



MHA

# Dolly's Smile

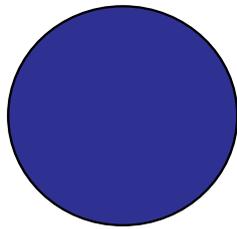
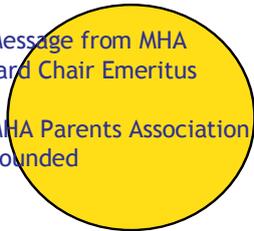
EVERYONE CAN BE **PRODUCTIVE**



July 2016  
Biannual Edition, Issue: 16.2

### Special Interest Articles:

- MHA Partners with United Methodist Church
- Message from MHA Board Chair Emeritus
- MHA Parents Association Founded



### Individual Highlights:

- CEO'S Reflection 2
- MHA First Named Vocational Hub 2
- MHA Special Gatherings 4
- World Down Syndrome 2016 Liberia 5
- Together We Can Win! 8



“Every time you do a good deed you shine the light a little farther into the dark. And the thing is, when you're gone that light is going to keep shining on, pushing the shadows back.” – Charles de Lint



Many thanks for the third year, to our corporate social responsibility partner; the Service Agency in Liberia, the Director General Mary Broh and support staffs for the tremendous cooperation and support given to MHA during the restructuring of our vocational training hub.

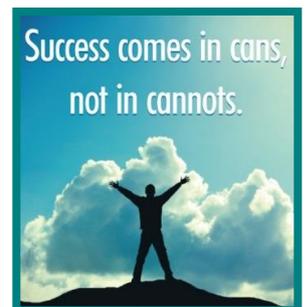
We want to also thank the Love Meyer Family and Woodworth Foundations of Oklahoma City, USA and friends who contributed to our 2015 Giving Tuesday Campaign. Your contributions enable us to begin our renovation project of our vocational hub. It is indeed turning out to truly be a new creation for the children and staff of My Heart's Appeal. The scope of the need of children and young adults with intellectual disabilities is becoming even clearer as word spreads through the church and the community at large. Each gift of contributions you have provided will be welcomed each day with renewed singing and prayers at morning devotions. Support such as yours gives us all a renewed sense of purpose for the mission to which God has called us.

## Faith United Methodist Church, USA

Faith United Methodist Church of Richmond, Texas have initiated a re-cycling of aluminum cans. Proceeds go directly to the Alfred Telewoda Education Endowment Fund managed through The Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation. You can also contribute directly through: Online Giving <https://okumf.org/services/online-giving/> and state in the memo; for the benefit of Alfred Telewoda Endowment Fund #2360.

Earnings from the principal are used to improve programs, grant scholarships, begin new programs or advance services.

Over 100 clients and their families receive respite care one day a month. Forty of their clients receive life skill and work skills training during the regular school year and thirty will begin the special needs day program soon. It is the only program in Liberia, West Africa serving families with intellectual and developmental delays.



Ever in the area, bring your cans to church and locate one of two receptacles...near the food bank shelves and in the annex. They have already recycled 106lbs in the past 6 months. For very large quantities or special service, call Dr. Richardson at 405-317-6909 Chairman Emeritus of this Advance Special of the United Methodist Church (#3022086). ☺

Success Comes in Cans!



## CEO's Reflections...



*Lovetie Major, M.ED  
MHA CEO*

An opportunity availed itself twenty years ago and I took the challenge and very thankful I did; incorporating MHA as a 501(3)(c) nonprofit. It has taken longer than I would have wanted; without a steady funding source, but I am reminded, "The race is not for the swift, but he who endureth to the end."

My Heart's Appeal, Inc. will be a vehicle by which unlimited potential will be realized as we endeavor to bring about assistance to our target population. For the last five years,



MHA has serviced families with children with Intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Liberia in our vocational training and community service programs.

In May, 2016, My Heart's Appeal Parent Association was founded. The parents joined in as we broke ground for the last phase of the construction for our ten room facility of our vocational hub.

The pilot phase of the Connie Thrash McGoodwin Vocational Training Hub, the Special Needs Day Program and the Al & Nancy Williams Bakery & Café shop opens, September 2016.



## My Heart's Appeal First of Five Hubs Named

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, M.Ed. at the end of that week. We now celebrate five years of partnership with DRTC and want to extend to the Board of Directors, Executive Director and Staff of DRTC, our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for welcoming My Heart's Appeal, Inc. (MHA) to Oklahoma City with your expression of love and support.

MHA realized the value of Dale Rogers Training Center, the oldest and largest community vocational training and employment center for people with disabilities in Oklahoma, USA; and planned and adopted the concept to "develop services and products to sell to the public instead of always holding out an open hand."

As then DRTC Board President, Marc Edwards, stated in the 2008-2010 Biennial Report "...as our executive director of almost 30 years likes to say, " Dale Rogers is just getting started." We join in applauding Connie Thrash McGoodwin in her efforts to make DRTC one of its kind in serving people with disabilities.

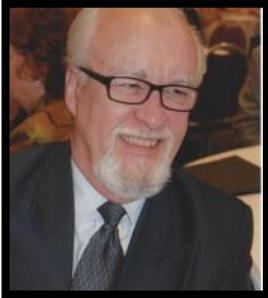
With great honor and pride, we named our vocational training hub after Connie Thrash McGoodwin, a trailblazer who has spent her entire career paving the way and altering the minds of society and eventually proving the fact that everyone can be productive, if given a chance.

Lest we forget, it is better to give people their flowers, when they can smell the fragrance and enjoyed the scent, than when they are gone and then memorialized. So Connie, we gave you your flowers and as MHA services more families yearly, we hope that the fragrance will last for years to come. 🌹



*Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M.ED  
DRTC, Executive Director*

## As I See It, Dr. Arthur Richardson Chairman Emeritus, MHA Board of Directors



Recently, I read an article by Dave Willis, "7 Things Happy People Do Every Day." The more I read of it the more I thought of our students at My Heart's Appeal in Liberia. I'll share only 2 of those traits with you this time...but remember: **BDAC!** (Better Days Are Coming!)

Willis writes: "The simplest and most effective way to improve your own happiness is to "learn from truly happy people." When our students and the younger children gathered at Bigma's Respite Care, my first impression was to note how happy they were simply to arrive...and we hadn't even started the activities yet!

1. "Encourage others instead of criticizing them." Of course, our teaching and volunteers do exactly that in the attention they give to each one. As staff and volunteers, we lined up at the gate as the bus arrived with the children. Each one was greeted by name and a hug. The ritual was repeated at the end of our time together...line up...call each by name...bless them with a hug. No wonder during the day these children follow the example of encouraging each other at work at the computer or in the garden.

2. "Be at peace with not having everything 'figured out'." Another of the many lessons I learned is that the intellectually challenged do not exhibit the obsession to figure out every action, situation or person they meet. Acceptance is the root from which grace grows. Perhaps you are a little like me when I feel most stressed. It is usually because I am trying to figure out everything on my own. These students rely on each other and their caregivers to know what needs to be accomplished. And toward that end, they are considerably more faithful than many of us. Our staff knows that God has a plan for them.

**Dave Willis: "The Bible never once says, 'figure it out,' but over and over it says, 'have faith.' God already has it all figured out for us."**

The more I come to know and understand the mission of My Heart's Appeal, the happier I am to strive to give them the one thing they may lack...**opportunity.**

Thank you for your gift and support of My Heart's Appeal ...a community of students and teachers alike...who are truly happy people!

## MHA Partnership with Foundation for the Development of Rural Dwellers (FERD)



Lovetie Major and MHA Office Manager, Michelle Dunbar met with Jonah S. Toe, Executive Director (Lt) and Yuku Ford, Program Officer (Rt.), at FERD's headquarters, 37 Mechlin Street, Monrovia, Liberia. FERD is a consortium for advocacy, peace-building, self-help and development through a platform for social dialogue. Respect for the rights of women and children attests to FERD's obligation to best practices among which is gender main-streaming. Like FERD, MHA looks forward to staff interactions or working sessions and active communication or information sharing at respective programs. 🌟



## MHA Special Gatherings January - June 2016



Rev. Jeremy M. Basset, Director, Office of Missions, and Director, Oklahoma Volunteers In Mission from Oklahoma City, USA visited the campus of My Heart's Appeal (Liberia) in February, 2016. Two of the many highlights of his visit were: the tour of the vocational tailoring classroom, and seeing some of the machines used in the program, he remarked, "I think those look like the ones they used on Noah's Ark." Oh, how it brought much laughter! The other is when he told an interesting story of how Hannah Promise was started; and, that brought tears to the eyes of every one. Our Bigma's Care Respite Program is modeled after Hannah Promise Ministry of the United Methodist Church in OKC.



(Lt) Oklahoma City: Randy & Jane Weatherly (Center) Rev. Marina Rau, Bavaria, Germany, Europe (Rt) our partner, the Grand Masonic Temple Oriental Lodge # 1 A.F. & A. M. Liberia, represented by Bro. Christopher McBorrough 32<sup>o</sup> ☻



(Rt) Members of North Oklahoma City (OKC), Bricktown, Chandler, Cherokee, Clinton, Northwest OKC, Ponca City, and Sunrise of Oklahoma District 5750 and York-North, Pennsylvania District 7280 Rotary Clubs presented a check of \$3000.00 to MHA of contributions from MHA 15000 Friends \$20. USD International Challenge to Rotary toward purchasing land to build MHA's future campus in Liberia, West Africa. ☻



Rev Mulbah Zayzay and Janice Gonoe (Lt-Middle) pastors from two of the Oldest Lutheran Churches in Liberia; Millsburg and Harrisburg respectively and MHA CEO & husband Burke Major. (Bottom-Lt) Mrs. Major meets the new Pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Rev. Xastor Yarkpazuo where Bigma's Care Place Respite Care is held in Liberia. (Bottom-Rt) Liberia Senator, Dr. Peter Coleman reassured his commitment to MHA from 2014 to continue advocacy in working with the appropriate government agency to include individuals with Intellectual disabilities in the Liberian budget. ☻



### MHA Vocational Hub Updates



**Before:** 2014 View of the Initial Structures that Housed the Training Programs



**After:** 2016 Renovation and Upgrade from Gazebo (Tent) Settings to more Structural Buildings



Help Give A Child A Chance, Be A Sponsor  
We need sponsors of \$120.00 for 40 CTM-Hub Clients and \$80.00 for 30 SNDP Clients for ten months each.  
Also, sponsors of \$10.00 for 70 BMC Clients for twelve months each.

### MHA-USA February 2016 Benefit Dinner Highlights



2016 Shepherd Award Honorees



North Oklahoma City Rotary Club Shepherds Staff Award Honoree



Judith Raulston



Michael & Lynn Jones



Hannah's Promise, Betty Bohan



Sheri Rector



Walt & Harriot La Grone



Leroy Ball- Silent Auction Display



Guest Speaker; Jill Harrison, Executive Director Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma, USA



Event Hall



Special Guest Performer, Darci Farmer

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

# MHA-Liberia Celebrates its 4th World Down Syndrome Day Informational Gathering, March 2016

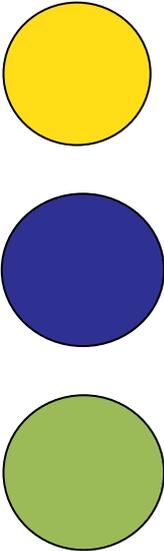




NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Okla. City, OK  
Permit No. 2005

MY HEART'S APPEAL, INC.  
5909 NW EXPRESSWAY, STE 224  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73132-5108

Return Service Requested



We're on the Web!  
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 Together We Can Win!

