



Dear NCN Community,

As we wrap up another year for NCN, it's hard not to reflect on the journey we've been on. **Transition** has been the central theme of the year, guiding our path towards a more sustainable operational model, all while remaining fiscally responsible and preventing burnout among our dedicated volunteers. In the process, our growing visibility has opened doors to preliminary strategic partnerships with organizations that share our values and mission.

Our membership body has also seen changes. We've grown to approximately 300 unique directory subscribers, with one-third of them being paid registered members, and 191 members actively engaged on our WhatsApp platform. Our ongoing goal is to transition more members to become paying dues members. These nominal dues, as you'll see in the financial summary, support our basic operational costs and relieve the burden on a select few. **To our registered members, thank you for your support.**

In 2022, our focus was on family outings, providing opportunities for deeper connections beyond virtual events and potlucks. We enjoyed activities such as mini-golf, horseback riding, and a St. Patrick's Day outing, as well as a game night and dinner for teenagers. This year, we shifted our focus to a preteen/teen career series roundtable, addressing the need for Nigerian role models in various fields. Our speakers offered a diverse range of career insights beyond STEM. We also provided valuable education on college admissions and financial considerations through a presentation by Bright Horizons. Our community volunteering at a local food bank in Pleasanton was a great success, and we hope to continue this tradition in the future.

Our motto, "**United together we thrive, achieve, grow, and flourish as a community,**" continues to guide our efforts. Our new logo circular design emphasizes this unity. We strongly support registered member-led initiatives, and this spirit was evident in the assistance provided by Mr. Muse to resolve a major issue that kept our website inactive for a month. Member donations beyond dues have been instrumental, and for that, we express our gratitude.

Throughout this journey, we've learned valuable lessons on how to operate as an impactful diaspora community organization, experiencing expected growing pains that contribute to our positive impact on the member community. Our commitment is to continue fostering the organization's growth for the benefit of our community.

On a personal note, 2023 has been a whirlwind year for me, filled with pivotal changes and challenges as our organization evolves. Through it all, I've learned important lessons and gained a deep appreciation for our community. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated board of directors, whose unwavering support has been invaluable. To our committee volunteers, I am grateful for the support you've provided throughout the year.

As we look ahead to 2024, we are excited about the possibilities it holds. We aim to further enhance our value proposition to our members and continue nurturing the spirit of our community. Our plans include expanding our website content (content writers are welcomed!) and increasing our presence on multiple social media platforms to showcase topics, businesses, causes, and opportunities that matter to our organization with both local and global reach. Our call to action is for you to consider supporting in any way you are able to, it truly does take a village!

I, personally, am eager to see what 2024 has in store for our organization. It promises to be a year of **possibilities**. I want to express my gratitude for a wonderful 2023 and extend my warm wishes for a fantastic 2024 to all members of NCN!

Thank you for being an essential part of our community.

Warm regards,

Mary Dosunmu

President, NCN Organization

