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CCC Old Girls Association

USA/Canada Chapter

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Press Release: Project Arise – 2016 Annual Reunion/Fundraising

The Cornelia Connelly College (CCC) Old Girls Association, USA/Canada holds its 2016 Annual Reunion and Fundraising Banquet in Arizona. This year's theme is Project Arise, an effort to raise funds to purchase dormitory beds for Cornelia Connelly College, an all-girls boarding school in Uyo, Nigeria. The Reunion is scheduled for November 11-13, 2016 in Arizona, USA, but the fundraising banquet will hold at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the Holiday Inn & Suites, 1600 S. Country Club Drive, Mesa, Arizona, 85210. A block of rooms has been reserved at the hotel for out-of-town guests.

The Cornelia Connelly College (CCC) Old Girls Association, USA/Canada draws its membership from alumni of CCC resident in all 50 States of the United States and Canada. It is an incorporated non-profit charitable organization with the following goals:

- To contribute to the rehabilitation of the academic and physical infrastructure of CCC;
- To mentor current CCC students and serve as positive role models;
- To build multigenerational networks of friendship and sisterhood among members.

Project Arise was chosen for the 2016 fundraising season because though CCC is a boarding school, more than 80% of the students are day students and many walk many miles daily to and from school. This situation impacts negatively on discipline, moral standard and overall academic performance of students in the school. While there are numerous factors for the high percentage of day students in the school, lack of beds has been identified as critical. Indeed, of those who are

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boarding, as many as three students share beds meant for one while others sleep on blankets on the floor, hence Project Arise (from the floor).

Project Arise is a continuation of the Association's efforts to give back to a school that provided the foundation for the members. Last year, the group collaborated with other CCC alumni in Abuja, Nigeria to donate dining tables and benches to the school. And on June 29, 2016, they donated items worth N2.2 million (approximately \$7,000) to the school computer labs.

According to the president of the association, Prof. Patience Akpan-Obong, the "extent to which we can continue to partner with the school in creating solutions depends on the level of support (financial and material) that we receive from alumni, friends, families, and well-meaning, girl-education-supporting members of the public during our fundraising events, and throughout the year."

She is therefore calling on everyone, especially those in the United States and Canada (as well as Nigeria and Europe), to support the association by attending the fundraising banquet on Nov. 12. In addition, people can participate in any or all of the following ways:

- Advertisement in the program brochure: \$100 for a full-page advert (N20, 000 if you are in Nigeria). This is a good medium for people to advertise small and medium-scale businesses, products or services, or simply to send goodwill messages to the Association or an individual member/official.
- Donation of items for raffling: The group does online raffling before the Reunion weekend and during the Banquet. Prof. Akpan-Obong said "we welcome gift baskets – spa, stationery, food items, services (such as massage, hair-styling, make-up, manicure, etc)."
- Donation of services such as DJ-ing, photography and/or video coverage during the banquet.
- Donation of bunk beds: A bunk bed in Nigeria currently costs about N22, 000. This is a great way for those in Nigeria to support even if they can't go to Arizona.
- Cash donation toward Project Arise.

Prof. Akpan-Obong stressed that "all funds raised at the fundraising event will go directly to Project Arise." She added that tax-deductible receipts are available on all monetary and material donations to the organization.