

Turning Scars into Stars



Healey International Relief Foundation
Annual Report 2017



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Turning Scars into Stars Since 2001

Healey International Relief Foundation (HealeyIRF) is a 501(c)3 public charity established to improve the quality of life of vulnerable individuals and families in Sierra Leone who have long been affected by war, Ebola and adverse socioeconomic conditions. Through the delivery of healthcare services, clean water, food and education training, HealeyIRF embraces the country's needs, invests in their future, and brings hope and empowerment to those in Sierra Leone who are impoverished, hungry, and hurting.



Why Sierra Leone?

HealeyIRF has taken action to help rebuild the lives of those in Sierra Leone. With the effects of a decade long civil war still being felt and the recent Ebola epidemic, Sierra Leone is ranked 179 out of 188 countries on the United Nations Development Program Human Development Index. 52.3% of the population lives on less than \$2 a day. Children in Sierra Leone face challenges reaching their 5th birthday and are 30 times more likely to die before the age of five than a child born in England. The burden on women is especially high with an estimated lifetime risk of dying of maternal causes at 1 in 17.

Health outcomes for the people of Sierra Leone are dire, and according to the World Health Organization "a child born today in Japan will live to the age of 83, whereas a child born in Sierra Leone will only live until the age of 50."

Local Partnership - Community-Based Solutions - Sustainable Results



Solid alliances with local communities in Sierra Leone and like-minded NGOs allow us to develop methods of problem solving, which are supported by communities we work in, thus developing a bright future. **It's about immersing oneself and understanding the culture you are working with.** We are providing a "hand-up, not a hand-out," to ensure sustainable results.

Turning Scars into Stars





A Message from Our President

Robert T. Healey, Jr.

2017 was a year of expanding and improving healthcare services for vulnerable populations in Sierra Leone and continued care for orphans. Getting much needed medical equipment to our facilities, medicines to treat illnesses, and a data collection project to better inform our decision-making were key achievements in our health-strengthening efforts.

Personally, 2017 marked my first trip back to Sierra Leone in three years. When people ask what Sierra Leone is like, I describe it as a “warm, wonderful embrace.” The spirit of the people, the beauty of the land, and the rich and diverse culture all weave together to create a truly unique country. The trip strengthened my confidence in our project direction and future endeavors.

A priority in 2017 was the development of a process to collect data at the health facilities we support. We focused on our operations in the western area and are very pleased with the progress of our patient utilization and disease prevalence data project. The data shows we are reaching our intended primary beneficiaries, with 61% of our patients being female and 57% of our patients under the age of five. Collecting this information will be used to improve service delivery and allow us to better forecast what medicines and supplies are needed.

Capacity building of the healthcare workforce is another critical component needed to improve the delivery of healthcare services. Our grant from the Conrad H. Hilton Foundation is allowing us to meet this need by providing educational funding for Sisters to pursue degrees in health specific and health related fields. Meeting with program participants in Freetown, I was impressed with the degrees they were pursuing and their enthusiasm to support our healthcare efforts. Our orphan program continues to focus on ensuring that we serve as a positive stepping stone into childrens’ future. While family reunification is a priority, in some cases this is not possible. Along with our partner Caritas-Freetown, we are supporting the transition of these children to a new facility, outside of Freetown. Construction on this facility began in 2017 and when completed will provide a safe environment for their development.

During my visit I spent time with the children at their current interim care centers. While having suffered so much, they are generous, curious and full of hope for their future. One mentioned he wants to be President and another a doctor. We will be doing everything we can to make sure each child has the opportunity to pursue their dream.

Unfortunately, disaster struck Sierra Leone during the rainy season. In late August, there was a massive mudslide outside of Freetown and flooding throughout the city. Over 1,000 died and thousands were left homeless. With our established in-country partnerships and overwhelming support from our donors, we began immediately providing hot meals and medical services to those affected by this tragedy.

Looking forward to 2018, we will continue our health strengthening efforts by expanding our data collection project to facilities outside the western area. Medicines and supplies will be shipped but we also plan clinic assessments to ensure that we have all the needed medical equipment to improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations. Capacity building efforts at our facilities will begin as additional training is needed to better diagnose and treat the most prevalent diseases. Finally, the orphans in our program will be moved to their new facility and consolidated into one location.

There is a lot to do in the upcoming year. 2017 passed far too quickly but, progress is being made. Thank you for being on this journey with us, your assistance shows what the power of a helping hand and heart can do.

Robert T. Healey, Jr.
President & Chairman

2017 At A Glance



Major medicines containers shipped in partnership with Brother's Brother Foundation



Provided essential supplies and equipment to facilities in our Charity Health Network, including an emergency generator to Serabu Hospital



Supported the opening of Christ the King Hospital in Waterloo



Established immediate emergency relief following the deadly floods and mudslide in August 2017



Distributed 15,813 bags of rice to Ebola Survivors across the country





Orphan and Vulnerable Children Program



"The children have faced so many struggles but have such positive attitudes. With an environment of love and support we know they will have bright futures and we are happy to be a part of their journey."
-President Robert T. Healey, Jr.

The 40 orphan and vulnerable children supported by HealeyIRF had a very successful 2017. Ranging from ages five to sixteen, the children thrived at school and were in good health.

HealeyIRF provides for school fees, educational supplies, food and boarding expenses. In addition, throughout the year we respond to urgent requests from the caregivers at the ICC's. For example in early 2017 during the dry season, the Sisters at Fatima House made a request for water to fill their water tanks, which were not full, forcing the children to go out of the compound to get water. With 20 orphans at the facility you can imagine the number of trips necessary to fill up the tank. We immediately made arrangements for water to be delivered for the remainder of the dry season.

Most importantly, the children are doing well in school, with all students passing their studies and advancing to the next grade. Our key objective in our OVC program is to provide the children with the skills and knowledge necessary to insure their success later in life.

The Story of Esther

Our program manager received an urgent email from the Interim Care Facility (ICC) in Cline Town, Sierra Leone. The email stated, "Please Megan, help us to save life."

When visiting a village outside of Freetown, Sisters Agatha and Bernadette were approached by a young girl begging for food. The Sisters are very accustomed to this but this child seemed sicker than other children they had seen. The Sisters learned that everybody believed she was a witch and she had been rejected by the community. Her name was Esther and since her mother's death she had been working for a lady who only offered her a little to eat. After receiving permission, the Sisters brought Esther back to the ICC and got her medical care. They learned that she was a diabetic and needed insulin.

With HealeyIRF assistance, Esther is getting the medical help she needs and is thriving at the Cline Town ICC.





During 2017, providing medicines, equipment and supporting the opening of Christ the King Hospital in Waterloo were our priorities.

After a devastating fire destroyed Holy Spirit Hospital's laboratory, in mid-2017 we delivered an urgently needed reflotron analyzer. Dr. Patrick Turay, Medical Director, noted that this piece of equipment helps them diagnose a variety of diseases and is "a real life-saver."

With our partner, Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation, we located and distributed 110 non-electric beds throughout the Charity Health Network and government hospitals. James Lahai, Hospital Manager at Serabu Hospital described the benefit. "Our capacity to deliver quality health service and control infection in the children's ward has been a challenge. This is largely attributed to the congestion rate in the wards by having children doubled on a single bed increasing the possibility of infection when



Expanding and improving healthcare services for vulnerable populations is a core principle of the Charity Health Network.



sick children are close to each other on the same bed. Therefore, with these new beds, infection rates in the children's ward will be greatly reduced."

During the brutal civil war, Waterloo, (twenty miles east of Freetown) was the location of a refugee camp with approximately 25,000 displaced persons. Currently, Waterloo is one of the fastest growing areas outside of Freetown with a population of 48,000 and in need of additional healthcare services for women and children.

In partnership with Caritas-Freetown, operations began at Christ the King Hospital on June 20th. By December the facility was seeing on average 200 patients per week. The key beneficiary population that the facility seeks to reach is women and children. During the first six months of operation, 73% of those treated were children under-5 and for those 15 years and older, 66% were women.

Finally, a total of \$5.6 million in medicines was shipped and distributed. Antibiotics to treat life-threatening infections and medicines to treat malaria were included. In addition, due to the rise in non-communicable diseases, medicines to treat high blood pressure were provided to network facilities.



The Monsignor Daniel Sullivan Health Clinic continues providing invaluable healthcare services to the community of Newton. In addition to over 4,700 patient visits during 2017, the clinic staff managed the birth of 147 babies. The diseases most diagnosed at the clinic were malaria, respiratory infection, sexually transmitted infection, diarrhea, and skin infection.

The clinic, however, is seeing a growing number of hypertension cases and Community Health Officer, Manjia Taylor initiated a hypertension program at the clinic. Manjia explained, "I screen all patients that visit the facility at the age of 20 years and above. I give treatment to those who have high blood pressure and advise them on behavior and life style changes to bring down their blood pressure."

Clinic data shows that the key beneficiary population is women and children. 69% of patient visits are women and 46% are children under the age of five.

During our 2017 program visit, healthcare staff at the clinic identified their top priority need as a vehicle to conduct community outreach and to provide emergency transport for pregnant women. A keke, comparable to a motorized tricycle, was purchased for the clinic as it can provide both services in a very cost-effective manner. Outreach services are critical in Sierra Leone and healthcare workers can reach a larger number of those in need with the keke.



Sister Josephine Amara Health Coordinator Caritas-Freetown noted, "The value of the vehicle became very apparent the first time it was used to quickly get a young woman to the hospital to treat her pregnancy complications. We are very happy to have this added resource."



Meeting the needs of Ebola survivors was an ongoing priority in 2017. Ebola survivors continue to struggle with health issues and social stigma. Our Healey Ebola Lifesaver Project focuses on providing families with rice.

With our partner, the Tzu Chi Foundation, nearly 16,000 bags of rice were distributed throughout Sierra Leone to 3,543 Ebola survivors. Of the beneficiaries, 57% were women and 43% men.

Salamatu, an Ebola survivor in the Western Rural Region said, “I benefited receiving the rice, it was timely because at that point in time there was no food in the house to eat for my family and I.” Salamatu is caring for eleven family members.

Memunatu, with a family of eight to provide for, commented, “I received the rice during the rains and things were difficult for me and so I was happy to benefit from it. The rice is good for us because just a small quantity cooked can be able to feed the family and if we cannot afford money for sauce it can be very tasty with just butter.”

“As I travel throughout the country, the need of Ebola survivors is evident. It has been over three years since Sierra Leone was declared Ebola free, but you can still see the devastation in communities and families,” noted HealeyIRF Executive Director Ben Parra. “We will continue to provide support and care to those still struggling to get back on their feet from this devastating epidemic.”



“We will continue to provide support and care to those still struggling to get back on their feet from this devastating epidemic.”



“The need of Ebola survivors is evident.”



The rainy season in Sierra Leone lasts from June to August, with heaviest rains in August. The rains and inadequate drainage system often result in flooding in Freetown during this time. But the rains on August 14th were heavier than usual and produced a devastating mudslide in the Regent area of Freetown, as well as heavy flooding throughout the city. Over 1,100 were killed or declared missing and more than 3,000 left homeless. Many were buried alive.

Through the generosity of our supporters we were able to provide immediate care and comfort to those suffering. Our first concern was to provide food and clean water to survivors of the mudslide and flooding and a hot meal program was begun. The intent was to provide one hot meal in communities most impacted. In addition, diseases, such as cholera, could become rampant and the mobile health clinic was deployed. In total, 19,580 hot meals were served through our efforts and nearly 2,500 received medical care.

Finally, we assisted with efforts to cleanup contaminated wells. Not being able to access the wells was proving to be quite a hardship for families and the need was great to clean these wells. Unfortunately, the government did not have an adequate supply of Aqua Tabs and reached out to our partner Caritas-Freetown. We immediately ordered and shipped over the requested supply. "The communities were so happy and relieved to be able to use their wells again," reported Father Peter Konteh, Executive Director Caritas-Freetown.



"It is indeed a sad day in Freetown." These were the words of in-country director, Ishmeal Charles, as he and others from Caritas-Freetown were on site to aid the survivors from the deadly mudslide that occurred early August 15, 2017.



Reaching our goal of improving health outcomes for children under-5, pregnant women, and new mothers in Sierra Leone is made possible through our partnership with Vitamin Angels. By providing vitamin A, we are helping increase immunity against illness, and albendazole rids children of parasitic worms. Vitamin Angels supplied us with enough supplements to treat 6,500 children ages 6 – 11 months and 6,500 children 12 – 59 months. For pregnant and new mothers, Vitamin Angels provided us with enough multivitamins to support our maternal health efforts at clinics in our network. Multivitamins not only improve the health of the mother but support the growth and development of the child in her womb. After giving birth, multivitamins help the mother remain strong and able to breastfeed.

Vitamin Angels



Headwaters



It is estimated that nearly 12,000 children were orphaned during the Ebola Crisis. During the epidemic, Headwaters Relief Organization developed an illustrated book titled “When The Great Sickness Came” that helped children cope with their fear, anxiety, and loss. In June 2017, a team from Headwaters visited with the orphans at our Interim Care Centers and other vulnerable children. The team taught relaxation techniques and methods on how to cope with the aftermath of Ebola. Many creative approaches were used but the children seem to most enjoy blowing bubbles which helped them learn breathing techniques in order to help them relax.

Through our grant from the Hilton Foundation we are providing funds to educate Catholic Sisters in non-traditional roles to support the Charity Health Network. Nineteen Sisters are enrolled in the program with 13 in Universities in Sierra Leone. Six different congregations are participating. The Sisters are enrolled in a variety of fields of study to include nursing, pre-med, business administration, educational administration, epidemiology, and mental health studies.

Conrad H. Hilton Foundation





 *Improving nutrition for children under five years of age and pregnant women*

 *Capacity building of healthcare workforce*

 *Increased capability of primary healthcare facilities to effectively treat infectious diseases*

 *Supported food needs for vulnerable populations*

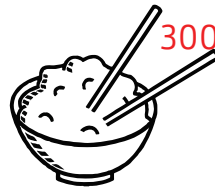
Summary of Donations & Financial Overview



A total of 21 containers valued at almost \$6.2 million in medicines, medical supplies, and other needed items were shipped in 2017.



\$5.6 Million
of Medicines



300 Tons of Rice



\$75,672 Spent on Room & Board,
Tuition, Education, and Other
Materials for Orphans



\$106,677 Awarded
Through Our Scholarships Program



\$67,653 In Transportation
and Distribution



\$458,660
Flood Relief

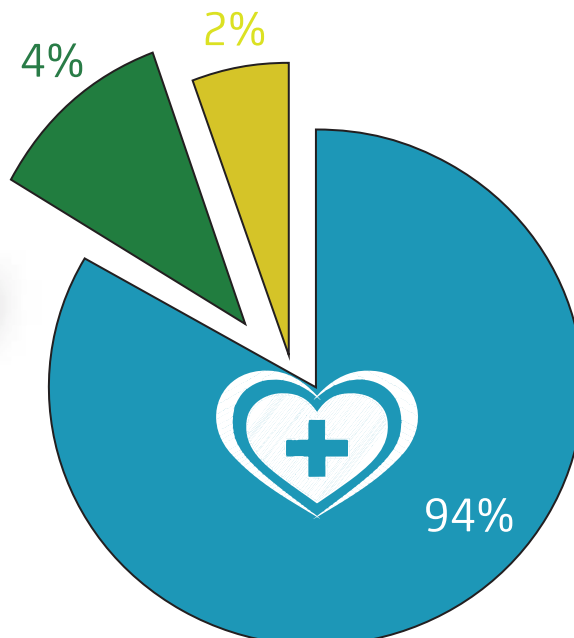
110 Manual Hospital
Beds and Mattresses



\$280,212
Medical Supplies

\$104,451 Cash Support
to the HealeyIRF Charity
Health Network

Efficiency
Ratio



- 2% Fundraising
- 4% Administrative
- 94% Program Expenses

Healey International Relief Foundation's Full Financial report for 2017 can be viewed on hirf.net



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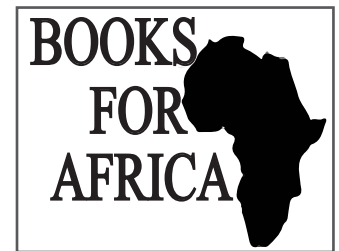
Freetown, SL Staff

Rev. Father Peter Konteh, Chairman of Sierra Leone Advisory Board
Ishmeal Alfred Charles, In-Country Manager
Karim Makaya Moiqua, Warehouse Coordinator
Theresa Kamara, Finance Officer
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*Thank you to our partnering organizations for all of your help.
We could not do our work without you!*



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