



## **AFRICAN EDUCATION OUTREACH, INC**

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### **Summer Update: Beating the Heat and Building Futures**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I hope you are having a wonderful summer. Here in Charleston, it has been literally and figuratively hot! While the AEO board is on its summer break, Mike Niermann, Rosemarie Maglietta, James Moore and I have been keeping very busy sourcing Supplies at a Fraction of the Cost. Lately, I have been acquiring school supplies from various school districts and government surplus sales.



Mike and I recently found ourselves in Iva and Starr, South Carolina, loading up heavy cafeteria tables. We have also become frequent fliers at the local Air Force Base, where I have been buying high-quality kitchen equipment—everything from an industrial gas stove to trays, cups, plates, pots, and kitchen racks.

Rosemarie and I are currently sourcing a shipping container to load all of these supplies and ship them directly to our school. You might wonder why we don't just buy these items locally near the school. The truth is, by purchasing high-quality surplus goods here, we are spending only a tiny fraction of what it would cost to buy them over there.



### **Celebrating Our Very First Graduates:**

Back at the school, it has been nothing but good news! Our very first graduating class has made us incredibly proud. All 12 of our seniors passed their exams with flying colors and those whose family can afford it will soon be heading to college. Two kids from this graduating class have high school diploma because of our support. For six years we carried them on full scholarship.

Due to the harsh economic situation the country is currently facing, the government has restricted large graduation ceremonies and fanfare to avoid putting financial burdens on parents. However, since this is our historic first graduating class, we requested and received special permission to hold a low-key ceremony. We will combine this celebration with our new academic inaugural Mass in September, meaning our graduates will return to campus to be honored.



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## Solar and Construction Progress:

We recently held a 50/50 raffle to support our efforts to install a new solar station at the school. The raffle was a huge success, and we are deeply grateful that most of the winners generously donated their prize money back to our cause! We have already acquired the solar materials, and installation will begin when I return home in August.

Finally, we have officially broken ground on our new kitchen and cafeteria. That project is moving rapidly; the building structure is already at deck level. We hope to start pouring the concrete decking just as soon as we are able to send the next round of funds. Let's keep it going! I will be on my way to Nigeria this August to see the project myself and to visit with my 98yrs old mother, Angelina.



Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we change these students' lives together. We cannot do this without your support. I leave you with the words of St Paul, "Do not grow weary in doing what is good" (1Thes.3:13).

Blessings to you.

Fr JohnBosco Ikemeh

