

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

It is a distinct honour and privilege to address you, as the Founder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Osita Chifumnaya Disabilities Foundation. This is a moment to celebrate courage and progress and most importantly, to reflect on the impact of our dedication to humanity in the lives of the people we serve—our future leaders, dreamers and changemakers - our children with disabilities.

The story behind the conception of the Foundation has engraved perpetuity of purpose on the Foundation and will continuously drive our underlying objectives as well as our core values. We are building a community that carries a beacon of love, joy and kindness and as a family, we are committed to ensuring that children with disabilities get a chance to be fulfilled achievers in the big circle of life. We see ourselves more as a family than as a foundation, because in a family, love is universal and we are poised to create environments and opportunities for every child, regardless of physical ability, where they can feel valued, because they just like anyone, deserve to be happy.

In line with our vision and mission, we have initiated programs and projects across communities in Nigeria and the United States. Donations in cash and kind have been pledged and fulfilled, but we intend to do more. We have laid out a “**plan of projects**” to be commenced fully in 2025. We envisage a positive outcome as it is with journeys of this kind, we also expect some hurdles both financially and otherwise. As a Nigerian, a popular adage comes to mind “***Na cooperation de make rice full pot***”. Our aim is to ensure that children with disabilities smile, and believe that they too can stand in society. However, we know that we cannot do this alone, and we are open to collaborate with other foundations and organizations to grow and nurture an inclusive world for these kids. Nothing should defeat the purpose of an extra smile in the world.

I would like to thank all the members of the Board of Trustees for the gracious opportunity given to me to lead this team of selfless, illustrious and industrious personalities. I recognize their individual and collective efforts and I congratulate them as their efforts, even from inception, are already evidenced in the lives of the kids that we have been able to reach out to. They have stood tall in the midst of all obstacles to ensure that this Foundation is a reality. If I were to do it all over again, I would do it with them. I also commend the contributions of other champions who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the success of this foundation.

Our Foundation is delighted at its purposes, and is invigorated by the strides it is making.
The world will be a better place, and as a family, we will play our role in it.

With more smiles, we will spread love.

May God bless us all.

Mrs. Aisha Okpa

Founder and Chairman, Board of Trustees

Osita Chifumnaya Disabilities Foundation