



Project News (February to May 2013)

Dear Supporters and Partners of Springboard,

On behalf of the first batch of participants, staff and volunteers of Springboard, I am exceedingly joyous to provide you an update on the activities of Springboard from February to May 2013. I hope you enjoy it. Please let me know if you do have any questions.

With much thanks.

Springboard is Legally Registered

On the 10th of April, 2013, Springboard received its Certificate of Incorporation from the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Now we have become a corporate body and we are licensed to operate as an NGO.

Inauguration of the first batch of participants for Springboard training



The length and breadth of Nigeria, a great nation, is replete with young people full of energy, creativity, determination, character and promise. During the application process to 2013 Springboard training, I was privileged to interact with several young people who are bold and daring in the face of challenging social and economic times and who have in their hearts, wonderful business ideas. All that they are looking for is just an ‘opportunity’ to bring their creativity to life and turn it to a business venture which will benefit them and the community.

In the last 3 months we received more than 40 applications from unemployed youth in Ondo State (South West Nigeria) and after undergoing different stages of interview, we selected 20 applicants (8 Females, 12 males) who have now begun the 6 months Springboard Entrepreneurship training which will end in late November 2013.

The Participants



Our participants have innovative business ideas in Farming, Food production and packaging, cake baking, comics production and solar/inverter energy. On Monday 13 May, with local supporters and some parents of participants in presence, we inaugurated this batch. Also, we have named this batch ‘The Oak Batch’. The oak tree is tough, resistant to drought, sets down long, deep roots and has big spreading branches which provide much shade, which is often used as a meeting place in villages. More so, a common proverb says “From little acorns do great trees grow.” Acorns are fruits of oak. Our participants, who share similarities with the oak tree, come from low-income communities and poor families. Despite their background and challenges, they have strong hope, resilience and motivation and they are happy that Springboard is bringing them opportunities which will make them become self employed and change agents in their communities.

Soon, we shall upload the profiles of each participant on our website. We will notify you as soon as we do this.

Facilitators



To provide quality hands on training for the participants, we recruited 4 entrepreneurs who will use their business experience to facilitate the training.

Donation of Entrepreneurship Resource Book



Copies of the book titled “151 + 50 Small Businesses for Entrepreneurs” written by Wale Akinyanmi, a highly celebrated entrepreneur in Nigeria were donated by the author to all the participants of the Oak Batch. The book contains 200 small business ideas and some helpful business tips. The participants were excited as they each received the book during the inauguration ceremony. Also, we

will be privileged to have Mr. Wale visiting the participants very soon and the participants will have the opportunity to ask him some relevant questions about entrepreneurship.

Activities on Springboard Farm



Harvest and sales of Plantain

Since January 2013, farmers on the Springboard farm have been busy harvesting and selling bunches of plantain (local banana). This has helped to generate some income for the project. Also, we have started cultivating corn for the plantain season and in June we shall begin to harvest for sale. It is much fun on the farm these days as we get our hands dirty, sleeves rolled, back bowed and spend time together to work, eat and chat.

Springboard Plantain Chips: a new income & job generating activity in pipeline



At Springboard, we shall soon start adding value to the plantain cultivated on the Springboard farm through producing plantain chips out of it. In Nigeria, Plantain chips are a staple snack that people enjoy eating. Producing and selling them will help generate more income to sustain Springboard and we also aim to make it a social business by using it to create jobs for unemployed youth who we sell the chips. We have set up a committee amongst our volunteers and facilitators to develop a business plan for the product.

Financial Records

If you are interested in seeing the Springboard financial books for the past 4 months, please request for it at springboardoffice@gmail.com.



Dear Supporters and Partners,

On behalf of the Oak Batch participants, staff and volunteers of Springboard, we want to say thank you for your support and partnership.

With much gratefulness,

Afere Alaba Lawrence and Springboard team

Request: we are in need of an unused video/photo camera to document the ongoing training program. If you know anyone who can donate one to Springboard, kindly help us pass the information to her/him. Thank you!

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