



# MHA Dolly's Smile

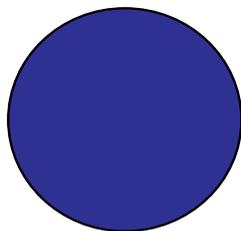
EVERYONE CAN BE **PRODUCTIVE**



January 2013  
Biannual Edition, Issue: 13.1

### Special Interest Articles:

- MHA Pasture for the Sheep Fundraiser
- MHA Head Office Launched in Oklahoma.
- MHA Opens Business Office.



### Individual Highlights:

- MHA Master Plan 2
- Programs Launched in Liberia 3
- MHA CEO meets Liberian President 4
- Bigma's Care List 5
- MHA Documentary 8



## Pasture for the Sheep Fundraiser

My Heart's Appeal (MHA) continues Phase One of its' fund-raising drive: Land Purchase.

With the vision to incorporate vocational and teacher training, residential and recreational facilities, a commercial center and other community services to the special needs community, MHA has secured 100 acres of land, situated at Giah's Town, Marshall Territory in lower Margibi County, Liberia, West Africa.

A fundraiser drive, Pasture for the Sheep, began November 28, 2012. The goal is to raise \$ 300,000.00 to cover the cost of the land, cornerstone, probate deed, surveying, clearing and

securing the property location.

Construction and/or erection of the facilities will launch Phase Two of our next fundraising drive.

Plans are underway for cost calculations for the next phase. 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 New Business Office Opens

MHA international head office was officially launched on October 25, 2012 in Oklahoma City. As the invited guests commenced their tour, they were ushered into a new added office space that had just been acquired on October 1, 2012.

MHA Business Office, was the sign bolted on the door. The office had the aroma of being freshly painted. It was lightly furnished with four student desks and conference chairs. Framed publications and MHA Partners logos hung on the wall and very noticeably, the room was sectioned into four areas divided by a make-shift cubicle. Each desk had a sign on it; CEO Administra-

tive Assistant, Marketing, Public Relations, and Finance Departments. The volunteered tour guide, Mr. David Ferguson, said that MHA has welcomed the possibility of inviting four or more volunteers to work at its head office in Oklahoma City.

Volunteer opportunities are available in all of the following three departments: marketing, public relations and finance. Fundraising and office assistant volunteers are also needed. If you are interested in volunteering with our organization in any way, we will love to have you. Please contact us. ☺



*Lovetie Major, M.Ed  
MHA CEO*



*“LWPB  
Architecture of  
Oklahoma City  
takes keen  
interest in MHA  
building plans for  
Liberia.”*



*Lisa Chronister, Principal  
& MHA CEO Lovetie Major*

## CEO's Reflections...

August 8, 2011, Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, signed a document into Law adding Special Education to the Liberian Education System. Mrs. Major was on the first plane into Liberia to began filing papers to incorporate MHA as a non-governmental organization in Liberia. The papers were approved and handed her on the 19th of August 2011.

The second week in January, 2012, Mrs. Major was back in Liberia the second time scouting the different neighborhoods in and around Monrovia and its environs, along with volunteers to

locate families with children who had special needs. She arranged and trained volunteers how to conduct an initial interview to determine the apparent disability of the incoming clients. At this point, reliance was heavily weighted on the parents, since most of the children and young adults had never been tested.

The feasibility study had now been completed in Liberia, which ascertained the need to initiate training and employment services for teens and adults with disabilities.

-Continued on pg . 8

## MHA Benefit Dinner

MHA has planned a sponsored dinner as a dialogue with partners and supporters to discuss the need to help our target population.

Featured at this activity will be recognition of partners in support of our programs and other community enterprises and installation of our 2013 Executive Board Members.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2013 at United Methodist Church of the Servant, 14343 North MacArthur, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73142. The event is from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at arrival.

Tickets are available at \$30 per person.

Get together with friends, name your group and then reserve a table of eight for \$225 and save \$15. Email or call our office to order your tickets. You can also pay online.

The following Sheep Levels are available: \$ 2000 Shepherd Staff Sponsorship (Open to the first Sponsor Only), \$ 1500 Shepherd Sponsorship, \$ 500 Ram Sponsorship, \$ 250 Ewe Sponsorship, \$100 Lamb Sponsorship Levels.

Further information and application can be found on our website. Go to Community Map then click Calendar, and then, Pasture for the Sheep - Benefit Dinner 🌟

## MHA Master Plan Development

Mrs. Major met with Lisa Chronister and Chris Bunal of LWPB Architecture in Oklahoma City, to discuss with them her interest in having a campus built for the special education population in Liberia, West Africa.

Several initial planning meetings have been held to determine the objective for the Master Plan of MHA proposed

Campus. Discussions so far have centered around the anticipated site location, combination and makeup of the land formation, as it relates to the local geographical map of Liberia.

In November, LWPB sketched a concept of the renderings for the community. 🌟



## July 2012 Program Launched in Liberia



St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Gaye Town opened its' doors and welcomed MHA when it held a ceremonial launch as an established non-government agency in Liberia, West Africa, July, 2012 and began services of one of its community service program, Bigma's Care Place - Respite Care. **Pastor Deddeh Kollie**, spoke on the theme:" Recognizing the Importance of a Person" and urged members to reach out at all cost to the less fortunate in society. ☺

**Alvinia Federwitz**, who introduced Mrs. Major, went on to declare, not only was Mrs. Major concerned with her sister, who has Down Syndrome, but for all other Liberian young people who do not have the chance to be profitable in their own country, because they do not have the opportunity to be educated. ☺



As long as there is a Liberian who has breath and are of age to work, they should be encouraged to work says, **Varbah Gayflor**, Minister of Labor, who attended the program among others. She thanked MHA for providing services that would enable the special needs population to be productive. ☺

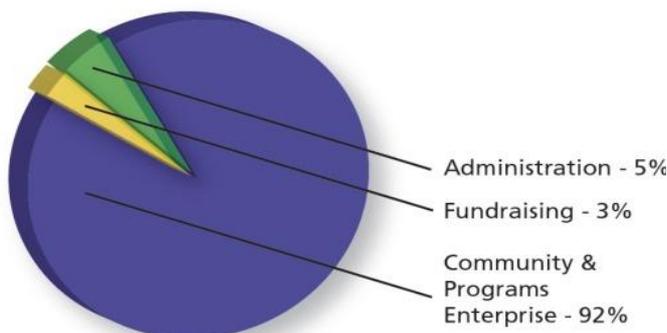
**Mayaedeheh Kemeh-Gama**, Director of Special Education, representing Minister Etmonia David Tarpeh, speaking in reference to Bigma's Care Place, stated that a program that provide the first thing, respite for the people who look after persons with special needs should be commended. She went on to say that it takes a special person to fulfill the role of a caregiver and if you have to give the best care that you can muster up, you need time to recharge. ☺



**Madame Kartumu Y. Boakai**, second lady of the Republic of Liberia, brought greetings from Vice President Joseph Boakai who heads the Disability Community in Liberia. She applauded the effort of MHA for the mantle at a time when no one else wants to reach out to the disability community. She believed that MHA has found a partner that would work towards accomplishing its' goal. Mrs. Boakai also did us the honor of cutting the ribbon commemorating the launching of MHA establishment in Liberia, West Africa. ☺

## MHA USA Contributions Received

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



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

### 2012 Quarterly Contributions

1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH
10.00	920.68	150.00	841.51

Bigma's Care Place	General Fund	Land Fund Drive
\$ 1,151.10	\$ 75.68	\$ 695.41

**Total: \$ 1922.19**

(100% allotment per the 3 categories)



## August 2012 Highlight

Liberian Education Minister, Etmonia David Tarpeh, introduced Mrs. Major to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf during the 165th Independence Day Anniversary Celebration for Children and Youths of Liberia, July 2012. Mrs. Major engaged President Sirleaf in a conversation about the objectives and goals of MHA. ☺

Two local Liberian news papers, The INQUIRE and The Labor Times in their July 30 and August 2 editions, underscored MHA focus point with a quote from Mrs. Major "My dream is to help my people."

Mrs. Major was a guest of Eva Flomo, on the United Nations Missions in Liberia, (UNMIL) Station 91.5 FM early morning dialogue and "Woman's World" program. She also held an interview with Radio Advent, 93.7 FM to create awareness of MHA presence in Liberia. ☺

Thanks to Mr. John Sheriff of UNMIL radio and Mr. Borkai Sirleaf of General Services Agency, GSA, representing MHA Board, Liberia for making it possible for MHA to advance its cause by creating awareness.



## September 2012 Summit

MHA celebrated one year anniversary on September 19, 2012 of its head office move to Oklahoma City. Mr. Craig J. Smith from the office of U.S. Senator, Tom Coburn, M.D., on Wednesday, the 5th of Sept. made a social call at MHA head office. He wanted to get a clear picture of MHA's impact in the community and overseas. He offered helpful tools for advancement of MHA's mission. When asked what was the impression of his visit, he responded,

"Lovetie Major has a heart to help others." ☺

We have made a lot of progress and grateful for the gracious people of Oklahoma City for welcoming MHA. Our greatest source is the Northwest Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma City where MHA CEO serves as a Chamber Ambassador. We have cultivated a lot of contacts and associates, for which we are appreciative. ☺



" Be the change  
you wish to see in  
the world."

-Mahatma Gandhi

## October 2012 Report

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held celebrating MHA head office move to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 25, 2012. Commendations were received in Oklahoma from Governor Mary Fallin and State Senator David Holt and from Liberia Education Minister, Etmonia David Tarpeh.

MHA also had an informational gathering during the event where guests were able to walk around and get first hand information of the programs and

projects that MHA wants to undertake. They were also able to get a better insight of the directions of MHA. ☺

We want to thank all sponsors of the event in Oklahoma City : Northwest Chamber of Commerce, Dale Rogers Training Center, LWPB Architectural, Creative Photo Video, Hannah's Promise Church of the Servant, Hefner Grill, Zorba's Mediterranean Cuisine , and everyone else for pitching in where help was needed. ☺



## MHA Wish Lists & Contributions Intake

MHA has recently been recipient of generous donations through the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits from the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Energy Corps (OG&E). Donations received have been assorted office supplies, laptops and computers. We are thankful for the donations. We are however, still in need of monitors, key boards, mouse and computer software to install programs.

MHA is thankful for all the support it has received in 2012 from three of its Partners in Oklahoma City: Dale Rogers Training Center, Hannah's Promise United Methodist Church of the Servant, and students at Southern Nazarene University and in Liberia from the Ministry of Education and St. Andrew Lutheran Church. We are considerably grateful to all who live in Liberia and generously donated goods, financial contributions and services to advance

the cause of MHA programs.

MHA would also like to say thank you to all who visited our website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages during the second half of the year. We are incessantly gratified for your support and partnership.

Other needs we have are listed on our Wish List on our website. Featured in this edition are some items needed from Bigma's Care Place wish list: Used Large Printer/Current Regulators (Step up Step down Transformers/Adaptors 220 volts/ 5 KZA Generator/Used Vehicle for Transportation/ Sleep Mats/Toys/ Games/Books /6in Craft Trays/Throw Rugs/Used LCD Projector/ Wheel Chairs (Child)/Utensils/Cafeteria plates /cups /bowls/Dry Snacks/ Peel off Name tags/Name tags & clip holders✪



## MHA Programs and Projects

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

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 on the way to begin soon in Liberia.

Walk-a Thon for the Intellectually Disabled Youngster in West Africa will begin in late spring of 2013, 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, will be 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. Proceeds will go towards Bigma's Care Place - Respite Care.

MHA provides training programs and opportunities to teenage and adult persons who have a primary diagnosis of intellectual disability. Persons served may also have other developmental or physical disabilities in addition to intellectual disability.

Testing methods have various cutoff points for the diagnosis of intellectual disability. These can range from an IQ of 70 to an IQ of 80. However, IQ is not the only criteria for diagnosis. A person with intellectual disability also exhibits impaired adaptive behavior.

Psychologists are needed to help with testing of our target group of which most have not been clinically tested.



*"Are you or do you know a Psychologist interested in a mission trip to Liberia March or July 2013 ?"*



### MHA Office in Oklahoma City Launched



MHA Board of Directors Chairman Dr. Arthur Richardson and Vice Chairman Mr. Lonnie Heim, CPA



Connie Thrash-McGoodwin, Executive Director, Dale Rogers Training Center and Dr. Robyn Goggs, Church of the Servant-Hannah's Promise Ministry read citations from Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin and State Senator David Holt, presented to MHA on October 25, 2012

### Bigma's Care Place - Respite Care Family



### MHA Liberia Partnerships & Activities



Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf enlightened on MHA Activities.



Minister Florence A. Chenoweth, Ph.D  
Ministry of Agriculture



Minister Etmonia David Tarpeh  
Ministry of Education



Liberian's Second Lady, Madame Kartumu Y. Boakai cuts Ribbon To Officially Launch MHA in Liberia, West Africa



Emmanuel F. Bailey, D. MIN. Ph.D  
President, United Methodist University



Cllr. Oswald Tweh  
MHA Board. Liberia





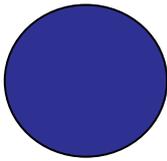
MY HEART'S APPEAL  
5909 NW EXPRESSWAY  
SUITE 224  
OKC, OK 73132

Phone:

405-603-2799

Fax:

405-603-2712



E-Mail:

info@myheartsappeal.org

Everyone Can Be  
Productive

We're on the Web!

See us at:



[www.myheartsappeal.org](http://www.myheartsappeal.org)

## MHA Online Store

We have some happy news to share! MHA CEO's manuscript has been accepted for print by TATE PUBLISHING in Mustang, Oklahoma. Production is scheduled to begin in February 2013. Will keep you posted with progress. ☺

MHA special documentary project will soon be ready for distribution. A **Chance to Learn** is a heart-touching story that speaks to the possibilities that every child can learn if given the opportunity, the right vocational skills and training,

along with a healthy dose of love and encouragement. ☺

A collection of plain African greeting cards and posters have been uniquely designed for MHA online store. We look forward to launching our online store in the next coming months. Thank you for your continuous support. ☺

Visit us at [www.myheartsappeal.org](http://www.myheartsappeal.org) and check out all of the taps and drop buttons on our site.

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

However, there was one major problem by ratio of our target population (fifteen - adulthood), to the need of mothers who had children from three months old to fourteen years of age.

Most or all of this sample group of children had never been to school because of their apparent disabilities. The mothers complained about having

no help and that they were the only care givers of their children.

MHA then decided to offer a community service program to cater to this group as well. Mrs. Major then made a third trip and July 21, 2012, MHA launched Bigma's Care Place - Respite Care, modeled after Hannah's Promise-Church of the Servant. ☺

## 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

5909 Northwest Expressway, Ste. 224  
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

