



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"MY HEART'S APPEAL" HOLDS ITS 2ND FUNDRAISING BENEFIT DINNER AND GALLERY WALK

Oklahoma City woman continues to Pursue her Dream to Build a Special Education Campus in her Hometown of Liberia, West Africa and chronicles her experience in her book, *A Sibling's Vow*

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – February 17, 2014 - The non-profit organization "My Heart's Appeal" (MHA) continues with its fundraising campaign with an annual Benefit Dinner for the development of a campus in Liberia, West Africa, in support of special education, announced Founder and CEO Lovetie Major on Thursday, February 13, at the United Methodist Church of the Servant - Community Hall, 14343 North MacArthur, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where the event was held.

MHA provides training programs and opportunities for teenage and adult persons living in Mrs. Major's hometown of Liberia who have a primary diagnosis of intellectual disability (IQ of 70 or below). Her goal is to raise \$300,000.00 needed for the 100 acres of land ear-marked for the proposed campus, surveying and probating the deed there. A journey of a thousand miles, begins with a single step, says Mrs. Major as she quoted a famous Chinese proverb. She went on to say that they have raised \$ 13, 051.64. Still need \$286, 948.36 to go and they will get there a step at a time.

Featured at this year's event was recognition of 2012-13 partners from Africa, Europe and North America for outstanding non-financial charitable service to MHA in the Shepherd Award Honorees Category in support of its programs and other community enterprises. One of the Shepherd Award Honoree won the Prestigious MHA Shepherds Staff Award, which was presented by Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M.Ed., Executive Director, Dale Rogers Training Center in Oklahoma City. Adrianna Iwasinski of **News 9** was guest hostess for the event. Miki Farris, Executive Director of Infant Service Crisis, Inc. Served as keynote speaker and spoke on the theme: **Serving the Vulnerable in Society and its Residual Effects.**

Having a younger sister with Down syndrome, Mrs. Major was always disappointed that Liberia had no support services for persons with disabilities. She founded MHA in Maryland 1996, and it was inaugurated in Baltimore, Maryland, in 2001. MHA moved its head office to Oklahoma in 2011. Lovetie Major authored the book **A Sibling's Vow**, Providing an Education for a Woman Neglected in Liberia, which was released October 1, 2013 where she revealed the hardships experienced and the triumphs gained as she sought to bring Titema, her sister to the USA. A book signing was held on February 15 at the Full Circle Bookstore, 1900 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City.

Mrs. Major hoped that the Benefit Dinner and sale of *A Sibling's Vow* will increase awareness of MHA, and help to continue the fundraising campaign so that MHA can break ground on the campus as soon as possible. Published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises, the book is available through bookstores nationwide, for more information, log on to www.myheartsappeal.org.



Ali & Danielle Soltani, Soltani Music
Gallery Walk Performers



L-R Miki Farris, Executive Director of Infant Service Crisis, Inc., Lovetie Major &
Adrianna Iwasinski of News 9



Parakletos Sunday School Class, Church of the Servant
MHA Prestigious Shepherds Staff Award



Connie Thrash McGoodwin, M.Ed., Executive Director
Dale Rogers Training Center in Oklahoma City





2012-2013 Shepherd Award Honorees



Dawn Allen



Chris Bunal, LWPB Architectural



Jill McCartney-NWOKC Chamber



Wednesday Evening Bible Study
Church of the Servant



Megan Allison-Dale Rogers Training Center



Nancy Collins-Hannah's Promise Ministry
Church of the Servant



Arlene Keim



Gina Musae



Taylor Greenhill, Southern Nazarene
University Students



Burke Major



Susie Musae



Dr. Arthur & Charlene Richardson



Kysa Williams



Infant Crisis Services, Inc.



Walt & Harriot La Grone



Bill & Eileen Humes



Davis & Barbara Merrey – TeamLogicIT