

# RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA

An Invitation....



## RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA

Health. Education. Opportunity.

In 2014-15, Liberia experienced the largest and most deadly Ebola outbreak the world has ever seen. Compounding this situation was the fact that the outbreak followed a decade of fragile, tenuous recovery in the wake of more than ten years of civil war.

The result: the collapse of health systems and services and near-total economic collapse. All of Liberia's schools closed. At least 8,000 children lost at least one parent to Ebola. Thousands of children are the only surviving members of their family.

Today Liberia moves slowly in a post-Ebola recovery period. But the tasks of rebuilding and strengthening the health, education and economic infrastructure are monumental.

That's where we come in.

### **Vision**

We believe in community development that is transformative, holistic, fosters agency, strengthens collaborative capacity, and is sustainable. The ultimate goal of this development is to alleviate suffering and extreme poverty, allowing communities to become their own agents of change. Such communities are healthy, productive, just, equitable, secure and peaceful. In such communities, conflict cannot take root and there is strength in diversity. The capacity and potential for every human being is maximized.

### **Mission**

We provide essential support to vulnerable children — and their caregivers — in the developing world, with timely and sustainable resources and activities that will protect their health and wellbeing, ensure access to education and provide economic opportunities beyond school, thus providing a way out of extreme and enduring poverty.

Filling the post-emergency aid gap, RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA is working in Kolahun, a large rural district in Northern Liberia especially hard hit by Ebola.

RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA is unique. We provide holistic support with an innovative, integrated structure of aid.

Many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) work in silos and have failed in their efforts to create economic drivers; or they set up multi-sectoral aid only to lack coordination. Much of the aid does not provide a post-emergency roadmap for development but creates an environment where corruption and dependency can thrive. And too often NGOs have applied generic development programs without considering community needs.

RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA is different – and more effective. Our model is contextual, relevant to and driven by community needs, building leadership and strengthening civic society as we support the most vulnerable. Our work is based on a





pyramid of development – **Health, Education, and economic Opportunity** – with each individual receiving personalized, coordinated support. We invest in their future while meeting their most pressing needs. In a country where over 50% of the population is illiterate (67% of the girls), and 64% of the population is younger than 25, the time is ripe for making an impact.

This pyramid approach has at its base, ensuring the Health of every individual. An individual or community cannot develop if diseased or malnourished, so RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA lays a foundation for good health — access to care, nutritional support, clean water, disease prevention — to start.

To every extent possible, we work within the existing system of health care services, partnering, strengthening, augmenting, never supplanting. In the absence of systems change, no results will be long-term, no efforts will be sustainable.

Upon this foundation of **Health**, we invest in **Education** – with schooling for children and adult

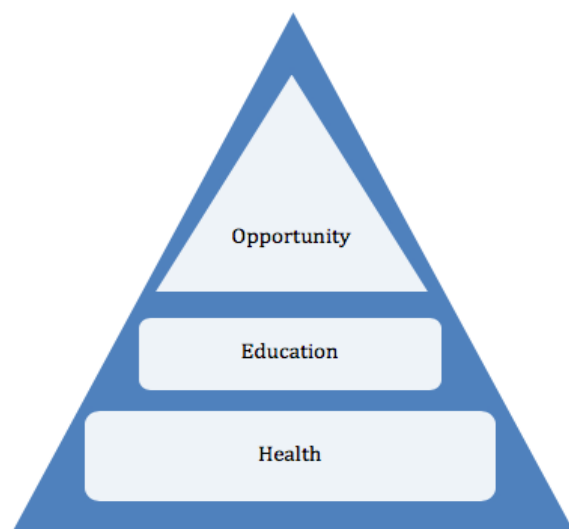


literacy classes, as well as skills-based training for young adults. A healthy, educated population can then be the driving force of economic **Opportunity** and development.

RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA works this pyramid approach on a child-by-child, village-by-village basis with nurturing that carries on day-to-day – or what we like to call, a continuum of care and opportunity.

Here's an example of the process....

When RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA enrolls a child, we assess the needs of the child and the household. We ensure medical care is coordinated and our staff nurse makes regular home visits to assess the physical, mental and social well-being of the child. Upon enrollment, we learn of her academic abilities, her literacy skills in particular. We follow her progress at school and in the



afterschool tutoring program we run. Upon graduation, we offer her scholarships to Community College or vocational education programs ensuring she attains the education needed to pursue her aspirations.

We invest not only in the individual, but in the web of relationships that serve as their social capital, their safety net, by strengthening connections between public institutions, community leaders, and neighbors.

The depth of our support for the vulnerable and the importance we place on strengthening the fabric of the community is what sets RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA apart.



The children enrolled in the program receive all the attention of an individual concerned caregiver, providing direct services in health, education, and economic development, and we're building strong, self-reliant communities in the process.

In that way, RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA is there every step of the way for the child as they grow, and we're providing a more effective and self-sustaining pathway for communities to grow beyond the need for ongoing international humanitarian assistance.



RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA addresses several key understandings reflected in the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

1. education of boys and girls is a critical factor in overcoming poverty.
2. long-term humanitarian support based solely on philanthropy is unsustainable without accompanying development of the health, education, and economic sectors.



RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA has demonstrated success with its model.

In the pilot program of 2016/17, 100% of our enrolled children remained in school, and 95% have done well enough to progress to the next grade. This contrasts dramatically with Liberia's nationwide primary school net enrollment rate of just 44%.

This success demands that we continue!

Current ongoing needs are basic for our children: two meals a day, access to healthcare and clean water, medication, vaccinations, clothing, school fees, tutoring.

The critical next step is to integrate proven, focused interventions, strengthening literacy education and introducing STEM programming, training community health workers, and developing the rural economy.



RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA is in the unique position to execute this expansive vision as we are the only organization “on the ground” in Kolahun and RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA has earned tremendous local support.

The typical NGO livelihood training programs in Liberia have been in small engine mechanics, soap making, and hair weaving. While these may provide some level of income to individuals, they have not created viable economic engines for community development. One person's success does not make for a village's success. Our approach moves beyond these past shortcomings. We understand the value in collective initiatives and look to support community owned cooperatives through microfinance and public-private partnerships. Our Vocational Education & Training program will be structured



strategically to ensure graduates are equipped to launch successful enterprises with the ability to scale.

RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA is currently investing in its first economic development pilot project. The Women's Weaving Cooperative was established by our beneficiaries' caregivers themselves. With RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA's support, the Women's Weaving Cooperative generates income from the members' traditional, artisanal weaving.

Our success with the Women's Weaving Cooperative demonstrates tremendous potential to ease the burden of poverty for Kolahun, empowering a community of women in the process.



RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA will further develop its holistic, replicable and sustainable program, as we look to expand to other post-emergency communities in Liberia and other parts of Africa.



RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA. An innovative integration of health, education, and economic development, creating opportunity, changing lives and building communities. We invite you to join us in partnership and with investment.

Let's build together.

Please visit our website to learn more:

[RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA](#)

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*"The things you take for granted,  
someone else is praying for."*

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# RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA

HEALTH • EDUCATION • OPPORTUNITY

## CONTACT:

### UNITED STATES:

Saundra Williams, MPH, MIA

RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA

[Saundra@RestoreHopeLiberia.org](mailto:Saundra@RestoreHopeLiberia.org)

### LIBERIA:

Dr. David Okiror, MBCHB, DTMPH, M.MED

RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA

Tel +231 0777852183/ 888637217

[okirordavid@gmail.com](mailto:okirordavid@gmail.com)

## Website

[RestoreHopeLiberia.org](http://RestoreHopeLiberia.org)

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