

## Obacha's Shoes Begin Journey to Nigeria

Written by Ryan Bower

Saturday, 12 April 2014 09:10

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A busy week for Appalachian State University men's basketball included not only the hiring of Jim Fox as the school's 16th head coach, but also marked the next stage in Michael Obacha's (Edo State, Nigeria/High Point Christian) journey to bring shoes to impoverished children in Nigeria.

Following the announcement of Fox's hiring on Wednesday, Obacha made his way to Davidson, N.C. in a minivan full of shoes to begin the process of sorting and boxing the shoes for shipment later this month.

Upon arriving in Davidson, Obacha was able to finally meet former Wildcat forward Andrew Lovedale, whose Access to Success Foundation has been instrumental in aiding the Michael Obacha Shoe Drive by providing logistical support.

Lovedale and Obacha teamed up after the former Davidson standout learned about the current Mountaineer's efforts in January and, after numerous phone calls, texts and emails, the two were finally able to meet face-to-face on Wednesday.

After briefly meeting to get to know each other and discuss their backgrounds, the duo headed to Apex Transportation Services, LLC in Charlotte to begin the process of boxing 700 pairs of shoes to ship across the globe.

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In addition to the 337 pairs of shoes collected by the Michael Obacha Shoe Drive, Access to Success donated another 363 pairs to bring the number to 700 total pairs of shoes. Also, thanks to generous donations by Appalachian State fans and members of the Boone community, the total shipping cost of \$4,300 has been completely covered.

In June, Obacha will return to Nigeria to visit his family for the first time in two years, attend his older brother's wedding and distribute the shoes to children in Kaduna State and other surrounding areas of Nigeria.

Donations of shoes and additional monetary donations for future shipments are still be accepted online or by sending a donation to:

**The Michael Obacha Shoe Drive**

**c/o Ryan Bower**

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**Boone, NC 28608**

**Photo Courtesy: Michael Obacha, App State Athletics**