

From Lemon to Lemonade

Experiences, Challenges and Successes

Joseph Augustine
(Rotary Peace Fellow from Nigeria)



Brief about Joseph

- Born in 1990 into a large extended family with 12 children.
- Holds a Bachelors in Economics
- World Literacy Ambassador
- Skilled in Graphics design/Media consulting
- Experience: NGO (Youth, Community, Humanitarian)
- Married (19th February 2022)
- Favorite quote: “It can only get better”





Brief about Nigeria

- The British colonized Nigeria
- Date of independence: 1 October 1960
- Abuja, is the capital & English is the official language.
- Population size. Estimated to be 210 Million
- The Yoruba tribe in Nigeria has the most number of twins per 1,000 people worldwide.
- Agriculture is the primary occupation of 70% of Nigerians.





Cultural Shock in Sweden

- Everybody drinks coffee (Fika)
- In Uppsala there are more bicycles than cars
- Swedish people turned out to be nicer than I expected



My journey to contributing to make lives better

- Founded a youth led initiative Verve Megaminds Network (January 2013) to help young people find purpose, pursue their dreams and contribute to societal growth.
- From 2014 - 2019 we successfully implemented six charitable projects that had a significant impact on over 3,000 people.
- Implemented a project during the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020, MESA (Making Education Sustainable and Accessible), that helped 500 children in 11 communities across three states in Nigeria to continue their education.

Source of funding

Personal savings, Friends and Volunteers.





WHY ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIP

A strong desire to contribute to finding sustainable solutions to problems stifling development in Africa motivated me to apply for the rotary peace fellowship.

EXPECTATIONS FROM THE PROGRAM

To learn new things regarding varying methodologies for initiating and implementing programmes that seek to address issues of poverty, inequality, gender-based violence, and other humanitarian issues touching on the needs of young people, women, and persons with disabilities.



LIFE GAVE ME LEMON, I TURNED IT INTO LEMONADE

Knowing that I had to work harder than everyone else led me to be the person that I am today.

My experience growing up instilled in me the need to make the world a better place, and as such, I have been committed to programs that would further develop my view of a better world.



A young child with dark skin and short hair is smiling broadly, showing their teeth. They are holding a white rectangular sign with both hands. The sign has the words "THANK YOU" written in large, black, capital letters. The background is a light-colored, textured wall, possibly made of concrete or stone. In the upper left corner, there is a small, partially visible sign with text that is mostly illegible but appears to include words like "Became", "Actor", "Man", "Former", "Male", "Famous", "Fitz", "Admiral", "Woman", "Other", "Prince", "Lion", "Prince", "Famous", "Prince".

