



Glimpses of Gratitude and Special Appeals

The Ripple Effect of Giving

*Reach One, Feed One, Teach One, Help One
and each of them will tell their story with
Thanksgiving and Gratitude!*



Over the years, the word always quickly spreads in urban areas and remote villages in various counties of the Republic of Liberia, West Africa when, ***“Someone is helping the poor!”*** The Liberian Orphanage and Humanitarian Projects, Inc. (LO/HP, Inc.) as a faith-based private-non-profit charity organization is proud to be viewed in that category, “Helpers of the poor.” With our grants to the Salvation in Christ Orphanage and Humanitarian Refuge Home, Inc. (SIC) orphaned, abandoned, abused, neglected and impoverished children, teens and young adults receive an infusion of assistance from people in America. Daily they eat delicious meals, sleep in beds (on mattresses), wear clean clothes and have shoes for their feet. They attend school, receive medical care and live in a safe environment with caregivers who nurture them. With upbeat voices, the recipients of our sponsorship tell their stories, ***“We are happy. We will become somebody.”***

Naturally, others who hear of this great transition from poverty to provision and of graduation ceremonies from high school, vocational schools or college want the same opportunity; the same type doors to open unto them. Thus, ***hope is sparked.*** A light previously dim or nonexistent now shines brightly. Perhaps, just perhaps they dare to think, ***Me Too!***

Increased funding, over the years, has allowed our help to reach the Blind, Unwed Mothers, the handicapped, seniors living in extreme poverty, and many others who need urgent intervention to address desperate situations. In every instance, they respond with expressions of thanksgiving and gratitude as their hopes and dreams become reality. ***We join them thanking each donor, each sponsor as we continue our appeals for people to Help Us...Help Them!***

We are seeking donors for our Operation Blessing Project. Thirteen thousand (\$7,000US) is needed to send a 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 \$35US

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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A THOUSAND THANKS TO YOU, **DONORS:** CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED TWICE, MONTHS APART!

We reported our very stressful 2023 Christmas season sga in our Winter Newsletter. Since then many have asked, “How did things work out?” Well, it is my pleasure to announce that there was a happy ending.

As previously reported, there was a tremendous response to our appeal to send a surprise Christmas shipment for beneficiaries in our on-going Orphanage, Humanitarian, and Educational projects in urban and rural areas in Liberia, West Africa. In addition to items purchased, we also sent donated items from individuals, as well as, from Costco Warehouse (Waldorf, MD), and Lowe’s Home Improvement and Walmart Stores both in Clinton, MD. The shipment was picked up in October to arrive in Liberia before Christmas. It included clothing, shoes, toys, 128 book bags, household linen, 10-foot inflatable screen and HD projector, bass drum set and 16 dozen drum sticks, 6 laptop computers, educational materials, DVD players, 4 extra large tarps for coverings during events, 7 sewing machines, microwave oven, electric iron, 13 musical keyboards, six 6-foot folding tables, cotton candy machine, 3 insulated portable food coolers and 1 large beverage cooler, a large generator, blenders, mixers and other cooking equipment for their catering class, 2 large portable PA systems, fire extinguishers, and lots of educational and humanitarian items within over 60 boxes of blessings.

However, on December 5th we learned that our shipment had been delayed and would not arrive in Liberia until after Christmas. This news was devastating and necessitated a second appeal for donations to at least give Christmas gifts to all our project recipients; continuing an annual tradition since our inception. Once again, *there was a great outpouring of generosity from donors* and the beneficiaries of all our projects were able to join people worldwide in receiving gifts and having joyous celebrations during the Christmas season. Good News! The miracles did not stop! Our shipment finally arrived in mid-February; nothing missing or damaged.

Celebrating Christmas During the Holiday Season



Christmas gifts galore!



Christmas feast!



Staff & the sponsored received cash!

Celebrating “Christmas in February”



These shipped items arrived on the first day.



The remaining items arrived the next day.

A video capturing the children’s joy and excitement as the first day’s surprise Christmas shipment arrived in mid-February can be seen on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySCTfc0FmXQ>

Christmas Gifts From Shipment



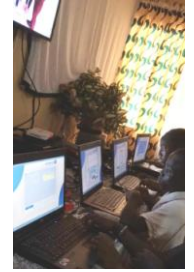
HD Projector w/10 ft. inflatable screen



Educational Materials



Games Galore



Computer Laptops



SPECIAL APPEAL –
For Children/Families like Ezekiel in Rural Villages



While it may take a village to raise a child, sometimes it’s a child who leads the way to highlight their family’s dire need for intervention. Such was the case of Ezekiel Adolphus, a little 8-year old rural villager wearing torn and dirty clothing, who approached a group of strangers as they were entering his village and asked, “Did you bring Christmas clothes for me?” One might wonder, “Why did he approach strangers?” The answer is probably out of desperation as he saw lots of large containers coming into his village and he wanted to be first in line to ask if they would share what they had with him.

He didn’t know that the Salvation in Christ Orphanage and Humanitarian Refuge Home, Inc.’s distribution team had received a grant from the Liberian Orphanage/Humanitarian Projects, Inc. (LO/HP, Inc.) to distribute Christmas food baskets to the frail elderly and extreme poor in rural villages. He had no idea that they were not distributing clothing. Nevertheless, this little boy’s physical condition spoke volumes of his dire need that did not go unnoticed, as Joel, one of the team members, took special interest in him and decided to share her lunch with him. After receiving permission to take his picture, it was sent to the Founder/CEO of LO/HP, Inc. Immediately she saw something in the eyes of this child that screamed for help and a text was sent to Joel to find out more about him and his family.

As Joel sat eating lunch with Ezekiel, another boy boldly walked up to them pointing at Ezekiel and asked Joel, “Why is he eating that special food?” Joel was puzzled and asked what the boy meant. Shockingly, he replied, “He’s not supposed to eat good food like that.” Those hurtful words brought tears to Joel’s eyes as she now pondered what types of “undesirable food” were regularly eaten by Ezekiel and his family? She told the little boy to stop saying ugly things to Ezekiel and then directed him to leave. Once the distribution resumed, Joel noticed that Ezekiel was not among the children who had gathered to receive Christmas candy. She



eventually found him standing alone in front of a rundown mud/stick house: multiple cracked mud bricks with patches of bricks missing throughout. She asked if he liked candy and when he said yes, she gave him some lollipops. Then, she introduced herself to his mother who by then had come outside to see who was talking to her son. After learning that Joel represented a well-known child welfare home where orphaned or impoverished village children had received sponsorship, graduated from high school and were gainfully employed, she quickly asked if Ezekiel could be accepted into the orphanage program because she was unable to properly care for him.



The discussion eventually shifted to the various illnesses that plagued each of the adult family members and the debilitating chronic symptoms each endured. Repeatedly Joel heard, “We have no money for clinic visits, medication or travel.” In fact, Ezekiel’s father was away at a neighboring village that provided country herbs and traditional medicine to treat the sick. His uncle, who had now joined the discussion, showed Joel his extremely swollen leg which was probably caused by untreated mosquito infestations that evolved into a painful condition called elephantiasis. His mother suffered from various ailments, including chest pains. Since none of the adults could consistently work on a daily basis, Ezekiel’s twelve-year old twin brothers (Isaiah and Daniel) were the sole breadwinners responsible for providing food for the family. The twins were not home that day as they were working as contract manual laborers on a farm earning \$1.50US per day Monday through Saturday. And, when there is no work available, there would be no food for the family to eat that day. Joel, who is an RN, surmised that malnutrition and living in an unhealthy environment probably were root causes of many of this family’s illnesses. As distribution ended, Joel said this family was so grateful for the Christmas food basket they received. Unfortunately, while Ezekiel met the conditions for child sponsorship, based upon limited space and resources, at this time, no guarantee could be given him of placement in the home.

Two months later, bed space and a generous donation from a donor who heard about Ezekiel’s story made it possible for his transition into the home. His mother was notified and a date given for the team to pick him up. While she knew Ezekiel would now have a new life of provision, she had no idea that LO/HP, Inc. had decided to make an initial intervention to improve the tragic conditions of this family.

The day finally arrived when the team returned to the village for Ezekiel. His mother said he couldn’t sleep the night before due to his excitement of starting a new life. The team surprised the family with three large bags of rice, dried fish, soap, toothpaste/brushes, powder soap and other food items to make small market to sell for income. They were also given a local cell phone to keep in touch with the orphanage and money to purchase other needed items (picture 1). This was the team’s first meeting with Ezekiel’s father and his 12-year old twin brothers (picture 2) and the first time they were invited to enter the family home (picture 3). Picture 4 shows the deteriorating condition of the outside of their home.

As Joel entered their home, her first response was tears as she thought, “Oh, my God, this family has been abandoned. They literally sleep outdoors: portions of their roof are missing, their walls are full of holes and they are sleeping without mattresses on the bare earth.” The physical condition of the twins was also very disturbing. Daniel, one of them, had deep cuts and skin removed from his fingers injured while working hard labor on neighboring farms (picture 5). The last picture is of Ezekiel, in the middle wearing the clothes the team brought for him to travel, with his brothers, Isaiah (yellow shirt), and Daniel (multicolor shirt) (with much sadness on their faces) on each side. Joel then received parental permission for a video interview of their life of constant struggle as they made an urgent appeal for help. It is posted on https://youtu.be/wksgQxJ_f4U.



The following month, the SIC team made an unannounced visit to again improve the quality of life for this family. The family was presented with cement and sand to create a cement floor in place of the bare earth and to begin replacing the decaying mud/stick interior walls with mud brick walls which are much sturdier and longer lasting. They were also given a bundle of zinc and zinc nails to repair one portion of their leaky roof, a front door, door frame and lock, mattresses, linen, clothing, shoes and undergarments for Ezekiel’s twin boys, father, mother and uncle. Shown through the pictures below, with the twinkle of an eye, Ezekiel’s mother and

twin brothers quickly changed from their old stained garments into their new clothes and happily posed for pictures. A video was also made expressing their gratitude. This intervention signaled hope for a new life for all the family members in this once destitute family, struggling without means for a better future.



The following month, an unexpected donation allowed LOHP, Inc. to give another grant to the SIC team to begin the journey of medically assessing the specific ailments of Ezekiel's parents. The team returned to the village to take Ezekiel's mother and father to the hospital for evaluation and treatment. A word was sent to his uncle that once he returns, he too will receive medical attention. Rice, dried fish, seasoning, bath soap, toothpaste, soap powder, a soccer ball for the twins and money for other needed things were given. In addition, our grant included funding for 1,000 mud bricks and cement to rebuild part of the damaged exterior walls.

Of course, the entire family was excited as they traveled to the hospital with expectation of being healed from their illnesses. Through pictures and videos SIC continued to document its interactions with this family. Interestingly, the most impressive thing during this visit was captured in one of the pictures of the twins. It was not seeing them in clean properly fitting clothing. We expected nothing less since they wanted to look like other properly clothed village children. What stood out the most for us was their facial expressions.



They no longer looked troubled and aged beyond their youthful years. Then too, there was an undeniable *absence* of *shame* and *hopelessness* in their *eyes*! Real *joy* in their *hearts* had now projected true *happiness* on their *faces*.



Their cheerful expressions in the second set of pictures were not part of their previous demeanor. Provision had made a difference not only in the physical quantity and quality of their things; but, also in the uplifting of their souls. Our continued interventions had assured them that we had not deserted them after taking Ezekiel to his new home, which meant a better life for him "only." They now understood that "they too" were included in our plans to improve the quality of life for rural villagers. *These type interventions, these type transitions exemplify the work which has been done by the all volunteer staff of The Liberian Orphanage and Humanitarian Projects, Inc. (LO/HP, Inc.) since inception. These accomplishments are the result of continued generous monthly giving from donors and sponsors and targeted funding in response to our "Special Appeals." Thanks to everyone who donates. None of this is possible without donations.*

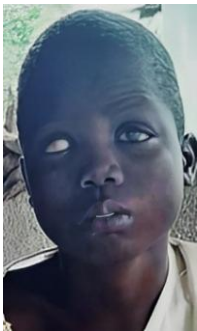
The doctors gave both parents medicine and an injection to treat their illnesses and placed the mother on a restricted diet due to a developing stomach ulcer. Their follow-up visits will occur in a few months. After the visit, our transportation allowance allowed the SIC team to return to the orphanage compound 2+ hours away. As I often say, without compassion from caring people, none of the help: food, clothing & shoes, household items, residential renovation, educational scholarships, medical interventions, financial or other types of humanitarian aid would have been possible. *As good stewards, even a little goes a long way.*

We've gone as far as our resources for emergency interventions allow. To continue to the next phase in this family's transition from hopelessness to provision and self-determination, we are making **A SPECIAL APPEAL** on their behalf. We cannot do it without your help. We are seeking \$2,755US to provide:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 3 bundles of roofing zinc.& wood sticks... \$475US | 5. Paint, brushes for interior/exterior... \$225US |
| 2. Roofing nails and glue..... \$25US | 6. Medical follow-up..... \$80US |
| 3. Cement (50 bags)/Sand..(\$200).....\$700US | 7. Household pots/pans/furniture \$150US |
| 4. Labor costs for roof/cement work..... \$200US | 8. Business start-up grant.....\$400US |

With a business start-up grant, this family will become self-employed and no longer totally dependent upon the weather to determine whether they will have a daily meal seven months out of the year. Both Ezekiel's parents and his twin brothers have asked that they join Ezekiel as a sponsored child at the Salvation in Christ Orphanage and Humanitarian Refuge Home, Inc. in the city in the Paynesville community. Therefore, we are seeking sponsors for both Isaiah and Daniel. Sponsorship is **\$35US** monthly per child. This provides daily nutritional meals, clothing, shoes, medical care, and an educational scholarship (including tuition, uniforms and school supplies) from elementary through high school while living in a nurturing, secure residential setting.

So many in rural villages desperately need intervention! Without formal education, so many have no way to improve the quality of their life. Case in point, this troubling situation came to our attention recently.



Let me introduce Nelson T. in the picture on the left. He is a 9-year old Blind villager who had sight until age 5. His father is dead and mother's illness forced her to give him to his aunt who lives in a neighboring village. The aunt works on a farm and including travel time leaves him all alone for 10 hours Monday thru Saturday whenever she can find work. Other than eating, toileting and bathing, without sight he is unable to do anything for himself but wonder around a small familiar area. Alone, he faces dangers everyday: snakes, wild dogs, mistreatment from children and adults, just to name a few. That's a hard life for **A SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD** in a rural village! Early medical intervention might have resulted in a different life for Nelson. But, an initial treatment from an eye specialist of \$75US+ was far beyond this family's reach, as his aunt's daily salary is just \$1.50US.

LO/HP, Inc. desires to intervene into Nelson's situation. With your help, we can give him an opportunity for a meaningful life. His aunt has agreed to allow the SIC team to bring him into the city for a complete medical evaluation, including an eye exam. She has also agreed to allow Nelson to live with a family near the Dan McNaughton Foundation School for the Blind where he can learn basic life skills and perhaps become educated beyond high school. There is no tuition, but he will need uniforms, shoes and other requirements totally \$125US annually. He will also need an addition \$70US for clothing/shoes for the dry and rainy seasons, undergarments and toiletries. With a \$35US monthly sponsor, Nelson's life will change. Together, we can prevent this handicap from imprisoning him in a lifetime of hopelessness and despair. *Please help us...help him!* We told him we would make an appeal on his behalf. He awaits an answer to his cry for help!

Will You Help Us...Help Rural Villagers Like These Too?



In talking to the town founder, Ma G.L., days of hunger are inescapable. In rural villages where farming is the main source of income, the very young as well as the very old suffer lack, especially during the rainy season. During intense rainfall, there is no work for laborers that day or even for the week. No work means no money for daily food. She assembled children with extended bellies and the frail body of an older worker also shows their battle with hunger and malnutrition. Just \$50US can provide rice, dried meat, oil, seasonings, vegetables, bath soap and soap powder for a month. *If you give*, we can help them!

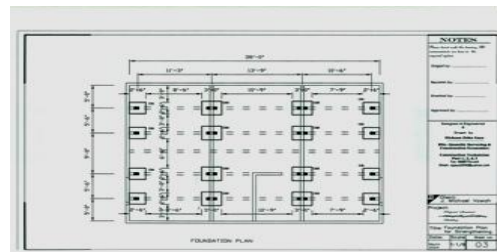
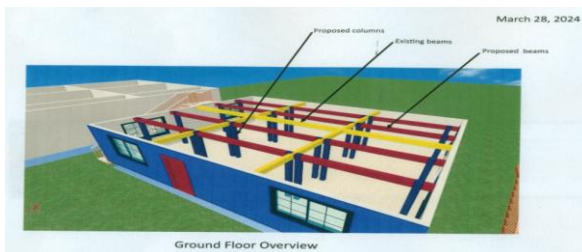


A SPECIAL APPEAL –
The Orphanage School Building's Cement Ceiling
Is Structurally Unsound,
Without Repair the School Will Have to Close!



LO/HP, Inc. built the above two-story brick building on the compound of the SIC Orphanage and Humanitarian Refuge Home, Inc. which houses The Eliza Neufville Memorial Academy (ENMA). It was a dream realized to have a school building within the compound which would serve orphanage residents, elementary through junior high school, as well as, underprivileged children within the Paynesville community at-large whose parents could not afford the 100US+ annual tuition from neighboring schools. The construction of this facility was done a few years after the end of the civil war and the construction crew charged minimum labor due to the necessity of having a school to serve the children in the community. From its inception, more than 50% of the student body has been on reduced fee or no fee because of they come from female single head of households with multiple children without a constant means of support. Most sell in the market which often times net no daily income. And, unfortunately, often times, these mothers receive no financial support from the children's fathers. Not only abandonment, but sickness and death have also been major contributors to the instability of these families. Until ENMA opened, these students had no opportunity to become educated.

Earlier this year, LO/HP, Inc. received notice that small bits of the cement ceiling separating the first from second floor were shredding. At first, it was thought that the paint was peeling and a grant was given for repainting; but, the shredding reoccurred. We requested an evaluation from a licensed, well respected engineer and received disturbing news. The paint was not the cause of the peeling. It was faulty construction. The builders had taken short cuts to do the construction and did not properly space the supportive brick and steel rod columns which has now caused the building to be on the brink of being structurally unsound. Over the years, the weight of 200+ students moving within the building has created a problem that cannot be overlooked. The options were to either tear down the entire building and rebuilt it, or undergo a major renovation project.



We chose the second option. We desire to begin the work of correcting the structural deficiencies to this building as soon as the current school semester ends. **WILL YOU HELP US?** The cost of the building materials is \$3,400US and the cost of labor is \$500US. The engineer has volunteered to oversee the project. Without these repairs, it is unsafe for the school building to be occupied. This potential disaster would close the door to education for many. **Your donation of any amount will make a difference!**

Contact Us:

Mrs. Sharon L. Ruff, Founder/ CEO

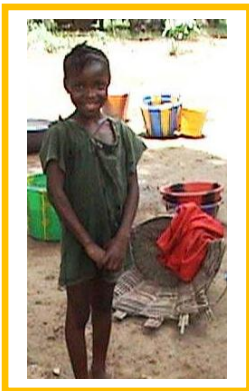
The Liberian Orphanage/Humanitarian Projects, Inc.

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

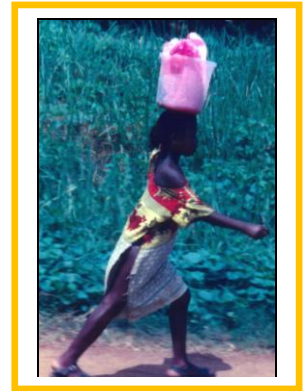
Phone: (202) 232-LOHP (5647) Website: www.lohp-usa.org E-mail: liberiancare@yahoo.com

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, educational opportunities, medical care, unwed mothers the Blind & the disadvantaged. **Together, we can improve their lives. Please give today!**



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. **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. **Visit the website for priority needs!** Foreign made vehicles (cars, trucks, and school buses in good running condition) are urgently needed. [USA parts are hard to get in Liberia.] Volunteers are also needed! Make a **tax-deductible donation** payable to **“LIBERIAN ORPHANAGE / HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS, INC.”** or **“LO/HP, Inc.** at the above address.” **To donate use: PayPal on the website at www.lohp-usa.org or Scan the QR code or CashApp –\$LiberianCare or Mail the form below to our P.O. Box.**



Thank You for Your Consideration of Our Appeals!

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) _____