



MHA

Dolly's Smile

EVERYONE CAN BE **PRODUCTIVE**



July 2015

Biannual Edition, Issue: 15.2

Special Interest Articles:

- MHA Partners with United Methodist Church
- Message from Chair of MHA Board of Directors
- MHA Transportation Program



The Advance

Advancing hope in Christ's name

"My Heart's Appeal for the Intellectually Disabled", has been approved to become an official project of The Advance, the designated giving program of The United Methodist Church. The Advance project number is "3022086".

There are four ways how gifts can be sent through The Advance:

By Church Offering: Donors can make check payable to their local Methodist church. Write the name My Heart's Appeal and the Advance code number 3022086 on the check. Drop the gift in any United Methodist church offering plate or give the gift to their church treasurer, so that the church and annual conference will get Advance credit.

By Phone: Credit card gifts can be accepted by phone. The telephone number is: 888-252-6174

By Mail: Donors can make checks payable to ADVANCE GCFA. Write in the memo section 3022086 My Heart's Appeal. Send your check to:

Advance GCFA

P.O. Box 9068

New York, NY 10087-9068

Give Online: Donors can give directly to www.umcmision.org/give. Enter project name My Heart's Appeal for the Intellectually Disabled or number 3022086.

As an Advance project, MHA has a webpage on the Global Ministries website. We also have mission opportunities and welcome mission teams to visit our establishment and participate in Liberia. For additional information, contact: 443-474-8031 or 405-603-2799, email us at info@myheartsappeal.org or visit www.myheartsappeal.org ☺

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Alfred Y. Telewoda Sr. Education Endowment Fund

Alfred, a strong advocate for education encouraged all of his children to attain the highest education opportunities afforded to them. He was a devoted husband and family man. He maintained his family and instilled work ethics and love amongst his children. He encouraged all of them to be their brothers' keeper. Titema, the second to the last of the children was born with Down syndrome and an intellectual disability.

The Alfred Telewoda Endowment Fund is managed by <http://okumf.org/>, The Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation. The Endowment Fund draws only interest, never on principal. In this way

we provide every person, and principally our target group, the protection of understanding a little about their prospect...that there will always be My Heart's Appeal, Inc. (MHA).

Gifts take many forms including appreciated assets such as stock, naming Alfred Telewoda Endowment Fund as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account, a bequest through one's will or trust, or by making a direct cash contribution to Account 2360 Alfred Telewoda Endowment Fund by mail or <https://okumf.org/services/online-giving/>. ☺



CEO's Reflections...



*Lovetie Major, M.ED
MHA CEO*



*MHA- Liberia team visits,
prays and sympathizes
with mother*

I give thanks to God for the many blessings and opportunities to serve “special” individuals in society; here in the USA and now in Liberia. Society has categorized individuals with special needs; but I say they are not special, but reside in our communities to remind us that “if” it was not for the mercy of God’s Grace we would also have been born more depended on others, all or most of our lives as well. Oh, how often we forget about “God’s Grace” and being our brothers’ keeper.

At funerals I have observed and heard people lament for different reasons over the loss of a loved one. Though sad it was to receive the news in March 2015 that one of our babies with Down syndrome died in his second year, it brought a smile to my face to know that MHA made a difference in his short lifespan. We want to thank all MHA sponsors who helped and provided the flowers through their contributions to MHA programs allowing the family to smell the fragrance and enjoy the aroma when their son was alive.

As a special education teacher and sibling of a Down syndrome sister, I was told many times that I set my expectation for them too high for achievement. Likewise, I am still being told that it will be impossible to reach our \$300,000.00 goal of land fund drive. I am reminded of the quote “The true

sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination”- Albert Einstein. They rose up to the challenge and met every objective I set before them and attained them by repetition and determination.

I invite you to imagine with me the possibilities that await this revolutionary change for Liberia and West Africa: the time when our target group will stand in the **Chapel** at the entrance of the campus with their voices echoing in the distance, singing praises without being laughed at or told “don’t sit by me”; when you are served as guest by our **Commercial Hub**; when satellite distance learning and teacher exchanges are made possible, offering in-service in special education for the first time in our **Teacher Training Hub**; when individuals sleep for the first time in beds called their own in the **Residential Hub**; when Special Olympics regional games are held at our **Recreational Hub**; and when individuals are given the opportunity to be productive, earn an honest income and be a contributing member of society in the **Connie Thrash McGoodwin Vocational Training Hub**.

“First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.” -Mahatma Gandhi

The \$300,000.00 land fund drive cost covers the land, cornerstone, probate deed, surveying, clearing and securing the property location. MHA facilities are now temporary housed in the family compound of Lovetie Major in Liberia

A Message from Dr. Arthur Richardson Chair, MHA Board of Directors



How would you describe a gift? I don't mean the kind of gift at Christmas or a Birthday party...but the kind of gift that comes to My Heart's Appeal in support of our mission. To us...

A gift is like...

An Angel... one of God's Messengers
An affirmation of a vision
Evidence of servanthood
A seedling of promise
A cornerstone for the future to come.

Consider, for example, the gift from Al and Nancy Williams that restored the bakery to a working enterprise. Al and Jere Litchenberg were moved at hearing Lovetie's message and provided funding for a bus fund to bring the children to school safely.

Dale Rogers Training Center's Board recently announced at the February annual dinner they were gifting a produce truck (think "Apple Orchard"!) and a pickup truck. The Woodworth Foundation provided the gift that is bringing sewing machines, an air conditioner and monitors to our computer lab, a powerful generator, a water pump, fire extinguishers to the bakery, and shredders to generate operating income.

Early on I learned that people give to vision. When they see what is possible, what is promising...they plant seeds and lay cornerstones that make mission real. This is the vivid description of gift-giving.

Our vision? Continue purchasing the 100 acres for a campus-like community...then Create 5 Hubs of activity...**Vocational Training** (jobs), **Teacher Training** (literacy), **Residential** (life skills), **Commercial** (apple orchard and bakery to become self-sustaining) and **Recreational** (health and well-being).

Thank you for your gift...your message...your servanthood ...your faith in our future. In our mission, we have learned that it is in blessing others we, too, are truly blessed.

MHA Strategic Partnership with the United Methodist Church



Lovetie Major had the honor of meeting with Bishop Robert E. Hayes Jr. (left), episcopal leader of the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church, where My Heart's Appeal has its headquarter. He gave his blessing to and affirmation of MHA; as a Methodist by religion, with Bishop Hayes as her local spiritual authority, it meant a lot to her as a Christian. At an earlier visit to Liberia in March 2014 (right), where MHA services are rendered, MHA gained the support of the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church through its leader Bishop John Innis. ☺

MHA Transportation Program



We needed to purchase a bus to help transport students and clients to and from our site. Public transportation is scarce in Liberia and people rely on taxis, motorcycles, or overcrowded buses. For the populace we service at MHA this is a challenge. We hired a local bus daily (Lt) that was costly and not in the best of condition. During a mission team visit (Rt) in 2014 from United Methodist Church of the Servant in Oklahoma City, the group saw the task ahead for the nonprofit serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Liberia, and it became for them a pursuit of a hopeful future. MHA

has a great vision. It is a call to do something heroic, to do something extraordinary. Its vision is focused upon those with special educational needs.

Listening in a Sunday school class as Lovetie Major spoke of the transportation need, Al & Jere Litchenburg of Oklahoma City stepped out in faith and made a generous donation of \$8,000.00 towards the transportation program. Their gift has indeed been an inspirational witness and instrumental in encouraging another organization to join in the effort to provide transportation.



Al & Jere Litchenburg

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 during MHA February 2015 benefit dinner. At the event, 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. Now with four vehicles to transport to Liberia, we need your support in matching the Litchenburg's gift of hope and inspiration to enable us to ship in the Fall of 2015. 🌟



Kimberli Brownlee & Leroy Ball



Bob Hale, DRTC Board presents titles

MHA Sister Agency Dale Rogers Training Center Oklahoma Sponsors MHA 2015 Benefit Dinner: "A Shepherd's Guiding Hand"... From Oklahoma to Liberia



MHA Wish List Fall 2015 Shipment

Bigma's Care Place

Day Care Sleep/Rest Mats
Portable Changing Tables/Cribs
Fitted Sheets
Throw Blankets/Standard Kiddle Kot Sheets

Hygiene

Toilet Tissue/Paper Towels/Kleenex/Air Freshner
Gloves/Hands
Sanitizers/Liquid Soap/Lotion
Disposable Diapers/ Wipes/Pullups
Soap & Dish/Lotion & Oil/ Deodorant/Shampoo/Hair Grease
Colored Bath Towels/Bar Soap
Tooth Brush/Paste/Comb

Safety

Infant & Toddler Strollers/Buggies
Child Car Seat/ Booster Seat
Child High Chair/Feeding Tables
Water Proof Feeding Bibs
Wheel Chair (child)

Indoor Play

Table/ Educational Board Games
Indoor Play House Gadgets
Musical Instruments/Karaoke Machine
Toys (Toddlers & Children)
Large Puzzles / Play Doh
Area Rug/ Classroom Rug
Soft Play/Pretend Play

Technical Support

TV/VCR & DVD Players/Cart TV
Portable Carts/Overhead Projector
VHS & DVD's Educational Movies
Children Movies
Camera
220 volts Adapters
5 KZA Generators
LCD Projector
Flash Light/Batteries
Current Regulators (Step-up -Step-down Transformer)

Outdoor Play

Tricycles/Bicycles
Outdoor Play Ground Gadgets
Inflatable Pools/Play Tents
Volley, Soccer, Basket Ball Gadgets/Ball

Industrial

Color Dye & Wax for Tie Dying
Carpentry Equipment/Supplies
Sewing Supplies
Shrink Wrap Machine

Craft

Art & Craft Supplies
Coloring Books/Crayons
2in Craft Trays/Bins/Tubs & Lids

Bakery

Bakery Supplies
Non-perishable Ingredients
Bakery Packing Supplies Funds

Reading Library

Books for Reading (Large & Small Prints)
General Education Beginners Math CD
Alphabet Gadgets
Futons/ Beanbags/ Large Cushions
Reading CD for nursery and pre-school level

Cafeteria

Plates/Cups/Utensils
Non-perishable Food
Canned Meats/Fruits
Hearty Canned Soups
Peanut Butter/Jam/Jelly
Dry Beans

Office Supplies

Index Cards
Copier Machines
Pens/Pencils/Markers
Computers/ Printers/Monitors
Printer Paper (white & color)
Peel-off Name Tags
Name Tags & Clip Holders

Multiples of Cotton, Bright-colored
T- Shirt (Child, XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL)



ANNOUNCEMENT

My Heart's Appeal recently received for its transportation program in Liberia, a donation of four vehicles from Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC) in Oklahoma City, February 12, 2015.

We do not want to send the vehicles cargo area empty during shipment. We will appreciate if you can choose and contribute an item from our wish list to help us advance our programs in Liberia.

Please contact us as we are collecting items now and are anticipating shipping in Fall of 2015. Thank You for the support!

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

— Mother Teresa

My Heart's Appeal, Inc. Annual Giving Sustainable Program

Student Plan - \$120.00 annually, Assist Another Parent Plan - \$240 annually, Contributing Plan - \$360 annually, Sponsoring Plan - \$460 annually, Supporting Plan - \$600 annually, Steadfast Plan - \$1,200 annually, Other...

(Recurring donations are the best way to give steady support)

MHA-USA February 2015 Benefit Dinner Highlights



2015 Shepherd Award Honorees



Al & Nancy Williams Shepherds Staff Award Honoree



DRTC Papa Murphy's Pizza Buffet



Seth Pfister for mom Piper



Jim Hampton & Sharon Bumgarden



Cheryl Moore DRTC Board Chair



MHA & DRTC Executive Directors



Silent Auction Display



Event Hall



Ali & Danielle Soltani



Dr. Robyn Goggs

A Shepherd Honoree is one who gives an In-Kind Gift contribution to MHA

MHA-Liberia Celebrates its 3rd World Down Syndrome Day Informational Gathering, March 2015



In Memory of Flourish (2013-2015)



Ministry of Education Special & Inclusive Education Division Staff: (L-R) Theresa W. Garwo, Mr. Mohamed Konneh & MHA



Alvina Federwitz & Helen Roberts-Evans participate in parent session (RF-seated)

MHA- Liberia Distribute Ebola Items to Our Families January 2015



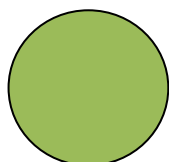
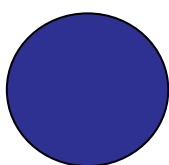
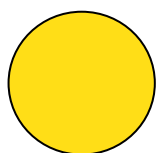


MY HEART'S APPEAL, INC.
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OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73132-5108

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Okla. City, OK
Permit No. 2005

Return Service Requested

Everyone
Can Be
Productive



Please help us prepare to break ground on
our land project as we plan our 20 years
anniversary as a Nonprofit in 2016!

We're on the Web!
See us at:

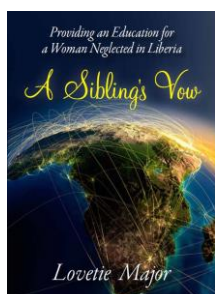


Visit us at www.myheartsappeal.org and check out all of the taps and drop buttons on our site. Our email is info@myheartsappeal.org and numbers 405-603-2799 (Phone), 405-603-2712 (Fax). If you ❤️ us, be sure to like us on Facebook.

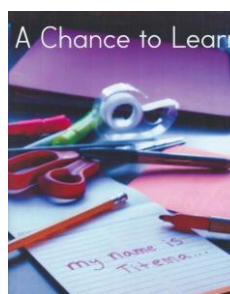
MHA Online Store



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



Book...\$10.99 a copy



Documentary...\$20.00



Posters one @ \$15 or \$60.00 for a set of five
12" x 18" (full color, w/bleed)

MHA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. It is privately funded and does not receive federal or governmental source funding. We rely solely on contributions from Friends of MHA, fundraising events, and the general public to fund our programs, with funding going directly into our programs. Our **Competence Chart:** Community & Program Enterprise 92%, Fundraising 3%, & Administration 5%. MHA Online Store and The Annual Giving Sustainable Program was set up to specifically support our programs and some of our operational cost. We ask for your support and trust. Third Party Fundraisers are always welcomed; call and schedule a book signing event and talk with Lovette Major and hear how your contributions are changing the myths in the Liberian society about our precious children. Yes, you are making a difference and changing the course of history! ★