

# LIBERIA In Focus



## Donations to the Rescue

Individual donors, AJWS, Friends of Liberia, and Proliteracy Support

IMANI HOUSE Liberia



In times of war or peace the fact remains that Liberia is a developing country. A country where 58% of its women are unable to read. During 13 years of civil war, it lost 95% of its medical infrastructure. Now there is approximately one doctor for every 100,000 people and a life expectancy of only 57 years.

Now nine years after the end of the war the root causes of these statistics, some of which predate the war, hinder the country's development leaving most Liberians in dire need of targeted assistance in health and education.

Thanks to donations from people like you IMANI HOUSE has been on the frontlines of this assistance for over 22 years - from relief shipments, to housing for homeless children, health care facilities and adult literacy programs. This year we succeeded in offering unlimited health care services to over 17,000 women and children at our Clinic; provided adult literacy classes at three locations to 200 women, and trained teen peer health educators in three junior high schools who tutored over 200 students in HIV and pregnancy prevention techniques.

We would like to thank and applaud all of you who give unselfishly, Reverend Rowena Silvera for layettes to new Liberian mothers, and our donor agencies; AJWS for operational support and upgrading of the Clinic, Proliteracy for books and support, and Friends of Liberia for support to our new Sewing classes.

While funds received fall far short of what is needed, IMANI HOUSE is grateful to be able to continue to do this work, employ 29 staff in Liberia and contribute to a positive future for its people.

**IMANI HOUSE Collaborates with The Liberian Marketing Association** – In 2011 IHI created a new partnership in the Market places for our adult literacy program, so that women who want to learn to read would have easier access. Classes have begun and we are in the process of setting up tailoring classes to teach skills that will help the women increase their incomes.

## Volunteers That Make A Difference

Ross Miranti recently joined the staff of IHI Liberia as a Volunteer Project Manager. Mr. Miranti departed NYC on October 23 and arrived in Liberia safely.



For the next 6 months he will be helping our Liberian staff. He has a wealth of experience and holds a MA from the New School in International Affairs and Development.

In addition we received assistance in our New York office from Ying Li, and Samantha Wolf, whom served as International Summer Interns. Ying hails from China and is working towards her Masters in Public and International Affairs and Samantha graduated from the University of Vermont with a BA in Community and International Development.

Our Staff, volunteers and management sends thanks to these unselfish individuals who now and into the future will serve as the fabric that wraps itself around the goals and successes of IMANI HOUSE.

## Looking Towards Tomorrow

IMANI HOUSE would like to

- Expand Health Service delivery in rural areas through an IHI Mobile Health Vehicle
- Expand the IHI Adult Literacy Model for women to additional Markets throughout Liberia
- Increase IHI networks and donor bases through greater visibility and the promotion of proactive development projects by skilled indigenous people



## Teen Peer Educator's HIV/Pregnancy Prevention Training

*A Student's Voice*

My name is Jechebah Dahn, I am 16 years old and I live in Bassa Town.



In the (IHI) program I have learned many good things that I can always share with my friends... I have learned how to prevent pregnancy, what to do when boys or men touch my body in a wrong way and how to prevent sicknesses like HIV/AIDs... Also Imani House is teaching us how it is important to concentrate on our school lesson and not to get involve in sex... until our bodies can get mature. And we also learned the importance and use of condoms....

...I am happy about these people (IHI) because from what I learned from them I can go... and talk to my friends.... They listened to me well and they want to be like me.... I am learning to become a better citizen.

Jechebah Dahn is a student of the Sean De-veraux Junior High School where the IMANI HOUSE nurses run this program

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Liberia was never colonized by Europeans, it was settled in 1822, by African people freed from slavery in the U.S.
- The capital city Monrovia is named after U.S. President James Monroe (1817-1825)
- Liberia proclaimed itself a sovereign republic in 1847
- The first President of Liberia, Joseph J. Roberts, was born into slavery in Norfolk, Va.
- The settler's descendants are called "Americo-Liberians" they ruled for 133 years
- Liberia was the richest Black Nation in the world in the 1950's
- Liberia was a member of the League of Nations in 1920 - in 1946 the League changed to the United Nations
- Liberia elected the first Black women leader, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
- Liberia is only the size of Tennessee