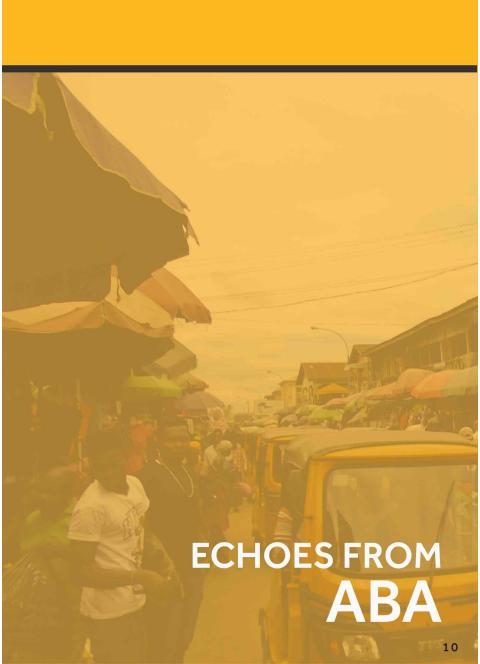


Reaching under-served youth in every corner of Nigeria

# Reaching under-served youth in every corner of Nigeria



### **AKAGBULE CHIBUEZE**



hibueze's family lives in Umuhia.
He only came to Aba to spend his holiday with his Aunt. One day, he came across a program on radio that spoke about free ICT training for young people. He rushed to the address immediately and picked a form. Chibueze had never been privileged to touch a computer before." I poured myself into the training. When I got back home to Umuahia and tried to tell my family and friends all the skills I had acquired, they were skeptical. I had not been a very responsible youth, so they did not really believe in me."

As the time for the university entrance examination drew near, Chibueze's parents gave some money to him and to his younger brother so that they could register in a computer training institute in order to learn how to use a computer ahead of writing the computer based test.



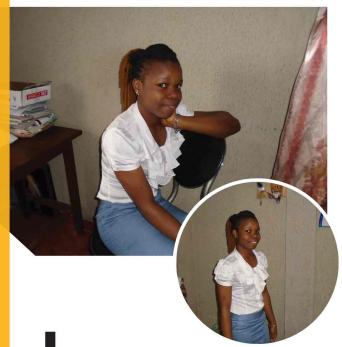
Chibueze used the money instead to hire a laptop and started to train his younger brother and a few friends what he had learnt during the AbaLIFE training. They all passed their examinations and are now awaiting admission into university, but according to Chibueze; "The most important achievement for me was to have gained the respect and confidence of my family and friends again." He said.

Through the lessons he learnt in the entrepreneurship classes, Chibueze has made a success of a small business of repairing and configuring phones, and he has now earned enough to buy a laptop of his own with which he continues to spread the knowledge.

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### **AMADI JECINTA**



ecinta was already in a paid computer training when she heard about AbaLIFE training on the radio. She quit her training, not satisfied with what she was getting from it and decided to give the AbaLIFE

Program a try instead. Jecinta was pleasantly surprised to find a more conducive environment and much higher quality of training than where she had been paying, all free!

Jecinta was thrilled that in addition to ICTs, there were financial literacy and entrepreneurship classes. She could not believe her luck.

The entire program has helped me so much. With the skills I picked up in the Corel Draw class; I have been designing simple cards, fliers and frames and making some money from it "The entire program has helped me so much. With the skills I picked up in the Corel Draw class; I have been designing simple cards, fliers and frames and making some money from it. I have always been fascinated with using the computer, more so, after the AbaLIFE training, but I did not know that I could make some money out of it. The entire program gave me a new perspective to life. "She says. Jecinta now works with Aba Catholic Laity council as an office assistant. She hopes to proceed to the university to further her studies soon.



### **BETHEL EVURULOBI**



ethel was into the fashion design business before she joined the AbaLIFE Program. The training was recommended to Bethel by a friend who had gone through the program and believed this was what Bethel needed to move her business to the next level.

Bethel was shocked that she did not have to pay anything to be in such a highly equipped and conducive learning environment. In her own words; "I could never dream of having access to such quality of training here in Aba."



Since the training, my eye has opened to numerous opportunities. My fashion design business is in a new place, and I am so grateful to PIN for the opportunity The training helped Bethel improve her social skills, which is very important to her business. The graphic design class helped her add more zest to her designs. Above all, she got comfortable using the internet and availing herself of the many opportunities it presented her business. The financial literacy classes taught her how to look for small loans and also save



"Since the training, my eye has opened to numerous opportunities. My fashion design business is in a new place, and I am so grateful to PIN for the opportunity." She said.

### **CHIMAOBI MICHAEL**



efore he heard about Paradigm Initiative
Nigeria, Chima was teaching in a secondary school in
Aba for two reasons. One was to earn money and the
second was just to stay close to education at any cost.
Although he was faced with financial challenges, his
greatest dream

remained furthering his education. "I had very little knowledge of computers even though I was desperate to learn." He said. "My parents could not afford any sort of computer training for me."

He heard about Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN) and AbaLIFE Program on the radio. He never had misgivings about enrolling. He had been hunting for this opportunity for a long time. "The program impacted me in numerous ways." Chima says. "For instance, I did not realize I could learn so much about computers in such a short time, much less teach others." Chima now volunteers with PIN, teaching other young people his age to use Microsoft Excel.



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others



Currently, Chima has joined the league of freelance writers and is learning the art of screenwriting. He believes he can earn enough income to support his education from his writing skills. He sat for the university entrance examinations, and is currently awaiting admission into higher instituition to study Information Management Technology.



# **CHRISTOPHER EZEKA**

hristopher was working as an apprentice, making men's clothes prior to his joining the program. He joined the program because he thought it would give him the background he needed to fulfill his desire of studying computer science sometime in future.



He was quite surprised to find out that the training wasn't just about ICTs. The entrepreneurship and life-skills classes made Christopher realize that with a little more diligence and excellence, he could turn his skills into a gold mine. Since the end of his training, Christopher has been enjoying patronage based on his cloth-making skills. He is still in apprenticeship, but already making his own money and saving to be able to fully establish his own outfit by the end of the year.

He is part of the PACESETTERS group, teaching other young people in schools around Aba ICTs and Life Skills. Christopher still has dreams of gaining admission into a tertiary institution to study computer science sometime in the future.



### **CYNTHIA EZEANOBURU**



ynthia was idle before the training and wasn't really thinking about what to do with her life. . She heard about the L.I.F.E. training program on radio. What she heard filled her with hunger for a change. She picked up the enrollment form.

As she started attending this training program, she found herself gradually changing. "I used to spend all my time watching movies and playing computer games. I did not know any productive skills. But once I started the training, there was plenty to practice on MS Word. Excel and Corel Draw."

It is quite exciting to live independently and to achieve one's dreams. Thanks to PIN for giving my life a new meaning







After the entrepreneurial classes, Cynthia started a catering business. She makes snacks and distributes to shops and kiosks and earns a living from it. "It is quite exciting to live independently and to achieve one's dreams. Thanks to PIN for giving my life a new meaning. "She said Like her many of her friends, Cynthia also aims to gain admission into the higher institution soon. Meanwhile, she has teamed up with two friends who also graduated from the project to create an initiative called 'Pacesetters.' They visit schools teaching ICTs and Life-Skills to students, just as they have been taught on the project.

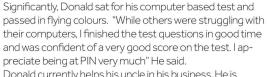
# **DONALD ONYEDIKACHI**



Onald was teaching in a secondary school on a part time basis when a member of his church who had previously graduated from the program encouraged him to enroll. Donald was excited about finding a training that could help him pull off his computer-based university entrance examination (JAMB). That was the current most daunting challenge in his life. He did not know how to use a computer, still he had to write the most important examination of his life on it. Donald was in for a pleasant surprise. Learning to use packages like Microsoft PowerPoint and Corel Draw was eye-opening, but in his opinion, the life-skill classes were the best.

The goal setting class changed everything for me. As a young person, I had a lot of things in mind

lot of things in mind to do, I just did not know where to start but the goal-setting classes helped me organize my life and aim..



Donald currently helps his uncle in his business. He is hopeful to resume at the university by the end of the year.



While others were struggling with their computers, I finished the test questions in good time and was confident of a very good score on the test.

I appreciate being at PIN very much

### **GODWIN STANLEY OBASI**



odwin left secondary school and had been unemployed for two years. This is not uncommon with many people his age in Aba. He told himself that he was waiting to get admission into the university, even though he had no real plans. He heard about AbaLIFE Program on the radio.

Godwin was selected for the training from the pool of applicants but he wasn't sure why. "I had very little knowledge of computers, but I wanted very much to learn. Maybe I was picked because of my interest." He said

After his training, Godwin began to take his life more seriously. "I even published a book." He says excitedly. "I raised money, using some of the lessons we were taught in the financial literacy classes and published some of my writings. PIN also emphasized social responsibility a great deal. So along with three of my friends who also trained on the program, I now organize computer trainings for secondary school students in our neighbourhood

I raised money, using some of the lessons we were taught in the financial literacy classes and published some of my writings. PIN also emphasized social responsibility a great deal. So along with three of my friends who also trained on the program, I now organize computer trainings for secondary school students in our neighbourhood

Godwin is now a student of a Federal Polytechnic in Ebonyi State. Even the time management skills he acquired at the AbaLIFE Program has made a huge difference, helping him to balance his academic and personal commitments. "I don't know where I would have been if I had not participated in the AbaLIFE training," he says in retrospect.

"I may still have been roaming around, not knowing what to do with my life. It's like being blind and now seeing, thanks to Paradigm Initiative Nigeria."



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Following his training, James was confident to say he was ready to resume his search for a job with much greater chances of securing one. He was right! He was soon employed as an instructor in a computer school, Geometric Computer School in Aba where he teaches Microsoft PowerPoint and Corel Draw, he also volunteers for PIN. "AbaLIFE training made me independent, and equipped me to get a job." He said. "I'm most grateful to PIN for this opportunity."



I knew a little about using computers before, but I acquired deeper skills. Then the life-skills classes opened my eyes to the reason I may not have previously gotten a job. Apart from the fact that I was not so proficient in ICT skills, I lacked confidence and communication skills



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ohn's Father heard about the AbaLIFE Program on the radio and urged him to sign up. He did this reluctantly. His major fear was that he would make a fool of himself since he had never touched a computer before

But the life-skills helped John build the confidence and self-esteem he needed to learn. "I discovered that I had a problem with laziness. I shy away from people and anything challenging, But the life-skill training gave me the courage I needed to go after the life I wanted.".

The entrepreneurship classes helped John develop an eye for opportunities, and his life-skill classes taught him to take hold of them. John's Father was so pleased with John's progress following his training that he opened a computer centre providing business services such as typesetting, printing and photocopying which John, who could previously not even use a computer now manages.





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77

### **JOSIAH AGWU**



osiah was already computer literate prior to joining the training, but he could not get a job, any job at all. He just didn't seem to know how to apply his knowledge or his skills.

"AbaLIFE training impacted me a great deal, I was equipped with employability skills. I learnt to be use packages like Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint proficiently. From the entrepreneurship and Life-Skill classes; I learnt managerial skills, communication skills, personal grooming and self-confidence." he said in retrospect.

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I have become bolder,"
he says, "doing things I
couldn't do before including taking up leadership
positions in the church. I
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support and
encouragement from
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Nigeria, and I am most
grateful

Josiah is currently working as a floor manager in a Cyber Cafe which also doubles as a computer training centre. He also does graphic designs for the café. He is very excited about the opportunity to impart other young people just as he had been impacted at Paradigm Initiative Nigeria. "I have become bolder," he says, "doing things I couldn't do before including taking up leadership positions in the church. I have received a lot of support and encouragement from Paradigm Initiative Nigeria, and I am most grateful."



zinne left secondary school the year before she joined the AbaLIFE Program. She had stayed at home doing nothing other than some leisure reading and drawing beforehand

She heard about the AbaLIFE Program from the first training in 2014 but she was not convinced that it was what she needed at the time. Her older brother however participated in the first batch of the training. When her mother saw the changes in the brother following the training, she compelled Ezinne to pick the form for the next batch of training

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Everything was new to me. In the entrepreneurship classes, I learnt things I had not known before, like how to make money practically from skills and talents I had previously overlooked

"I gave the training my all." She said. "Everything was new to me. In the entrepreneurship classes, I learnt things I had not known before, like how to make money practically from skills and talents I had previously overlooked." Following her training, Ezinne went back to her drawing but no longer for leisure. She began to make portraits which she sells and makes money from. A few people have also approached her with offers to teach drawing skills. Ezinne is bent on studying in the area of her skill as soon as she has the opportunity to further her education. She is also looking forward to owning an art gallery in future. "I believe that my work will be celebrated in different parts of the world someday. I can never be idle again, thanks to AbaLIFE "She says proudly.





# **NELSONIGWE**



elson suffered from very low

self-esteem before he came in contact with the AbaLIFE Program. Other than financial challenges, he wasn't doing well at all. He could not seem to pass critical exams that would see him move to the next level of education. He was an emotional wreck.

When he heard about the AbaLIFE Program on the radio, he was reluctant. He was afraid he would be a failure at this one again. But he had a great father who encouraged him. Nelson's life started changing right from his encounter with the training environment. "That I was going to be trained in such a beautiful and well-equipped environment, all free of charge started to make me think that I could still have good things come out of my life."

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Nelson viewed the training as a life-time opportunity. The entire program was transformational, especially the life-skills classes which Nelson needed the most. "Everything changed" he said "My attitude, the way I think, dress and relate with other people." Since his graduation from the training, he formed a group along with 2 other AbaLIFE graduates, Cynthia and Christopher. The group is called "PACESETTERS." They reach out to young people in churches and school in Aba teaching some of the skills they have learnt and encouraging them to enrol in the AbaLIFE Program. Nelson is also attempting university entrance examinations again and is developing a small business focused on designing and selling male clothing like shirts ,trousers and indigenous wears.





# **STEPHEN MOSES**



tephen was helping his father with his welding business when he heard about the AbaLIFE Program.

With the graphics designing skills he picked up at the training, he was able to pick up a job at his uncle's video editing company where he is proudly in charge of video title and CD cover designs.

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The entrepreneurship classes gave me a drive to make my own income. I have even been able to acquire a camera of my own from the jobs I have done

He also handles the projection/production of songs and other information in his church with the help of the PowerPoint skills he picked up at the training and uses the opportunity to teach other young people at the church the same skill. Stephen has also started a small photography business of his own which he does at weekends when he is not busy at work. "The entrepreneurship classes gave me a drive to make my own income. I have even been able to acquire a camera of my own from the jobs I have done." He said. Stephen looks forward to owning his own video editing studio while he studies at the university where he has already gained an admission.





# **SUNRISE ONUOHA**



unrise heard about the AbaLIFE Program through a friend. She decided to sign up only after much persuasion. But her first visit to the facility changed her attitude. "It was a cozy place and they had training facilities that I consider to be world-class. This changed my reluctance into an eagerness to be part of the training." She saidl.

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Sunrise says she enjoyed everyday of the training but was mostly impacted by the entrepreneurship and life-skills classes. "I had been living a very passive life but I saw that I needed to fill my life with purpose. It struck me that I can make a difference in this world and I can do things that count. Perhaps the greatest lesson I took away from my training is that living is positively influencing and inspiring others."

After her training, Sunrise wrote the university entrance examination, she volunteers to teach young people in a primary school in her neighborhood while awaiting her admission into the university to study medicine



# **UKASOANYA CHINAZAEKPERE**



hinaza was an apprentice, learning to lay building tiles when he heard about the AbaLIFE Program. What fascinated him the most was that he would have an opportunity to learn ICT skills, which he considered as something that could change his fortune.

Like many young people in Aba who have had early exposure to artisanship; he found the entrepreneurship aspects of the training very relevant to his daily life. Chinaza found new dreams going to the classes and knowing that he could be a tile installer with a difference.

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I would never have been confident enough or believed I was good enough except for the skills that I learnt during the AbaLIFE training. I learnt to believe in myself

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After the training, Chinaza started to look for jobs. "We had been taught to market our skills and bid for jobs." In a short while, Chinasa landed three jobs which had all been successfully completed as at the time he told his story. He is on the fourth one. "I would never have been confident enough or believed I was good enough except for the skills that I learnt during the AbaLIFE training. I learnt to believe in myself." He says.



He had lost hope of furthering his education beyond secondary school due to lack of resources but now he is bold about the fact that he will return to school. "I have skills and I am making money. I will be able to pay my way through the university where I intend to study Civil Engineering." He said happily.

## **WISDOM EVURULOBI**



isdom had just completed his secondary education and was searching for a good computer training center to attend when his sister came back one day from an outing with great news; it was about PIN's AbaLIFE training program.

"It was beyond my expectation. It wasn't just a computer school; we were prepared for the world of work. The ICT trainings were professionally delivered and the entrepreneurship and life skills classes filled me with a lot of information. I couldn't wait for the program to end so I could go out there and put everything I had learnt to practice."

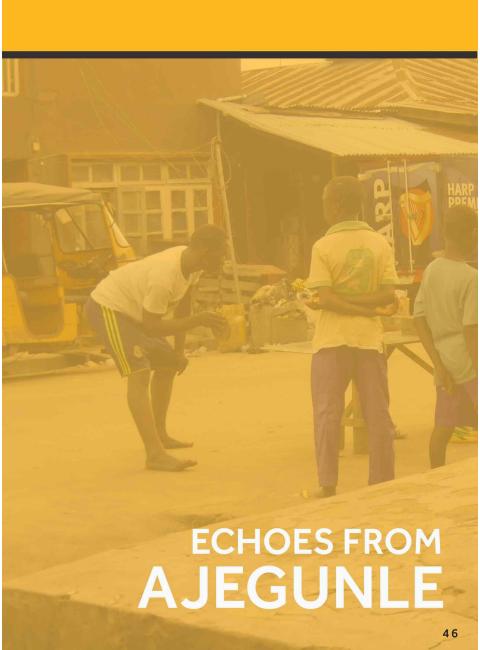
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It was beyond my expectation. It wasn't just a computerschool; we were prepared for theworld of work.. Just one week after his graduation from the program, Wisdom landed a job with a design and print company in Aba. "I am not only perfecting the skills I have learnt in design and the rest of the ICT classes, I am also practicing to be an entrepreneur." He said excitedly.



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#### **ADEKUNLE ADEBOWALE**



dekunle was idling away before his encounter with Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN). After two years of doing absolutely nothing, he was advised by his grandma to apply for the AjegunleLIFE program. "I applied, thinking it was just another ICT school" he said.

But through the seven weeks of training and several sessions with the staff and Alumni, Adekunle realized he wasn't in an ordinary computer school. Every day, he could look forward to learning new things through the morning drills, team building activities, and class presentations. He found the entrepreneurship and life-skill classes very eye-opening. "The program made me a totally different person within a very short while." He says

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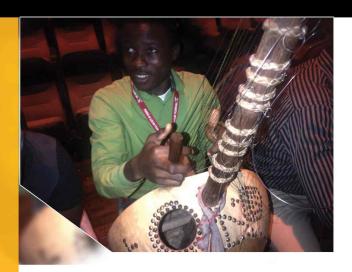
Power (electricity) is a huge problem in Nigeria, especially for students who need to read all the time. I make reading lamps which is in high demand. In only seven weeks, PIN gave me all I need to move on with my life and succeed."

Following the program, Adekunle would never be idle again. He worked some more, and then gained admission into tertiary institution to study Microbiology. "Here in school, I think I would have had a lot of difficulty adjusting because a lot of our learning and research is electronic. We even use a variety of software as Microbiologists. On top of that, I am supporting myself here through a simple logic we learnt in our entrepreneurship classes; which is solving problems in your immediate environment in order to make money. Power (electricity) is a huge problem in Nigeria, especially for students who need to read all the time. I make reading lamps which is in high demand. In only seven weeks, PIN gave me all I need to move on with my life and succeed."





#### **CHISOM JAMES MADUAKWOR**



efore coming to Paradigm Initiative Nigeria in 2012, Chisom worked in a soap factory. But he was very eager to improve his earnings and in essence his life. He even attended a few seminars on entrepreneurship, trying to start a business of his own, but he did not feel as though he had anything with which he could pursue a different direction from the trainings. "I always depended on a friend to do the basic things on the computer like browsing the internet and typing. He was the one who introduced me to PIN, he convinced me to partake in the AiequnleLIFE program.



PIN prepared me for the opportunities I had been looking for. Now I am assured of the future





Chisom learnt to be proficient on the computer, using the Microsoft Productivity Tools, he also learnt to design using Corel Draw and became very familiar with the internet. He enjoyed the life-skills classes very much. For someone who had been beaten by life, he found it rather encouraging. At the end of the program, Chisom was certain he wanted to focus on his music career. He was no longer interested in living from hand to mouth. He started looking for

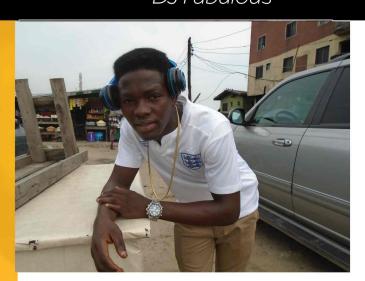
opportunities.

Today, Chisom is enrolled in a two- year diploma course in Music, he is currently on scholarship granted by the MTN Foundation (MTNF). He is also a student of the Musical Society Of Nigeria. "PIN prepared me for the opportunities I

Foundation (MTNF). He is also a student of the Musical Society Of Nigeria. "PIN prepared me for the opportunities I had been looking for. Now I am assured of the future." He says.



# **FATAI JUBRIL** "DJ Fabulous"



Before AjegunleLIFE, Fatai was an aspiring DJ who mostly practiced in his home to the entertainment of his siblings and friends. He also helped his father with his retail drinks business "I was always full of self-doubt and had this plaguing thought that I wouldn't be able to succeed at anything. But going to the program changed Fatai a great deal. The skills he acquired helped him improve his confidence and the entrepreneurship and life-skills classes taught him that success wasn't a function of luck

I was always full of self-doubt and had this plaguing thought that wouldn't be able to succeed at anything





"I now know the things I had to do in order to succeed." He said. After the program, Fatai launched his DJ skills outside his home. He was determined to make a career of it and he began to bid for jobs. Today, Fatai is making a success of his DJ business and also studying mass communication at the National Open University Nigeria (N.O.U.N.) and is popularly known in his community as DJ Fabulous.

He has played at numerous wedding ceremonies, birthday parties and anniversaries. "I have PIN to thank for making me a man everyone loves to listen to."

#### **GABRIEL JIMOH**



ABRIEL JIMOH worked as a mobile phone repairer before his contact with the L.I.F.E. program. He had no knowledge of computers and no skills either. But a friend who had been greatly impacted by the training encouraged Gabriel to apply. Gabriel was amazed at how quickly he mastered the skills, especially since he didn't even have the basic knowledge of computers before the training. He mastered packages like Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point easily, but he took to Corel Draw mostly. The Entrepreneurship classes taught Gabriel that he would only make money to the degree that he solves problems.

After his training, Gabriel started volunteering as a trainer, teaching students on how to use Corel Draw. He also interned at DHL Nigeria, where he worked as a Service Desk officer for 6 months.

The Entrepreneurship classes taught Gabriel that he would only make money to the degree that he solves problems.





He is currently volunteering for 9 ineteenworks as one of the co-host of teens show radio program. He also writes for Gineteen magazine and sometimes features on the Gineteen teenager's show on TV. He is currently studying psychology at UNILAG, and he is also a recording artist.

"PIN's intervention in Ajegunle has had the greatest impact on my life so far. It gave me the inspiration and confidence to be the extraordinary person I am today. I cannot thank PIN enough." He says.

#### **OGAH JACOB**

fter his secondary school education, Jacob took to the streets with some friends job-hunting. He got a job as a factory worker, but could only bear it for three months. "It drained me." He said in retrospect. "It was an inhumane condition to work in."



He got to know about the AjegunleLIFE program on a Sunday morning after church service through his youth leader. He picked up the enrollment form immediately and did not regret it. The program changed his life.

He got to know about the AjegunleLIFE program on a Sunday morning after church service through his youth leader. He picked up the enrollment form immediately and did not regret it. The program changed his life.

Immediately after the program, Jacob launched a small photography business, JOE-D CONCEPTS. As the business grew, he added video coverage services. "I learnt from the entrepreneurship classes to push the boundaries. Now I do something respectable which I enjoy, and I am raising enough money for myself in order to further my education"





I learnt from the entrepreneurship classes to push the boundaries. Now I do something respectable which I enjoy, and I am raising enough money for myself in order to further my education

## **JOSHUA NWOSU**

oshua came across Ajegunle L.I.F.E training at a time when he was desperately job hunting in order to save enough money to pay for his entrance examination into the higher institution.



"The first time I heard of the training was from my father but I was too desperate to spend all that time not earning anything. But then, my brother enrolled and as I saw the changes in him, I said to myself that I don't have any other choice but to go for this program because I knew it would change my life like my brother's." Joshua said.



I can't believe how radically my life has changed," he said. "I am so grateful I did the right thing and came to the L.I.F.E. program







But after his training, Joshua did not spend much time looking for another job. He made a decision to become a freelancegraphic designer. He started to source for jobs, trained himself further and trained others too. "I can't believe how radically my life has changed," he said. "I am so grateful I did the right thing and came to the L.I.F.E. program."

### **JOY IKECHUKWU**



oy had just finished secondary school when her sister introduced her to PIN's AjegunleLIFE program and advised her to pick up the form. Joy fidgeted a lot on the first day. She was scared of spoiling something as she had never operated a computer before. But now, she couldn't be more confident.





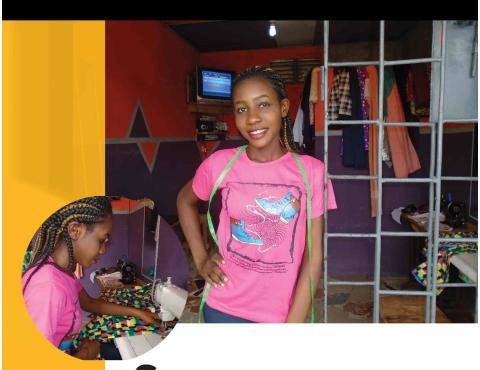
After the training, Joy started her own business; ADORN.' She makes beautiful bead earrings, necklaces, and bracelets and she has enjoyed good patronage. "I now earn income every day. I have PIN to thank for showing me the bright side of life."





The classes restored my confidence in my future.
All I had to do was develop good habits

# **OSAKWE STEPHINIE**



tephanie was idling away before her encounter with the AjegunleLIFE training. She was introduced to the program by a friend who purchased the enrollment form for her because he did not fancy her idleness.

I am proud to be a business owner, and I know I will build my business gradually, but I will never be idle or broke again The program greatly impacted Stephanie. She has never been idle since the program. She was eager to practice everything she learnt in the entrepreneurship classes and gain some independence.

So following AjegunleLIFE training, Stephanie enrolled for training in fashion design. As soon as she finished learning, she started her own practice. "I am proud to be a business owner, and I know I will build my business gradually, but I will never be idle or broke again." She says excitedly.



#### **ONOME FASINA**



I saw that improving my chances in life would be all about improving my skills and my attitude. Learning and having to write a business plan also opened my mind to a wide range of business opportunities



Onome was excited about all aspects of the training and soaked in as much information as she could. "I saw that improving my chances in life would be all about improving my skills and my attitude. Learning and having to write a business plan also opened my mind to a wide range of business opportunities."

After the program, Onome got a job with Arch Vision Work Group Limited as an Admin assistant.

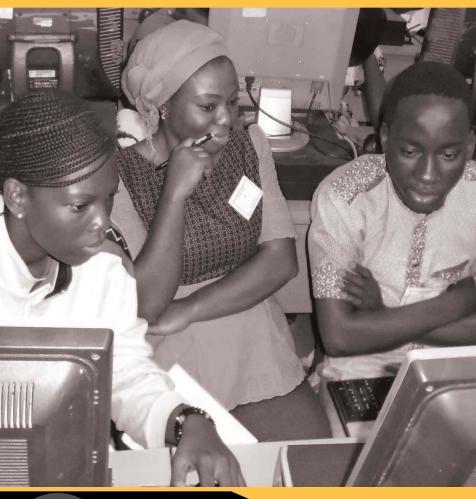
She found the ICT skills she had learnt very relevant to her work and the communication skills she learnt during the soft skill classes also came in guite handy.



Currently, Onome is a student at the University of Benin, studying Economics and Statistics Education. She continues to attribute her progress to the intervention she got from the AjegunleLIFE training.



I could type, but I couldn't do anything else.
Yet I was hungry for knowledge







# **DAKATA** Innovation Centre

#### **OPENS JANUARY 2016!**

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