



THE SPECIAL YOUTH
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

2025 MID-YEAR IMPACT REPORT

| Our Impact So Far and What's Ahead

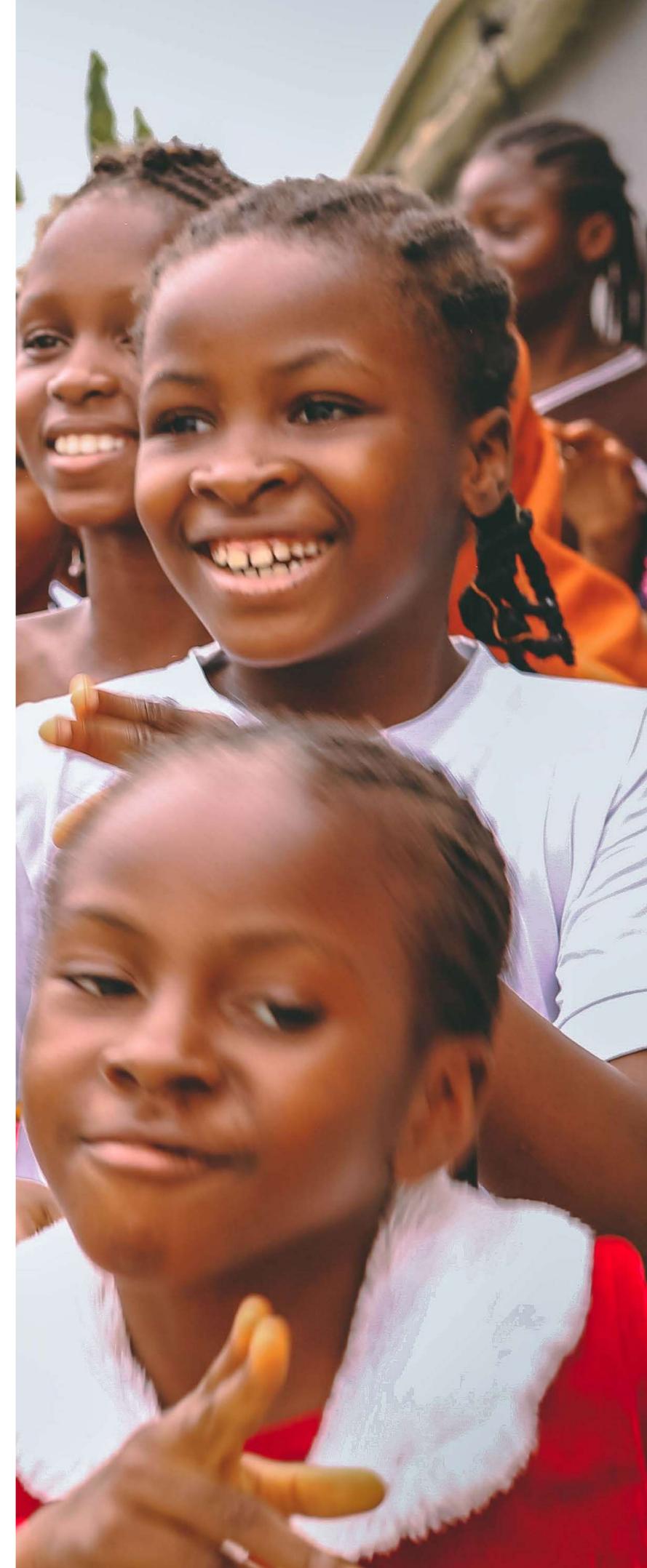


**“Every child is
your child, every
child has a right
to dream.”**



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FROM THE FOUNDER'S DESK

Dear Partners,

The first half of 2025 has been nothing short of remarkable, and it's all thanks to you.

With your unwavering support, we've impacted over 38,000 lives, mentored over 10,000 young minds, renovated 14 schools, and enabled over 600 children to remain in school through the Inspire Scholarship Program. This year, we're expanding our annual Special Summer School to 14 centers across 9 states, with plans to reach over 12,000 children through enriching academic and creative programs.

From library and classroom renovations with GardaWorld and Mariteam Nigeria Limited, to long-term scholarship commitments from Sterling Bank, your partnership continues to unlock meaningful change. We're also in active conversations for potential collaboration with the U.S., Canadian, and Netherlands consulates, as well as the Federal Government, to deepen our collective impact and scale our model.

And now, as we begin extending our footprint into Ghana and South Africa, your support is helping us carry this mission beyond borders.

Together, we are not just meeting needs, we are building a future full of hope, learning, and limitless possibility.

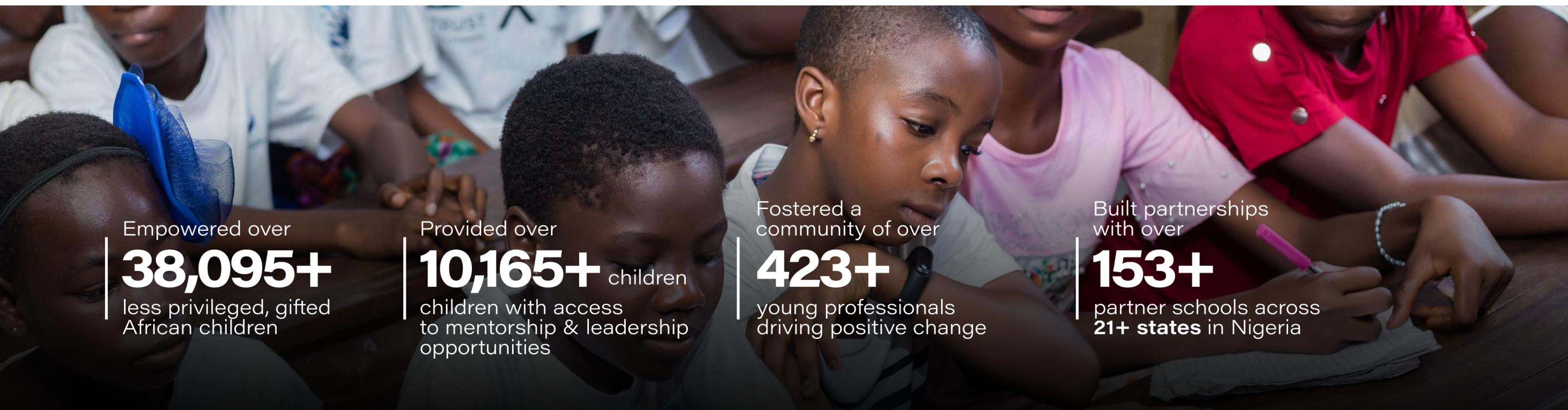


With gratitude,
Seyi Akinwale

Founder, The Special Foundation

ABOUT THE SPECIAL FOUNDATION

The Special Foundation was established to address one of Nigeria's most pressing challenges, the high number of out-of-school children, driven largely by poverty and lack of access to quality education. With over 20 million children currently out of school in Nigeria, we are working to bridge the gap by providing underserved children with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to thrive. We believe that for Africa to realise the full potential of its population, stakeholders must play an active role in shaping an inclusive and educated future.



Empowered over

38,095+

less privileged, gifted African children

Provided over

10,165+ children

children with access to mentorship & leadership opportunities

Fostered a community of over

423+

young professionals driving positive change

Built partnerships with over

153+

partner schools across **21+ states** in Nigeria

Our Vision

We dream of an Africa where more young people have access to an education and the essential tools that provide them with a foundation to be positive change agents to their respective communities, the African continent, and the World.

Join the movement

- Together, let's unlock Africa's potential, one child at a time.

OUR CARDINAL PROGRAMS

INSPIRE SCHOLARSHIP

Created to support children from low-income families, orphans, and those who have lost a breadwinner, the Inspire Scholarship provides access to quality education for primary and secondary school students, ensuring no child's future is defined by their circumstances.

SCHOOL BUILD PROGRAM

An infrastructure-driven initiative committed to building and renovating schools, ensuring more children learn in safe, dignified, and inspiring environments.

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP

A merit-based scholarship that identifies and supports gifted students under 21, providing access to local tertiary education and a pathway to leadership through academic excellence.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

A mentorship initiative connecting young minds with professionals across industries, offering guidance, real-world insight, and leadership development for the next generation.

SPECIAL SUMMER SCHOOL

A free, annual summer program that equips in-school and out-of-school children with practical skills like craftsmanship, mental math, creative writing, ICT, and public speaking, building confidence and competence beyond the classroom.

LIFELONG DEVELOPMENT

The true impact of our programs lies in their lasting value, nurturing lifelong growth, opportunity, and leadership in every child we reach.

IMPACT PROGRESS REPORT



IMPACT REVIEW

Overall Impact:

2024 —33,439+

2025 —38,095+

Summer School Program:

2024 —15,692+

2025 —18,086+

Inspire Scholarship:

2024 —560+

2025 —619+

Mentorship:

2024 —9,115+

2025 —10,165+

School Build Program:

2024 —11

2025 —14

850+
Children

**benefit from library
transformation:** our School
Build success.

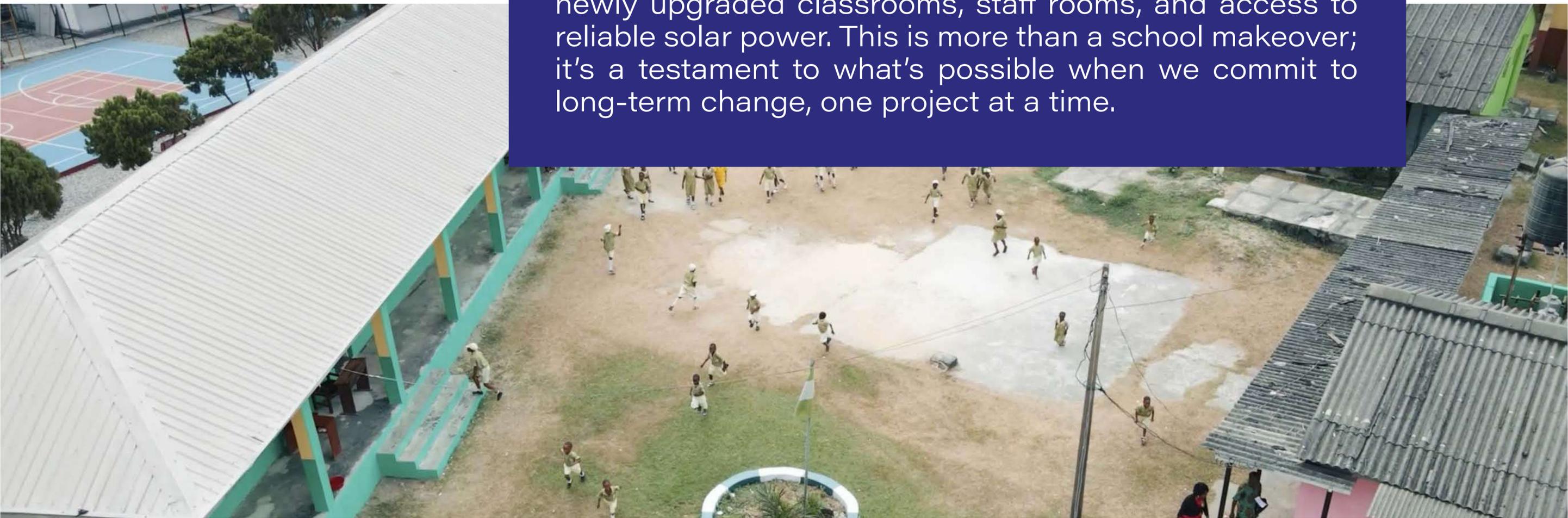


We have completed the renovation of St. Francis Junior Grammar School Library. This library will serve over 850+ children, providing them with access to reading and learning in a conducive environment. Our School Build Program continues to ensure that children have access to education in a clean and supportive setting.

800+ Children

experience a conducive learning environment at Hope Primary School, Ikoyi

What began last year with the renovation of the library and a single block of classrooms at Hope Primary School, Ikoyi, has grown into a full transformation. Today, over 800 children learn in a safe and vibrant environment, with newly upgraded classrooms, staff rooms, and access to reliable solar power. This is more than a school makeover; it's a testament to what's possible when we commit to long-term change, one project at a time.



<https://youtu.be/AFecLWwg5tc>



619+ New Children

become full-time beneficiaries of the Inspire Scholarship

In 2025, our Inspire Scholarship program continues to fulfill its mission of supporting the educational aspirations of children in underserved communities. We are proud to announce that we have onboarded 19 new beneficiaries, bringing the total number of our beneficiaries to over 619. Looking ahead, our target for 2025 is to extend our reach even further, aiming to sponsor the education of 750 children by the end of the year. We remain committed to making their dreams a reality through ongoing support and empowerment.

New beneficiaries onboarded — **19**
Total number of beneficiaries — **619**

On the path to **750 scholars in 2025.**



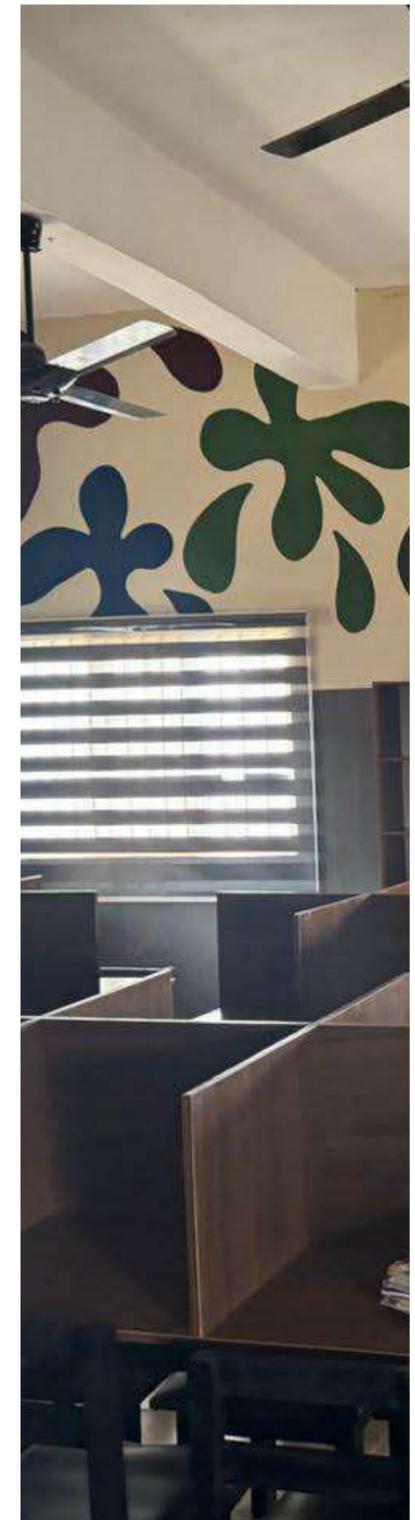
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



ST. FRANCIS JUNIOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

In 2025, we breathed new life into the library at St. Francis Junior Grammar School, transforming it from an underused space into a vibrant hub for learning, reading, and curiosity. With new furniture, shelves and books, the renovated library now serves over 850 students, providing a quiet, well-lit space to study, explore ideas, and dream bigger.

This project, supported by Gardaworld, reflects our commitment to not just access to education, but access to quality learning environments that inspire growth and academic excellence.



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



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child

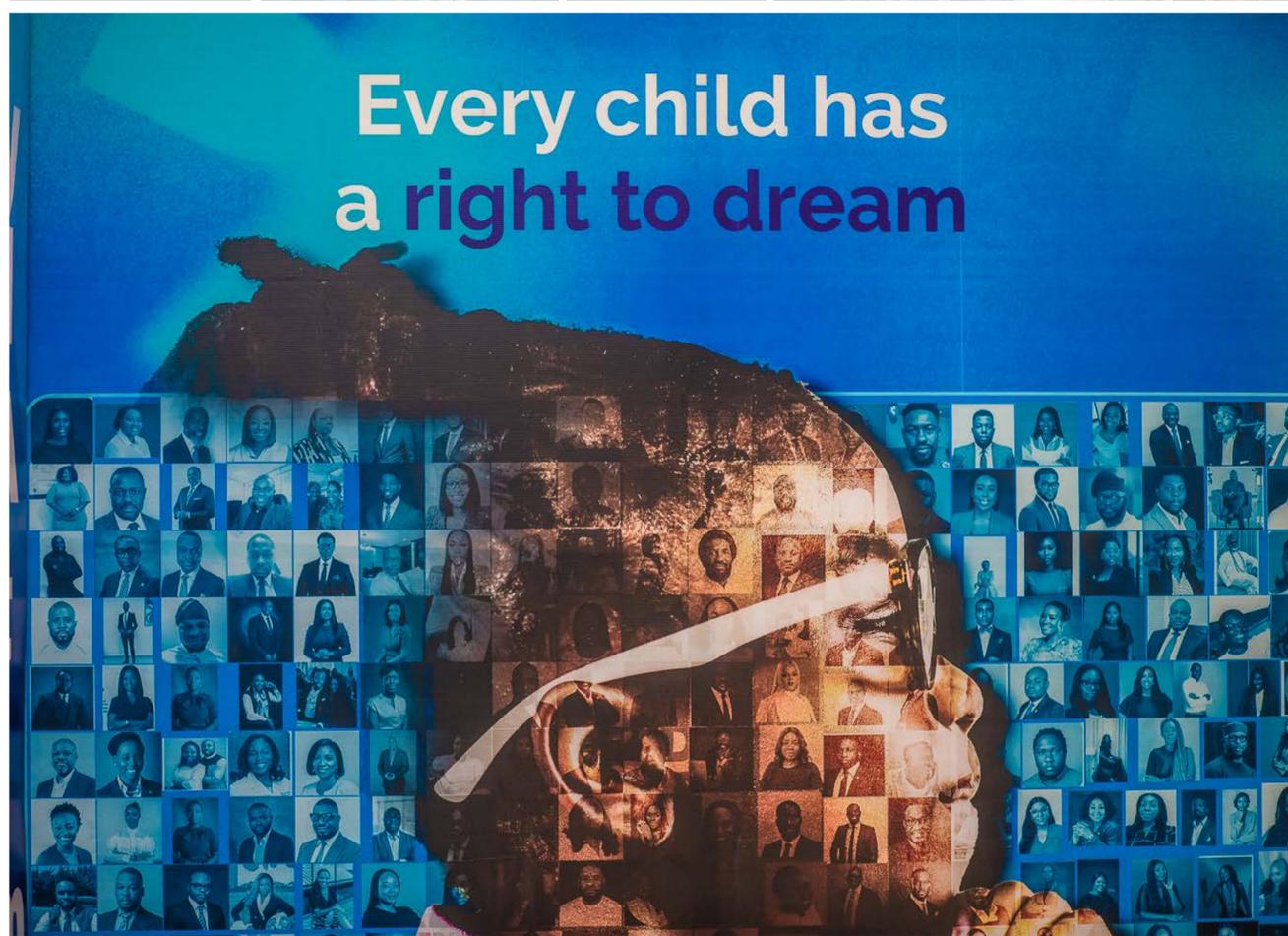
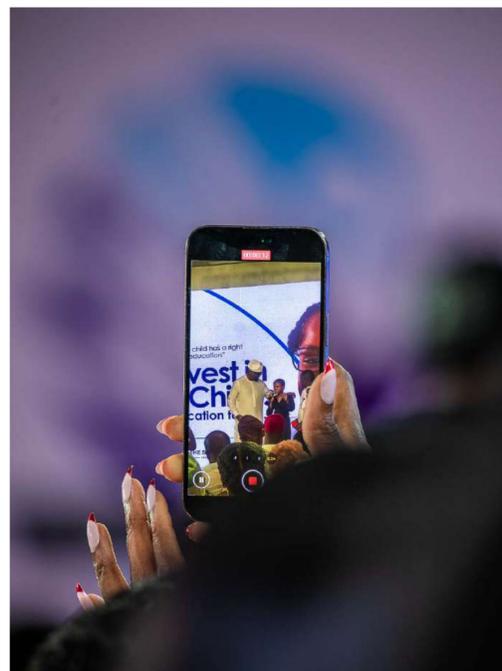
THE SPECIAL FOUNDATION THOUGHT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2025

On May 8, 2025, we hosted our annual Thought Leadership Summit under the theme "Educating the Future of Africa." The event brought together educators, private sector leaders, policymakers, and development partners to explore bold, actionable ideas for transforming education across the continent.

Through inspiring keynotes, dynamic panel discussions, and moving stories from our beneficiaries, the summit spotlighted inclusion, innovation, and infrastructure as key drivers of educational equity. From celebrating progress at Hope Primary School to unveiling our vision for 2025 and beyond, the summit reinforced our shared commitment to building a future where every child has access to quality, life-changing.



SIGHTS AND SMILES OF THE THOUGHT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT











CELEBRATING SPECIAL MOMENTS & COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

- Strategic Partnerships.
- Celebrating special moments with The Special Foundation



THE SPECIAL FOUNDATION AND GARDAWORLD SECURITY

In partnership with Gardaworld Security, we renovated the library at St. Francis Junior Grammar School. This project was undertaken with the support of our invaluable partners, Gardaworld security and Templegate.

GARDAWORLD SECURITY



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THE SPECIAL FOUNDATION AND MACADAMS

We're excited to partner with Macadams Baking Systems to bring hands-on baking lessons with industry-standard equipments to children in Makoko during our 2025 Special Summer School. Through this collaboration, children will learn creativity, teamwork, and practical skills in a fun and engaging way. Big thanks to Macadams for helping us turn simple ingredients into lasting impact.



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THE SPECIAL FOUNDATION AND DESCASIO

We're excited to partner with Descasio, a leading IT solutions firm, to support children in two of our Special Summer School centers this year. By providing vital learning materials, Descasio is helping to spark curiosity and digital literacy in young minds. Thank you for powering possibility and helping us build a future where every child has a chance to thrive.

descasio



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CELEBRATE WITH PURPOSE: IFEOMA OKPALA AINA'S SCHOLARSHIP EDUCATION DRIVE

This year, long-time partner and advocate Ifeoma Okpala Aina chose to mark her birthday with purpose, launching a bold campaign to raise ₦15 million towards children's education. Her "Celebrate with Purpose" drive invited friends, family, and colleagues to give the gift of learning instead of gifts for herself.

The funds raised will go directly toward scholarships, summer school access, and educational infrastructure for children in underserved communities. Ifeoma's generosity and leadership continue to remind us that personal milestones can spark collective impact and that every celebration is an opportunity to change lives.

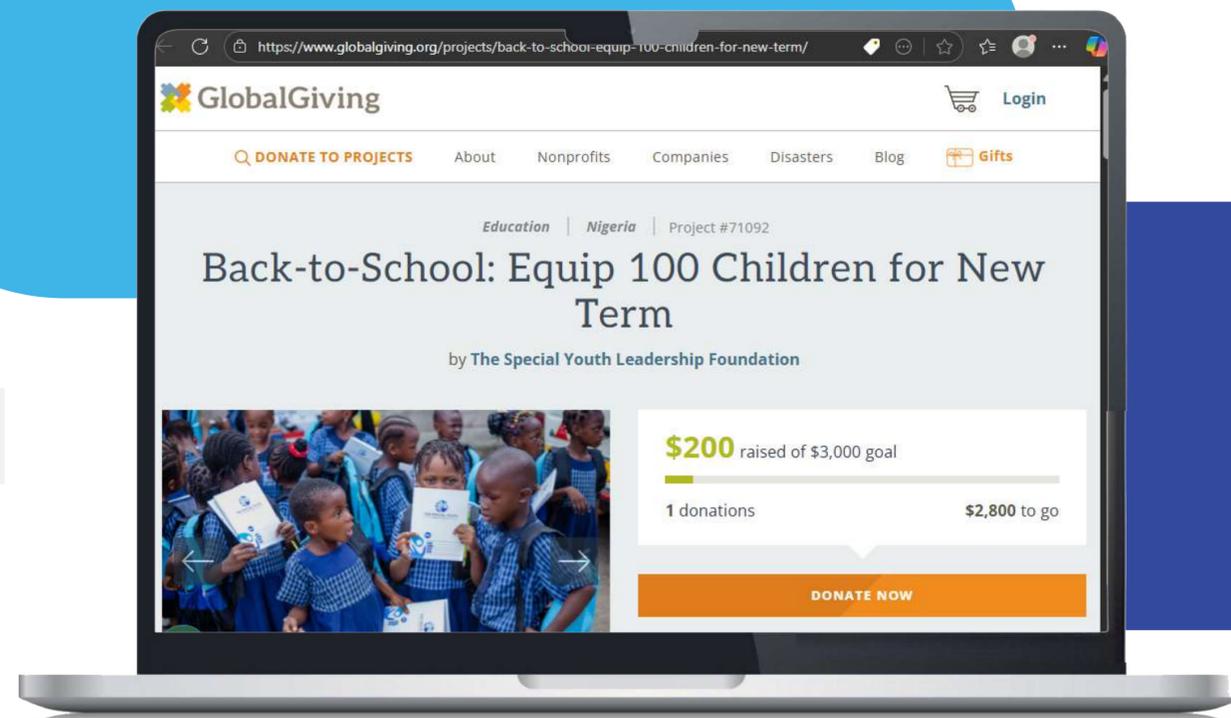


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WE'RE NOW A GLOBAL GIVING PARTNER

In 2025, we were officially approved as a GlobalGiving partner, unlocking access to a global community of donors and new opportunities to scale our impact. Our first active project, "Back-to-School: Equip 100 Children For New Term," is now live on the platform and already connecting us with supporters from around the world.

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/back-to-school-equip-100-children-for-new-term/>



BOOSTING VISIBILITY THROUGH DEVEX

As part of our strategy to expand global visibility and attract new partnerships, we are preparing to launch a targeted ad campaign on Devex, a leading platform for global development professionals and funders. The campaign will spotlight our work in education access, highlight our active projects and position The Special Foundation as a trusted partner for long-term impact across Africa.



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INTERNAL UPDATES



NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

We welcomed two new members to our Advisory Board. They have always been closely tied to the foundation and supported its growth, but now take on a more prominent role in overseeing the decision-making process at the foundation.

Akindeji Oyebode

Akindeji Oyebode is a Partner and Energy & Natural Resources Practice Lead at Banwo & Ighodalo, advising on major oil, gas, power, and project finance transactions with both Nigerian and international clients. He brings deep sector expertise, global experience, and a passion for mentoring youth to his role as Ambassador, empowering the next generation through education and empowerment initiatives.



Chizoba Okpala Atsu

Chizoba Okpala-Atsu is the Founder & Managing Director of Elles Icebox and Highgate Projects, bringing strategic leadership and entrepreneurial vision to both consumer and project-based ventures. A graduate of Lagos Business School and seasoned finance professional, she today champions education, empowerment, and community impact in her role as Ambassador.



NEW TEAM MEMBER

Funmi Jayeola

Role: Partnerships Lead

Funmi Jayeola is the Partnerships Lead at The Special Foundation, where she drives strategic collaborations to expand access to quality education. She specializes in stakeholder engagement, sponsorship acquisition, and building lasting relationships that fuel sustainable impact.



Tracy Dabul

Role: Growth & Innovations Lead

Tracy Dabul is a marketing and partnerships strategist with over eight years of experience expanding brands across global markets. She currently leads growth at Leky Mills and The Special Foundation, where she focuses on visibility, funding, and social impact.

INSPIRING STORIES



THE ERHABOR'S STORY



The story of Elizabeth and Victoria Erhabor is one worth revisiting. In the care of their grandmother, a caterer, who struggled to support them after losing her equipment in a fire, and both parents losing their jobs and being evicted from their homes, these two little girls were on the verge of being withdrawn from school. But their lives changed through the intervention of The Special Foundation, with just the right help, at just the right time.

SALAMATU'S STORY



When Salamatu's friend first invited her to join the Special Summer School in their community, she had no idea it would shape her future. Five years later, she's grown into a confident young leader, sharpening her public speaking, leadership, and civic skills, all while learning, laughing, and growing alongside her peers.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- 2025 Special Summer School
- Onboarding of New Scholarship Students
- School Build Project
- Tales of Hope Documentaries



2025 SPECIAL SUMMER SCHOOL

Last year, our Annual Special Summer School was a resounding success, marked by remarkable growth. We expanded from **6 to 8 centers**, reaching **over 5000 children** and communities than ever before.

This year, we are starting on the last week of July, and we are looking to impact **over 12,000+ children** across **9 states** and **14 centers**. We hope to empower these children as they have fun and learn amazing new skills like coding, baking, arts and crafts, makeup, graphics design, and so much more.



| [Watch last year's program summary here](#)

ONBOARDING OF NEW INSPIRE AND SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

We are preparing to onboard 131 new scholars into our continuous Inspire and Special Scholarship Programs this September, moving us closer to our goal of supporting 750 academically exceptional students. Focused on Nursery, Primary, Secondary, and tertiary-level learners, the program ensures that promising young people from underserved communities can access and complete their education without financial barriers.





BRAND NEW 2025 TALES OF HOPE DOCUMENTARIES

Each year, our Tales of Hope series captures the powerful stories of the children we serve, documenting their resilience, dreams, and the everyday challenges they overcome. Told through a documentary-style lens, Tales of Hope brings you face-to-face with the realities behind the statistics.

The 2025 edition will spotlight current beneficiaries from across our programs, offering a raw and emotional look at what they carry, and what they could become. Through intimate interviews and immersive storytelling, Tales of Hope reminds us why every child's journey matters, and why we must keep showing up.

OUR PATH FORWARD

- Letter of Gratitude
- Advisory Board
- How to Partner with Us
- Contact us



LETTER OF GRATITUDE

Dear Partners,

As we cross the halfway mark of 2025, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to you for standing with us on this journey of impact and transformation. Your support remains the driving force behind every child we reach, every school we improve, and every dream we help unlock.

So far this year, we've impacted over 38,000 lives through our programs, reaching more communities with our Special Summer School, sustaining Inspire Scholarships for over 600 children, and renovating 14 schools to create better learning environments. Our infrastructure work, including library projects, has been made possible through the generous backing of partners like GardaWorld and Mariteam Nigeria Limited.

We've also made key strides in visibility and growth, becoming an official GlobalGiving partner with our first active project now live, while exploring meaningful collaborations with the U.S., Canadian, and Netherlands consulates, as well as the Federal Government. And as we expand into Ghana and South Africa, your continued support is opening new frontiers of possibility.

Thank you for believing in what we do and more importantly, in who we do it for. With you by our side, the second half of 2025 holds even greater promise.

With deep gratitude,
Seyi Akinwale

"Every child is
your child, every
child has a right
to dream."

Over 35,595+ lives impacted, w
more with your partnership



Support a
Today!

ADVISORY BOARD



Ijeoma Anyigbo

West Africa Regional Manager, Oxygen Hub



Funlola Adegoke

Founder/CEO, Fariga Initiative Against Bullying In Schools (FIABIS)



Seyi Akinwale

Founder, The Special Foundation



Abimbola Ayinde

GM Upstream Commercial and Corporate Finance, First E & P



Akindeji Oyebode

Partner, Banwo & Ighodalo



Akinbamidele Akintola

Chief Commercial Officer, ALERZO



Damilola Akinwale

SAP Programme Manager



Chukwuma Nwanze

MD/CEO, Credit Direct Ltd, Nigeria



Nnenna Irebisi

Strategic Government Engagement Lead, AWS West Africa



Ifeoma Okpala Aina

Head of Asset Strategy & Strategic Partnerships (ASSP) Academy, MAERSK



Wole Coker

Product Manager, FCMB Ltd



Chizoba Okpala Atsu

Founder & Managing Director of Elles Icebox and Highgate Projects

HOW TO PARTNER WITH US



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USD - Zenith Bank

Swift Code:

ZEIBNGLA



CONTACT US



Please contact us to discuss these partnership opportunities further. We look forward to hearing from you.

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