



Mandela Washington
Fellowship Alumni
Association Nigeria

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Ashoka Global HQ | Changemakers
1700 North Moore Street, Suite 2000
Arlington, VA 22209, USA

To Whom It May Concern:

I fully support the work of Women Advancing Nutrition, Dietetics and Agriculture (WANDA) which is applying to the Children's Wellbeing Challenge Initiative supported by the Ashoka Changemakers and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. I had the pleasure to know Tambra Raye Stevenson while I was a 2014 YALI Fellow in Washington, DC.

On my request, she traveled to Nigeria to give back in a meaningful way once she learned of her own Fulani heritage in northern Nigeria. Since that time WANDA has become a registered not-for-profit organization in Nigeria and in Washington, DC to build a bridge across Africa and the Diaspora with women and girls as the key drivers to heal our communities with good nutrition and agriculture and for men like me to serve as gate openers for them. As part of its core mandate, WANDA strives to inspire next generation of girls and women to know that they are what they eat and therefore, equip them with the necessary knowledge and knowhow on how to lead the fields of nutrition, dietetics and agriculture.

To demonstrate this practice, WANDA has published the 'Where's WANDA?' series. Through this, young girls are provided with a local nutrition hero they will emulate in eating and living a healthy life. Beyond publishing the book, WANDA has adopted a school in Abuja, Nigeria and held WANDA workshops with over 250 youth and 40 teachers girls across northern Nigeria and in the refugee camps. The primary school students were inquisitive and shared their new found nutrition knowledge with their parents. They even made a pledge by the students to eat and live a healthy life which encourages me as a maternal and child health physician.

Aside from inspiring young girls, WANDA has demonstrated enormous energy in influencing right policy change that will provide a conducive environment for community driven nutrition education, upgrading of schools nutrition curriculum across all educational levels in Nigeria and through partnership with sister organization (Women Farmers Advancement Network) help to link local women farmers with value chain.

In view of the above impeccable qualities of WANDA, I strongly recommend WANDA as a new initiative that will bring inspiration linking food and our heritage to African diasporan girls in America as it has done so for Nigeria. Feel free to contact me at abuyusraaaa@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Dr. Ashiru Adamu Abubakar

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