



THE MOTIVATION IN CREATING HOH

In a nutshell, I will try to explain how the idea of Haven of Hope came about, and the driving force behind its existence.

The tendency to help those who are less privileged nurtured within me ever since I was a child.

Through the nature of my work with the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, I was exposed over and over again to the plight of the uprooted, the destitute and the disenfranchised. Among these the most vulnerable groups were women and children.

I began to reflect on how I could do something in a tangible way to help them.

The choice of teen-mothers became the inner calling.

Settling on the certitude that teen-mothers was the target group, I worked towards creating a philanthropic foundation upon my retirement.

The Ndong Sisters' Foundation was a response to that calling. It was founded in September 2010 as a tribute to my Dad, and dedicated to him in appreciation of sacrificing his personal comfort to ensure that my siblings and I were brought up in a loving and secure environment. The public name - Haven of Hope, is an act of thanksgiving to the Creator for having given me caring parents and for always providing for me abundantly.

Through counselling sessions, teen-mothers' self-confidence and self esteem are rebuilt - they are brought through the feeling of self condemnation: failure, undeserving, outcasts or unfits. Once the glow of hope is ignited, they are given the opportunity to reconnect to their dreams and rebuild their lives in order to become financially self-sufficient. Thus they are able to take care of themselves and their children. Beyond this, we aim at preparing them for a successful and wholesome adulthood: grateful adult children who will care for their aging parents, caring mothers who will bring up their children properly, respectful wives who will support their husbands, and responsible citizens who will contribute positively to the welfare of their communities.

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