

Dale Rogers Training Center QUARTERLY

Summer Edition

July 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2011-12 Highlights 2
- From the Director 3
- Sugar Free AllStars 4
- Pelco, Six Way to Help 5
- DDSD Award
Camp Tumbleweed
OU Big Event .. 6
- Amazon.com
Thunder Rumbles!.. 7
- Roy & Dale Legacy.... 8

Marcus welcomes Rumble to DRTC. (See page 7 for more photos.)

Look Who "Rumbled" In!

Page 3

From the Director

Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M. Ed.



Little did Dale Rogers Training Center know when it won the first World Neighbors Advocacy Award in November 2010 that it would soon be looking at the world's stage for supporting teens and adults with disabilities, not just Oklahoma's.

Last September 19th, my Administrative Assistant Megan told me a woman with an unusual name and accent had called claiming she was from Liberia. She was concerned it might be a prank or a sales pitch.

Later that afternoon, I received an email from said mysterious woman saying her name was Lovetie Browne Major and she was in fact from Liberia, Africa. She said that my name and email had been given to her as a resource for the work she was trying to do for people with disabilities in Liberia and she **MUST** meet with me.

I don't think I've ever told her this but she couldn't have called at a busier time. Still, I felt if her work was directly related to people with disabilities I should take the time. It's part of Dale Rogers Training Center's mission to support new programs.

Lovetie showed up early for our meeting wearing a colorful peach top with a peach and brown patterned skirt, a head piece and long dangly earrings (definitely not from Dillard's). She was clearly a woman with a mission. She was very nervous and spoke extremely fast. At first I had difficulty understanding her but as she relaxed so did my ears. She told me her story, and gave me a copy of her book, *A Sibling's Vow*.

Lovetie has a sister, Titema, who has Down syndrome and lives in her hometown in Liberia. Lovetie wanted to start training programs for teens and adults with disabilities in Liberia who had no services at all. She had put herself through undergraduate and graduate school, earning a B. S. in Elementary Education from Cuttington University, a M.Ed. in Special Education from Coppin State University and an advanced degree in Education from the College of Notre Dame. She lives in Oklahoma City but is able to fly back and forth to her family in Liberia because her husband works for the airlines. She had little resources to start her mission and desperately needed mentoring and some direction. She had been bumping into a lot of obstacles.

I had never met anyone so self-motivated in my life; she had me at "hello". After 1½ hours of spilling out her life and goals she looked at me so hopefully that without even thinking, I stood up, walked around my desk and hugged her and

told her we would help. "I knew it," she said gratefully; "I knew you and Dale Rogers were the ones."

I pulled my public relations and program staff together and told them that I wanted to provide resources to help get Lovetie's mission off the ground and that some of our assistance might be after hours, on our own time. All it took to get them on board was having them sit through one meeting with Lovetie. Deborah, Dale Rogers' Public Relations Administrator, even approached me afterwards and said she'd be happy to help, no matter what the hours. She had clearly sensed Lovetie's devotion to her mission.

So essentially, we opened DRTC's program resources to Lovetie as we have to other struggling new agencies. She is amazing, smart and a great writer. She had most of the pieces there already; they just needed tweaking. We've been able to assist her in many different ways; editing her materials, having her observe programs here and in the field, and giving her DRTC curriculums. Our wonderful graphics person Gayle tweaked her logo for branding and helped her print a nice brochure. We had many discussions about how this type of nonprofit program would transfer to Liberia. Essentially, we have all adopted Lovetie and her "heart's appeal". We have total confidence that Lovetie will succeed and that DRTC will have a sister training center in Africa.

This amazing woman has somehow cajoled several government officials in Liberia to join her in her cause, as well as some enthusiastic Oklahomans. She has a location in Liberia, loaned by her family, and plans to start Bigma's Care Place on July 21st with a small group of young adults. She knows where she wants this center for people with disabilities to be built and has coerced a local firm to design the campus for her.

Lovetie's areas of greatest need at this time are:

- Strong Board Member Applicants
- Financial Assistance
- Purchasing of their products from Africa
- Clubs/Groups/Individuals for her to talk to
- Ideas for fundraisers
- Volunteers

If you know someone who has a heart for this kind of mission, Lovetie would love to hear from them!



"It is a great honor to work with Connie and Dale Rogers staff. They are trailblazers. Connie has spent her entire career paving the way and proving the fact that everyone can be productive if given a chance" - Lovetie Browne Major

CONTACT
Lovetie Browne Major
MY HEARTS APPEAL, INC.
Phone (405) 603-2799
Fax (405) 603-2712
myheartsappeal.org