



"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

## MEET KATY URBAN



My name is Katy Urban and I am the newest member on the Bridges of Hope Board. I am so excited to be part of a group that is doing life-changing work in a part of the world where there are so few opportunities.

I became aware of Bridges of Hope last summer when the group was promoting their annual summer fundraising event on KOTA Territory News at Noon, a show I anchor. I was inspired by how many lives this organization was able to impact all the way from little ole South Dakota. A few months later I was fortunate to learn more about the group's roots, and exactly what they were doing in Liberia when I did a two-part series for our 5:30 newscast. Shortly after it aired, I was asked to join the board - and of course I said yes! I can't wait to see where this new adventure takes me, and more importantly the faithful people this organization is working to help.

## GRATEFUL PEOPLE

by Robbie Ahrlin

In summer 2007 I was fortunate to accompany my husband Lee and another couple to visit the emerging school & orphanage taking shape at Hope Village. When I recall our trip to Liberia, the two words that stand out in my mind are joyfulness and industriousness.

The people of Liberia have endured much in their recent history of a dozen years civil war and they have [bridgesofhopewestafrica.com](http://bridgesofhopewestafrica.com)

so little in terms of material wealth, yet those we met were a joyous people. They opened their hearts to us so eagerly and graciously. From our welcome into Pastor Padmore and Marie's home where they gave up their beds for us, to the joy on the faces of the children and teachers of the school as we drove into the compound at Hope Village, there was always smiling, laughter and singing.

The other memory that remains vivid is how much was accomplished and how quickly once resources to build were provided. They are hard-working, diligent people which is proven by the rapid growth of the facility.

When I think of all the hardship these people have overcome and recall their resourcefulness I am humbled. The number of children that have been orphaned or abandoned and all the fractured families due to disease or war is staggering, yet the people are determined to provide for those in need with whatever resources are available to them AND above all, they are grateful for whatever they have.

Against great odds they are determined that their children will be raised in happy, God-fearing homes and will be well educated citizens of the world.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### LEND A HAND - LOVE A CHILD

This year's benefit concert will be held on Saturday, August 23rd. This is always a huge event for us and ALWAYS a lot of fun. We are already looking for volunteers, donors and sponsors to help make this event a success.

If you are interesting in helping in anyway, please reach out to us!





# FUNDRAISER UPDATE

## TOASTING HOPE:

The proprietors of the Firehouse Winery graciously opened their doors to us on Friday 4/4/14 to an evening of wine tasting and generous portions of appetizers. While attendees reviewed over 40 items donated for a silent auction, Eric Gardner of KOTA fame acted as host and emcee to a reverse raffle. As a board, Bridges of Hope is grateful for this opportunity to introduce our local charity to new people in the greater Rapid City area. Our thanks to volunteers who helped organize and decorate for the evening.



## DESSERT LOVERS:

Trinity Lutheran Church again hosted a Dessert Lover's evening on Saturday 4/12/14 where attendees sampled desserts and then had a chance to take their preferred dessert home as they bid on their favorite dessert, silent auction style. Thanks to Trinity's Mission Board for organizing this event.

## MEET HELEN LEWEAH



Helen Leweah is the administrative assistant to the principal at Hope International Christian Academy (HICA). Helen, her husband & three children live together with another 12 children that Helen had invited into their family so that they can attend HICA and receive regular meals along with love and discipline. She is widely acknowledged to have the best garden in the village but then she has a lot of help from the children in her household. She attended Cuttington University for a time and would like to someday continue her education. Helen's favorite Bible verse is Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is living & active."



## RUBBER TREES

Hope Village is on an abandoned rubber tree plantation and though there is current growing of rubber trees on the grounds, there is much more growth potential. It is one stepping stone to aid Hope Village in becoming self-sustainable. Prices for natural rubber are projected to increase steadily due to such things like petroleum and crude prices that affect the costs to produce synthetic rubbers.

You can help in this regard! **Rubber tree plants are only 35 cents!** See the graphic below for more ways to help make Hope Village self-sustainable.

**The needs of HOPE VILLAGE**  
 You can help the people of Hope Village by donating the funds for items such as a rubber tree plant or paper. All it takes is a couple dollars to help sustain a community.

**How will YOU help?**

rubber tree plant	\$0.35
palm oil plant	\$1.00
baby chick	\$2.50
gallon of fuel	\$4.00
box of chalk	\$5.00
box of pencils	\$8.00
ream of paper	\$9.00
printer ink	\$30.00
bag of rice	\$35.00
chicken feed	\$50.00
farmer wages	\$60.00
piglet	\$75.00
child education sponsorship	\$120.00
orphan sponsorship	\$360.00
orphan home	\$2000.00

find out more on [www.bridgesofhopewestafrika.com](http://www.bridgesofhopewestafrika.com)

See it close up at [www.bridgesofhopewestafrika.com/project/other-needs/](http://www.bridgesofhopewestafrika.com/project/other-needs/)

## manna tree

During the height of the civil war in Liberia, when food was scarce and it was difficult to move about the city or country, family members of the founders of Hope Village say that the tree in this photo produced huge fruit on a daily basis. That fruit was the only source of food for the family and their neighborhood for over two weeks. The tree is well cared for but has not produced any fruit since that time during the civil war when food was limited.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

The generous owners of **YOYO Berri in Rapid City** have extended a great opportunity to help us in raising funds for Hope Village. They have graciously agreed to donate **30% of all proceeds of sales that occur between 12pm and 10pm on Friday, June 20 & Saturday, June 21.** However, for it to be a success, you must attend and mention that you are there for Bridges of Hope benefit...



**NOTICE:** If you are receiving our newsletter by mail, would you **consider signing up for our electronic newsletter?**

While we're more than happy to be sharing all about Hope Village with you through snail mail, each person who switches saves us a **dollar or more** in mailing supplies. That's precious money that can go directly into the **hands and mouths of the people of Hope Village!**

Go here on your computer to make the switch:

<http://goo.gl/kSF1AF>

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