



MHA

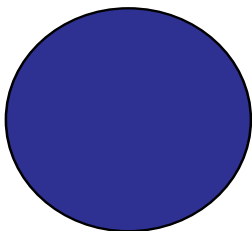
Dolly's **Smile**
EVERYONE CAN BE **PRODUCTIVE**



July 2012
Biannual Edition, Issue: 12.1

Special Interest Articles:

- MHA begins Services at St. Andrew Lutheran Church
- MHA Launched in Liberia.
- MHA Celebrates Sixteen Years, July 2012.



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Bigma's Care Place

MHA begins services in Liberia Saturday, July 21, 2012. Bigma's Care Place(BMC) a community services program modeled after United Methodist Church of the Servant(COS) - Hannah's Promise Ministry in Oklahoma City, USA, will offer a six- hour day, once- a- month respite to parents of children with special needs, including siblings.

Thanks to Dr. Robyn Goggs, Pastor and Lola Burgtorf, Hannah's Promise Administrator for their assistance and encouragement.

The site location is at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Gaye Town Sinkor Old Road, Monrovia Liberia, West Africa.

The program is from 9am - 3pm. Transportation services are available for pick-up between 7:30 - 8:30 am and drop-off between 3:30 - 4:30 pm. The disabled applicants must have a developmental disability to participate, and must be living with a guardian, parent or family member.

Call our local office opposite St. Andrew Lutheran Church if you are interested or know someone who could benefit from the program at 011-231- 777437443 or 011-231- 888101049.

Volunteers are also needed to help service the children. Applications are available upon request.

MHA Launched in Liberia

This month we mark sixteen years as an organization. There have been obstacles in our path both personal and external over the years, including the long drawn civil war in Liberia. Peace has come to the land and so has all good will and tidings. MHA plans to create a safe campus in Liberia, to give teens and adults in West Africa with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train, work and be productive.

On Sunday, July 22, 2012 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Gaye Town, Sinkor Old Road, MHA will be officially launched in

Liberia. The Church Service begins at 10:30 am. After the service, we will have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the launch.

Please plan to come out and celebrate with us as we open the doors to a needed service that will benefit the less fortunate among us. If you cannot physically be present, please keep us in your prayers wherever you may be around the world.





*Lovetie Major, M.ED
MHA CEO*

CEO's Reflections...

When I graduated from college as a general education major in 1987, I was ready to save the world and help all children enter into the educational arena. It had hit home for me having a sibling with a learning disability and it became frustrating for me, when I realized that I was still ill-equipped to handle the challenges of teaching children with special needs. I was determined to prepare myself for the task ahead.

I completed my masters in Special Education, in 1994, two years after MHA was founded, on July 3, 1996. The goal

was to assist my sibling live out her full potential. It became apparent that there were other children who needed help and there was no plan in sight that would offer assistance to them.

In 2001, MHA broadened its objectives to include services to the mild, moderate and severe intellectually disabled individual in West Africa, with a pilot program to begin in Liberia. In 2004, I completed a post masters program to prepare me for the future of MHA.

Please help me celebrate this journey - Continued on pg . 8

MHA to Purchase Land

We have located 40 acres of land for \$150,000.00 situated at Slakpawein Town, Marshall Territory in lower Margibi County, Liberia, West Africa. Research and proper documentation have been received and reviewed to authenticate the legitimacy of the land.

We are launching a fundraising drive this month to cover the cost the land, cornerstone, probate deed, surveying, clearing and securing the property location.

Construction of our facilities will launch phase two of our next fundraising drive. Plans are underway for cost

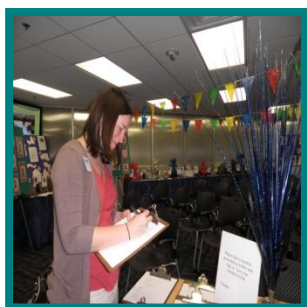
calculations. Our goal is to have the facility near completion by 2016 for our twenty -year anniversary.

We trust that we can count on you to make a difference in the life of an intellectually disabled individual in West Africa.

Thank you for your support!

All contributions to MHA are tax deductible.

*“MHA plans to
raise \$150,000.00
as they celebrate
16th anniversary.
Join in and donate
to a great cause.”*



*Registering to bid
during the auction*

Funding Sources Needed

MHA is presently self-funded and does not have a funding source. We have on our website several planned awareness and fundraising events to help further our goals and objectives.

On June 1, 2012, MHA had its first fundraiser, a silent auction in Oklahoma

City. The proceeds of a little over \$1000.00 raised will go to support Bigma's Care Place.

We need your support as we welcome persons with disabilities and their families, provide opportunities, promote respect, encourage kindness and build self-esteem.



January 2012 Partnerships

On her visit to Liberia in January 2012, Mrs. Major participated with other Liberians in the pre & post - inaugural events celebration as they welcomed in a new elected government. She then met with several government officials and community leaders in establishing partnerships that would foster the growth and development of MHA.

In furthering conversation from previous years with the Ministry of Education (MOE), Minister Gongar welcomed the desire of MHA partnerships in the areas of Teacher Education, Basic Education, and Science, Technology, Vocational and Special Education. MHA was welcomed to the Ministry of Education Family.

The Pastor and Parish Council of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, agreed in principal to be partners with MHA, because they felt it has a worthy cause. Plans began to finalize for use of their

facility to begin BMC, one of our community outreach programs.

We met with Mr. Gabriel A. Johnson, an employee of the Liberia Coca-Cola Bottling Company in anticipation of having them as partners. MHA plans to have innovative programs and quality service. With an entrepreneurial spirit and top professional management in place, we will provide vocational opportunities to individuals with disabilities. We need to partner with companies and businesses to help us reach our objectives.

Conversation was also held with the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Walter Gweningale about the statistical diagnosis of the intellectual disabled individuals in Liberia and with Ms. Varbah Gayflor, then Minister of Gender and Development, now Minister of Labor.



*Minister Othello Gongar
& MHA CEO Lovetie Major*

February 2012 Report

On September 19, 2011, our office opened in Oklahoma City. The first official correspondence on that day was made to Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC) which then prompted a meeting with the Executive Director, Connie Thrash McGoodwin, at the end of that week.

She agreed in principle to help us strive to reach excellence and promised to follow-up with the Board of Directors who also joined in to help start the most important thing of every successful organization, the branding process.

Upon her return to Oklahoma City after her January 2012 trip to Liberia, Lovetie Major's first stop was to DRTC, where she sat down with Connie Thrash-McGoodwin, DRTC Executive Director

and told of her success in establishing partnerships to further MHA goals.

MHA realize the value of DRTC and plans to adopt the concept to "develop services and products to sell to the public instead of always holding out an open hand." We have established a relationship and DRTC serves in a supervisory role as we strive to model what they have successfully established in Oklahoma City, in Liberia, West Africa.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes out to them for welcoming MHA to Oklahoma City with their expression of love and support.



March 2012 Milestone

MHA celebrates March with the launching of its website.

MHA would like to say thank you to all who visited our website and Facebook page during its debut in late March. We are continuously grateful for your support and partnership.

Visit us at www.myheartsappeal.org and check out all of the taps and drop buttons on our site.

We are also on Facebook and happy to announce that we have 753 Likes as of June 2012!

You can make us jump for joy ,if you log on and Like us on Face book and tell your friends about us too.

We are open to suggestions, ideas and innovative projects that will help further our goals. Email us on line at info@myheartsappeal.org.



"Southern Nazarene University In Oklahoma City, becomes MHA Volunteer of the Month."

April 2012 Volunteers

We want to exclusively express gratitude to the students of Southern Nazarene University, under the guidance of Chris Peterson, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for being MHA "Volunteer of the Month of April 2012."

Thank you for your dynamic volunteer efforts in supporting the work of MHA.

MHA "Sponsor of the Month of April 2012", is awarded to Saye and Denise

Gbalazeh in Baltimore, Maryland. You lent a hand in time of need and your benevolence will help MHA accomplish its goals and objectives. We could not have done it without your support and sacrifice of your own need.

There were countless others who gave an advice here and there. We thank you too for your thoughtfulness, support and encouragement.



"A Woman with a Mission ... Dr. Robyn Thompson-Goggs, of COS writes about MHA CEO Mrs. Major."

May 2012 Outreach

Three residents, Buck, Jones and LaGrone of Remington Subdivision, a Northwest neighborhood community in Oklahoma City, USA donated educational supplies, VHS tapes and assorted sporting gears to BMC program.

COS Hannah Promise Ministry made a generous donation of crafts, story ideas and educational supplies to BMC. Thanks to Susan Leonard. Also, in the COS May 23, Bi-Weekly Newsletter, Issue: 12.10, MHA CEO, Lovetie Major

was mentioned as " A Woman with a Mission..." "How she has found her place in the church family to serve in the Hannah's Promise Ministry, as she was also listening to God's call to minister to children with special needs in her home country Liberia, West Africa."

"Very excited to be partnering ministries with My Heart's Appeal and Hannah's Promise at Church of the Servant," says Dr. Robyn Thompson-Goggs.



MHA 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. She was denied education, because Liberia does not have institutions to cater to her needs. This bothered Alfred, but being a fighter himself, did not gave up on the education of Titema. He had a dream that one day that opportunity would avail itself and all of his children would be given the chance to live out their God- given talent. Alfred departed this

earth December 4, 2004. His legacy lives on. The establishment of the Alfred Y. Telewoda Education Endowment Fund, will ensure that everyone can be productive, because they would have been given a chance.

This was Alfred's favorite philosophical quotation. It is the poem quoted by King George VI in his Christmas Day broadcast in 1939. "I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."

This courage now reflects as one of Alfred's daughters establishes My Heart's Appeal, Inc.



*Alfred Y. Telewoda Sr.
Honoree*

June 2012 Arrival

MHA first shipment of things from the USA to Liberia arrived late June. Thanks to all who donated needed supplies to the BMC program. We look forward to an exciting start in July 2012.

Our wish list is on our website. Please take a look at our list and see how you can help us make a difference.

Planning for our literacy clinic in partnership with Towson Reading Clinic in Maryland and vocational programs with Dale Rogers Training Center in Oklahoma City, both in the U.S.A., are underway to begin soon in Liberia.

Walk-a Thon for the Intellectually Disabled Youngster in West Africa was started in April-June 2012, as a third party campaign to create awareness for

our cause. Students with and without disabilities, parents, friends, and the community in the range of the Corporation, were encouraged to walk a certain distance and give a contribution for each mile or lap in support of MHA providing help for the intellectually disabled youngster in West Africa. We want to thank all those who participated.

MHA Humanitarian Penny Drive to begin in August - October 2012. School systems within districts will be contacted to consent to their students participation in this activity by bringing in loose pennies. This project will be developed into a service-learning project to include the following plan: preparation, action, reflection, celebration and recognition. If you want your school to participate, please contact info@myheartsappeal.org.



*"Humanitarian
Penny Drive to
begin in August -
October 2012 for
businesses and
schools."*



Bigma's Care Place Applicants



Princess Alpha, 5yrs.

People within the community feel that she is a snake. Others feel she is just like another human being, but just can sit and talk. Yes, family members are proud of her and love her so dearly to our hearts. She loves people being closer to her and she loves music. I wish my child was like other children age 5 that are in school and learn how to recite.



Konah Yarwala, 9yrs.

People in the community do not like me to go around them. That is very bad. My family members are not proud of me, only my grandmother. God come first, I want to talk and walk good.



Clara Doe, 3yrs

Where I live all the people in the community love my child. My family members love my child. I want my child to be like her friends. I want my child to be like President Sirleaf.

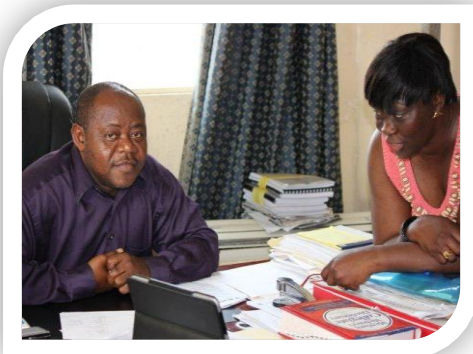
MHA Liberia Partnerships



Pastor Deddeh Kollie, St. Andrew
Lutheran Church



Mr. Gabriel Johnson,
Liberia Coca-Cola
Bottling Company



Minister Yonton B. Kessely, MOE



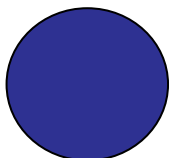
Mrs. Mayaedeh Kemeh-Gama, MOE



Left to right... Dr. Walter Gweningale, Lovetie Major, Burke Major, Varbah Gayflor, and
Alvina Federwitz



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We're on the Web!
See us at:

Face book
www.myheartsappeal.org

Awards Benefit Dinner

MHA has planned a sponsored dinner as a dialogue with partners to discuss the need to help our target population. Feature at this activity will be recognition of partners and community leaders in support of our programs and community enterprises.

The event is scheduled for November in Oklahoma City. Support MHA Benefit Dinner by being a Sponsor. Contact us or email if you want to be an award,

decoration, invitation, entertainment, table, reception, dinner or desert sponsor.

Proceeds from the dinner will go to our vocational training center. The program focuses mainly on work activities, with the emphasis on preparing most individuals for eventual community employment. Individuals may have a plan which combines both supported employment and vocational services.

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

as we take a step of Faith. I saw the need to help my sibling. I have helped her and should be satisfied. I was fortunate and survived a brutal, senseless civil war in my country, Liberia from 1989 - 2003. I got a second chance at life and decided this time I would make a difference. I did not

make an excuse or blame someone for the situation I have been faced with over the years, but decided to trust God through it all. It has taken longer than I would have wanted, but I am reminded, "the race is not for the swift, but he who endureth to the end."

About Our Organization...

My Heart's Appeal, Inc. (MHA) was founded in Maryland (USA), 1996, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to meet the special education and training needs for people with disabilities who live in Liberia, West Africa. The organization was inaugurated in 2001 and has defined

its target population as the mild, moderate or severe intellectually disabled. MHA is now incorporated in the United States in Maryland and Oklahoma, and in the Republic of Liberia, West Africa. MHA's future goal is to lay a solid foundation in West Africa.



MY HEART'S APPEAL, INC.
EVERYONE CAN BE PRODUCTIVE

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