



## *Special Edition:* *The Influence of COVID-19*

### *A Word from the Founder, Mrs. Sharon L. Ruff*



No one could have ever predicted that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century the entire world would be experiencing COVID-19, a complex highly contagious respiratory disease, causing thousands of deaths on a daily basis. While researchers everywhere are seeking a cure, this new disease is challenging even the most developed nations' health care systems as they treat the infected, which often requires specialized medical equipment, advanced medicines, special equipment and months of hospitalizations. *It wasn't a matter of if*

*COVID-19 would invade the Republic of Liberia, West Africa, one of the poorest countries in the world, but when.*

As with other world leaders, Liberian President George Weah began to prepare. Their previous bout with Ebola from 2013-16 resulted in the deaths of 4,800 of its citizens; but, through the help of the UN and other International Health Organizations they gained a lot of experience on how to respond to public health crisis. Thus, days after COVID-19 entered Liberia, their President declared a national health emergency, compulsory mask-wearing, social distancing and stay-at-home orders. All schools, churches, mosques, bars and beaches were closed in infected counties to try to reduce community spread. However, with a population of 4.8 million and only one laboratory in the entire county capable of testing at that time and a shortage of items needed in the testing process, the Liberian Government faced additional hurdles in this battle.

It was the stay-at-home orders and the closing of street markets and businesses that became one of the greatest challenges for the Liberian people. The average Liberian depends upon the purchasing of daily food at the market because there is no reliable electricity for refrigeration. No businesses opened, no markets selling means no money to buy daily provisions for those who bring their goods to the market to sell, as well as, those who work in the market place to receive merger daily wages. In a country with 85% unemployment and people living below the poverty line, this spells disaster – hopelessness, pending hunger and possible starvation, as the duration of COVID-19 was and still is uncertain.

While the government made plans to feed the poor in infected counties, there were rural villages where our sponsored children once lived that were not counted among those to receive... *That's when concern for their plight birthed a harvest!*

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?*

##### *Monthly or One-Time?*

#### **Bronze Pledge \$30US**

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 for 5 elementary 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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## *From a Small Seed Came a Harvest of Love - Those Left Behind Were Not Forgotten!*



One of the orphanages that we have sponsored for years is The Salvation in Christ Orphanage and Humanitarian Refuge Home, Inc. (SIC), in Paynesville, Monrovia, Liberia. Most of the children, youth and young adults in their care come from extremely poor rural villages where many sleep on the bare earth and many things are non-existent: running water; electricity; adequate sanitation; clean drinking water; and, there is limited or no access to education and health care. Sickness and disease is often unchallenged and the mortality rate is high because there is no money to pay for clinic visits, drugs, medical care or hospitalization. Typically, their parent(s), grandparent(s), or caregiver(s) are uneducated, works as a subsistent farm worker (no money, just crops), cannot afford basic necessities and often times, struggle to provide at least one daily meal. Things most children in developed nations take for granted, beds with mattresses, sheets, pillows, blankets, adequate clothing or shoes are absent from most homes or huts. Life, every day, is very hard. And, for most, there is no way to escape the vicious cycle of poverty.



When children, who have lived in such extreme poverty with daily uncertainties, are accepted in our standardized sponsored orphanages/child welfare homes, their lives change. And, they are so, so grateful to have the opportunity to move from poverty to provision. They sleep in beds with mattresses/pillows/proper linen; have plenty of clothes, shoes, undergarments, and toys; eat delicious daily meals, watch television, and live in a protected nurturing Christian environment within a secure compound with 24-hour matrons. Medical care and education from elementary through high school and opportunities for higher learning are available. Through our sponsored orphanage, humanitarian and educational enrichment projects, these children, youth and young adults are being prepared for a better future as they receive the guidance, tools and support needed for success.

Every day, morning and evening prayers and praise and worship services are part of the program at SIC. A constant theme in their prayers is for help for those in the villages left behind. The reality of closed markets and counties being in quarantine limiting travel from one place to another during the COVID-19 crisis can have profound negative effects; a major concern among the orphanage residents arose about how their relatives (often frail seniors) or previous caregivers would be able to feed themselves or get basic hygiene items. So our COVID Relief program grew from a small seed of helping one frail grandma in need to helping over 45 impoverished families. An action plan was developed, an appeal made to our donors and the results were overwhelming. Among the distributed relief items were bags of rice, red oil, vegetable oil, onions, dried pepper, seasoning cubes, salt, washing power, body soap, iron soap, slippers, and to some, a financial grant. The orphanage children and young adults were very joyous, as everyone participated in the measuring and separation of items and notifying those left behind of the coming provisions. We are seeking donations for the next distribution. Will you help us...help them?

### **The Children Prepare for the Distribution**



*In Spite of Security Road blocks, Bad Roads & Extremely High Cost of Gasoline, Those Left Behind were Not Forgotten*



Over forty-five emergency distributions of food, basic necessities, and financial grants were awarded free-of-charge to the needy. Smiling faces and much appreciation greeted our distribution team at every household. Many said *“Never has anyone done anything like this for us!”* and they praised God that they were not forgotten during the COVID-19 nationwide shutdown. Each received based upon family size and need. *Help us repeat this distribution during the Christmas season. The value of the average gift was \$50US. Help us...Help Them!*

*Thank you donors for making this possible!*

## Update on The Eliza Neufville Memorial Academy (ENMA)

LO/HP, Inc. has been sponsoring The Salvation in Christ Orphanage and Humanitarian Refuge Home, Inc. since its inception. The founder of this wonderful orphanage/child welfare home, the late Mother Eliza Neufville, dedicated her life to helping rescue orphaned, abandoned, abused and distressed children by relocating them into a loving, nurturing Christian home while prioritizing their education and Christian development. Upon her death we dedicated a 2-story brick building on the orphanage compound to be used as an elementary school in her memory. This school was abruptly closed due to COVID-19 along with all schools in Liberia. Over 200 students, most subsidized, were sent home with homework packages, and extensive cleaning was done to the facility.



Will you help us prepare for the return of these students once the Liberian Ministry of Education approves reopening of elementary schools? This campus is specifically for the poor in the Paynesville County area, where most of these children come from single-family households who cannot afford to send even one of their children to school. Sixty percent of the students were girls whom normally would not be selected over sons to receive education. The average elementary school tuition is over \$125US per year plus other fees, uniforms and school supplies which totals \$220US. The tuition at ENMA is \$40US annually. However, with a \$100US donation, each child receives tuition and 2 uniforms, school shoes/socks, a gym outfit, and school supplies. Once again, we are seeking sponsors to send at least 50 students back to school once they reopen. Any level of donation towards the education of these children will give them an opportunity to end the cycle of poverty. ***Please consider donating to this wonderful cause.***

### *Safety Measures Have Protected The Sponsored*



Various protective measures were immediately put in place to protect the children, youth, young adults and staff at the SIC Orphanage home, which included --

- Providing a hand washing station at the entrance of the security gate and requiring washing of hands for anyone who sought entrance into the SIC compound.
- Providing personal protective equipment – mandatory wearing of masks and gloves to protect all the residents from exposure to COVID-19 when leaving to purchase daily food or from anyone who re-entered the compound.
- Purchasing 3 additional bunk beds, mattresses, sets of pillows and linen to be used in an infirmary, a place of isolation, in the event of a COVID-19 diagnosis.
- Providing continuous monthly staff salaries to 4 staff members who were relieved of their duties because they did not live within the compound in an effort to minimize community spread of the disease. The remaining 5 staff and older male and female residents, whose computer, technology, nursing, and vocational schools were closed due to COVID-19, assumed the duties of the 4 who were released from their duties until it was safe for their return. Without continuous pay, these 4 outside staff, who have been faithful the mission of the Orphanage, would be unable to provide for their families and therefore, face untold financial hardships.
- ***TO DATE, NONE OF THE STAFF OR RESIDENTS HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19.***

**Contact Us:**

Mrs. Sharon L. Ruff, Founder/ CEO

The Liberian Orphanage/Humanitarian Projects, Inc.

Post Office Box #1050 Washington, D. C. 20013

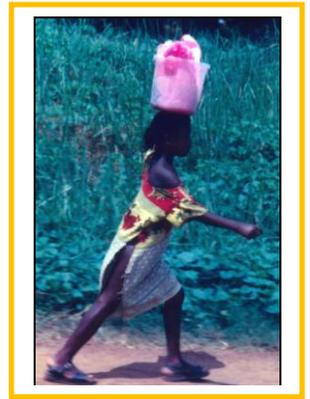
Phone: (202) 232-LOHP (5647) Website: [www.lohp-usa.org](http://www.lohp-usa.org) E-mail: [liberiancare@yahoo.com](mailto:liberiancare@yahoo.com)

**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, the Blind & the disadvantaged at every age. *Together, we can help improve their lives. Give today! They are waiting!*



LO/HP, Inc. aims to continue sponsoring orphanages, child welfare homes, humanitarian, educational and medical 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 Braille laptop computers, new washing machines & dryers, solar panels and generators for electricity. Foreign made vehicles (cars, trucks, and school buses, no more than 6 years old in good running condition) [USA parts are hard to get in Liberia.] are urgently needed. 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 the web, 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) \_\_\_\_\_