



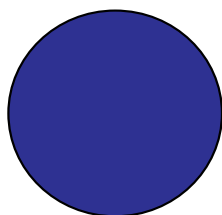
MHA Dolly's Smile

EVERYONE CAN BE **PRODUCTIVE**



Special Interest Articles:

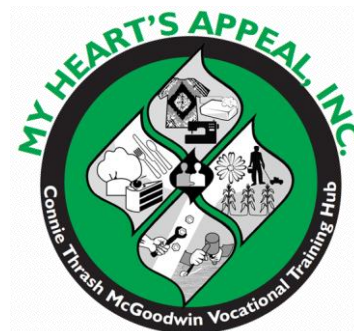
- Connie Thrash McGoodwin Vocational Training Hub
- Pasture for the Sheep Second Annual Benefit Dinner
- Liberia Law Makers Visit MHA Vocational Hub



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Vocational Training Hub

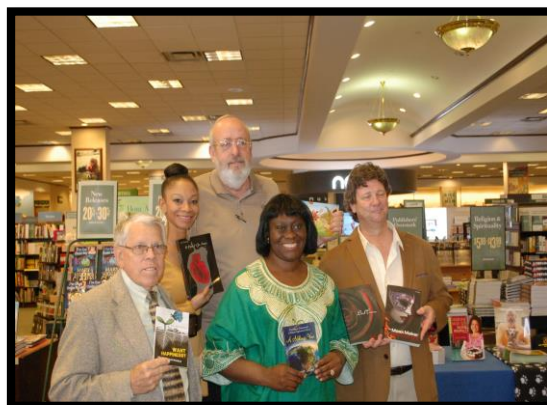
The Connie Thrash McGoodwin Vocational Training Hub (CTM-Vocational Training Hub) opened its doors to providing quality training to teenage and adult persons with intellectual disabilities March 10, 2014 in Liberia. The vocational training hub is temporarily located in the family compound of the parents of MHA CEO Lovetie Major.

We continue fundraising for our Land Fund Drive goal of \$300,000.00 to enable us to have our own location. Collected \$13,071.64, still need \$286, 929.36. You can join in and make a difference in contributing to our land fund drive at www.myheartsappeal.org.

In its pilot phase and initial vocational training assessments, life skills and literacy activities, CTM-Hub services were accessible to 25 clients; 18 girls and 7 boys in a sheltered workshop environment, until July 7, 2014 when the Center was closed, because of the Ebola outbreak in the country.

The vocational training hub will also provide day programs and other services in addition to sheltered employment. MHA believes that its clients should be able to earn a living and make at least minimum wage, but there isn't employment support available in Liberia for supported community employment and pre-vocational work. MHA plans on changing that chapter in the Liberian

Book Signing Event: A Sibling's Vow by Lovetie Major



Mrs. Major joins local authors at Barnes & Noble's Bookstore in Oklahoma City at a book signing in April 2014, where they shared their literary experiences.

Lovetie Major authored the book **A Sibling's Vow**, Providing an Education for a Woman Neglected in Liberia, which was released October 1,

2013 where she revealed the hardships experienced and the triumphs gained as she sought to bring Titima, her sister to the USA. **A Sibling's Vow**, published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises, is available through bookstores nationwide, for more information, log on to www.myheartsappeal.org. ☘



Lovetie Major, M.ED
MHA CEO



*"It is a common
place for Liberians
to wait for the
government to act,
we are the
government" - Dr.
Roseda Marshall*



Dr. Moses Massaquoi,
President LMDA & MHA
CEO Lovetie Major

CEO's Reflections...

Oh, how it has been a long and tireless six years journey. In 2008 my sister, Titema left the USA and arrived in Liberia with a light beaming so bright with hope and aspirations. She had proven wrong the myth and label that society had cast on her, the "good for nothing human being." She could read and write a little, and had acquired a Food Service Certificate, which allowed her the opportunity to work and be a productive citizen. How proud I was of all she had accomplished.

Our dreams were crushed with the reality that the Liberian society was still not ready to accept persons with intellectual challenges in the

communities. She had to sit home and wonder why I brought her back to Liberia to be rejected and ridiculed.

It is now March, 2014 and MHA has opened one of its five hubs and my sister now has the opportunity to attend the pastry class along with other enrichment courses offered at the Connie Thrash McGoodwin Vocational Training Hub. This service is now available to other families with children with intellectual and developmental delays.

Sponsorships are needed to provide program services at a monthly cost of USD \$120. and weekly \$30. per client.

Continued on pg. 8

A Strategic Medical Partnership

MHA continues engagement in advocating for individuals with intellectual disabilities in Liberia. January of this year, Mrs. Lovetie Major met with Dr. Moses Massaquoi, President of the Liberia Medical and Dental Association (LMDA) in Monrovia at his office and expressed MHA interest in forming collaboration and partnership with the association.

Attending the bimonthly scientific and business meeting of the association at the Firestone Medical Center in Duse, Margibi County, Saturday March 1, 2014, Mrs. Major was allowed to address teams of medical professionals present. Along with her remarks, she shared a mini video presentation that showed individuals with intellectual disabilities given the opportunity to enjoy little

pleasures of life that had been denied this population. She stated that her organization was only one part of a triangle in meeting the needs of this special population with society and the medical world being the others.

Dr. Roseda Marshall, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the A.M. Dogliotti School of Medicine, stated in supporting remarks that it is the common place for Liberians to wait for the government to act. "We are the government," she went on to say, and welcomed the opportunity to work along with MHA for taking up the charge to address a need in society. The organization, in its final vote, accepted the challenge and assigned the Pediatric Department of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Monrovia to work along with MHA. 🌟

Liberia and the Ebola Outbreak

The conversations have begun about possible Ebola outbreak in Liberia. It will be a close call, as the population we service in our respite, vocational training programs and Down Syndrome Association of Liberia are families with individuals with developmental and intellectual delays.

These individuals are the most vulnerable in society and it would not be in their best interest and well-being to

be placed in situations where families would have to choose care giving and medical alternatives. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep in touch with our families.

My Heart's Appeal joins the international community in wishing for a speedy remedy to combat and contain the deadly Ebola outbreak in Liberia and the rest of the infected countries West Africa. 🌟

A Visit from the Liberian Senate



Lovetie Major visited the Liberia Senate Chambers on, Wednesday, March 26, 2014, and met with the Senators of Grand Kru County, Dr. Peter S. Coleman; Maryland County, John Ballout; and Bong County, Jewel Howard. She engaged the Senators to the need in society to help a population of its citizenry that have been neglected. She extended the Senators the opportunity to visit the Connie Thrash McGoodwin Vocational Training Hub at My Heart's Appeal Center (MHAC), Gaye Town, Sinkor Old Road that services individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Mrs. Major has been advocating for the better part of her life and have now reached the legislative branch of government to start the conversation of introducing legislation to provide budgetary allocation for this targeted group. The Senators arrived at the Center on Friday, March 28 and toured the facilities with Mrs. Major as they observed the clients in their development

programs of wood carving, tie & dye, tailoring and pastry. Along with Senators Coleman and Ballout was Lydia Cooper, a Coordinator at the Ministry of Gender and Development.

In their remarks they acknowledged the organization's effort to start the Center without a funding source, and noted that the government of Liberia should be doing more for this targeted group and are not. Both members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee, assured that their visit to the center would have a multiple effect and that they would invite their colleagues to come and visit and also start a process of fundraising. They promised to present MHA Proposal to the Senate to include appropriation for budgetary funding the next budget year. MHA awaits the possibilities...✿

Volunteers from United Methodist Church of the Servant- Oklahoma. USA

Dr. Arthur & Charlene Richardson, Leroy Ball and Kimberli Brownlee visited My Heart's Appeal Center (MHA) March 16-23, 2014. They participated in activities of programs run by MHA in Liberia. Bigma's Care Place Respite Care, CTM Vocational Training Hub official launch and the opening of the Al & Nancy Williams Bakery & Coffee Shop and also celebrated MHA 2nd Annual World Down Syndrome Day & Special Exhibition Games held at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium in Central Monrovia. They also had the opportunity to visit the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and met with Bishop Innis.✿





MHA Pasture for the Sheep Wall of Fame

MHA fundraising drive -Pasture for the Sheep- is to buy land in Liberia, West Africa in support of Special Education. Wall of Fame will be posted on an erected wall when campus is completed. Thank you for your support! The listings below include general financial contributions given to MHA.

\$5000.00 + Shepherd Sponsorship Level

Missions: United Methodist Church of the
Servant, Oklahoma City +

\$3000.00 + Shepherds Staff Sponsorship Level

Allen & Nancy Williams+ Dr. Arthur &
Charlene Richardson + Burke Major + Cllr.
N. Oswald Tweh + Susannah Telewoda +

\$1500.00 + Shepherd Sponsorship Level

Susan Leonard + Larry & Cynthia Stacy +

\$500.00 + Ram Sponsorship Level

Piper Pfister + James & Cherrie Hampton + Velicia Major
Loren & Julie Plotkin Alfred & Korpo Telewoda +
Elizabeth Pin Dale Rogers Training Center +
Pam Henthron + John Nester Randall + John Meyers
Dr. Gary & Rosaline Rahe + Maccinni Construction Company+
Jim & Connie McGoodwin + Joseph & Gerly Telewoda +
Journey of Faith Sunday School Class, Church of the Servant +

\$250.00 + Ewe Sponsorship Level

Robert & Martha Holloway+ Nancy Morgan+ Jill Walker +
Ida Brooks-Borkari + Dr. Bracha Laster + Leni Burrow
The Path Sunday School Class, Church of the Servant +
Suzette Drake + Diana Clifton + Cary & Terry Fisher+
Fran Parkhill+ Loren Atwood Arlene Keim
Tracy & Sharon Freeny + Dale & Phyllis Regier +
Classic Sunday School Class, Church of the Servant+
Leroy Ball & Patricia McGarrity + Walt & Harriot LaGrone +
Allen & Sharon Bumgardner

\$100.00 + Lamb Sponsorship Level

Suzy Wolfe + Kirk Mullen+ Amy Chao + Kysha Williams + Gina Musae+ Cal Moser+ Miki Farris+
Marcia Brejda Diane Folks+ Christine Moss Daniel Short Dawn Allen + Joe & Shirley Rolston
Susan Potts + Dr. Marion Paden Lillian Brejda + Delbert & Linda Simmons + Ellen Hickerson+
John & Karen Martin + William & Barbara Russell + David & Toni Conrady William Wiggins Sam Eid +
Dr. Zwannah & Yatta Dukuly Borkai Sirleaf + Sharlene Hammons Alvina Federwitz + Marina Rauh
Monique Mathelier-Kouwenhoven Stan Barton+ Dr. Robyn Goggs + Jill McCartney+ Tim & Nikki Reid
Marvin & Shirley Schaus Jerome & Tonia Mitchell + Chuck & Sue Sullivan Sharon Peters+ Julie Whitson+
Catherine Montgomery Bill & Eileen Humes + Nancy Hyde+ Dr. Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland
Dr. Charles & Kathleen Richardson+ Chip Taylor Dewayne McAnally + Sharon Allen Nadene Merkitich
Mark & Kay Harsha + Susan Sutter + Davis & Barbara Merry + Judith Raulston + Susie Musae +
Lawrence Davis Phil & Marcia Mitchell + Ronald & Shirley Beckett Nancy Collins+



MHA Programs Receives Donations in Oklahoma City



Hannah's Promise Ministry



Ed & Susan Mitchell



Walt & Harriot LaGrone

Pasture for the Sheep 2nd Annual Benefit Dinner

MHA fundraising campaign with an annual Benefit Dinner for the development of a campus in Liberia in support of special education held Thursday, February 13, at the United Methodist Church of the Servant - Community Hall, in Oklahoma City. Recognition of 2012-13 partners for outstanding charitable service to MHA in the Shepherd Award Category. One of the Shepherd Award Honoree won the Prestigious MHA Shepherds Staff Award, which was presented by Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M.Ed., Executive Director, Dale Rogers Training Center. Adriana Iwasinski of News 9 was guest hostess for the event. Miki Farris, Executive Director of Infant Service Crisis, Inc. served as keynote speaker for the event. ☼



Ali & Danielle Soltani, Soltani Music
Gallery Walk Performers



L-R Miki Farris, Executive Director of Infant Service Crisis, Inc., Lovetie Major &
Adrianna Iwasinski of News 9



Parakletos Sunday School Class, Church of the Servant
MHA Prestigious Shepherds Staff Award



Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M.Ed., Executive Director
Dale Rogers Training Center in Oklahoma City





MHA Celebrates 2nd World Down Syndrome Day in Liberia, March 2014



Buddy Walk around the Antoinette Tubman Stadium



Down Syndrome Day Awareness Program

Health Fair



MHA Special Exhibition Games 2014



Awards Celebrations



Connie Thrash McGoodwin Vocational Training Hub - Liberia, March 2014



Agriculture Garden & Water Well



Handicraft/Floral Design

Lilygrass Flowers & Decor- Liberia



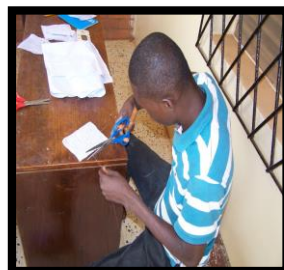
Computer/Library Skills



Pastry



Tailoring



Tie & Dye



Literacy/Life Skills



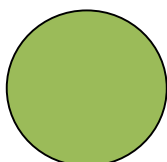
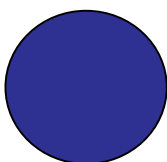
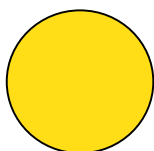
Recycling Center





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We're on the Web!
See us at:



Help us give a special needs individual a chance to learn. We have been incorporated in the USA since 1996. Services began in Liberia, 2012. Visit us at www.myheartsappeal.org and check out all of the taps and drop buttons on our site. Our email is info@myheartsappeal.org and numbers 405-603-2799 (Phone), 405-603-2712 (Fax). If you ❤️ us, be sure to like us on Face book.

MHA Online Store...is a quick stop for 2014 holiday shopping!



Poster \$15.00
Cultural Dancer
12" x 18"
(full color, w/bleed)



Poster \$15.00
Heart of the Home
12" x 18"
(full color, w/bleed)



Poster \$15.00
Town Meeting
12" x 18"
(full color, w/bleed)



Poster \$15.00
Palava Hut
12" x 18"
(full color, w/bleed)



Poster \$15.00
Drummer Boy
12" x 18"
(full color, w/bleed)



MHA African Greeting Cards & envelopes 8.5" x 5.5" Folded Plain Cards 4.375" x 5.75" A2 Envelopes Price: \$10.00

Order pick-ups optional at MHA offices by appointment only

CEO's Reflections....Continued from pg 2

MHA partnered with United Methodist Church of the Servant (COS) in Oklahoma City, USA as a mission outreach and they welcomed the first volunteer team to Liberia 2014. Our Bigma's Care Place is modeled after COS respite program, Hannah's Promise Ministry. I want to thank all Friends of MHA, Patrons and volunteers for the out pouring support during programs we have had the first half in Liberia and the USA. It was all a success because of you. 🌟