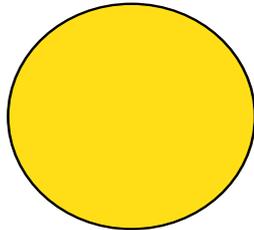




# MHA *Dolly's* Smile

EVERYONE CAN BE **PRODUCTIVE**



January 2016  
Biannual Edition, Issue: 16.1



### Special Interest Articles:

- 4th Annual Benefit Dinner 2016.
- Message from Chair of MHA Board of Directors
- World Down Syndrome Day 2016

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Dinner

Celebrating its Fourth Annual Fundraiser, MHA is hosting an evening of food, friendship, information and fundraising complete with Gallery Walk, Donation Drawing and special entertainment. We are honored to have Jill Harrison, Executive Director, Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma, join us with a presentation.

The event will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016, at United Methodist Church of the Servant, Community Hall in Oklahoma City, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Gallery Walk starts at 6:00 p.m. followed with dinner and a program. We look forward to your attendance and encourage you to invite friends and colleagues. Deadline for dinner sponsorships reservation is Monday, February 8, 2016.

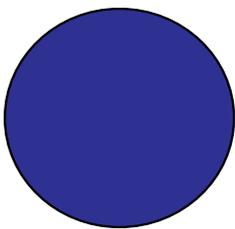
We also request your consideration of assistance by being a Sponsor for one of our Sheep Sponsorships listed:  \$ 5000 Shepherder  \$ 3000 Shepherds Staff  \$ 1500 Shepherd  \$ 500 Ram  \$ 250 Ewe and  \$ 100 Lamb.

Event tickets are \$30 per person and \$200 for Table of Eight. Proceeds will go toward our Master Plan Phase One Building Fund Drive: Pasture for the Sheep Land Purchase of one hundred acres of land to build facilities in Liberia, West Africa to educate and train children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Please contact us at your earliest convenience if you are considering sponsorship, or have any questions and need additional information.

You can call, email or contribute online on our website [www.myheartsappeal.org](http://www.myheartsappeal.org); call our Liberian office @ 0112317774374443 or 011231888101049; international office @ 405-603-2799 or 443-474-8031; or send us an email @ [info@myheartsappeal.org](mailto:info@myheartsappeal.org).

“Be a part of Heart to Heart to make a difference” ♡



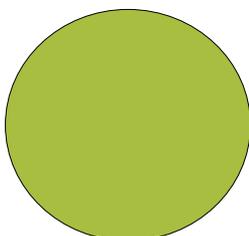
### Individual Highlights:

- MHA 15,000 Friends International Challenge 2
- MHA Receives Team From Europe & USA 3
- BMC Celebrates 3rd Anniversary 5
- Ministry of Education Leadership Team 7
- Rotary Club Sponsors 8

## Connie Thrash McGoodwin Vocational Training Hub

MHA completed its initial programs assessment phase in Liberia; in the temporary residential setting in Mrs. Lovetie Major's family compound located Gaye Town, Sinkor Old Road. The Pilot phase is scheduled to begin in September 2016. Plans are now being

made to relocate the Connie Thrash McGoodwin Vocational Training Hub (CTM-Vocational Hub) to a transitional site, when the ongoing renovation is completed. We are continuing with fundraising goals to buy the land to build our campus community. ♡



### CEO's Reflections...



Lovetie Major, M.ED  
MHA CEO

I started out many years ago with one candle burning in a dark room with My Heart's Appeal, as an advocate for a special group of neglected children, with the prayer that every intellectually disabled individual be given a chance to learn and be productive. It is now 2016 and MHA is celebrating five years of serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Liberia and twenty years as a nonprofit organization. This would not have been possible without the humble prayers and help of volunteers and patrons.



Konah came to us in 2012 at 9yrs of age, nonverbal and crawling like a toddler. Rejected by her mother shortly after being born developmentally delayed, she has been cared for by her grandmother from birth. Her goal as she came to Bigma's Care Place Respite Care was to be appreciated.

Today, we are proud to announce that Konah now makes sounds and gestures to express herself; and can stand and walk around all by herself. Her grandmother in appreciation attributed the accomplishment of her granddaughter to the opportunities that My Heart's Appeal (MHA) makes available giving Konah a chance that society had denied her. She went on to say that having other children to play with like herself and being in a loving and caring environment allowed Konah to feel accepted with a sense of belonging.



Please continue to locate these special children in your communities if you live in Liberia and help them feel loved, accepted and appreciated. 🌟



"As Rotarians, "Kay Floyd said," it gives us great honor to ask the public to join My Heart's Appeal and Rotarian Lovetie Major as she endeavors to show the world the true meaning of Rotary."



### USA North Oklahoma City Rotary Club International Challenge

The Oklahoman an Oklahoma City, OK local newspaper; July 6, 2015, Your Life: Needs & Deeds section featured a story of My Heart's Appeal and its biggest need of financial donations to buy land to set up a campus in Liberia.

North Oklahoma City Rotary Club (NOKC Rotary) meets at 12 noon, Mondays at the Hefner Grill in Oklahoma City for its weekly meeting. Kay Floyd, President of the club announced that the North Oklahoma City Rotary Board of Directors voted unanimously to support "My Heart's Appeal's" 15,000 Friends \$20.00 (USD) International

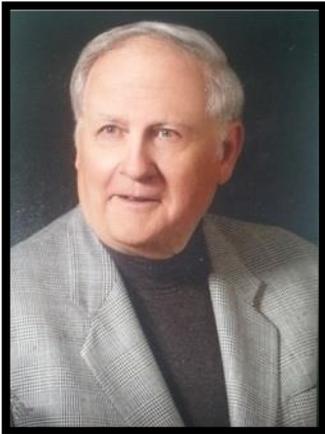
Challenge to Rotary totaling \$300,000.00.

NOKC Rotary is calling on all Rotary Clubs; friends; civic, religious, business, political and social groups and organizations to participate with them in this continuous international project. "As Rotarians, "Kay Floyd said," it gives us great honor to ask the public to join My Heart's Appeal (MHA) and Rotarian Lovetie Major as she endeavors to show the world the true meaning of Rotary."

They are asking for help to demonstrate that Rotarians along with our community can "Be a Gift to the World," Rotary's 2015-2016 Theme.

Continue on Page 8

## A Message from MHA Board Chairman



The members of the board of directors of My Heart's Appeal (MHA) are very happy to serve. We look forward to 2016 as a New Year beginning with growth and expansion of My Heart's Appeal.

The wonderful service MHA is providing in Africa is amazing. We appreciate all that Lovetie and her family have done these many years on their own as they helped the intellectually and developmental disabled individuals in Liberia.

It is our desire to see My Heart's Appeal grow as it develops more contributions from individuals and organizations. A dollar given to MHA goes so much farther in Africa than it can in a Western Country. Please consider your giving and help us encourage others to give to MHA.

Thank you for your gifts,  
Warren Collins  
Chairman of the Board

*My Heart's Appeals' respite program, Bigma's Care Place, received a mission team August, 2015 from the Lutheran Church of Bavaria, Germany in Europe and Ms. Jane Edwards of the USA.*



A special prayer was said for the mission team by one of our special children.



Morris United Methodist Church,  
Oklahoma - USA



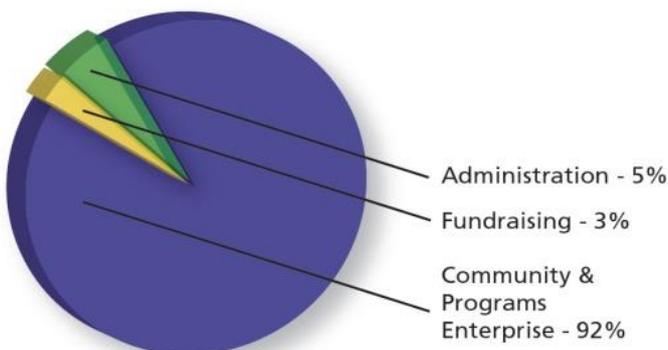
Morris United Methodist Church, located in the small rural community of Morris, Oklahoma is part of the Oklahoma Conference and The Advance, the designated giving program of The United Methodist Church. The members and Rev. Judy Conner welcomed My Heart's Appeal (MHA); also an Advance Project #3022086, on October 11, 2015.

Lovetie Major shared a moving testimony of how MHA is reaching out into the communities in Liberia, West Africa, sharing God's Love by providing services to children marginalized in society because of an extra chromosome that makes them look different.

Mrs. Major also shared the journey of the fundraising goal for the land fund drive, but knew in her heart that that goal had been reached through faith. She told of how the MHA campus community, when built, will have a Chapel where parents can bring their children to a place where they can feel loved and appreciated in a welcoming environment.

We are humbled to announce that Morris United Methodist Church championed the cause for our fundraising Phase Two: Building Fund Drive. They collected an extraordinarily amount of \$1,380.00 on that Sunday beginning the fund drive for the Chapel Complex. 🙏

**My Heart's Appeal (MHA) Competence Chart**



More than 90 cents of every dollar MHA spends is used to support its mission.

1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH
20,129.40	25,450.00	937.05	2,335.61

MHA Programs	General Fund	Land Fund Drive
\$ 39,163.08	\$ 1,551.71	\$ 8,137.27

**Total: \$ 48, 852.06**

(100% allotment per the 3 categories)

**2015 Quarterly Contributions**

Bigma's Care Place Celebrates 3rd Anniversary July, 2015



MHA Liberia Co-Chair, Anthony Deline, thanked Bigma's Care volunteers for another year of service to MHA special needs families.



**MHA 2015  
Shepherd Award Honorees**

**North America**

- Sue Miller
- Jill Walker
- Kelly Glass
- Diane Folks
- Mary Bass
- Seth Pfister
- Christi Moss
- Leni Burrow
- Sherri Rector
- Diana Clifton
- Julie Whitson
- Ellen Bennett
- Shirley Confer
- Judith Raulston
- Chester & Ann Jones
- Salas Tree Service LLC
- Loren & Judy Atwood
- Warren & Sue Collins
- Michael & Lynn Jones
- The Path SS Class - COS
- Jim & Cherrie Hampton
- Betty Bohan, Hannah's Promise Ministry
- North Oklahoma City Rotary Club, District 5750

**Africa**

- Unity Band
- The Inquirer
- In Profile Daily
- Nubian FM 96.7
- Emmanuel Bright-Davis
- Cllr. Theophilus C. Gould
- Pierre, Tweh & Associates
- Mr. John Nester Randall Jr.
- Liberia Football Association



MHA honors 2015 partners for outstanding non-financial charitable service to MHA in the Shepherd Award Honorees Category (listings included on the right) in support of programs and other community enterprises. One of the Shepherd Honoree will win the Prestigious Shepherds Staff Award.

University of Central Oklahoma Volunteers September, 2015



Christmas 2015 at Bigma's Care Place with Special Guest, Yvonne Nelson-Ghanaian International Artist





Meeting with the new team at the Ministry of Education in Monrovia, Liberia: Minister George Werner (Lt); Director for Special & Inclusive Education Mohamed Konneh (Center); and Assistant Minister for Science, Technology, Vocational & Special Education Saku Dukuly (Rt) December, 2015.



### MHA Celebrates World Down Syndrome Day in Liberia, West Africa - 2016



**2016 Theme:** "My Friends, My Community" - The benefits of inclusive environments for today's children and tomorrow's adults

**Date:** March 15, 2016  
**Time:** 8am - 3pm  
**Venue:** Antoinette Tubman Stadium  
**Location:** Central Monrovia, Liberia,  
**Event:** Opened to the General Public

March 21, 2016 marks the 11th anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD), which is a global awareness day and is officially observed by the United Nations and sponsored by Down Syndrome International of the United Kingdom. The date signifies the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of chromosome 21. This is Liberia's fourth celebration and My Heart's Appeal is honored to be its representative.

We want to get people talking about WDSD on March 21, celebrated March 15 in Liberia. Down Syndrome International invites everyone across the world to wear LOTS OF SOCKS to raise awareness on (WDSD). We can do this if we all wear socks...BUT NOT JUST ANY SOCKS... brightly colored socks, long socks, printed socks, 1 sock...maybe even 3 socks for 3 chromosomes. If you don't normally wear socks, then wear them that day, March 21. AND WHY STOP AT SOCKS? Wear brightly colored clothing if you like and invite all your friends, family and colleagues to do the same. 🌟

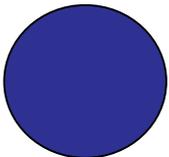
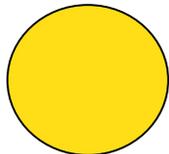




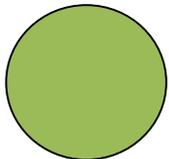
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...to make a difference"

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See us at:

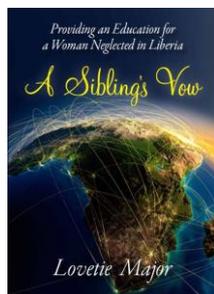


Visit us at [www.myheartsappeal.org](http://www.myheartsappeal.org) and check out all of the taps and drop buttons on our site. Our email is [info@myheartsappeal.org](mailto:info@myheartsappeal.org) and numbers 405-603-2799 (Phone), 405-603-2712 (Fax). If you ❤️ us, be sure to like us on Face book.

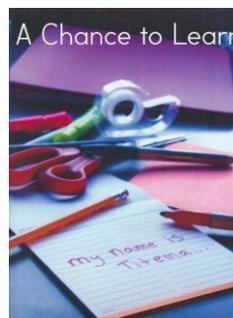
## MHA Online Store



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)

## North Oklahoma City Rotary Club...Continued from pg 2

Participating in this challenge will help give new meaning to lives of the less fortunate and those marginalized in society because of an extra chromosome that makes them look different. The goal is to raise \$300,000.00 to cover the cost of the land, cornerstone, probate deed, surveying, clearing, and securing the property. Thank you Chandler, Cherokee, Clinton, North OKC, Ponca City, and Sunrise Rotary clubs of Oklahoma District 5750; York - North Rotary Club of District 7280 in Pennsylvania, USA, and the general public for contributing so far to our International Rotarian Challenge. 🌟