



## *In a World With Great Needs, LO/HP, Inc. Continues to Extend Helping Hands!*



### *Words From the Founder, Mrs. Sharon L. Ruff*

The Liberian Orphanage/Humanitarian Projects, Inc. (LO/HP, Inc.) was established in 2009 as a private-non-profit public charity under the U.S. Federal code 501(3)(c) status. However, the humanitarian projects under this organization are a continuation of a work of compassion which began by the founder in 1990 after her first visit to the Republic of Liberia, West Africa. Before 2009, these efforts were under the umbrella of other faith-based organizations where she managed them and as the efforts grew, it became necessary for these humanitarian efforts to have independent status.

For the past 31 years after many visits to Liberia's shores, personal relationships were created between our assessment team members and the people who received benefits from our projects. It has been a delight to have had the opportunity to work with and improve the quality of life for hundreds of orphaned, abandoned, abused, neglected and underprivileged children, teens and young adults, the handicapped and seniors over the years. This is especially true for many of the little ones who were once a resident in one of the three orphanages/child welfare homes we have sponsored. Relationships also developed with those who were given educational scholarships, medical care or emergency humanitarian aid. With the help and life skills they received, these little ones grew up into adulthood and left the orphanage and other Project rolls better equipped for the future. They are *gone*, but *they are not forgotten*.

Not only do we fondly remember them, but they remember us. They remember our great compassion towards the suffering they faced and all we did to improve their lives. Now, in times of desperate need with no one to help, they return seeking our help. *Suffering has no boundaries, especially in third world impoverished countries!* Thank you donors, without you help would not be available. Let me share a few of their stories.

We are seeking donors for our Operation Blessing Project. Thirteen thousand (\$13,000US) is needed to send two humanitarian aid containers to Liberia, West Africa to distribute thousands of relief items, educational materials, recreation items, and medical supplies to orphanages, child welfare homes, the Blind, seniors, clinics, and the poor in urban / rural areas.

#### *Will You Help?*

#### *Make Monthly Pledge*

#### **Bronze Pledge      \$30 US**

A child's basic needs -- food, shelter, clothing & medical.

#### **Silver Pledge      \$50US**

Humanitarian aid grants, emergency medical assistance, or agriculture seeds/equipment.

#### **Gold Pledge      \$100US**

Provides bathrooms; sanitation systems; clean water projects; or tuition /uniform/ school supplies-12 elementary/middle children.

#### **Platinum Pledge      \$150US**

Provides basic sponsorship grants to orphanages: food, staffing, furnishings or agricultural/ farming/husbandry projects.

#### **One Time Gift      \$500US \$1,000US or more**

Will assist with medical /dental trips, Operation Blessing Projects containers, renovation/ construction projects, special projects, and more!

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***Gone,  
but Not Forgotten!***



Our first story is about *David* who was a resident at The Salvation in Christ Orphanage and Humanitarian Refuge Home, Inc. (SIC) for over 11 years. Our sponsored child welfare homes accept orphaned, sick, abandoned, neglected, abused and impoverished children from families who simply could not provide basic needs: food, clothing, education or medical care. Beginning in 1990, the founder sponsored this orphanage with monthly allotments for food, staff salaries, clothing, basic necessities and education scholarships, even throughout Liberia's 14-year civil war. While basic needs were met at SIC, it was impossible to make any facility renovations until the intense fighting ceased. During the war, the staff and children often had to flee the compound for their safety and the rebels would steal everything left behind. Then too, even while traveling to avoid the fighting, Rebels confiscated their clothing and everything else. In 2001, during a time of peace, we traveled to Liberia to begin major facility renovation and construction within the SIC compound. We were also able to distribute our first Operational Blessing Project 40-foot container of humanitarian aid – clothing, undergarments, shoes, household items, linen, personal hygiene items, books, medicine/medical supplies, etc., free of charge to orphanages, schools, clinics and rural villages during that visit.

That's when we met David who had been a SIC resident 8 years. He was a very polite, helpful and friendly child from the rural Gboto village in Bomi County. His life's story of daily struggle for basic survival mirrored most of the children from that village, so it was no surprise that he was very thankful for anything anyone did for him. By 2004, during next visit, David was no longer living at the orphanage. He had returned to his village to help his remaining family. This kind of exodus happens often. After years of sponsored care, David was now educated, healthy and physically strong and had escaped early death from malnutrition and a range of childhood diseases. Where possible, our sponsored homes encourage their residents to maintain relationships with family members from their rural villages. Since villagers continue with their daily struggle to survive, some of our sponsored children, like David, feel a strong urge to return to their village to help them.

In the first picture below David is the boy in the middle wearing the blue shirt. The second picture was taken in 2001 when the children only had a few items of clothing and a pair of slippers and before facility renovation began. Thankfully everything they needed was provided in abundance through the Operation Blessing Project container. In the last picture, David, now 33 years, is all grown-up and has not lost his smile.



About a year ago, while working in the coal industry, a projectile hit David's left eye. That happens often in his line of work. However, after months of irritation, the problem grew worse. He didn't have money to travel the great distance to come to a hospital in the city nor money for the hospital visit or follow-up treatment. Meanwhile, he used local herbs to treat the pain and discomfort. Eventually, he borrowed money to call SIC asking them to get in touch with us to see if we could help. Immediately, we authorized someone to travel to his

village and bring him to Monrovia. The next day, SIC staff took him to the hospital. The bill was paid, his prescriptions filled and the prescribed glasses purchased. Unfortunately, due to the length of time this injury went untreated, the damage was so severe that the hospital did not have the specialists needed to perform the delicate surgery to attempt to repair the eye. There is good news! They placed him on the list to see eye surgeons from India that will be conducting an eye clinic within weeks. LO/HP, Inc., then authorized money for basic needs and transportation to his village while he awaits the eye clinic. We will also bring him back into Monrovia when the eye clinic begins and pay the costs of treatment and return him to the village with a humanitarian aid grant. *He is so thankful that he was not forgotten!*



Our next story is about *Peter* who came to SIC in 2001 from another very rural, extremely poor village in Bomi County named Dewgeh village. Most of the residents there also live in utter poverty including his parents, who were unskilled laborers with a total of 13 children. It was in their older age when Peter and his twin sister were added to the family. Years after their birth, his father abandoned the family which left his mother unable to even feed her children.

We first met Peter during our 2001 visit and have enjoyed many years of personal interaction with him as we sent him and all the other orphanage children to private schools while meeting their daily needs. After entering SIC, Peter became a happy child, full of energy, always smiling and very inquisitive. Many children in Liberia at the time did not know their age or birth date. Eventually, we discovered that Peter was several years older than he thought. The first picture below was taken when we first met him. He is the little one in the white shirt clinging to an older boy's arm. The second picture was taken of him in 2004. He is wearing the red shirt with blue/white stripes. The next picture is Peter in a red shirt participating in nightly SIC Praise & Worship Service. And, the last picture shows Peter posing wearing his new clothes from our Operation Blessing Project container. There is great satisfaction in helping these children, who had no other means of help, experience a life of provision.



After 9 years under our sponsorship and reaching the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Peter, now in his late teens was struggling to keep up with his school work. Eventually, he dropped out of school and returned to his village to seek work as a farm laborer. We heard of his visits to SIC a few years after he left but we had not heard from him for many years until recently.



The picture to the left is Peter who is now 31. We received news that he was extremely sick unto death and appealing for our help. We sent an SIC staff member to his village and brought him into the city to go to the hospital for an evaluation. We didn't know if he had COVID or if his sickness was contagious, so he was not allowed to enter the orphanage compound. The next day Peter was sent to the hospital and was diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB), a highly contagious disease which is prevalent in Liberia. After receiving treatment, he was released. Then, Peter was given money for prescriptions, basic needs and for transportation to return to his village which has a clinic nearby that treats TB cases. He was so grateful for our intervention. We are thankful for our donor's support which allowed us to respond to his medical emergency.

Now, let me share our final story which is about someone we affectionately call "**Mr. Melvin.**" He's the cute little one in the first picture below taken in 2006. He was just 2 years old when his father, who was married but not to Melvin's mother, appealed for the orphanage to shelter him for fear that harm could come to the child and his mother. This was an unusual situation. Nevertheless, Melvin was accepted into the orphanage home. He was simply an adorable child and spoiled by everyone. During our assessment visit Mr. Melvin always invited himself into our room at meal times and quickly extended his hand asking if there were any cookies or fruit. Melvin lived under sponsorship until 2018 when his mother came for him. By then, she was happily married with 2 additional children and she and her husband had good jobs. After years of separation, she now wanted Melvin to come live with them. So off he went with dreams of being happy with his extended family. Everything worked out for the first few years, then her husband lost his job and they could no longer afford to send Melvin to school. His days were filled with cleaning the house, babysitting and preparing food for his mother to cook once she returned home. Melvin quickly submerged into anger and despair. Many of the things he had grown accustomed to at the orphanage were no longer available to him. He came to SIC to ask if he could return but his request was denied based upon his age and the length of time he had not been under SIC rules and regulations. We sent Melvin, now age 18, back to his family and gave him a humanitarian grant of money and food as shown in the last picture below.



One of our donors asked if there is a situation that needs special attention and we shared Melvin's story with her. She immediately responded, "He needs someone to advocate for him. So much has happened to this child since birth that has been beyond his control. I will commit to sponsoring him through high school and provide him with a monthly stipend of \$35US for books, transportation and clothing." Since Melvin and his mother heard the good news, they have been able to reconcile their differences and his life is once again on a positive path. In the fall, he will be starting the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

***Without compassionate donors,*** we could not have accomplished the numerous humanitarian acts of compassion over the years. What words can be rendered to adequately express gratitude for preventing blindness, saving a life, or creating a new doorway where the old existed no more? There have been many such instances where previous residents of SIC were in desperate need of help and there was no one to help them, so they turned to us. On behalf of these and others on past Project rolls who continue to receive emergency food, shelter assistance, educational grants and medical care, we wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every donor who has joined us in our endeavors to significantly improve the quality of life for those among the poorest of the poor.

## *Solar Panels Have Arrived*



LO/HP, Inc. has received a generous grant of \$6,280US to purchase and install solar panels at The Salvation in Christ Orphanage and Humanitarian Refuge Home, Inc. compound. This will be the first time this compound, that also houses the Eliza Neufville Memorial Academy (ENMA) elementary and middle school with its 200+ students, will have continuous electric power 24-hours per day. Government sponsored electricity has not reached the SIC compound area and their only source of electrical power had come from gas generators (with gas prices averaging \$5US per gallon) and from an unreliable private provider that sold electricity for nighttime use which barely operated 5 small fans. For lighting in the evenings, candles and oil lanterns were often the only means of providing light for the orphanage residents and staff. No more! No more! Change has come!

Solar panels will make a tremendous difference in the quality of life and provide access to a range of educational services for all the SIC residents (from ABC class to our high school graduates who are now attending college/vocational schools) and for the students attending our sponsored school. Not only will there be 24-hour electricity but the solar panels will provide enough power to supply all the electrical needs to each room of the orphanage, including power for computers, internet services, ironing and operating electrical appliances (fans, a refrigerator and a freezer). There will also be power for lights in the school during class and study time in the day and evenings. These solar panels are currently being installed.



A very special thank you to Adam Massaquoi, an Electrical Engineer in Liberia, who is providing his expertise (free-of-charge) to install and conduct monthly maintenance on the SIC solar panel system. Adam was one of 5 of his family's children who received a LO/HP, Inc. Educational Enrichment Project grant from elementary through high school. He volunteered his services when he heard of our need. Again, thank you Adam!

Another special thank you goes to J. Samson Varney, the SIC Orphanage Manager, shown in the pictures below. He is assisting Adam in breaking walls to upgrade wiring, sockets and plugs into the living facilities, kitchen building and bath houses within the SIC compound. Samson is multi-talented. In the third picture, he completely dismantled the main mechanism of the well pump and he is shown in the fourth picture after repairs were completed. Samson was once a resident of SIC and now has returned as a staff member to help others the way he was helped. To assist us further, Samson has enrolled Monrovia Vocational Training Center (MVTC) to take electrical classes to learn how to do maintenance on the solar panel system and provide support for other electrical needs at SIC and the ENMA school facilities. Again, thank you Samson.



Now that the SIC compound will have 24-hour electricity, we need your help to purchase the following –

- **Electrical upgrades (\$450US)** for wiring (within buildings and underground to connect facilities), sockets and plugs for the big boys house, kitchen building and security booth.
- A **Refrigerator** (large capacity - **\$625US**) will ensure the availability of safe cold chlorinated drinking water from the SIC well pump. No longer will the children, student and staff have to drink hot or tepid water or buy cold water from street vendors which often times is contaminated with bacteria. SIC also be able to purchase milk, eggs, fruits and vegetables directly from farms rather than from street vendors where the excessive Liberian heat causes these items to quickly spoil or rot.
- A **Freezer** (large capacity - **\$650US**) will also reduce the incidence of bacteria and sickness by purchasing fresh meat/fish and then quickly freezing it rather than making purchases from street vendors who often use unsanitary practices, wherein all day long, flying/crawling insects lit on these items as they defrost openly on newspaper on top of wooden tables while waiting to be purchased.
- A **Television** (large screen - **\$500US**) will be placed in the dining room for group viewing of internet trainings and tutorial programs.
- **Internet Services** (monthly subscription **\$150US**) is the first step to an developing a pilot Educational Satellite program. Worldwide, the quality of education in Liberia continues to be questioned. With daily access to internet services for tutoring for all ages and grades and for vocational and college students. This will be a great benefit and will dramatically improve to the quality of education/training/communication currently available. SIC will also be able to enter into partnerships with international organizations and educators to provide educational and instructional classes free-of-charge to the school and to the public.

**Will you help us...help them?** Your donation can help us purchase these urgently needed items.

### *OUR Senior Care*



Mr. Bedell is a senior widower who worked as an independent brick maker when we met him in 2001. He made all the cement bricks used in the construction of buildings and the security wall for the SIC compound at a significant discount. Over the years, he has been an ever-ready support to SIC. Once he reached his golden years, we decided to sponsor him with a monthly humanitarian grant to ensure his ability to provide food, soap and toilet paper for himself and his family. When he came to SIC to receive his June grant, his clothes were tattered and worn and his condition was brought to our attention. We surprised him with new clothes, shoes and replaced his broken glasses necessary to protect his eyes from the Liberian sun. **Donors support allowed us to bring a big smile to Mr. Bedell's face!**

Mr. John, pictured below, is one of our sponsored seniors who lives in a rural village named Bong Mine in Bong County. After being in his house for 5 days feeling very ill and unable to walk, we were informed that he needed emergency medical care. Money was carried to his village for a doctor's visit and he was diagnosed with malaria, high blood pressure and typhoid fever.



After injections, medicine and follow-up treatment, he is now able to sit on his porch again. *Thank you donors!*

*The Eliza Neufville Memorial Academy (ENMA)  
Needs Our Help*



As anticipated, the Eliza Neufville Memorial Academy (ENMA) opened its doors to over 200+ elementary and middle grade students in January after missing half of the last school year due to COVID. The students were so happy to return to ENMA because for many of them, this was the only school their parents could afford. Many have waited years past the normal entrance age to attend school. ENMA definitely fills the gap of access in the Paynesville Community with its low \$40US annual tuition cost compared to over \$100US in neighborhood schools. Then, with an additional \$60US, their students receive 2 school uniforms, a gym uniform, shoes/socks and school supplies. Now, months after enrolling, ENMA students are facing two major challenges threatening their future growth.

The first challenge is their parents' inability to pay the balance due after making the initial down-payment which has caused a high dropout rate. Can you imagine how these children feel sitting at home wondering when and if they will ever return to school? So many of them come from single heads of household families where death or separation has left one parent to support the entire family and daily life is a constant struggle. With Liberia's *85% unemployment rate*, jobs are scarce. Most of these parents sell food in the market; but, with the increasing numbers of sellers, in a market already overcrowded, many have no or little daily sales. That creates another problem. The initial investment to purchase goods to sell is also lost. Where do they get additional money for the next day's market to sell? Struggles, struggles and more daily challenges to make ends meet!

The second major challenge is that many of the ENMA students come to school hungry with no lunch money and have to sit through an entire school day with empty stomachs. Many families in Liberia eat only 1 daily evening meal. America addressed this same problem in 1946 when President Harry Truman established the National School Lunch Act to provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day and it continues to this day. International aid has an on-going feeding program for children who live in Monterrado County but it is for rural villages only. **Hunger at any level is simply unacceptable!** In July, LO/HP, Inc. will launch a funding drive for a **SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM** for the ENMA students. It cost \$60US annually to provide a student with a free nutritious lunch, averaging \$.30US per lunch. **These children need our help!**

Become a sponsor! Provide tuition assistance or a free lunch to a school child in need. Your donation of any amount can be used towards paying the balance of money due this year allowing a child to return to class or sponsoring a child for the next school year. **Will you help us...help them?**

### *ENMA School Renovation Project Starts*

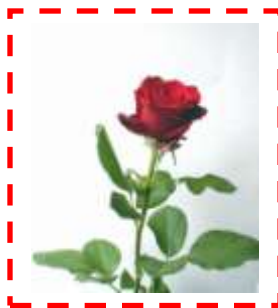


Thanks to a generous donor who responded to our appeal to renovate the exterior of one of the ENMA school buildings. We were able to purchase roofing materials, a 10-tire truckload of sand from a Liberian beach along with 20 bags of cement, 5-gallon buckets of exterior paint. The first phase of this renovation project is now underway

Phase two of the renovation project will include the following –

- 17 New windows with screens;
- Ceramic floor tiles for all rooms;
- Replastering and interior painting all rooms; and,
- 12 ceiling fan.

More information will be forthcoming. Join us in this and all other needed projects.



We hope you have enjoyed reading our 2021 Spring Issue, as much as we have enjoyed having the opportunity to impact the lives of individuals most in need. So many unmet needs are awaiting our response. Please consider joining us in these worthy endeavors. While we cannot do everything, there are challenges that we can overcome if we work together. Together, we can make it happen. **Help us...help them!** We look forward to hearing from you.



**Contact Us:**

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**Our Mission**

Our mission is to significantly impact the lives of abandoned, abused, neglected and orphaned children in Liberia, West Africa and to engage in humanitarian projects that will improve the quality of life for disadvantaged Liberians, and other underserved individuals around the world.



Imagine living in this underdeveloped country with so many unmet needs. Then, imagine the joy of sponsorship which removes the stain of shame and gives you tools for success. A small donation can mean so much to the poorest of the poor: children living in orphanages/child welfare homes, educational opportunities, medical care, stipends for the Blind & the disadvantaged at every age. ***Together, we can improve their lives. Give today! They are waiting!***



LO/HP, Inc. aims to continue sponsoring orphanages, child welfare homes, humanitarian, educational and operational blessing projects, as well as our special initiatives for the Blind. These projects have been successful due to the efforts of caring sponsors, partners and volunteers just like you. We welcome all who have a heart of compassion towards the poor and less fortunate. **GIVE FREELY TO HELP US...HELP THEM!**

Whatever assistance you, your organization or civic group provides will be greatly appreciated. Please consider becoming a monthly sponsor or a partner today. We need computers, Braille laptop computers, freezer, refrigerator, ceiling fans and bunk bed mattresses. Foreign made vehicles (cars, trucks, and school buses, no more than 6 years old in good running condition) are urgently needed. [USA parts are hard to get in Liberia.] Volunteers are also needed! Supportive assistance for any of our projects is also welcomed. Make a **tax-deductible donation** payable to **“LIBERIAN ORPHANAGE / HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS, INC.”** or **“LO/HP, Inc.”** **Use Paypal to donate on [www.lohp-usa.org](http://www.lohp-usa.org) or CashApp - \$LiberianCare or use the form below to mail in your donation. (Do not send cash in the mail.) Thank you for your consideration!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

I pledge to donate monthly\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (sponsorship of orphan(s) \_\_\_\_\_; Specific child \_\_\_\_\_

I pledge to donate monthly to the Blind Initiatives\$ \_\_\_\_\_; specific project \_\_\_\_\_

I pledge to donate monthly for education projects\$ \_\_\_\_\_; Construction projects \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please call me (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ or e-mail me at \_\_\_\_\_

**I cannot make a monthly pledge but I will make a one-time contribution of --**

\$20 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1, 000 \_\_\_\_\_ or more (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_