Category: Junior Young Anti-Corruption Star
Nominees:

Oyegun Winner

Uchenna

Emilia Terdoo Ako

Elizabeth Titus
Oyegun Winner Uchenna

Name: Oyegun Winner Uchenna
Age: 11
Class: Primary 6
Gender: Male
State: FCT
School: New Beacon International
11-year-old Winner Uchenna had heard the word corruption in the news and in conversations but never really understood how it affected him. Winner was one of the 20,000 children that received two anti-corruption storybooks (Emeka’s Money and Halima’s Vote).

From reading the storybooks, Winner now understood that corruption was bad for society. Inspired by the characters and stories in the book, he decided to speak to people and warn them about the dangers of corruption. He has started spreading anti-corruption messages to students in his school as well as to members of his community. He is determined to see that his schoolmates understand how corruption can affect them.

It was not surprising that when Winner was made a school prefect, he used his position to speak to other students. He spoke about the need to act with integrity for a better Nigeria. Winner has been a great inspiration to both his teachers and students.
Emilia Terdoo Ako

Name: Emilia Terdoo Ako
Age: 8
Class: Primary 3
Gender: Female
State: FCT
School: Michel Nursery & Primary School
Emilia is an 8-year-old girl in Michel Nursery & Primary School Lagos. She is a diligent girl and has always loved to do the right thing. As a result, she was always chosen to write down the names of noisemakers in the class. This was often a challenge for her as she faced social pressure from classmates to omit their names from the list. She did not know how to speak up or stand up for herself. After she read Halima's vote, she was inspired by Halima's boldness in the story to stand up for what is right.

One day, she was asked to write the names of noisemakers as usual, when a boy in her class threatened to beat her up at the close of school if she wrote down his name on the list of noisemakers. Emilia was very scared but inspired by Halima's boldness, she wrote his name on the list and reported him to the teacher.

Beyond this, it was reported that Emilia campaigned against vote selling by telling her classmates and teachers not to vote for people that shared T/Shirts and caps and but to vote for those who would do the right thing in power. She also sang Halima's Vote Song to encourage people not to sell their votes.
Elizabeth Titus

Name: Elizabeth Titus
Age: 9
Class: Primary 5
Gender: Female
State: Kaduna
School: Elijah Paradise Primary School
9-year-old Elizabeth was used to collecting ‘bribes’ in form of money from her friends in exchange for providing them with answers during school tests. After reading our anti-corruption storybooks (Emeka’s Money & Halima’s Vote), Elizabeth realized that collecting gifts to cheat for her friends was a form of bribery. She became committed to getting others to do the right things.

In her words, “If I see someone stealing, I always report so that they can advise the person to stop stealing because stealing is not good.” She was true to her words as she reported a classmate who had eaten her seatmate's food after the culprit had begged the nominee not to report. She also reported another classmate who cheated during a test. This story was confirmed by her class teacher.

Beyond the classroom, Elizabeth’s has been amplifying anti-corruption messaging in her community on the need to do the right thing. She has been discussing the messages in her anti-corruption storybooks with neighbours. Her mother confirmed that she is passionate about doing the right thing. She shared her books with her neighbours and discussed with them.
Category: Senior Young Anti-Corruption Star
Nominees:
Cecilia Eze
Samuel Erioluwa Ajelowo
Zuwaira Oyiza Abdulazeez
Cecilia Eze

Name: Cecilia Eze
Age: 12
Class: JSS2
Gender: Female
State: Lagos
School: Jibowu High School
Cecilia found out that her mother’s employee had been stealing her mother’s money from her store in her absence. When her mother is not around, the employee would buy her nice things to buy her loyalty and because of that, she didn't speak up. Cecilia had been silent about this because she did not understand that she had been bribed and that her actions might cause her mother’s business to fail.

After reading Halima’s Vote, Cecilia understood for the first time how ordinary people could make a difference just by doing the right thing. She felt compelled to report this employee to her mum before things got too bad. She also boldly confronted the employee educating her on doing the right thing. The employee then slapped Cecilia and threatened more violence if she didn't stay quiet.

On hearing all that had happened, Cecilia’s mother fired the employee and was very proud of her daughter's bold action for integrity. Since then, Cecilia's mum says he has been an advocate against vote-buying and has advised her on several occasions not to collect foodstuffs or gifts before voting anyone.

Evidence:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/153K0xExwM7x9or0PlP_Ko87UR52H3c3C/view?usp=sharing
Samuel Erioluwa Ajelowo

Name: Samuel Erioluwa Ajelowo
Age: 11
Class: JSS2
Gender: Male
State: Lagos
School: Ken Ade Sec. School
11-year-old Samuel was one of the recipients of the anti-corruption education classes run by Step U Nigeria. After our session, he became an advocate against vote-buying. During the last class captain election in his school, he told a friend who was campaigning not to give gifts but to speak to the class about the reasons why they should vote for him.

During the physical verification, the team confirmed that Samuel has become very confident in talking about corruption. He is always talking to his friends about integrity and the need to be morally upright under any circumstance. His school principal told us that Samuel confronts anyone that acts contrary to any of the good things he preaches, both at home and at school. On one occasion, Samuel had confronted him in a polite way about a wrong thing he had done as principal.

His father tells us that he is of high moral standard and always acts with integrity. He always stops his siblings from telling lies and tells them to always speak the truth and has nudged his parents also to do the right thing and desist from giving bribes.
Zuwaira Oyiza Abdulazeez

Name: Zuwaira Oyiza Abdulazeez
Age: 13
Class: JSS3
Gender: Female
State: Kaduna
School: T & T Secondary School
Zuwaira is a 13-year-old junior secondary student from Kaduna who is a strong advocate for Integrity in her school. She was one of the 20,000 children that received Yep Up Nigeria’s anti-corruption education classes and books. Stories in the book have inspired her to report bad behaviour. During the last NECO examination in her school, she saw one of her classmates cheating. She asked him to stop cheating or she would report him, but he did not stop so she reported him to the exam coordinator.

Beyond reporting corruption, Zuwaira is also mentoring younger students in her school & at home to adopt good values and shun corrupt behaviour using the anti-corruption story books. She has gone around to the junior classes in her school to encourage them to stop cheating during exams. She also told them to stop collecting bribes and gave them examples of bribery from the storybooks.

The Principal confirmed that she had been a strong advocate and informed us that after the engagement session with Step Up Nigeria, the nominee comes to her office at least once a week to report immoral acts by students in the classroom.
Category: Young Anti-Corruption Star Living with Disability (LWD)
Nominees:
Lauretta Warelador
Philip Fersuwe
Miracle Otobo
Lauretta Warelador

Name: Lauretta Warelador
Gender: Female
School: Modupe Cole Memorial Child Care and Treatment Home
State: Lagos
Lauretta is a 10-year-old a blind girl in Lagos. During the interactive session in her school, Lauretta showed a great interest in the subject of anti-corruption. She committed to taking action by promising to do what was right. In the presence of her classmates and teachers, she said she would not collect a bribe. Lauretta is a confident girl who loves speaking the truth even when others won't. Her teacher confirmed that she was the only person to tell him if something wrong happened in the class. Lauretta attributed her confidence to reading Ansa's Speech. She said Ansa inspired her to be confident in speaking the truth and aspires to travel the world just like Ansa did.

Lauretta has also demonstrated confidence in influencing others to act with integrity. She challenged her friend Rejoice for covering up for another student who broke the school rule. Lauretta advised her that she shouldn't cover up bad behavior. Her friend listened to her.

Evidence: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SWIgl8Mc5W3O-4Pwtj8PBysOSVmel3RG/view?usp=sharing
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Phillip is a deaf and dumb boy who attends the FCT secondary school for the deaf. Many of the students in the school are above the average secondary school age and come from different states in Nigeria to attend school there. Some of them were hidden away by family or were not allowed to school up until now. With these disadvantages, Phillip still chose to do the right thing.

When the Step Up Nigeria team visited his school, one of their teachers read Halima’s Vote to the students using sign language. Phillip understood the teaching and was captivated by Halima’s story. Since then, Phillip has been educating other students about vote-buying and corruption through sign language. He told to his friends not to allow any politician to buy their vote and not to vote for bad people but to vote for those that build good roads, good schools, and good hospitals for their community.
Miracle Otobo

Name: Miracle Otobo
Class: Primary 5
Gender: Female
School: FCT Primary School for the Deaf Kuje
State: FCT
Miracle is a 10-year-old deaf girl from the FCT primary school of the deaf in Kuje. She is a student who is passionate about integrity. Since she read Tosin’s story, one of Step Up Nigeria’s anti-corruption resources, she has been speaking the truth and staying away from wrongdoing.

Her teachers confirmed that miracle now reports wrong actions in her class like cheating, stealing, and breaking school rules. She uses sign language to express her distaste for corrupt behaviour because she believes it is wrong.

She is a person of integrity, tells the truth, and does the right thing.
Category: Young Anti-Corruption Star Out-Of-School (OOS)
Nominee:
Adebowale Israel
Adebowale Israel

Name: Adebowale Israel
Age: 18
Gender: Boy
State: Lagos
Adebowale was one of the out-of-school children that received anti-corruption education. He was a garage boy that chose to live in the streets living a rough life rather than be with his parents. During our session with him, he was passionate and made some insightful contributions. Adebowale believed that until someone with integrity is in a position of power, it might be difficult to make a difference.

Adebowale shared examples of corruption witnessed in the garage which included political thugs victimizing people. Adebowale’s passion to do what is right was further demonstrated when he composed a song with a strong anti-corruption message. His wishes that many people will listen and reflect on it.

Adebowale inspired by the anti-corruption films on the need to act with integrity has reconciled with his parents and has started school again. He is now remorseful and has shown a change of attitude.

Evidence: Adebowale’s Song -
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ypmsad7IuC51qRKCdesJU5OFhcd9sox/view?usp=sharing
Category: Teacher Anti-Corruption Star
Nominees:
Jonathan Otene
Blessing Peter
Jessica Jeremiah
Jonathan Otene

Name: Jonathan Otene
School: BJ Schools
Designation: Head Teacher
Gender: Male
Mr Otene is the Head Teacher for BJ Schools, a low-cost private school in Karu, Abuja. He was part of the pioneer teachers trained by Step Up Nigeria on methods to teach anti-corruption to children in 2019. Since then, the school has welcomed anti-corruption teaching in their school through creative arts classes against corruption. Using the training and teacher’s guide, he trained all the teachers in his school on using creative approaches to teach anti-corruption and has ensured that anti-corruption training is part of the onboarding process for teachers in his school. In 2021, Mr Otene included anti-corruption in their scheme of work for their upper primary classes 4-6 under the security education subject with Halima’s Vote and Emeka’s Money as the recommended texts. His move to incorporate anti-corruption teaching into the official scheme of work for the school ensures that it will be taught whether he is the school's administrator.

Seeing their example, BJ schools has inspired many other schools in FCT to institutionalize anti-corruption teaching into their daily learning.

A teacher in his school, Mrs. Margaret mentioned that Mr. Jonathan told all the teachers to join Step Up Nigeria's online training for teachers during their meeting. She also said that Mr. Jonathan has an intense distaste for corruption and is very passionate about anti-corruption education.

Evidence: Link to Scheme of Work
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14JmN9KS7K9Vox5eUxNH5naLSKrzfVg1y?usp=sharing
Blessing Peter

Name: Blessing Peter  
School: Midabright School  
Designation: Proprietress  
Gender: Female
Mrs Blessing Peter is the zonal coordinator for AFED Ikorodu and a one-time public office holder who lost her seat for councillorship because she did not have a godfather. She is well known in Ijede community where she hails as someone who shuns immoral acts. Mrs Peter enrolled in Step Up Nigeria’s online teacher’s training program because she loved the idea of anti-corruption training for schools. She had always wanted anti-corruption to be taught in her community which she described as one of the most dangerous places in Lagos. Due to her strong passion to amplify anti-corruption messaging, she was excited and willing to facilitate Step Up Nigeria’s access to 5 schools in her community, Mrs Peter also trained teachers on how to teach anti-corruption to children. In addition, using the anti-corruption materials given, anti-corruption education was taught to students in her school.

She believes that Step Up Nigeria's intervention has helped to improve the moral standard in her school as her students are beginning to model the characters in the books. Mrs Blessing Peters informed us this term that anti-corruption education has been infused into subjects like social studies and civic education. Furthermore, the anti-corruption storybooks are being used as a moral guide for the children during the assembly by using Halima’s song from Halima's vote as a marching song to depart from the assembly. The song which she also taught to students during summer school.

Jessica Jeremiah

Name: Jessica Jeremiah
State: Kaduna
School: Gracey Private Sch
Designation: Head Teacher
Gender: Female
Jessica Jeremiah is a teacher from Gracey Private School. She was one of the teachers trained on teaching anti-corruption education to children. She has adopted the use of creative methods to teach anti-corruption education by using drama to teach students about the negative aspects of exam malpractice.

She is passionate about anti-corruption education and is an advocate for anti-corruption education in her school and speaks to other teachers about it. She stated that she had always taught integrity before the encounter with the team but only got to know the different creative techniques that can be used in teaching anti-corruption education after Step Up Nigeria came to her school. She is using anti-corruption education every time she has any contact with the students.

Evidence:
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1xJ1CKBHSAILZP11tnIINPZ0MZ5kUe0qX

and a link to her conducting a session with her students -
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q8ZoBfpHo87oR8xg4tuhfF8JNL8DUOvx/view?usp=sharing
Category: Media Anti-Corruption Star
Nominees:
Carl Raccah
Abiodun Alao
Bettina Nwelih
Carl Raccarah

Name: Carl Raccarah
Organization: Pineapple TV, Lagos
Designation: Founder
Gender: Male
Carl is the founder of Pineapple Television Station. Pineapple TV showcases fun and educative content for children and families. He is passionate about using media to inspire positive behaviour in children. He heard about Step Up Nigeria when he watched the trailer of our anti-corruption movie Emeka’s Money. Since then, Carl has shown relentless passion in rolling out more content to educate children on integrity.

He is passionate about educating the future generation on resisting corruption. He has shown this through his willingness to air Step Up Nigeria's anti-corruption films on his mainstream television for free. His television station has roughly 2 million subscribers. He regularly seeks out Step Up Nigeria to showcase our storytelling content to educate more children and adults via his platform for free.

More recently, he developed a new story series on their channel called 'I'll Tell You A Story' where celebrities have read our four anti-corruption storybooks for children families to watch at no cost to us. For Carl, catching them young by educating children with good values will create the Nigeria we need.
Abiodun Alao

Name: Abiodun Alao
Organization: The Nations Newspaper. Lagos
Designation: Journalist
Gender: Male
Abiodun is a journalist at the Nations newspaper. He was selected by his team to cover the Halima's Vote film launch in Lagos. His feature on the Nations about the event was well captured as he interviewed key people at the event and shared an elaborate remark about the film. After the event, Abiodun was so impressed by Step Up Nigeria's work that he requested a meeting with the team to seek further collaboration.

During the meeting, Abiodun assured us that he would be happy to receive press releases from Step Up Nigeria and publish it on the Nations at no cost to Step Up Nigeria. He also suggested Step Up Nigeria partners with the Nations TV which has more than a million active followers on Facebook so that our anti-corruption messages can reach more people.

He has commenced discussion with the editor of the Nations TV to finalize arrangements but was unable to complete the process because he went undercover to cover a story. Notwithstanding, he assured the Step Up Nigeria team of his commitment to getting his editor to approve our request.
Bettina Nweli

Name: Bettina Nweli
Organization: Correct FM, Lagos
Designation: OAP
Gender: Female
Bettina is an OAP on Correct FM who hosts the 'Una Gud Morning Show with Bettyana'. She was one of the first media champions that accepted to partner with Step Up Nigeria in the initial stage of the ACESC project. Through her, Step Up Nigeria has appeared on the Correct FM show five times at no cost to Step Up Nigeria. She has remained committed, supporting the organization to achieve its cause. She has also facilitated direct relationships with other media personnel so that our anti-corruption message could reach more people.

For instance, she introduced the team to the Correct person at Correct FM who is the moderator of a show for children. This relationship allowed Step Up Nigeria two consistent shows with Correct person on the platform. She also spoke with her colleagues in other radio stations encouraging them to work with Step Up Nigeria and conversations have begun with some of such stations.

Bettina is passionate about Step Up Nigeria's approach of using storytelling techniques to tackle corruption and because of that Step Up Nigeria is always called upon when related topics are up for discussion on her show.
Thank you!