

# OGAV - Ornaments of Grace and Virtue 2021 Annual Report

## 2021 YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

It is with much excitement and gratitude I review the progress and momentum Ornaments of Grace and Virtue Int. Organization (OGAV) achieved in 2021. This year 2021 has been a successful year; OGAV attained a **charitable status** in December - much long awaited for. Nevertheless, we are very happy at the news. The year continued with challenges of the global pandemic. These challenges lead us into an improved digital virtual world.



Having the right leadership with the right mind set to set the stage for great success and an accomplished year. This was the target going into 2021. We continued with the two years strategic plans made in 2019, i.e., expand the program to reach out to the girls in the community in a more consistent way and seek for funding from agencies to support the program.

## ABOUT US

OGAV is a Charitable Organization passionate about nurturing, mentoring and empowering girls to become, and remain independent, responsible and productive young women in society. Through nurturing and mentoring, girls can become independent, responsible and valuable people that affect society in a positive way.



## MISSION

The mission is to develop independent, responsible, young girls through character building, mentorship, and acquisition of knowledge, skills and ethics needed to thrive in the 21st century global economy.



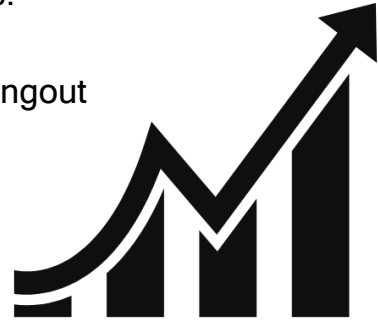
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## GROWING AND LEARNING

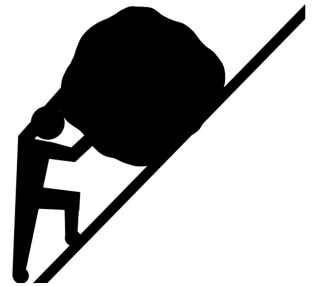
OGAV added a new trustee on board – Mrs. Barbara Sowah-Collins. She is a public health professional that is passionate in supporting our health and wellness program through the weekly virtual Girls hangout initiative.

Significant achievements were made in several key areas through our focus on our strength, opportunities that avail themselves to us, our weaknesses/challenges as a body and what threatens our success.



### Identified Challenges

- Trustees Professional Development
- A good opportunity to build skills and connection
- A good understanding of governance and strategic building
- Lack of funding for programs
- A need to connect with Agencies
- Build better relationship with the Community - Participating in bigger awareness community events



### WHAT WE WERE ABLE TO DO

The year 2021 was a slow return to normalcy. There was no in person activity due to the lock down. We had our first virtual event, the Mother Daughter event that was globally attended thanks to Zoom and successfully launched a care pack initiative for over 1000 girls of Agege public secondary schools, a low income community of Lagos State, Nigeria.

We started to implement the two year Organization plan

We started to work on our challenges that were reachable while due to the pandemic lock down we were not able to attend to others



## OGAV SUPPORT AND PROMOTE ADVANCEMENT OF GIRLS EDUCATION



We promote and advance girl's education through "Empowerment Learning series Initiative" for girls and young women

Today's young generations have more paths to success than ever, but they also deal with more challenges, more risks, more dangers. So we teach, encourage and mentor them to:

• **ASPIRE** - ambition can become a reality with the right mind set.

- **WE EMPOWER** - We empower students with the tools and virtues to excel
- **ACHIEVE** - taught to set goal and accomplish them

Standards for excellence are our backbone curriculum. It informs everything we teach.

### Developed and improved Program quality

#### Empowerment learning series initiative

We promote and advance girl's education through - "Empowerment Learning series Initiative" for girls and young women with support from their families. The Girl's club is a socio-academic club that is student centered and focused. It gives an impactful experience for a positive outcome



- We were able to reach out to more girls about 60 young girls through our events; the turnout was very impressive with a positive feed back
- We have successfully established and run a weekly virtual Girls club borne out of pandemic adversity as a way to adapt to lock down changes

### Outreach events, Impact and Influence

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the efforts of the Trustees. It was a pandemic year where we all learned new ways to adapt to the changes and challenges we all face.

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## Annual Spring Event

Mother Daughter Event held in March to commemorate the International Women's Day with the goals of:

- A. Reaching more youth to gain a better understanding of how to meet their needs and foster a good relationship at home
- B. Building relationships to foster better academic achievements and social skills with the girls
- C. For OGAV to be effective we need to start where it is most important, that is home. Statistically, it has been proven that girls succeed and thrive when they have good support at home.



### Debrief and feedback on Mother-Daughter Event

A successful event; Turnout was impressive; Discussions were engaging and empowering; Participants enjoyed a variety of activities provided and the meaningful discussions on how to build mother-daughter relationships.

### Specific feedback/reviews from participants:

"I liked how the guest speaker spoke about women's power to make changes such as gaining right to votes and equal pay"

We had an interesting ages 18-35 group with discussion on this event being a great way for women to connect in communities"

"Education is a pathway to transformation of change and growth and the discussion today showed that we all have that same shared experience, even our guest speakers"

"Thank you OGAV for bringing us together and we would appreciate connecting even more than once a year"

### Citizen Girls – Youth in Action

A project focused on building political leadership in young Canadian and Nigerian marginalized women through. This project is funded by Alumni engagement Innovative Fund (AEIF) US Department of State.

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OGAV was invited by AEIF alumni team that is being sponsored by AEIF 2020 of U.S. government-sponsored international exchange programs to support public service projects to collaborate with them along with other partners the Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment and Carisma4U Educational Foundation in Nigeria.

## **International Project – Care Pack Initiative**

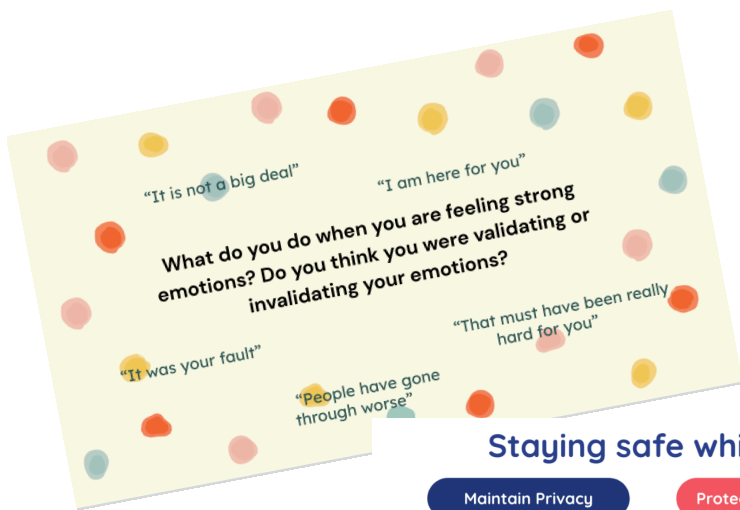
The project purpose is to distribute care packages of personal, hygiene products (reusable sanitary pads), dry food products and health and wellness workshop to 1000 girls of Agege public secondary schools. A low income area of Lagos State, Nigeria. This helps address the impacts of COVID - 19 on youth who have faced increase challenges to obtain hygiene maintenance products and barriers to mental health support as a result of the pandemic. A Resource booklet - Blooming in Adversity - was put together to support the program.



## **Blooming in Adversity – Virtual Weekly Meetings**

A weekly virtual program was set up to encourage teenagers to be more interactive to alleviate stress for good mental health and well being through a virtual program. It is a virtual location that is open to all girls in primary/middle and secondary schools. In the sessions, usually mentors (known as facilitators) guide the participants through a selected topic of the week in the form of discussion, presentation, and occasionally games or pop quizzes. At the end of the session, there is a lucky draw for the participants presents.

The social connection the girls are able to achieve virtually on Zoom is very important to their well being, both mentally and in their overall wellness and it helps build capacity. This is of the utmost importance now more than ever as there are no longer many after school co-curricular activities to engage them. Providing this platform for them where we have different professionals speak on relevant topics and they have the opportunity to hang out with other girls is essential to their mental health and welfare



### Staying safe while using Social Media

- Maintain Privacy**  
Set your account to "private" (and check other privacy settings).  
Only allow people you know to follow/add you.
- Protect your Identity**  
Personal information is personal for a reason!  
Limit what you share or don't share at all.
- Watch out for Scams**  
Don't accept anything from someone you don't know.  
Watch out for suspicious links/redirects.
- Have strong Passwords**  
Create passwords with a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols.  
update/change passwords when necessary.
- Think twice before you post**  
Anything you post can be shared.  
Just because you deleted something, doesn't mean it's gone for good.
- Avoid posting your location**  
Your followers don't need to know exactly where you are.

## Connect

OGAV became a registered member of Volunteer MBC. This afforded us the opportunity to access volunteers in peel region that supports our events.



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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OGAV outreach to the community in December to support:

1. Women in shelter – TLK Residential Services, Toronto
2. Families in our communities through religious organizations
3. Young women with developmental disabilities

*(OGAV) We are a community building people that is preparing a community of girls for a successful career and life that can in turn change the community positively*



## Donors

They support our vision and mission. They show commitment to help us embrace every opportunity

We are so grateful for your act of kindness and generous donation to our cause. Money was primarily raised through a few individual donations and Board of Trustees. Your donation enabled us to reach our goal.

The Trustees were challenged to live up to their responsibilities of looking for funding for the Organization along with the membership fees set at \$120.00/year

This year has been difficult to raise funds due to the pandemic lock down but turned out to be a very positive year through the support of our initiatives.



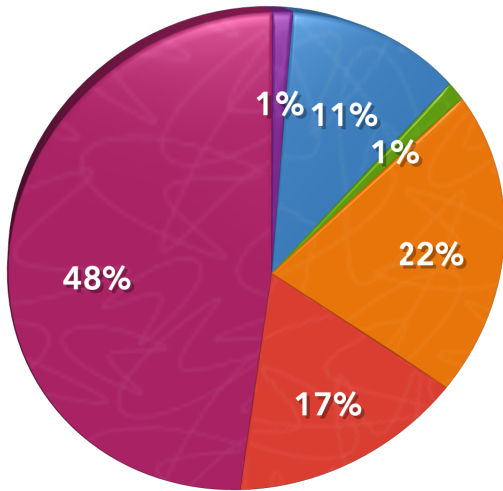
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# FINANCIALS

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DEC.31, 2021 (IN THOUSANDS)

- Amortization Expense
- Bank Charges
- Mother Daughter Event
- Office expenses
- Professional Fee
- Program Expenses



| ASSETS               |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Total Current Assets | \$19,783        |
| Accounts Receivable  | \$0             |
| Capital              | \$506           |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>  | <b>\$20,288</b> |

| LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS  |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Current liabilities       | \$14,271        |
| Net Assets - Unrestricted | \$6,016         |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>  | <b>\$20,288</b> |

These efforts reflect the commitment of OGAV to the communities we serve to close the opportunity gap for those who need us most. Your support is vital making all of these happen. Thank you, once again, for your ongoing support to all our Trustees and our donors at this unprecedented time

We ended 2021 on a strong note looking forward to 2022 for more opportunities for implementation and growth

Busola Kolade  
OGAV CEO

