



IN

our last newsletter, we reported on the need for a generator for the school and we promptly received a check in the mail from one of our generous readers! We also received funding to hire a “helper” for our farm manager. Farming, especially cash crops, such as palm oil and rubber, are essential to the long-term viability of this project. This year the rubber from trees planted seven years ago will be harvested. Cocoa plants imported from the Ivory Coast have been planted and the pig project is thriving. The goal of our organization is to foster sustainability or self-sufficiency so that this mission project survives far beyond the resources or lifetimes of the founding members. Thank you for your help!

**CHRISTMAS BLESSING UPDATE:** Thanks to those who contributed to December’s Bridges of Hope Christmas Blessing effort. Over \$3,500 was raised which allowed us to send a gift of \$50 to each of the teachers and staff at Hope International Christian Academy at Hope Village. Extra funds were also sent to purchase food items with which to celebrate Christmas. The orphans in our care also were blessed with an item of new clothes and a few soccer balls. These “extras” are very meaningful and well received by the Hope Village community. Thanks to each of you for your generosity!

**DESSERT LOVER’S AUCTION:** A “sweet” opportunity for those who support Bridges of Hope is on the horizon. **On March 19th from 5 to 6PM, our annual Dessert Lover’s (Silent) Auction will be held in the fellowship hall of Trinity Lutheran Church – 402 Kansas City Street – Downtown Rapid City.** Trinity has hosted this event for several years as an expression of support for the mission of Bridges of Hope and the good things happening at Hope Village in Liberia. You are invited to participate by attending the event and bidding on your favorite dessert(s). You can also support the event by donating two identical desserts, one of which will be shared during the evening and the second being awarded to the highest bidder at the silent auction. It is a sweet time not to be missed. *See our Facebook page for more information.*



MAY 28 9AM

OLD STORY  
BOOK ISLANDBridges of Hope  
5K RUN / WALK

Some people just gotta run, others are just fine walking. Plans are being made to satisfy both this spring at our first “Bridges of Hope 5K Run/Walk” on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

**Registration cost:** Adults: \$25/\$30 onsite  
18 and under: \$15 online/\$20 onsite

Custom event shirts will be awarded to each registrant. We are seeking sponsors to offset the cost of t-shirts, signs, banners, water, fruit and healthy snacks. Watch for further updates in the mail and online at [www.bridgesofhopewestafrica.com](http://www.bridgesofhopewestafrica.com). Donations can be made online or sent to P.O. Box 8265, Rapid City, SD 57709.

100

PLUS STUDENTS  
STILL NEED A  
SPONSOR

120

DOLLARS A YEAR  
IS ALL IT TAKES  
TO FUND A  
STUDENT’S  
EDUCATION AT  
HOPE VILLAGE  
SCHOOL

@BridgesofHopeWestAfrica