



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**CandleLight Foundation for
Children With Special Needs**

www.candlelightspecialneeds.org

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ABOUT US

Who We Are

We are a non-profit organization committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of children with special needs, as well as their parents and caregivers. We understand the unique challenges faced by these children and their families, and we are dedicated to providing comprehensive support for their overall well-being.

Our Vision

Our vision is a world where every child, regardless of their exceptionalities, is recognized, celebrated, and provided with the opportunities and resources they need to succeed. We aspire to be a guiding light on their journey to fulfilling lives.

Our Mission

Our mission is to empower and support children with special needs, especially children with Autism, ADHD, and Dyslexia, along with their parents and caregivers. We aim to create a nurturing environment that fosters the individual potential of these children, allowing them to shine and thrive.

FROM THE DESK OF OUR COUNTRY MANAGER

I extend my sincere appreciation to the board, staff, volunteers, and partners of CLSN for your continued dedication and support. Your collective commitment remains the backbone of the Foundation's growth and impact.

In November, we celebrated our 3rd anniversary, a milestone that reflects three years of meaningful impact, learning, and steady progress in improving the lives of children with special needs and their families. Over this period, CLSN has remained committed to its mission to empower families and strengthen care systems within our communities.

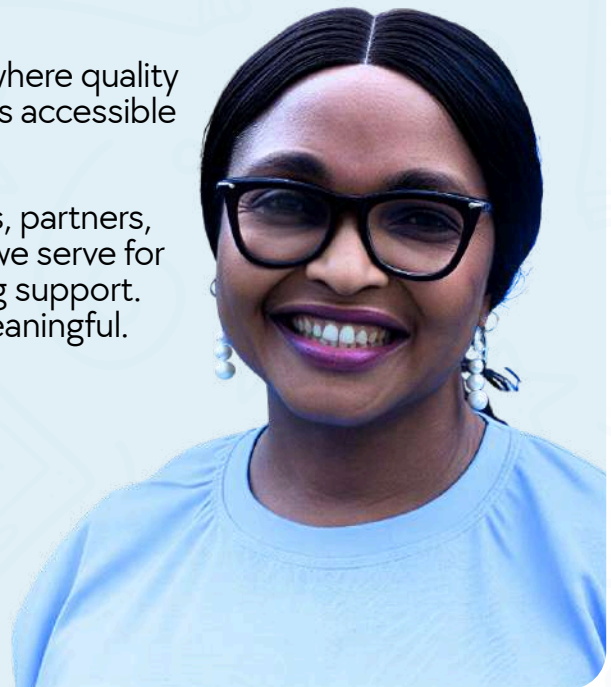
A key highlight of our work is the WeTSR Program (we Train, Support, and Reward). Through this initiative, we equip parents with the skills to serve as their child's first therapist, provide essential support through access to medication and professional therapists, and recognize parents for their dedication and progress. This holistic approach continues to foster confidence and improved outcomes for the children we serve.

As we look ahead, CLSN remains focused on strategic growth and long-term impact. Our goals are centred on strengthening partnerships, improving program delivery, and ensuring that our interventions remain scalable, accountable, and sustainable over time.

We are committed to building a future where quality support for children with special needs is accessible and inclusive.

I would like to sincerely thank our donors, partners, staff, volunteers, and the communities we serve for your trust, collaboration, and unwavering support. Together, we are building something meaningful.

MRS CHINWE OJINNAKA
Country Manager



MEET OUR TEAM

The management, therapists, caregivers, social work team, operations team, digital development team, media team, programme team, volunteers, and support staff of Candlelight Foundation stand united by one purpose. We show up each day with compassion, discipline, and a deep sense of responsibility toward children with special needs. Our shared commitment creates an environment where every child is seen, valued, and supported with dignity.

We work as one system, not separate parts, combining our strengths to create stability, progress, and hope. Our collaboration builds opportunities for growth, inclusion, and brighter futures for the children and families we serve. Through our collective effort, we help shape a more understanding world where children with special needs are given the care, support, and chance they deserve.



2025 IN REVIEW



AUTISM AWARENESS OUTREACH

Reach: Over 3000 people

FOOD AID PROGRAM

Reach: 100 families



AUTISM & NEURODIVERSITY AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Reach: Over 5000 people

ANTI-STIGMATIZATION EVENT, SOKOTO STATE

Reach: 150 caregivers



SPARK THE FLAME

Reach: Over 100 school pupils

WETSR PROGRAM & OUTCOMES

THERAPEUTIC CARE

In 2025, our Therapy Team supported 164 children with special needs and their families across 21 states in Nigeria and one location abroad. Using our Parent-as-Therapist (WeTSR) model, we helped families build practical skills that led to real improvements in communication, behaviour, learning, and independence. Beyond therapy sessions, we also speak up for children with special needs by promoting understanding, acceptance, and inclusion in homes, schools, and communities.

Beneficiaries served in 2025 - 164 children

- 16 children received direct, in-person therapy sessions.
- 148 children received therapy through the WeTSR (Parent-as-Therapist) model, where parents delivered daily therapy with ongoing guidance and supervision from professional therapists. This blended approach allowed us to reach families in many locations while keeping therapy personalised and effective.

Therapy Sessions & Support

Therapy was delivered consistently throughout the year. Daily therapy activities took place across approximately 260 active therapy days. Weekly check-in meetings were held throughout the year to:

- Review each child's progress.
- Support parents and caregivers.
- Adjust goals and strategies when needed.

This regular contact helped families stay supported and confident.

Services Offered

Our services were tailored to each child's needs and delivered in simple, practical ways:

- **Behavioural Therapy** - Helped children manage behaviour, improve attention, follow routines, and regulate emotions.
- **Speech Therapy** - Supported children to communicate more effectively using words, gestures, or alternative communication so they could express their needs and connect with others.

- **Feeding Therapy** - Helped children with feeding difficulties feel more comfortable with food, improve nutrition, and develop positive mealtime habits.
- **Cognitive Therapy** - Supported thinking skills such as attention, memory, problem-solving, and learning, especially for children with ADHD and dyslexia.
- **Parent & Caregiver Training** - Equipped parents with clear, step-by-step strategies they could confidently use at home and in daily routines.
- **24/7 Residential Support** (Daily Living & Independence Skills) - Focused on helping children build real-life skills such as:
 1. Personal hygiene and self-care.
 2. Dressing, feeding, and daily routines.
 3. Completing tasks independently.
 4. Managing behaviour in everyday situations.
 5. These supports were individualized based on assessment for each client.

Outcomes

- 75% of our beneficiaries showed meaningful improvements, including:
- Longer attention spans.
- Better emotional and behavioural control.
- Improved communication and social interaction.
- Increased participation in learning activities.
- Greater independence in daily tasks.

Impact on Families, Parents, and Caregivers reported:

- Better understanding of their child's needs.
- Increased confidence in supporting their child at home.
- Stronger collaboration with therapists.

Case Highlights (Anonymised)

- Case 1: A child with low attention and limited peer interaction showed noticeable improvement in focus, behaviour, and classroom participation within one school term after consistent therapy and teamwork between parents, teachers, and therapists.
- Case 2: A child with dyslexia made strong progress in reading, numeracy, and learning confidence, alongside positive behaviour changes at home and school.
- Case 3: A child who struggled with independence became more confident in daily selfcare tasks and routines, showing increased autonomy over time. These stories reflect the progress seen across many families during the year.

SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Throughout the year, our Social Work Department delivered extensive evaluation, intervention, and follow-up services to both new and existing clients.

A total of 92 evaluation sessions were concluded, ensuring timely assessment and continuity of care. In addition, 16 HMO review sessions were conducted to support service authorization and client access to medical care.

The department also carried out 10 field visits to strengthen community-based follow-up and 3 condolence visits, providing psychosocial support to affected families. To enhance knowledge sharing and engagement, the department facilitated 4 webinars for clients and CLSN staff, focusing on psychosocial support, care coordination, and best practices in service delivery.

Parent and Caregiver Capacity Building

Our Social Work Department prioritized parent empowerment and caregiver development. Activities included facilitating Parents' Identification Enhancement, mandating and delivering structured parent training sessions, and conducting specialized training for five (5) H3 caregivers to improve caregiving competence and adherence to care standards.

Nutrition and Meal Plan Services

As part of holistic client care, the department designed and implemented 77 individualized meal plans tailored to client needs. These were supported by 71 meal plan review meetings, ensuring regular monitoring, feedback, and necessary adjustments in collaboration with clients and caregivers.

Support Residence Services

The department provided comprehensive supervision and support services for 8 clients at the CLSN Support Residence. This included daily supervision, documentation, and reporting through the RethinkBH platform, ensuring accurate tracking of client progress and well-being.

The team ensured caregivers consistently maintained quality care in line with CLSN residence policy. Monthly supply of supplements and adherence to prescribed dosages were closely monitored, alongside the maintenance of daily living routines for all residents.

Clients were supported to participate in daily community activities and engagements, promoting social inclusion and independence. The department also facilitated vocational skills training via the C3 program for all 8 clients, contributing to functional skill development and future readiness. Collaboration with our Therapy and Operations teams was sustained throughout the year to ensure the smooth running of the support residence facility.

Therapeutic and Psychosocial Interventions

Our Social Work Department continued to deliver structured, evidence-based therapeutic and psychosocial interventions throughout the year. A total of 50 individualized treatment plans were designed and implemented to address the specific developmental, behavioral, and psychosocial needs of clients. In addition, 73 comprehensive psychological assessments were completed to inform diagnosis, care planning, and progress evaluation. The department also carried out 75 counselling sessions, providing targeted emotional, behavioral, and psychosocial support to clients and families.

To improve accessibility and continuity of counselling services, a dedicated WhatsApp counselling channel was created, enabling timely communication, follow-up, and referrals. To strengthen engagement and ongoing support, the department created and managed 105 chatroom engagement sessions, facilitating consistent interaction, psychoeducational support, and support for clients and caregivers.

OTHER PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

In 2025, Candlelight Foundation implemented a wide range of advocacy, awareness, fundraising, and community-support initiatives aimed at improving the lives of children with special needs and their families. Each program was strategically planned and coordinated to maximize impact, ensure cost-efficiency, and strengthen community engagement. This section highlights the key initiatives executed throughout the year 2025.

Spark the Flame – January 24, 2025

The Candlelight Foundation for Children with Special Needs marked the International Day of Education (January 24th) through an initiative called Spark the Flame 2025. The event, which had about a 100 participants, was held in Zolani Kiddies School, a mainstream school that is located in Lagos. The program's components included an interactive seminar, an inclusivity assessment, student and staff engagement, and the distribution of educational guides and resources to students and teachers. A

The Spark the Flame initiative successfully raised awareness about neurodivergence as a spectrum condition and fostered a conversation about the importance of inclusivity in school settings. The school's acknowledgment of neurodivergent students within their community underscores the need for ongoing training and support.

Additionally, through expert-led training sessions, interactive discussions, and real-life case studies, the program equipped educators with the knowledge and strategies needed to foster a more inclusive learning environment. By providing teachers with practical tools, the initiative aimed to empower them to identify, understand, and support students who may be mildly neurodivergent but often go unnoticed.



Autism Awareness Outreach - April 2 & 3, 2025

The 2025 edition of the World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) Campaign was held across multiple states in Nigeria. Themed "Celebrating Differences: Providing Practical Strategies for Autism Support." The campaign featured impactful activities such as awareness walks, flash mobs, and a workshop to promote autism acceptance and inclusion.

With enthusiastic participation from families, educators, medical professionals, and the general public, the campaign reached thousands of individuals and sparked meaningful conversations around neurodiversity. The event was a two-day event which held on the 2nd and 3rd of April 2025

Autism Awareness Walk and Flash Mobs

Held simultaneously in over 10 states of the federation, these walks and performances involved the distribution of informative materials, community mobilization, and engaging visual presentations. Notably, the Lagos walk drew participants from Obalende to Doddan Barracks with significant media visibility. The other states include Lagos, Port Harcourt, Osun, Adamawa, Bauchi, Enugu, Benue, Abuja, Edo, & Sokoto.

Autism & Neurodiversity Awareness Workshop

The Lagos and Osun-Osogbo workshops saw over 300 people in attendance, including therapists, educators, families, and social workers. Sessions featured panel discussions, training on inclusive teaching, and early intervention strategies. High-ranking government representatives and media professionals were also present.

Outcomes

The Lagos and Osun-Osogbo workshops saw over 300 people in attendance, including therapists, educators, families, and social workers. Sessions featured panel discussions, training on inclusive teaching, and early intervention strategies.

- **Public Awareness:** Over 3,000 individuals engaged directly through walks and workshops.
- **Capacity Building:** Educators and parents/caregivers gained practical tools for supporting neurodivergent children.
- **Partnerships Formed:** The campaign fostered new alliances with schools, non-profits, media houses, organizations like Zenith Bank, and health professionals.
- **Community Feedback:** Numerous testimonials highlighted the campaign's emotional, educational, and social value.

The WAAD 2025 Campaign was a resounding success. We are grateful to our headline sponsor, Zenith Bank Plc, partners, invited guests, volunteers, and participants who made this possible. This campaign has brought us closer to a society that celebrates neurodiversity and ensures that no child is left behind.

THE PHOTOS SPEAK



Food Aid Program - May 15, 2025

The Food Aid Program was initiated by Candlelight Foundation for Children with Special Needs to provide essential food support to families within our client network. Recognizing the financial burdens these families often face, especially in maintaining both the medical and daily needs of their children, the program aimed to ease food-related stress and promote well-being. The distribution was carried out in a centrally coordinated manner, allowing for an organized and dignified process that also fostered connection among families.



Outcomes

- Successfully reached all 100 families. The program met its target by ensuring that every identified family received a food package without exclusion.
- Received positive feedback and appreciation from beneficiaries. Families expressed gratitude, with many sharing how timely and helpful the support was to their households.
- Helped relieve food stress for several underprivileged households. The aid provided short-term food security, especially for homes struggling with daily sustenance.
- Strengthened community trust and visibility of the Foundation's work. This initiative reinforced the Foundation's role as a reliable support system for families of children with special needs.

In conclusion, the food aid program has not only addressed immediate nutritional needs but has also laid the foundation for a more resilient and compassionate support system for vulnerable households. Through strategic planning, efficient resource distribution, and a commitment to transparency and accountability, the program has delivered meaningful impact where it is needed most.

This initiative serves as a testament to the power of purposeful collaboration and reaffirms our collective responsibility to safeguard the dignity and well-being of every special individual. Going forward, we aim to build on this momentum, expanding our reach and refining our approach to create lasting change.

Unsung Heroes Program - June 2025

The Unsung Heroes – Siblings Love Day was a special initiative organised by Candlelight Foundation for Children with Special Needs to honour and celebrate the silent sacrifices and valuable roles of siblings of children with special needs. Held on June 21, 2025, at Circle Mall Lagos and across other locations in 13 states. The program brought together siblings of special needs children for a fun-filled day of bonding, entertainment, and recognition. The event served not only as a moment of joy but also as an awareness campaign, highlighting the importance of siblings' support in families navigating special needs care.



Outcomes

- The program successfully met its intended goals, yielding the following outcomes:
- A memorable and inclusive event that created lasting memories and reminded every participant of their unique value.
- Strengthened bonds among participating siblings.
- Increased awareness among the general public and attendees about the emotional and social dynamics within families of children with special needs.
- Improved self-esteem and happiness among the siblings, expressed appreciation for the recognition they received.

The event covered 14 states, which include Lagos, Abuja, Kaduna, Sokoto, Enugu, Anambra, Uyo, Rivers, Akure, Osun, Bayelsa, Benin, Ekiti, Calabar, and Delta. The event further catered to 161 siblings and 92 adults across these locations.

The Unsung Heroes – Siblings Love Day was a heartfelt and highly successful initiative. It provided a platform for recognition, inclusion, and celebration for a group of children whose efforts are often unacknowledged. The Candlelight Foundation remains committed to empowering all members of the special needs community and looks forward to expanding such initiatives in the future.

Ability in Disability Trade Fair & Talent Exhibition

The “Ability in Disability Trade Fair & Talent Exhibition,” held on July 19, 2025, at the Sam Shonibare Community Development Centre, Surulere, Lagos, was a landmark event celebrating the talents and entrepreneurial potential of neurodivergent and neurotypical individuals aged 3–25. Designed to promote inclusivity, showcase skills, foster networking, provide market access, and raise awareness about disability rights, the event brought together 150–200 attendees, including participants, caregivers, corporate representatives, policymakers, and members of the general public.



Outcomes

To further encourage participation and recognize excellence, prizes were awarded to outstanding participants, including first, second, and third place winners. In addition, consolation prizes and gifts were made available to all other participants, ensuring that every child and young person felt recognized, celebrated, and valued. This inclusive approach created a joyful, vibrant, and motivating atmosphere throughout the event, reinforcing confidence, self-expression, and a sense of belonging among all participants.

Overall, the event successfully highlighted abilities over disabilities, leaving participants, caregivers, and attendees inspired and energized.

Anti-Stigmatization Program for Children with Special Needs in Sokoto State - August 23, 2025

The Candlelight Foundation for Children with Special Needs successfully organized an awareness program in Sokoto State to address the stigmatization of children with conditions such as autism, ADHD, and dyslexia. The program aimed to sensitize parents, teachers, caregivers, community leaders, and the general public on the importance of inclusion, acceptance, and equal opportunities for children with special needs. The event recorded active participation, strong media presence, and impactful community engagement.



Outcomes

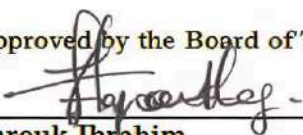
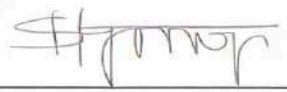
- Improved awareness of the realities of children with special needs.
- Strengthened advocacy network for inclusion in schools and communities.
- Increased community commitment towards reducing stigma.

Participants expressed their profound gratitude to Candlelight Foundation for organizing the program, commending them for their effort in supporting children with special needs and encouraged the Foundation to keep up with the promised interventions.

The Sokoto anti-stigmatization program made a significant impact by fostering greater understanding and empathy towards children with special needs. The Candlelight Foundation remains committed to driving inclusive initiatives that protect the rights and dignity of these children, ensuring that no child is left behind.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2025

	NOTE	2025 Naica	2024 Naica
ASSETS			
<i>Non-current Assets</i>			
Property, plant and equipment	8 a	30,539,728	14,401,720
Total Non-current Assets		30,539,728	14,401,720
<i>Current Assets</i>			
Inventory	11	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents	12	182,167	1,765,915
Total Current Assets		182,167	1,765,915
TOTAL ASSETS		30,721,895	16,167,635
CONTRIBUTION AND LIABILITIES			
<i>Contribution</i>			
Trustees	13	-	-
Net Surplus	14	29,494,669	15,190,409
Total Contribution		29,494,669	15,190,409
<i>Current Liabilities</i>			
Payables	15	1,227,226	977,226
Total Liabilities		1,227,226	977,226
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION AND LIABILITIES		30,721,895	16,167,635
Approved by the Board of Trustee on 12th February 2026 and signed on in behalf by:			
			
Farouk Ibrahim			Manager
			
Chiuwe Ojinnaka			Trustee

Statement of Cashflows for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

	2025 Naira	2024 Naira
Cashflows from operating activities		
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	14,304,261	15,190,409
Adjustment for non-cash items:		
Depreciation & Amortization	7,979,991	2,030,155
Loss on vehicle disposal	-	-
Program and event cash flows before movement in working capital	22,284,252	17,220,564
Changes in assets and liabilities		
Increase/(decrease) in payables	250,000	977,226
Net cash from programs and events activities	22,534,252	18,197,790
Cashflows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(24,118,000)	(16,431,875)
Net cash used in investing activities	(24,118,000)	(16,431,875)
Cashflows from Financing Activities		
Trustees	-	-
Net cash used in financing activities	-	-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(1,583,748)	1,765,915
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1st January	1,765,915	-
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31st December	182,167	1,765,915

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Period Ended 31st December 2025

	NOTE	2025 Naira	2024 Naira
Total Funds Received	4	329,164,087	113,338,960
Cost of Program & Event	5	<u>(226,747,357)</u>	<u>(67,845,127)</u>
Gross Surplus/(Deficit)		102,416,730	45,493,833
General and Administrative expenses	6	(30,071,604)	(15,998,769)
Staff and Related Cost	7	(50,060,873)	(12,274,500)
Depreciation & Amortization	9	(7,979,991)	(2,030,155)
Result from foundation activities		14,304,261	15,190,409
Finance Cost	10	-	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		14,304,261	15,190,409



Support Us:

For Naira (NGN) donations:

Bank Name: Zenith Bank Plc.

Account Name: Candlelight Foundation For Children With Special Needs

Account Number: 1229299501

Account Type: Naira (NGN)

REACH OUT TO US

WEBSITE

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PARTNERS & SPONSORS

