

Report: ACOHOF Organizes “Back to School” Event for 298 Orphans and Underprivileged School Children



Happy kids with school supplies

The beginning of the school year is often filled with heightened expectations of great things to come. This heightened expectation is usually tainted with nervousness, fear of the unknown and apprehension by families of orphans and underprivileged children who face the struggle to afford the basic school supplies needed for their children’s education.

The inclement weather could not dampen the fortitudes of parents, guardians, teachers, special guests, and over two hundred and fifty orphans and underprivileged school children, who were feted to a special 2012/2013 academic year’s edition of the traditional annual “Back to School with ACOHOF” event held in Tatum and Kumbo on Friday 7th September 2012 and Saturday 8th September 2012 respectively.



School supplies for Nkum Sub Division

Thanks to the generosity of the Afoni Children of Hope Foundation, approximately 298 school boys and girls between the ages of 5-16 from Nkum Sub Division and Kumbo Central Sub Divisions went back to school with their heads held high as they received pens/pencils, books, rulers, brand new crocs shoes, and other assorted school supplies for the new school year 2012/2013. Due to the heavy down pour during these events, only head teachers of some distant schools could make it to the event and as such collected school supplies for their pupils.



P.S. Kumbo teacher receiving school supplies for his pupils

Hailing from 29 nursery, primary and secondary schools within Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon, the event was a rousing success as evidenced by the excitement on the faces of the kids and their families.



Group picture with some beneficiaries in Kumbo

This occasion that brought together people charged with the responsibility of molding children educationally, was given kudos from the massive attendance and key note speakers like the Divisional Delegate of Social Affairs for Bui Division, The ACOHOF Child Education Manager, the ACOHOF Deputy Programs Manager and the ACOHOF Head Office Manager.



The Divisional Delegate of Social Affairs addressing the pupils and students

What was unique with these speakers was their emphasis on the fact that “Children, being the country’s future leaders, must be given much encouragement, incentives and goals to strive for in order to be worthy individuals and to be able to make full use of the bountiful opportunities at school and to work to secure a good education foundation for their future.” To educators, speakers called for “the responsibility to educate and inspire the whole child, socially, emotionally, physically, academically, and spiritually”.



The Delegate of Social Affairs wearing a new uniform on a C.S. Shisong kid

Excerpts of “Back to school with ACOHOF” event

Last academic year, the “Back to School with ACOHOF” program sparked an endless line of requests for support not only from underprivileged children but also from religious bodies, traditional rulers, and other likeminded charity organizations working for the benefit of orphans and vulnerable Children.

This Year’s “Back to School with ACOHOF” event therefore witnessed an extension to the Nseh Fons Palace, the highest traditional ruler in Nkum Sub Division. Generally, the Fondoms of this area are peculiar in that the Fon (traditional ruler) is noted for the practice of polygamy that results in large families with so many children who hardly receive primary education because of the lack of means. Most of these children end up without an education that can give them opportunities for better life choices and self-esteem to participate and contribute effectively to the general socio-economic development of their community. In this regard, His Royal Highness the Fon of Nseh benefited from this back to school with ACOHOF event as he received books, pens/pencils and school shoes to enable some of the princess and princesses go back to school with dignity.



The Fon of Nseh benefits from the "Back to School with ACOHOF" event.

Through ACOHOF, The Association of Parents of Children with Hearing Impairment and "Biwon" Children's Brighter Future, a likeminded charity organization also benefited a package of school supplies for orphans and vulnerable that they serve.



Coordinators of "Biwon" Children's Brighter Future receive school supplies for the orphans they serve

Although many were recognized for their contribution to the success of this event, the Afoni Children of Hope Foundation wishes to show its appreciation especially to the following for their special valuable material and financial donations: Pens for Kids, CROCSTM Company of the USA, Henrik Hall, Ngalim Jules Rir-simaha, Karolina Johnsson, Justin Afoni Njobam, Anna Grete Telesford, Wirmvem Jude Mengjo, the Nkum Council, Rev. Fr. Matty, and other members of the organization.

The beneficiary pupils and students were from the following schools: Government Primary School Shisong, Presbyterian School Kumbo, Saint Theresa School Kumbo, Government Primary School Kiyan, Government Nursery School Shisong, Catholic Primary School Shisong, Government Primary School Tatum, Government Primary School Nkween Tatum,

Islamic Primary School Tatum, Presbyterian Primary School Tatum, Catholic Primary School Tatum, Presbyterian Primary School Memfu, Catholic Primary School Memfu, Government Primary School Kishong, Islamic Primary School Kuvluh, Catholic Primary School Kuvluh, Presbyterian Primary School Nseh, Government Primary School Mbabu II Nseh, Joset Bilingual Nursery and Primary School Mah, Catholic Primary School Ngondzen, Government Nursery School Nseh, Cameroon Baptist Convention Primary School Tatum, New Vision Bilingual Primary School Tatum, Government Bilingual High School Tatum, Government High School Nseh, Government Technical College Nseh, Government High School Kiyan, Government Secondary School Shisong, and Government Technical High School Kumbo.



Representatives of the Association of Parents of Children with Hearing Impairment



Joset Bilingual Nursery and Primary School Mah



Head Teacher receiving packages for C.S Memfu



Catholic Primary School Tatum



Catholic Primary School Memfu



Government Primary School Nkween



Presbyterian Primary School Memfu



Catholic Primary School Shisong



Islamic Primary School Tatum

Report prepared by: Yongka Gilbert, Deputy Programs Manager ACOHOF