

## **Girls Education Fund in Sierra Leone:**

As an operating principle, Search for Common Ground makes a commitment to building capacity in the countries in which we work. To serve this goal, SFCG-Sierra Leone is providing opportunities for girls and women to further their educations. Traditionally most women have not had schooling opportunities beyond primary school. To address this, SFCG-SL is partnering with Global Giving to provide scholarships for girls and young women to attend secondary school, college, and university. The personal accounts of nine of these women appear here:

### **Benecia Davies**



I want first of all to thank SFCG/Talking Drum Studio (TDS) for the assistance rendered to me during the past years more especially for supporting me in going into college last year. I really need this support as a student in college and coming from a poor family and had lost both my parents. My aunt who was assisting me, the husband lost his job due to ill health and as such after finishing sixth form at the St Joseph Secondary School I was unable to further my education to achieve my goals. I spent a whole year doing nothing until last year when SFCG gave me the opportunity to continue with my education. So I really need SFCG to help me greatly in achieving my aims and objectives in terms of education and promise that I will work hard so that your support would not go in vain.

### **Mamusu Kamara**



First and foremost I will like to say thanks to the entire staff of SFCG/Talking Drum Studio (TDS) for giving me the opportunity to serve or work in this Organization for the past few months. I must hasten to say that for just these few months I have learnt a lot of things like doing interviews with a Marantz and also using the protocols. This I should not have known if you had not given me the opportunity. I appreciate it a lot and I say thanks so much. In as much as you have helped me so much I thought it fit that my learning of journalism should not only stop here but also there is need for me to further my education. It is in that light that I want this Organization to help me so that I can further my education in the University to study Mass Communication as this is my field of study.

### **Emilia Taylor**



I am attending the Rokel Secondary School and in Senior Secondary School II. I need help from SFCG because I cannot meet with my educational requirements as I am an Orphan. My mother and father died in 1994 at Mokañji during the rebel war. As SFCG has helped me with this years schooling I would appreciate if the Organisation could continue helping so that I would be able to complete my schooling career and get ready to enter University. May God bless your Organization.

### **Kadiatu Kamara**



I am the third child of my parents. My father died four years ago and my mother is the only surviving relation and at the moment she is jobless and unable to take care of the family. I am presently pursuing a Diploma in African Studies at the Fourah Bay College. I am desperately in need of assistance from any benevolent entity to help me continue with my studies at the University.

### **Josephine K. Kanu**



I will appreciate any support SFCG/TDS could offer me as I am a student who attempted the West African School Certificate Examination but due to financial constraints I am facing I cannot further my education as I could not afford the College Tuitions as my father is unemployed and my mother is a low salary earner. There is a big financial constraints threatening my educational advancement, as a result I could not meet the financial demands of higher Institution. Finally I could only perform academically well if I get financial assistance from SFCG.

### **Josephine Gbao**



Since I started doing my internship at SFCG/TDS, I have gained a lot of working experience and I do appreciate all that the Organization has done for me. Some of these are human relationship, meeting with different people from different works of life traveling up country to attend peace carnivals which has helped me know how people should come together to build their community. With the little educational background that I have and unable to support myself I would be grateful if SFCG can offer me such a great opportunity and promise to do my best in whatever support I will get from SFCG. Once again I thank you very much.

### **Memunatu T. Conteh**



I first of all want to thank the entire staff of SFCG/TDS for giving me the opportunity to serve or work in this Organization for the past years, it is indeed a challenge for me to take up such responsibilities, in attending workshops interviewing and producing programs. Since I started working for SFCG, I have learnt a lot in using equipment like the PROTOOLS to produce programs, the Marantz to interview etc, which has helped me immensely. Though this Institution has helped me a lot in different areas, I really need the support of SFCG to help me in furthering my education in the University of Sierra Leone to study Mass Communication, as Journalism is my field. This is more challenging as a woman in the field of journalism.

### **Sarah E. Davies**



I hold an Ordinary National Diploma in Computer Studies and Community Development Studies from the Southern Agro-Industrial Development Associate Center (SAIDAC), Bo. I need the support of SFCG to further my education as my parents are all local farmers. They are not financially strong to help me even to have this basic education was not an easy task for me. I sold wood, cold water and native rice for little profit. I don't want to get married now as my parents are suggesting because I want to continue with my education by studying nursing MCH Course at Pare-medical Institution Bo. Having this offer of internship at the SFCG is an excellent opportunity for me to develop my potential in another field related to my future career.

### **Seibatu Lamina** (no picture available)

I am grateful to the Management of SFCG who has offered me a job as an intern for Golden Kids News in Bo. This has helped me from being frustrated. I had been dreaming of pursuing a career in nursing, and would be glad if this aim could be achieved through your support. I gained my secondary education at Queen of the Rosary Secondary School Bo where I took the Basic Education Certificate Examination with passes in 8 subjects and an aggregate of 25. I came 2<sup>nd</sup> position in my school. In my first Senior Secondary School (SSS I), I was awarded a certificate as one of the best academic students. I also sat to the West Africa Secondary School Certificate Examination and had passes in two subjects. I am greatly in need of assistance in order to further my education as I have lost my father and my mother is a housewife. I was forced to marry to an elderly man who promised to help me in my education. He took advantage of the situation and abused my right and failed to fulfill his promise and only wanted me as a housewife. I went back to my mother and stepmothers but we are twenty six in number and they could not afford to educate us all.