

## The Liberian Orphanage/Humanitarian Projects, Inc.

"Creating Avenues to Remove the Stain of Shame, Restore Dignity, and Rediscover the Wealth of Treasure in Humanity in Liberia, West Africa and other Underserved People around the World!"

Annual Report for 2023

Words from the Founder



It gives me great pleasure to report another year of amazing accomplishments! The Liberian Orphanage and Humanitarian Project, Inc. (LO/HP, Inc.) celebrates 14 years as a U.S. faith-based Federally recognized 501(c)(3)public charity humanitarian organization. Historically, our vision was birthed in 1990 after my initial visit to Liberia, West Africa. That's when I witnessed unimaginable human suffering, extreme poverty on every level and justifiable hopelessness of the average Liberian. These experiences catapulted me into action to help the poorest of the poor escape the realities of their conditions. For years afterwards, I championed various efforts to address these issues, and eventually, LO/HP, Inc. was birthed as a continuation and expansion of those endeavors.

The provision of services in concert with our goals and project objectives continue to result in lifechanging interventions which caused many Liberians who were destitute and without hope to now be empowered for a brighter future. They are equipped to become productive members of their society, ready to contribute to the betterment of their families and to the Republic of Liberia.

With gratitude and great appreciation for our donors, sponsors and volunteers, I present our Annual Report for 2023.

Mrs. Sharon Loving Ruff

# Our Vision Through Projects and Initiatives

The mission of the Liberian Orphanage and Humanitarian Projects, Inc, (LO/HP, Inc.) is to significantly impact the lives of orphaned, abandoned, abused, neglected and underprivileged children, youth, teens and young adults in Liberia, West Africa and to engage in humanitarian, educational, medical and agricultural initiatives that will improve the quality of life for disadvantaged and special needs individuals in Liberia and in other parts of the world. Our primary source of funding is from generous donations and monthly pledges from compassionate individuals and religious organizations. Partnerships with businesses, educational and humanitarian national and international organizations, combined with generous donations of goods and services (including printing, technology, educational material, medical supplies, school supplies, clothing and humanitarian aid items) allow us to serve a population far beyond our donation level. And, with the response from appeals for our Operation Blessing Project, we are able to ship urgently needed educational and humanitarian aid items to Liberia where they are distributed free-of-charge to the poorest of the poor in urban and rural areas. We consider it an honor to help address and highlight the needs of the underprivileged.

Since our inception, LO/HP, Inc. has been propelled by an all volunteer staff at every level of the organization. Our humanitarian projects and initiatives have helped thousands, relieved suffering of untold multitudes, changed lives, provided tools of success, birthed hope and otherwise improved the life of those most in need who, in most instances, had no one else to help them. Our current and planned efforts are:

- **Orphanage/Child Welfare Homes Project** Provides grants to orphanages/child welfare homes for food, clothing, education, personal hygiene, medical assistance, furnishings, staffing, renovation, construction, clean water, and sanitation projects.
- **Humanitarian Project** Provides grants to destitute children, teens, adults and senior citizens for emergency food, medical care, housing and small renovation/construction projects, and provides the needy with humanitarian aid relief items: clothing, shoes, personal care, household items, educational material, etc. free of charge through our Operation Blessing Project.
- Educational Enrichment Project Provides educational grants to impoverished children, youth and young adults for tuition assistance, uniforms, and school supplies for grades K-1 through 12th; to construct, renovate and equip educational facilities (books, satellite systems, computers, furnishings, etc); and, to create alternative educational programs.
- College / Higher Learning Project Provides grants to disadvantaged adults for college scholarships and higher learning programs, such as medical/ dental/ nursing skills, computer, vocational, agricultural and other training streams with opportunities for educational travel, internships and foreign exchange positions throughout the world.
- The Blind and Visually Impaired Project Provides monthly subsidy grants to Blind and severely visually impaired individuals and married couples for food, clothing, housing, medical care and educational needs as part of our "Seeing Hearts Project." FUTURE PROJECT:
- Agricultural/ Farming/Husbandry Project Will provide seeds, plants, animals, agricultural/farming tools, vehicles, and machinery for small scale farming in underdeveloped areas. Provide training on best practice methods to help alleviate hunger.

A snapshot of accomplishments since our inception in 2009 reveals LO/HP, Inc. has --

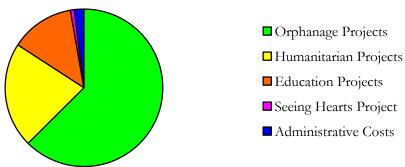
- Raised over \$474,563US for our projects and services, without significant deductions from donations for salaries or large administrative overhead costs;
- Provided financial sponsorship to four orphanages: The Salvation in Christ Orphanage and Humanitarian Refuge Home, Inc.; Lofa Congo Orphanage Mission; Hebron Homes for Abused,

Abandoned & Orphanage Children; D.E.D. Children's Center; and, Mother Comfort's Daycare Center;

- Built several structures, including a two-story brick building which houses The Eliza Neufville Memorial Academy's (ENMA) elementary and middle school students;
- Provided scholarships to private elementary, junior high and high schools for children living in orphanages/child welfare homes and in impoverished communities;
- Provided scholarships to higher learning institutions: technology, electrical, computer training, auto mechanic, nursing skills, nursing programs, colleges, and universities;
- Provided education scholarships for students in single-family households (who are not in orphanages/child welfare homes) where the parents/guardians cannot afford tuition;
- Received thousands of donated man-hours by our wonderful all volunteer LO/HP, Inc. staff, our web-designers, Karen Clay LLC [clay consulting.com] and to Wayne Ross [RCSR] who provides technology repairs/training;
- Provided grants for emergency medical care for seniors and the underprivileged;
- Provided monthly living grants to the Blind since 2004 in our Seeing Hearts Project;
- Provided grants for food, medicine and medical surgeries for the poor in rural villages; and,
- Sent and distributed free-of-charge thousands of items: clothing, shoes, bedding, household utensils, coats/jackets, books and educational supplies, recreational items, humanitarian aid, hygiene items, bicycles, handicapped and special aides for the Blind to the poorest of the poor in urban and rural areas of Liberia through two 40-foot containers, as part of our Operation Blessing Projects. Medicine and medical supplies were also donated to a local clinic valued at \$10,000US.

2023 Annual Report Highlights

A total of **\$48,264US** was donated which was almost doubled our average annual donation level. While we experienced a slight decline in donations from a few years ago where we exceeded \$50,000US, we maintained all our projects and met our 2023 objectives. The generosity of many compassionate individuals, businesses and churches to our various appeals and the integrity of those who administer our projects in Liberia are the key to our successful endeavors. Once again, we are pleased to report that **98%** of all donations went directly to the provision of projects and services to benefit the poorest of the poor. Additionally, this is another year where special thanks is given to those who provided free office space, office supplies and paid storage fees for donations to our Operation Blessing Project.



#### **2023 Project Percentages**

## Accomplishments

#### **Orphanage/Child Welfare Homes Project:**

Through this year's donations, we were able to provide **\$29,101US** or the equivalent of **\$4,947,170 Liberian dollars** to this project to meet our Standards of Orphanage/Child Welfare Home Care. Of this amount, **\$4,619US** was used in orphanage construction/renovation projects. We provided:

- Annual salaries for full time and stipends for part-time staff: two administrative positions, four care-givers, one cook, one nurse, four part-time helpers, and four security personnel for the Salvation in Christ Orphanage and Humanitarian Refuge Home, Inc. on Pipeline Road in the Paynesville community;
- Over 40,000 delicious nutritionally balanced daily meals which consisted of various fruits, fresh and dried meats, chicken, fish, vegetables, hot cereal, rice and beverages;
- Funding for monthly trash pick-up and for bathing soap, toilet paper, washing powder, lotions, toothpaste and other basic necessities, and coal for daily cooking;
- Kitchen furnishings, benches, pots and pans, bowls and eating utensils;
- Clothing, undergarments, shoes, sandals, toiletries and other basic necessity items;
- Scholarships covering tuition, school fees, uniforms and schools supplies;
- Regular chlorination, maintenance and repair to the water well to provide safe drinking water;
- Bunk beds, mattresses, linen and other household items;
- Ceramic tiles in the kitchen building upgrade;
- Repair/maintenance of the solar panel system to provide electrical power;
- Repair/maintenance to the septic tank;
- Exterior solar powered night security lights and ceiling fans;
- Renovations on three facilities included window screens. mosquito nets, bathroom upgrades, repair/replacement of kitchen equipment and painting projects for interior and exterior areas;
- Medical prevention, treatments and medications for residents and staff; and,
- Other small construction/renovation projects.



One resident describes their new life at the SIC Orphanage and Humanitarian Refuge Home this way, "We have everything a child needs to be happy; delivered with love!"



## **Humanitarian Project:**

This year's donations allowed us to give **\$10,099US** or the equivalent of **\$1,716,830** Liberian dollars to humanitarian efforts which significantly improved the quality of life for beneficiaries. We provided:

- Monthly grants and requested humanitarian aid to senior citizens, impoverished individuals and to the handicapped for food assistance and other necessities;
- Monthly grants to unwed mothers to provide rental assistance, food, medical care and other needs for their families;
- Grants to unwed mothers for business start-up;
- Medical care and emergency food distributions for individuals and families in the Paynesville community;
- Storage fees to house over a thousand relief boxes of education and humanitarian aid for shipment to Liberia as part of our Operation Blessing Project;
- Distribution of emergency food, medicine and other provisions to families in rural villages;
- Monetary awards to orphanage staff and various tradesmen who aide our projects in Liberia; and,
- Distribution of rice and other food items to rural villagers during the Christmas Holiday season.



#### These Received -



## **Educational Enrichment Project:**

Donations allowed us to invest **\$6,042US** or the equivalent of **\$1,027,140** Liberian dollars in educational opportunities. Of these funds, **\$1,373US** was used for construction/renovation of the Eliza Neufville Memorial Academic (ENMA) school building and **\$4,669US** was used to open doors of access

to education through grants for tuition fees, uniforms, school supplies, and transportation for high school students and scholarships for those attending vocational schools, seminary and college. We celebrate these life changing grants which provided the following:

- Gym uniforms for ENMA students whose parents couldn't afford them;
- A scholarship for a junior high school student along with a monthly subsistence grant;
- A scholarship to a young adult to the Monrovia Bible Training College.
- Six scholarships for tuition fees, uniforms/helmets, security shoes, books, daily transportation and senior graduation fees for the Monrovia Vocational Training Center's 23-month program;
- Uniforms, shoes, school supplies and transportation for all LO/HP, Inc. project recipients; and,
- Roofing zinc, painting, electrical upgrades and classroom partitioning at the ENMA School.



## The Blind and Visually Impaired Project:

Donations to our Blind and Visually Impaired Project otherwise known as our "*Seeing Hearts Project*" were only given for the first 3 months of 2023 and totaled **\$399US** or the equivalent of **\$64,426 Liberian dollars** financed:

• Monthly subsidy grants to Blind individuals whom were recipients of our grants from 2004 to March, 2023 (representing a 19-year duration). These funds provided basic needs for these Blind individuals and their families in a country where there is no monthly public welfare program – no food stamps, housing assistance or medical care. New recipients will be selected and this project will resume in the near future.



The Blind and their families whom we have sponsored with monthly financial grants since 2004 expressed heartfelt gratitude for being beneficiaries of our project which empowered them to have their basic daily needs met, purchase land wherein they built their own homes, send their slighted children to school and enter college or higher learning institutions. An expansion of the number of grants to the Blind and visually impaired individuals continues to be our heartfelt desire.

## The Mission Has Not Changed: Let us continue the work!

Multitudes from Liberia's urban cities to rural villages dream of somehow finding a way to escape a life of poverty, suffering and hopelessness. The harsh realities are that most find no way of altering their meager existence for themselves or their families. Thus, they are simply trapped into a life of daily despair.

The rewards of helping people in such terrible conditions are immeasurable. How does one measure the value of a changed life -- from poverty to provision, from sickness to health, from illiteracy to educated, from being scorned to being admired, from feeling shame and self-pity to having self-confidence and pride in oneself? Then too, imagine the explosion of emotions, after being rescued from such devastating impoverished conditions to awakening to a new reality that "*there has always been*" "*hidden untapped treasures*" deep within them "*all the time*." One must have walked in their shoes and lived a life of prolonged suffering to even begin to answer such questions and to earnestly appreciate being guided through open doors of possibilities where dignity, self-respect and prosperity awaits them. We have seen it happen over and over again, as we have placed our hands in theirs! This is why we are so grateful for everyone that supports LO/HP, Inc. as we celebrate our 14<sup>th</sup> year of provision and look forward to greater accomplishments in 2024!



## A Very Special Thank You to Our Volunteers, Willing Workers, Donors, Partners and Sponsors!



On behalf of the poor in Liberia, West Africa and others who continue to benefit from our projects and services, I humbly extend a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who donated their talents, skills, items, or made a financial contribution this year. Your many prayers and acts of compassion towards the needs ensure the continuation of our projects. A very special thanks to COSTCO (Brandywine, MD) for donations, LOWE's (Clinton, MD), and Walmart Store (Clinton, MD), and to our partners: Chat & Chew Ministries (Evangelist Vera Peters, Bowie, MD); God's Distribution Center (the late Mrs. Beverly Jones, Clinton, MD); Grace Tabernacle...A Way of Holiness (Pastor John D. Ruff, DC/MD); Hemingway Temple A.M.E. Church (Rev. Thann Young, Washington, D.C.); In His Steps World Outreach Ministries (Pastor Momolu Freeman, Charlotte, NC); More Than Conquerors Ministry (Pastor Anthony Conley, Lanham, MD); Praise and Fellowship COGIC (Pastor Robert Valentine, Washington, D.C.); and, to T&V Auto Repair Services, LLC (Terry Bass, Clinton MD) for their generous giving to our many appeals throughout the year.

Words cannot adequately express the change I have witnessed in the lives of so many, truly a thousand humble thanks for *Helping Us...Help Them!* Because of each donor, these impoverished individuals know, without a doubt, that someone cares enough about their plight to extend a helping hand to open doors of opportunity wherein they and their families can escape extreme poverty and hopelessness.

Those of us living in developed nations are so blessed with having numerous opportunities to reach our goals and objectives in life. No such reality is available for the suffering poor in developing nations unless people like you and me get involved in tangible ways.

## Contact Us:

Mail: LO/HP, Inc. Post Office Box 1050 Washington, D.C. 20013Email: liberiancare@yahoo.comPhone: (202) 232-LOHP (5647)Web: www.lohp-usa.org

## Show Your Support:

Consider volunteering, making a tax-deductible donation or becoming a monthly sponsor for one or more of projects or donating a vehicle, computers, solar panel equipment or other urgently needed items identified on our website.

PayPal: <u>www.lohp-usa.org</u>

Cash App: \$LiberianCare

Check or Money order: (see mailing address above)

Scan the code:



## If you will

## Help Us...Help Them

The needy will receive!

Those who dared to dream will have a better life!

People, once trapped in hopelessness, will have a way of escape!

And,

You will receive great satisfaction for the part you have played in their transition!

Mrs. Sharon Loving Ruff,

Founder/CEO