

Mission:

To create a network of nurture and pride for children, support for women, families, and communities; and to promote Igbo Nigerian culture through education.

Vision:

To promote global awareness of our rich Igbo/Nigerian cultural heritage, educate, and to help children, women, and families in need.

History:

The inaugural meeting of Otu Umunne Cultural Organization, Inc. was held on December 12, 1986 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Christian Ezekwueche in Macon, Georgia. Present were Mrs. Chiebonam "Chi" Ezekwueche (Founder) and the following Founding members, Mrs. Ego Ndukwe, Mrs. Ada Ngoddy, Dr. Leticia Muforo, Mrs. Nkiru Adibe and Mrs. Obiy Adibe. Since then, the following presidents have served: Mrs. Chiebonam Ezekwueche, Mrs. Chika Oraka, Mrs. Ego Ndukwe, Mrs. Queen Agu, Mrs. Nneka Eto, Mrs. Nkiru Umeibe and Dr./Mrs. Uche Anikpe, the current president.

Of very important mention is, the first formal Otu Umunne Alumni event organized by Ngozi Ndukwe in 2011 in collaboration with Gala event of Otu Umunne Cultural Organization, Inc.

For over 25 years (since December 12, 1986) Otu Umunne Cultural Organization, Inc., the oldest Nigerian women's service organization in the Americas, has promoted Igbo/Nigerian arts and culture at countless events across the Southeast, and raised funds to support women and underserved children. She draws membership from all the Igbo states and in the Diaspora. Much gratitude goes to God for using Otu Umunne Cultural Organization, Inc. as a catalyst for the formation of numerous Igbo and Nigerian organizations in the United States and beyond. We are proud to see the culture of the Igbo/Nigerians come alive in the Diaspora.

History (Continued):

Our pride and joy are Otu Umunne Alumni and children who have passed through Otu Umunne programs and are proud of their Igbo/Nigerian/American heritage. We have fostered unity and understanding among children, young adults, women, families in various communities in the USA and Nigeria. We believe that "All Children are Our Future and Our Business."

Programs:

- ❖ Monthly Children's Programs (Educational and Socio-Cultural Programs 1987 till present):
 - Emphasis is on Igbo history, arts, and culture.
- ❖ Otu Umunne's Children's Summer Arts and Culture Camp:
 - This is an art enrichment program aimed at encouraging and unleashing creativity. It covers painting, drawing, collage, crafts, cooking, sewing, jewelry design, tie-dyeing, story-telling, table manners, literacy programs, wellness and health, and day trips to historic sites around Georgia.
- ❖ Otu Umunne's "RITES OF PASSAGE" (An Otu Umunne's Igbofest event):
 - Otu Umunne's "Rites of Passage Initiation Ceremonies" help young people develop into confident, respectful and contributing members of society.
- ❖ "Impact the Future Global Youth Development Initiative":
 - Is designed to feed the body mind and soul of underserved children

Community Activities and Outreach Programs (Dec 12, 1986-Present):

- ❖ Raised a network of progressive young people who are proud of their Igbo/Nigerian/American heritage.
- ❖ 1987-Held our first "Easterfest" - Otu Umunne's Cultural event. Later re-coined "Igbofest" in 1988.
- ❖ Participated in various festival, fundraising, and cultural events around Georgia and Southeastern USA:
 - Cherry Blossom Festival, Macon, GA
 - Nigeria Heritage Night by Nigerian Organization, Middle Georgia
 - National Black Arts Festival, Atlanta - showcasing Nigerian fashions & arts 1997/98.
 - Mother Africa Children's Summit, Atlanta
 - Various Consulate General of Nigeria, Atlanta events (1994 - Present)
 - Pan African Festival of Georgia, Macon (1997 - Present)
 - NAPS, Nigerian American Progressive Society, Birmingham Alabama(2010, Nigerian Independence)
- ❖ Contributions/support to agencies that cater to children, women and families both in the USA and Nigeria:
 - March of Dimes
 - Contributions to the victims of Tsunami
 - Mercy Corps Haiti Relief efforts
 - Katrina Relief efforts