



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**"MY HEART'S APPEAL" HOLDS ITS 3<sup>rd</sup> FUNDRAISING BENEFIT DINNER AND GALLERY WALK**

**Oklahoma City woman continues to Pursue her Dream to Build a Special Education Campus in her Hometown of Liberia, West Africa**



**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – February 17, 2015** - The non-profit organization "My Heart's Appeal" (MHA) continued with its fundraising campaign celebrating its third annual fundraiser, for the development of a campus in Liberia, West Africa, in support of special education, announced Founder and CEO Lovetie Major on Thursday, February 12, at the United Methodist Church of the Servant - Community Hall, 14343 North

MacArthur, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where the event was held. MHA hosted a colorful evening of food, friendship, information and fundraising complete with Gallery Walk, Silent Auction, Interactive Cultural exchanges and Door Prizes. This year's theme was "A Shepherd's Guiding Hand", from Oklahoma to Liberia.

MHA provides training programs and opportunities for teenage and adult persons living in Mrs. Major's hometown of Liberia who have a primary diagnosis of intellectual disability (IQ of 70 or below). Her goal is to raise \$300,000.00 needed for the 100 acres of land ear-marked for the proposed campus, surveying and probating the deed there. A journey of a thousand miles, begins with a single step, says Mrs. Major as she quoted a famous Chinese proverb. She went on to say that they have raised \$ 13, 788.00. Still need \$286, 212.00 to go and they will get there a step at a time.



MHA and the Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC) a center that serves people with disabilities in Oklahoma, joined hands to inform, embrace and impact the life-giving needs of individuals with disabilities. A brief presentation was shared disseminating the continued success of MHA and DRTC strategic partnerships with government, medical, humanitarian and business leaders by Connie Thrash-McGoodwin M.Ed. DRTC Executive Director and MHA CEO Lovetie Major, M. Ed.



During the event MHA received two generous donations to help advance the cause of MHA Transportation Program in Liberia. A check of eight thousand dollars from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation through the Litchenbug Fund, with Al & Jere Litchenbug as donors; and the DRTC Board President Cheryl Moore and board member Bob Hale surprised the crowd by announcing DRTC had donated two pre-owned box trucks for MHA's use in Liberia and will soon do the

same with two vans. Moore stated, "Part of the Dale Rogers' mission is to help educate the public about people with disabilities in the U.S. and around the world."

Featured at this year's event was recognition of 2014 partners from Africa, Europe and North America for outstanding non-financial charitable service to MHA in the Shepherd Award Honorees Category in support of its programs and other community enterprises. Allen & Nancy Williams of the Shepherd Award Honorees won the Prestigious MHA Shepherds Staff Award, which was presented by MHA Board of Directors. See pictures below, Page 3.



Having a younger sister with Down syndrome, Mrs. Major was always disappointed that Liberia had no support services for persons with disabilities. She founded MHA in Maryland 1996, and it was inaugurated in Baltimore, Maryland, in 2001. MHA moved its head office to Oklahoma in 2011 and began serving families with children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Liberia, West Africa in 2012.

**DRTC Clients were MHA Special Guest at this Benefit Dinner**





**Delbert Simmons**



**Suzie Drake**



**Edward & Susan Mitchell**



**Nikki Reid**



**Lawrence Davis**



**Kimberli Brownlee**



**William Brollier**



**Warren & Suzanne Wilson**



**Pam Henthron**