



CONNECTIONS FOR HOPE



THE CHILD RESCUE CENTRE



MERCY HOSPITAL



HELPING CHILDREN WORLDWIDE

MARCH 2011
WWW.HELPINGCHILDRENWORLDWIDE.ORG

Providing **HOPE** to impoverished children, their families, and their communities.

HCW Board Visits CRC & Mercy, Meets With US Ambassador Owen

Several members from the Helping Children Worldwide Board of Directors traveled to Sierra Leone in March for an incredible week visiting the Child Rescue Centre and Mercy Hospital. The week was jam packed with several tours and meetings, including a visit from the US Ambassador to Sierra Leone and a village medical outreach. With the new visions for the CRC and Mercy Hospital, it was timely to have several members of the HCW board visit the programs and envision for themselves the future of these programs. The thirteen member team included six HCW board members, two HCW staff members, one pastor, and four others who are significant to program development.

The US Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Michael Owen and his wife Annerieke, a nurse, made an exceptional visit to Bo traveling more than six hours round trip in one day to visit with us for four hours! Ambassador Owen was impressed with the CRC and Mercy Hospital and offered to assist us in any way he can. Mr. Owen took over as ambassador to Sierra Leone in August 2010. Ambassador Owen, a native of Virginia, is a career member of the Foreign Service, with rank of Minister-Counselor. We look forward to working closely with Ambassador Owen as we develop our new visions.

The HCW team visited Kpanguma village, just outside of Bo, with a dynamic medical team from Mercy Hospital to provide community outreach that consisted of HIV, malaria and prenatal



HCW Team met with US Ambassador Owen, Bishop Yambasu and other dignitaries during the March trip.

Connections for Hope Celebrates One Year Anniversary

March marked the first full year of operation of Connections for Hope. The partnering organizations celebrated the successes of this first year of serving our community together in this new facility that promotes collaboration and ease of access to multiple services. A growing number of clients are using the services of more than one organization. The Jeannie Schmidt Free Clinic has been able to expand both its hours and its services. Reston Interfaith was able to launch the

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HCW Board Visits Sierra Leone, cont'd from page 1

care. The clinic was held in the village church, one of the few brick structures in the village. Over 120 women and 100 children came from surrounding villages to receive care. The clinic began with songs about cleanliness and nutrition. Singing is a part of the Sierra Leonean culture; teaching the women and children songs about how to keep themselves clean and healthy will help them remember such practices after the clinic. The HCW team was able to assist the Mercy medical team in testing, treating and distributing care to the women and children. Mobile clinics like this one have a profound effect on the community surrounding Bo. The clinic serving Kpanguma has seen a 55% reduction in malaria over the last year, reducing the prevalence of malaria from 85% to 30%.

CRC College Student Realizing His Dream to Become Journalist

Amadu Sandy, a journalism student who is sponsored through the CRC's Child Support Program, has always been a resourceful young man. That resourcefulness is helping him realize his dream of becoming a photo-journalist. Patty Morell recently reported that Amadu is well on his way to accomplishing his goal. Patty wrote from Sierra Leone: "Amadu Sandy arrived in Bo today. With him of course came his amazing smile and effervescent personality. I will not be surprised one day if I see Amadu on the BBC News or on CNN.



Amadu Sandy, up and coming journalist in Sierra Leone.

First, he proudly showed us the camera that was recently sent him from a thoughtful donor, as well as photos he has taken with it. He is truly grateful.

Secondly, Amadu was interviewed for and accepted as a delegate with the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ). He participated in their 18th Biennial Conference in Kenema and he had the photos to prove it.

Thirdly, Amadu recently took a video of a burning cotton tree in Freetown and wrote a story about the incident, plus interviewed the firefighters. It was picked up by the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) and broadcast on national TV! The new camera was also key and used for this freelance work."

Amadu's story is a remarkable testament to his own determination, and a confirmation of the CRC's effectiveness in raising up young people of integrity and a strong desire to succeed. We wish him all the best!

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Housing Opportunity Support Team (HOST) which provides homeless prevention and rapid re-housing support for Region 3 of Fairfax County, with many of the necessary wrap-around services available at the center. The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia has been able to expand their much needed ESOL classes in our area. Vecinos Unidos continues to grow their ability to serve more children with homework assistance. Additional employment and financial management services are now available. It has been a year of learning together and growing together.

Collaboration remains the foundation of Connections for Hope, even in our first fundraising and awareness building event called the Walk for Hope, May 21 (see article below) and thanks to a new partnership with Network Solutions, Connections for Hope will have a website that will highlight the work of all of the partnering organizations at the center.

If you live in the area, we encourage you to visit the center and see the work of all of our partners in serving the needs of our community right in the community.

First Annual Walk For Hope Gearing Up

WHAT: 1st Annual Walk for Hope
WHEN: Saturday, May 21st, 9AM
WHERE: Connections for Hope



Imagine, what if a footprint could make an impression on someone's life? The path to empowerment starts with a single step. We hope you will join our first annual "Walk for Hope" and support Connections for Hope as a sponsor or a walker. If you would like more information, please call 703-793-9521 or email support@helpingchildrenworldwide.org. You can sign up online to support Connections for Hope as a sponsor, walker or donor online at <https://hcw.myetap.org/walkforhope/>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **CRC Benefit 5K Run/1 Mile Walk** at Galilee UMC, Sterling, Saturday, April 9th
- **African Programs Celebration Dinner** at Floris UMC, Mary 14th at 6PM
- **African Programs Partnership Quarterly Meeting** at Ebenezer UMC, Sunday, May 15th, 2PM-4PM
- **First annual "Walk for Hope"** May 21st, 9AM at Connections for Hope, Herndon
- **"Through Students Eyes"** Photo-Essay exhibit at Connections for Hope, extended through May, Mon-Fri, 9AM-5:30PM