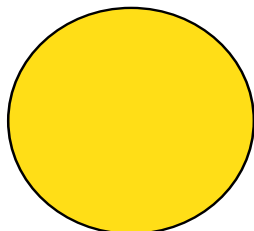




MHA

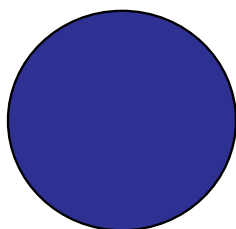
Dolly's Smile
EVERYONE CAN BE PRODUCTIVE



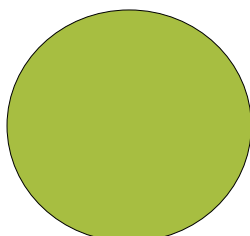
September, 2021
Special Edition

Special Interest Articles:

- A Challenging Decision
- Office for Institutional Advancement
- Endowment Fund



Video Highlights:



The Roof!

The global pandemic has taken its toll on society, as well as causing shutdowns that forfeited travel. A four month's trip to Liberia was finally scheduled for early April, 2021, to reevaluate My Heart's Appeal (MHA) program activities and buildings maintenance by team MHA (CEO and husband).



The raining season in Liberia is from May to October. The start of the raining season approaching as we arrived would allow an accurate appraisal of the buildings and to develop a repair strategy. The ceilings already showed signs of previous water damage. Several contractors were brought in to look at the roof and give recommendations and proposals for repairs.

The assessment reports showed four separate buildings (vocational, commercial, multipurpose and annex), all in close proximity and connected by an interwoven guttering system. The recommendation was to recreate a new roof that would encompass all four buildings, using higher grade roofing materials that will weather sea salt corrosion.

[Early assessment](#) of the existing roof showed devastating wear and tear damage on the flat roof and guttering, which had previously been patched in the hope that the pandemic would be short-lived. In some of the buildings, ceilings, mounted fans, electricals, plywood doors, untreated timbers, facings and more would all need to be replaced, most of which were not included in the roof estimates

As an emerging nonprofit, this posed a challenge, as we did not have operational funds. Several of MHA's organized events had to be cancelled because of the pandemic, which stalled fundraising plans to increase operational reserves. We had a small reserve that was set aside for programs and scholarships, but it would not cover the cost of the new roof and other repairs. If the building roof was not replaced, we would not be able to resume our programs that had been closed due to the pandemic.

The torrential rain did not give us much of an option as it poured in every room, demanding all hands on deck to wipe the floors and push room contents from direct contact with the rain. We needed to get a closed water tank to filter water into the building; erosion and soil movement also shifted the ground around the building fence; and fencing repairs had to be done to create a safe path for the waterway directly behind our building. Those were equally important but we did not have any budget for them either. 🏠 (Cont. P 5)



CEO's Reflections...



Lovetie Major, M.ED
MHA CEO

Growing up in Africa as a child, I watched a couple of parents taking comfortable seats in the kitchen when it was time to prepare food. Then the drama begins, and to the child you hear..."Get the rice; wash it and put it in the pot to boil; make sure you put enough water in it and I do not want it soft; put salt in the rice but not so much to be too salty; watch the heat under the rice, I do not want it to burn."

At the same time, there is chatting with an unannounced neighbor who came just in time to get a plate. The meal is about ready, but a strange odor wafts from the kitchen; the rice is starting to burn. Mom turns her attention from the neighbor and starts fussing at the child, "How did you let this happen?"

I vowed to be a better mom when I grew up, the only one to blame when the rice is soft in my kitchen; and of course, knowing what I had in the cupboards and when things need to be replenished. I have used those same principles in dealing with MHA and can assure you as patrons that your time, talent, and treasures you have given to MHA have been well-guarded within our control.

MHA is presently closed down because of the construction. We want to reopen immediately after construction is finished this 2021 year. The pandemic was harsh on a lot of our families, but with the help of Global Down Syndrome Foundation, Love Myer Family Foundation and other partners, we were able to distribute care packages to families in need in August 2020 and April 2021. We were even able to lift the spirits of clients in our program with a special spaghetti dinner.

The future is here and we are in Liberia physically in 2021 as the change occurs, reflecting on our setbacks and considering new ways to be self-sustainable. We worked hard to maintain the building to international standards and very optimistic for the next upcoming academic calendar. We are putting in place opportunities for sustainability to help fund the program.

"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." This is a proverb that MHA always implements. We are welcoming one-time start-up funds for our coffee shop, internet café, gift shop, graphic pool and liberty garden. We need your help to push us over from the setback of our leaking roof. Please give as you are able.

[Give Now](#)



MHA have never had big breaks or unswerving timely funding circles to finish our project plan, but we are truly grateful for those who have crossed our path in giving sparsely contributions.

A Challenging Decision

The rains were vicious and not letting up. There are no reliable weather channels to plan a day's schedule. We had to scramble for tarpaulin on surprise rain days. With the roof going up, the next thing was rewiring the building's electric grid and putting in conduits and light switches.

A text message was received, "How is My Heart's Appeal doing?" it read. Oh, how happy we were to know that someone was thinking on MHA at that very moment! We wrote back and said we were in Africa and discussing our ongoing project. Later a \$3000.00 donation from Leroy Ball and Pat McGarrity, long-time patrons of MHA, was sent. As the roof went up in sections, this donation was used toward the electrical work, which was the next phase before the ceilings could be replaced. **△ (Cont. P 8)**

A. Y. T. 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 last of the children, was born with Down syndrome and an intellectual disability. She was denied education because Liberia does not have institutions to fulfill her needs. This bothered Alfred, but being a fighter himself, he did not give 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, but his legacy lives on. The establishment of the Alfred Y. Telewoda Sr. Education Endowment Fund will ensure that everyone can be productive, because they would have been given a chance.

The Alfred Telewoda Endowment Fund is managed by The Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation. The Endowment Fund draws only from interest, never from principal. In this way we hope to provide every person, and principally our target group, the protection of understanding a little about their prospect...that there will always be My Heart's Appeal, Inc. (MHA).

Gifts take many forms, including appreciated assets such as stock, naming Alfred Telewoda Endowment Fund as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account, a bequest through one's will or trust, or by making a direct cash contribution to <https://okumf.org/services/online-giving/>; Account 2360 Alfred Telewoda Endowment Fund.

Global Down Syndrome Foundation

MHA received a \$2000.00 Covid-19 emergency family assistance grant late March, 2021 from Global Down Syndrome Foundation. The grant was for sixteen families in our Down syndrome program. Food packages were bought; funded by Global and handed out to families.





Office of Vice President for Institutional Advancement



Dr. Arthur Richardson

“O, Say Can’t You See?”

No, it’s not a typo...it’s a serious question. Rather than asking each other, “How’s it going?” It would be more meaningful to ask, “What lies ahead?” or “Where are we headed?” For instance, “How’s it going?” is quite likely to get you a weather forecast, or a report on the amount of rain we got yesterday. When a storm blows through, there is more work to do tomorrow to get the power back on and the debris carted away.

And that is where effective fund raising begins. What do we see happening? We see volunteer firefighters joined by neighbors who show up to restore order to our lives. It’s the difference between lamenting what has just happened in the past and doing something about it.

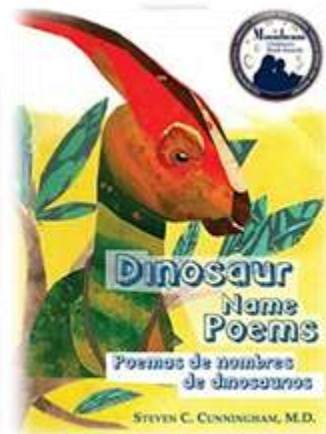
At My Heart’s Appeal, we know we have a calling, not just a job, but a calling to action to serve the families and the children and youth who come to our school. If teachers only considered the fact their students have some learning disabilities, they will never give them what they need most. They don’t need to be reminded of their shortcomings. Teachers offer them courage and hope and a different more productive future.

As a fundraiser, if I only thought about their situation I would never get off dead center. It’s not just about raising money... it’s about creating futures and fulfilling hopes and building self-esteem, too. It’s about what every size of gift can do to create the path to becoming a productive person, finding their self-esteem and their courage to fulfill their dreams.

So, I ask you...what do you see in My Heart’s Appeal? Do you see students learning how to assist in Bakery rolling out dough or serving coffee to a customer? Do you see students learning the skills of garden planting, weeding, harvesting and delivering fruit and vegetables to families that will strengthen their health? You do? That’s the spirit! That’s the restorer of hope after the storm.

Often I close a message with the letters, “BDAC,” What do you see? Just letters? Or do you see, “Better Days Are Coming!” Look ahead...see what needs to be done and what is possible...then make the gift that fulfills that future.

MHA Received Books for its Library



MHA to soon be the home of The Anna Coble Mullen and Elaine Pace Mullen Library which promises to serve the families of children with intellectual disabilities. Thanks to Rosemary Klein and Kirk Mullen for facilitating a donation to the Republic of Liberia, West Africa, via myheartsappeal.org, including one of these boxes which includes 20 copies of Dinosaur Name Poems as a class set for a school there.



DSAL Birthday Blast held at the Love Myer & Leonard Community Hall



The Roof... (Cont. from P 1)

We had to use what we had in our hands. The logical decision was made to [begin repairs](#). An \$8000.00 grant from Banfield Family Foundation was given to MHA to use towards what was most necessary to help endure the cares of the pandemic. The grant was used along with programs reserve fund of \$6800.00, which amounted to a little over one-third of the roof estimates. *"It is in your hands to make a better world for all who live in it."* - Nelson Mandela

MHA Leaky Roof Replacement



Old Roof



New Roof



Banfield Family Foundation



In its quest to be self-sustainable, a \$10,000 check is given MHA for its computer lab; funded and named in honor of the Banfield Family Foundation. The donation was made in 2020 during MHA Annual benefit dinner; but the project was on hold because of the pandemic and the building leakage.

The lab when up and running will serve among other things; a source of community partnership in creating a pathway for a computer school and literacy programs.

Sponsors needed for Indoor Playground & Kitchen

It is not just about a playground or another added accessory; but a necessary addition needed to open the doors for the special needs day program to begin.

The kitchen needs equipment to make it a fully functional one.

Email info@myheartsappeal.org us as you are able and find out how to help us fulfill these necessities.

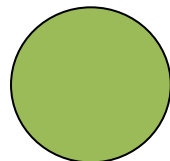
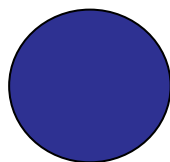
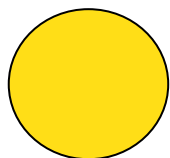




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Visit us at www.myheartsappeal.org and check out all of the tabs and drop buttons on our site. Email us info@myheartsappeal.org and numbers 405-603-2799 (Phone), 405-603-2712 (Fax). If you ❤️ us, be sure to like us on Face book.

A Challenging Decision (Cont. P 2)

MHA has never had big breaks to finish the building and furnishings projects or unswerving timely funding circles, but we are truly grateful for those who have crossed our path over the years, and have measured and tracked our progress.

With setbacks like Ebola and Covid-19 pandemic, being let down by trusted acquaintances and a distributor shipper, we are not where we want to be and we may seem slow to others; but we are focused with lots of enthusiasm! We still did not have all of the funds to carry on with the roof and ceiling work; but continued to be [prayerfully hopeful](#).

We had to make a gut-wrenching decision to do the right thing. We decided to fund as much of the project as we are able from personal savings, giving up our contingency fund until help arrives. *"There are risks and costs to action. But they are far less than the long-range risks of comfortable inaction."* - John F. Kennedy

It was [now August](#), four months into our stay. The roof, new treated timber frames and electrical grid were finally completed. The ceilings are now going up in sections and the painters are patching and putting on first coats of paint. There is still painting, mounting fans, installing plywood doors, flooring, facings and more that still need to be replaced. We still don't have kitchen equipment nor a backup generator. The electricity is so sporadic in Liberia; and the building needs electricity to function.