy Ekong
Shalini Malaki
Santosh Malaki
Sam Michael

Unyime Edet
Vincent Essien
Roseanne Isang
Nsikakabasi Udofia
Lisa Inyang
Ayanga Okpokowuruk

Who Is AYAYA?

AYAYA is a group of young adults tasked with two main missions: the first is to connect those born in the diaspora to our home, Akwa Ibom State, and the second is to support and uplift the underprivileged youth living there. This humbling experience gives us the opportunity to visit various orphanages in different local government areas. As we continue to grow, we look to network with similar organizations to further our mission. As the saying goes, "to whom much is given, much is required". We thank you for your contribution and continued support.

"Everyone Matters": AYAYA understands the valuable lesson that every single person on this earth matters. It reminds us to never underestimate the impact you can have on a single life. Any subtle interaction with a child can have a profound effect on their future, and this is what drives AYAYA to reach more youth every day. The relationships we have built will last a lifetime, and we have truly come away with an experience of immersion, connection, and a deeper awareness of who we really are as children from Akwa Ibom. We look forward to continuing this trip for years to come!



AYAYA's Mission

To support and uplift underprivileged children throughout Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. This continued initiative will provide an opportunity for each child to reach their full potential to become productive and successful members of their communities.

**"Everyone Matters!
AYAYA understands
the valuable lesson
that every single
person on this earth
matters."**

What's Next?



Eno with kids from St. Louie's Handicap Center.

AYAYA is growing stronger each year and we look forward to reaching more orphaned children in Akwa Ibom and beyond. To learn more about the mission and ways to get involved, visit our website at www.weareAYAYA.com.

Sincere Regards,

Enobong Umoh
AYAYA Executive Director
enoumoh@weareayaya.com

Trip Itinerary

- The Motherless Babies Home/Special Victims Center- **Uyo**
- Saint Louie's Handicap Center- **Ikot Ekpene**
- Children's Day Celebration at Uyo Township Stadium
- Friends of the Needy Home (FONO)- **Okobo**
- Holy Family Sisters of the Needy- **Ini**
- Gospel Village- **Abak**
- Inauguration Day- His Excellency, Deacon Udom Emmanuel, Executive Governor, Akwa Ibom State
- The Motherless Babies Home- **Onna**

Picture To The Right: AYAYA participant Nsikakabasi Udofia hangs out with his new friends from St. Louie's Handicap Center.



Trip Summary

Monday, May 25th

**Motherless Babies Home/
Special Victims Center**

Local Government: Uyo

No. of Children: 124

Ages: 0-14

Donations: Diapers, Food, Ointments,
Hygiene Items

Description: The Motherless Babies Home, also known as the Special Victims Center, was our first stop on the trip. All of the children in this home have faced many unfortunate obstacles which have forced them to seek refuge here. AYAYA came with gifts and donations as a symbol of love and understanding to help uplift



Children from Uyo Motherless Babies Home.

their spirits. The children welcomed us with song and dance and then we joined them at a Children's Day Celebration at the Governor's House Banquet Hall.

I plan on returning for the next AYAYA trip in May and will continue to go on as many trips as I can.

- Roseanne Isang, Trip Attendee



*To the right:
Eno shakes
the hand
of a young
boy at the
Mother-
less Babies
Home in
Uyo.*

Trip Summary

Tuesday, May 26th

Saint Louie's Handicap Center

Local Government: Ikot Ekpene

No. of Children: 250

Ages: 6-18

Donations: Food, Hygiene Items

Description: For the third year in a row, AYAYA visited our friends at the St. Louie's Handicap Center. With over 300 orphans of all ages, they are tasked with caring for children with special needs, mainly ones that are deaf and mute. We were able to interact with the children and even learned a bit of sign language!



Picture To The Right: Children from St. Louie's Handicap Center with trip member, Lisa Inyang.

Trip attendee, Santosh Malaki, poses with some of the donations.



No one at St. Louie's was camera shy, especially not these two!

Trip Summary

Children's Day Celebration Wednesday, May 27th



Local Government: Uyo Township Stadium

Description: This day marked the 2015 Annual Children's Day festivities held at the Uyo Township Stadium. AYAYA members again had the opportunity to march with children from every local government area in the state in celebration of hope and a promising future.

Picture to the right: AYAYA was able to snap a quick picture, right before participating in the march pass.

Wednesday, May 27th Friends of the Needy Home (FONO)

Local Government: Okobo

No. of Children: 45

Ages: 0-18

Donations: Food, School Bags, Hygiene items, clothes

Description: Since 1998, Friends of the Needy Organization (FONO) has been tasked with the responsibility to provide support and a sense of belonging to the less privileged youth of Akwa Ibom State and beyond. FONO "envision[s] an Akwa Ibom and Nigeria where lives of the poor and underprivileged are positively impacted, as they are our future leaders". During our visit, we were able to meet and interact with the children, and also took a tour of



AYAYA poses in front of FONO home.

their facility. FONO runs different projects throughout the year, one of which is a sewing center which is used to teach skills that the children can use in everyday life.

Trip Summary

Thursday, May 28th Holy Family Sisters of the Needy

Local Government: Ini

No. of Children: 38

Ages: 0-15

Donations: Baby clothes, diapers, food items

Description: In our second year visiting Holy Family Sisters of the Needy, we were again greeted by the children, all of whom remembered our visit from last year. We made sure to interact and spread a word of encouragement with all the children. Sister Mary Judith, Director, expressed her re-



Shalini Malaki spends some quality time with one of twins from the home.

quest for all the children to live healthy and productive lives.

Thursday, May 28th Gospel Village



Local Government: Abak

No. of Children: 475

Ages: 0-18

Donations: School Bags, Hygiene items, snacks, food items

Description: As always, the wonderful Children at Gospel Village greeted us with high energy songs and prayer as we arrived. After we gave our introductions, we held our first ever school bag drive, where we awarded brand new book bags to the best behaved students in the group. After we greeted each child, we played a full field soccer match!

Photo to the right: Group shot after the soccer match!

Friday, May 29th Inauguration Day

Description: We were honored to attend the Inauguration of His Excellency, Deacon Udom Emmanuel, Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State on this day. Among many dignitaries and well wishers, we were able to network with the prominent decision-makers in Akwa Ibom. We congratulate His Excellency on his decisive win, and we look forward to working with him and his administration to build a long lasting presence in Akwa Ibom.

Trip Summary

Saturday, May 30th The Motherless Baby Home

Local Government: Onna

No. of Children: 13

Ages: 0-4

Donations: Diapers, Baby clothes, food items, school bags, ointments.

Description: This was our first visit to Onna, which happens to be the home of His Excellency, Deacon Udom Emmanuel and our Executive Director! This home takes care of young children from newborns to 5 years in age. We were so excited to meet and interact with the children. We can't wait to return next year!



Some of the donations that went to the Motherless Baby Home in Onna. Diapers are always necessary.

The group poses with the young children at Onna Motherless Baby Home.



Contact Us

Website: www.weareAYAYA.com

Facebook: facebook.com/weareAYAYA

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Volunteer Testimonies



Vincent hangs with youth from St. Louie's Handicap Center.

I recently partook in a service trip to Akwa Ibom state, Nigeria with the non-profit association AYAYA. The association looks to impact the lives of orphans, widowed women in need and the unprivileged in the villages that have no access to quality food and education. We provided food, school supplies and also held talks with the children encouraging them to stay committed

to their education. All of our donations were great but I realized the best part was seeing the excitement in their eyes that people that live in another part of the world cared about their well being and future, this was a humbling experience and I look forward to future trips.

- Vincent Essien

A special thank you to all of our 2015 volunteers, donors and supporters!

“Give, and it will be given to you.” -Luke 6:38

Hello my name is Roseanne Isang. I'm 20-years-old and I am from Baltimore, MD. This was my first time coming on the AYA-YA Missions Trip, but I had heard about the organization and their annual trips from people who had gone previous years. I was expecting my experience with the children in the different homes to be a little intimidating, but that was not the case. The kids are so loving, kind and accepting. The other people in the house were just as caring and friendly. We talked and bonded like we all knew each other for years. My birthday was around the time of the trip and every-

one surprised me with a birthday cake and sang happy birthday to me. This was one of the highlights of my trip, not because it was my birthday, but because these are people (some which I had just met) that made an effort to remember my birthday and celebrate it with me. So I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to them for doing that for me. It might not seem like much to you, but it meant A LOT to me that day. I would say that I am a shy person and this trip definitely pushed me to get out of my shell and allowed me to make relationships with the different children in

Volunteer Testimonies & Donors

the homes as well as the people that I lived with in the house. I plan on returning for the next AYAYA trip in May and will continue to go on as many trips as I can. This was a life-changing experience and I am so thankful for the opportunity.

-Roseanne Isang

Picture to the Right: Roseanne passes out a backpack at Gospel Village.



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Trip Photos



Mfon Umoh hauls a bag of rice to one of the homes.

Below Sam Michael, Unyime Edet, and Roseanne Isang pass out snacks to some of the children at Friends of the Needy Home.



A special moment between one of the orphans at the Motherless Baby Home in Uyo and one of the caretakers.



Two of the young ladies from St. Louie's Handi-cap Home pose for a photo.