



Gratia Press Release Draft

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Gratia Receives Grant From FedEx Express

Grant Allows Tansian University in Southeastern Nigeria to House an Additional 548 students

LONDON, Sept. 27, 2009 — Gratia International has received a generous grant from FedEx Express, a subsidiary of FedEx Corp. (FDX: NYSE) and the world's largest transportation company, to enable it to complete a dormitory building at Tansian University.

Located near Onitsha in southeastern Nigeria, Tansian University is one of the first private universities in the nation and has been approved by the Nigerian University Commission.

"FedEx is excited about supporting Tansian's educational initiatives in eastern Nigeria. We believe that educating and inspiring leaders is vital to the future of Africa. FedEx supports organizations, like Gratia International, who are dedicated to restoring dignity and hope through education, leadership and enterprise," said Robert W. Elliott, president, Europe, Middle East, Indian Subcontinent and Africa, FedEx Express.

According to university rector, **Msgr. John Bosco Akam**, FedEx's grant will allow Tansian to house an additional 548 students at the start-up campus located in Oba, approximately 18 miles southwest of the permanent site. Now in its second full year, Tansian University has a total of 922 students living on-campus.

As a result of the increase in student enrollment, Tansian is now able to generate enough revenue to be self-sustaining while it waits to build its permanent campus at the 250-acre site located in Umunya, Nigeria.

"The grant has been a huge relief for the university, and we express our deep gratitude and thanks to FedEx," Bosco said.

Tansian University has already built a strong reputation for quality and ethics in an extremely difficult environment. Currently the university is educating approximately 1500 on and off campus students at its campus in Oba. The long-term plan is to build a permanent campus to educate some 15,000 students in Umunya. The aim is to become a flagship university that will attract future leaders from all over Africa and attention from throughout the world.

The master plan for the permanent university site has already been approved and, in addition to state-of-the-art academic buildings and student housing, it will also include a world-class athletic complex and leadership training/conference facilities. Gratia International is also working to incorporate food plots and a combination of wind, solar and hydroelectric power for self-sustainable and environmentally friendly food and energy supply. Sheaffer and Roland, a reputable Chicago-based civil engineering firm, has been commissioned to develop the water supply and wastewater infrastructure to support the university as it grows.



“FedEx’s grant has been huge for Gratia and for the Tansian University, because it has enabled the university to function at the satellite campus while Gratia works on raising money for the permanent campus,” said Gratia founder and chairman **Dan Hill**. “One of the things that jumps out when you see these results is the huge impact funds like this can have. The additional housing generates revenue to further build and operate the university. We have always got a big bang for every dollar put in and this is evidence of that.

“This kind of contribution builds spiritual hope, and gives these young people the tools to transform their world for a better future. This uplifts us all.”

About Gratia International

Gratia International is a London-based nonprofit organization whose mission is the restoration of dignity and hope, supporting initiatives in education, leadership, and social enterprise in eastern Nigeria and beyond.

About FedEx Express

FedEx Express is the world's largest express transportation company, providing fast and reliable delivery to more than 220 countries and territories. FedEx Express uses a global air-and-ground network to speed delivery of time-sensitive shipments, by a definite time and date with a money-back guarantee.

About FedEx

FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX) provides customers and businesses worldwide with a broad portfolio of transportation, e-commerce and business services. With annual revenues of \$35 billion, the company offers integrated business applications through operating companies competing collectively and managed collaboratively, under the respected FedEx brand. Consistently ranked among the world's most admired and trusted employers, FedEx inspires its more than 280,000 team members to remain "absolutely, positively" focused on safety, the highest ethical and professional standards and the needs of their customers and communities. For more information, visit news.fedex.com.

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Sources: Gratia International, FedEx Express
Web sites: www.gratiainternational.org & www.fedex.com