



Friends of Sierra Leone
PO Box 15875
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Winter 2016 e-Newsletter

If this newsletter was emailed to you, the subject line contains your membership renewal date. Go to our membership page (<http://fosalone.org/mbrs.php>) to renew, join, or donate.

***Note: The National Peace Corps Association no longer charges an annual membership fee. If you have paid your FoSL membership through the NPCA website in the past you may continue to do so if you choose.

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Funding Appeal – by Peggy

Thanks to the generosity of members, Friends of Sierra Leone has completed another year of successful project funding. Once again a diverse group of projects in various parts of Sierra Leone were supported. Once again, 100% of donations went towards projects. Because Friends of Sierra Leone is totally volunteer led and administered, no project money goes towards salaries or organizational expenses. Not many organizations can make the same claim.



As you make your tax deductible donations before the end of the year, please consider including Friends of Sierra Leone among your choices. Additionally, a good gift for that person who has everything is to make a donation in her or his name.

For those of you have donated already, thank you very much. We will continue to use donations to support worthy projects throughout our beloved Salone.

Project Report from Jim Hanson

This year was a year of recovery for Sierra Leone after last year's deadly Ebola epidemic. Our organization was able to contribute over \$16,000 this year in small project grants to help local communities rebuild and move forward. FoSL provided funds for school construction projects in the Bo and Kambia districts, as well as latrines and hand-washing stations for a primary school in Kono District. The Madina School in Kambia was granted \$2650 for a solar lighting project. We were also able to provide funds for two health projects: \$2000 for a malaria prevention and treatment program in Pujehun, and \$3000 for a well and latrines for the Birth Waiting Home in Tikonko.

All of this was made possible by you; our loyal donors. But, there is still a mountain of need throughout the country. Our project selection committee is currently reviewing 8 applications for funding. Three of these are for education of women and girls. There are two agricultural projects, two school construction projects, and one for building latrines and hand-washing stations. Our bank balance at this time will only allow us to approve a couple of these requests. Of course, we would love to do more.

And with your help, we can do just that! Your support during the Ebola crisis was great, and I hope you will continue that effort with your year-end contributions.

Every tax-deductible donation to the FoSL Projects Fund goes straight to Sierra Leone. No highly paid executives bouncing around in Land Rovers with this organization. We work directly with community groups. So if you can, please send a little or a lot to help us help the wonderful people of Sierra Leone. Thank you for support.

Project Updates – from our donation recipients

This is from Rural Health Care Initiative, a project we contributed \$3000 to:

Dear Friends of Sierra Leone,

With great appreciation, the Rural Health Care Initiative Board wishes to thank you for awarding RHCI with the \$3000 grant, which will be used to fund the Tikonko Birth Waiting Home's latrine/toilet and priming/painting.

The construction of the Birth Waiting Home is in progress at this time, with the well, foundation and walls nearly completed. We are anticipating continued progress and plan to begin operations in early 2017 if not earlier.

At our October fundraiser, we will recognize and thank Friends of Sierra Leone for their support of our work in the Tikonko Chiefdom, with the construction of the Birth Waiting Home. Again, thank you.

Warm Regards,

Carol Nelson MD

Board Chair of RHCI



Dear Mr. Jim Hanson

Attached are pictures and an update from KDGO for the last grant we received from you. Here is what we did with the \$3000 grant awarded to us:

1. 40 benches and 40 desks for the students;
2. 5 Chairs and 5 Tables for the Teachers;
3. a three compartment bathroom for boys, girls and teachers.

Once more, on behalf of the KDGO leadership and the Board Members; I will like to thank FoSL for their generous donation to KDGO Primary School in Kono District and for all you do for Sierra Leone.

Sincerely,

Dr. Aiah Ndomaina

FATMATA MATERNITY CENTER- Sierra Leone

Now open for 2 years, the government has noticed our work. To help serve as many people as we are they provided us with another full time nurse at the center. Mariama Lahai and Mariama Bah are our two wonderful nurses. This makes for a total of 7 employees, all supporting their families while improving the community, thanks to your funding.

Thanks to a grant from the Friends of Sierra Leone foundation we are preparing for the 2nd phase of our STOP THE BUG- Malaria Prevention Program. The program goes door to door in six communities to help educate, prevent and stop malaria in it's tracks. In some communities the rate of random testing found more than 50% of people infected with the disease. Our site manager Philip Momoh has done a fantastic job of leading this program.

Lastly, we are excited to share that we have completed our 2nd quarters at the center. In the past, women who had given birth would have to rest in the labor room. This was uncomfortable for all parties. The new unit has three post partum rooms where mothers and babies can rest in comfort. We also have a quarter for a medicine store where we will provide general medications on a cost recovery basis.

We've also reached a milestone 200 HEALTHY BIRTHS at our center.

Thank you to all of you



Uzma Bawany | Thaakat Foundation | Executive Director

From Freeborn to Freetown & Back – Patrick O’Leary’s Book

Upon completion of the Peace Corp’s Tanzania XIII training in December 1966 the program was cancelled. Many of the program’s trainees were sent to Sierra Leone and Patrick O’Leary was one of them. He became a Community Development worker with farmers in an upcountry chiefdom. Patrick was bitten by a poisonous snake, drove over and killed a pregnant cow, and began to

raise chickens which were quickly killed by driver ants. Patrick left the village suddenly over a local dispute.

Patrick developed a 40 year relationship with the village chief, a Member of Parliament. During Patrick's PCV service he accompanied the chief to Sierra Leone's diamond area and to the June 1968 reopening of Parliament. In December 1968 when Patrick left the country the chief surprised Patrick by coming to say farewell to him at Freetown's Paramount Hotel as he Pat began to board the bus to Lungi airport. They maintained written correspondence until it was interrupted by the ten year civil war.

In 2004 Patrick returned to Sierra Leone and reconnected with the chief and his family. They continued to speak by phone until the chief's death in 2007. The last house Patrick lived in while in the country was destroyed during the war. Patrick returned to the village but found it had been ravaged during war and was slowly recovering. And then, during the 2014-15 Ebola epidemic, 285 people in the area caught the virus and 99 died.

The book is available on Amazon and on Kindle. It can also be obtained from Patrick directly at freebornfreetown@netzero.com. The cost of the book is \$14.95 plus shipping

Passing of a Friend – by Peggy

Friends of Sierra Leone has learned of the recent passing of Mr. Ernest Weller. Ernest taught at the Taiama Secondary School. He also worked many Peace Corps Educational Trainings as a technical trainer. Following his retirement from teaching, he was elected District Commissioner for the Moyamba District. Ernest was a kind, dignified man who will be greatly missed. May his soul rest in perfect peace.

Mike's Orchard – from Arlene Golembiewski, Executive Director, Sherbro Foundation

Ten acres of tropical forest in a small village deep in coastal Bumpah Chiefdom are preserved forever as Mike's Orchard. To honor Diliberti's forty years of service to 1500 fruit trees were planted in the Sherbro Foundation's Board funded Orchard" to create long-term income chiefdom's Newborn Education Program, and dedicated it to Mike.

Mike's lifetime of work with Sierra started with teaching children and schools. The Mike Diliberti Memorial now help ensure secondary school

for a whole generation of children in Bumpah Chiefdom. You can follow the progress of the Village Orchard and Newborn Education Savings programs at www.sherbrofoundation.org.



Mike
Sierra Leone,
July's rains.
this "Baby
for the
Savings

Leone
developing
Orchard will
educations

Thank you for reading! For the most up-to-date information please check out our Facebook page! <https://www.facebook.com/FoSalone/>

The 2017 International Calendar, produced by the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison is available through the Friends of Sierra Leone. This annual publication includes volunteers' photographs from host countries around the world, historic days, holidays, and holy days from many cultures. The proceeds will go towards Friends of Sierra Leone activities.

CALENDAR PRICE AND YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ NY _____ ZIP _____

1. Calculate total cost
2. Write a check to Friends of Sierra Leone
3. Send your order and your check to Mary Onken
4. Your calendars should arrive in 3 days or less

(Number of calendars)
x (Price per calendar) =
Total Cost

Mary's cell number mail is: (845) 401 - 2784

Mary's e-mail is carlonken@aol.com

Mary's mailing address is:

Mary Onken

74 Edgewood Drive

Central Valley, NY 10917

CALENDAR PRICE LIST

QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE
1-2	\$13.95
3-6	\$13.00
7-30	\$ 9.00
31-99	\$ 8.00

**Check the date on your address label. Is it time to renew?
If there is no date, or if the date is some time in the past,
it's time to renew!**

FRIENDS OF SIERRA LEONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (include maiden) _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (____) _____ E-mail address _____

Day Phone (____) _____ Occupation _____

Relationship to SL (e.g., Sierra Leonean, PC, etc.) _____

Sierra Leone Home _____ Years _____ to _____

Membership: \$25 per Individual	Donations: FoSL Circle	\$1000 and up
	Supporter	\$500 to \$999
	Sponsor	\$100 to \$499
	Friend	\$50 to \$99

Membership (\$25 per member) \$ _____

Contribution to Projects \$ _____

Overseas Mail (add \$10) \$ _____

Total Remitted \$

Membership dues support operations for Friends of Sierra Leone, including meetings, newsletter, and the website. All other donations support projects in Sierra Leone.

Dues and other contributions to Friends of Sierra Leone are fully tax-deductible.

**Thank you for your support! Please return this form with a check payable to
Friends of Sierra Leone to the address at the right. →**

FoSL needs your participation. Circle your areas of interest:

Advocacy

Education

Membership

Newsletter/
Communications

Projects

Events

Would you be willing to be part of a network to receive information and contact your members of Congress at important times? (Please include e-mail address, if available.)

Yes

How would you prefer to receive your newsletter? (circle one)

via the Postal Service

via e-mail

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