



Bridges of Hope

Empowering Liberians to Live Christ-Centered Lives



your help is needed

you have the ability to make a difference

how will
you help?



CHAIRMAN UPDATE



By God's grace, Stephanie was able to visit Hope September 8-22. It has been almost two years since we had been with our beloved partners in Liberia. Stephanie was reminded of the daily struggles of "fetching" water, no electricity, sickness and illness, struggles with connecting to the internet, and rain delaying work. There is a sacrifice of efficiency when working in Liberia and expectations need to be altered. Hope has a standard of quality, Christ-centered education that is not present among most schools in Liberia. Many teachers said Hope work is not easy work, yet they had confidence they would make it because of the testimony of others. We are humbly grateful for the grace of God that is with us and to witness the growth and progress of our staff members and students.

This was her fifth trip to Hope serving as a volunteer. This time it was different; people were freer and more relaxed. They saw her as coming along side of them as a mother encouraging, teaching, asking questions and correcting. It was so good to see how our partnership is deepening. A vision does not happen when it is just a few people's vision; it must be a vision for everyone involved, each person taking initiatives wholeheartedly. She was blessed to see how many of our staff are engaged in the work and wholeheartedly own the vision of Bridges of Hope – Connect people. Make disciples. Transform Liberia for Christ.

While there is growth it does not negate that we still have many struggles and initiatives to work toward. There were discussions of the number of students being held back, how to continue to be engaged with increasing fluency scores, diving into the N-K.2 curriculum, working to get books into the classrooms, going deeper in the lesson plan rubric, reviewing resources still needed in the classrooms, and ultimately encouraging all of us to live out Proverbs 4:23, "above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." She encouraged them to engage in the millions of decisions of this life through the lens of God's Word. Staff members asked for prayers that they would remain faithful to living a Christ-centered life. Her heart was so full to God's grace actively engaged at Hope. Step by step, day by day, little by little, transformation of lives happens, and that friend is a beautiful thing. Thank you to all who give of your time, talents, and treasures and most of all are committed to praying for us and the organization.

Blessings,

Martin Digler Chairman, Bridges of Hope, Inc.

After many years of working hard, our principal planned a year-end celebration for our staff members to celebrate the progress the school has made.



Surgical supplies arrived at Phebe warehouse the end of August in preparation for the January medical mission.

God graciously answered our prayers in providing staff members. Here's our team for 2023-2024 school year.



SCHOOL OF MINES STUDENTS COMPLETE PROJECT AT HOPE CAMPUS

By: Connor Ullrich

Our adventure kicked off with building a drainage field right in the middle of this charming village. We weren't just moving dirt around; we were laying the foundation for something bigger. It wasn't just about the trenches and pipes; it was about building connections with the land and the folks who call it home.

Once that was done, we turned our attention to the clinic. Armed with our tools and determination, we went around surveying like pros. Our goal? Making healthcare more accessible to this community has become pretty special to us by now.

Oh, and let me tell you about teaching them the roof protection know-how. We got hands-on, showing them the ropes on how to keep their roofs solid. It wasn't just about roofs though – it was about sharing skills, blending tradition with new ways of doing things. The village embraced us and taught us just as much, not to mention feeding us the most amazing food that felt like a warm hug.

Then, picture this: a sunny



afternoon, a soccer field, and a showdown between our group and the local school team. It wasn't about who won; it was about the laughter, the shouts, and the pure fun. Sports sure know how to bring people together.

But you know what made this whole journey truly remarkable? The people. From the villagers who busted their backs alongside us to the bonds we built within our own group, it was all about the human connections. It was about sharing experiences, swapping stories, and realizing that no matter where we're from, we're not that different after all.



MONUMENT HEALTH DONATES SUPPLIES FOR JANUARY 2024 MEDICAL MISSION TRIP

By: Dr. Mike and Nancy Statz

We want to greatly thank Monument Health for generously supplying operating room supplies, pharmaceuticals, and various medical equipment to Bridges of Hope/Hope Health for our January 2024 Medical Missions Outreach.

On June 17, 2023, Monument Health Vice President of Supply Chain, Brad Haupt, and many of his Monument Health Warehouse team: (Robert Weber, Director of Supply Chain, Katie Bishop, Manager of Sourcing/Procurement and Amber Garrett); and the

Monument Health/Bridges of Hope/Hope Health Medical Team; (Martha Schmidt, RPh, Melissa Stahlecker, RPh, Martin Digler, PAC, Stephanie Digler, and Dr. Mike Statz) spent the morning sorting through over a dozen pallets of medical supplies and medical surplus items.



Bridges of Hope/Hope Health is now the recipient of more than an estimated \$25,000 worth of new and older medical supplies. Mr. Haupt further helped in the transport of the materials to the Global Health warehouse in Minneapolis where the supplies were prepared for overseas

shipping. These medical supply pallets have been shipped to the Phebe Hospital warehouse in Liberia where our surgical team will perform surgeries.

Our local Monument Health medical team members and community team members will utilize these supplies for around 700 medical clinic visits and upward of 100 surgical procedures during our 2-week Bridges of Hope/Hope Health Medical Missions Outreach in January 2024.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to Monument Health VP Supply Chain, Brad Haupt, Monument Health Rapid City Hospital President, John Pierce, and Monument Health Rapid City Hospital Director of Pharmacy, Dana Darger, for their time, efforts and generosity in support of our upcoming Medical Missions Outreach.

TWO WEEK TEACHER TRAINING

By: Stephanie Digler

With a heavy heart, we released seven staff members after school ended last year. By God's grace, we were able to fill all necessary positions. Prior to starting school, we gathered the golden nuggets of our training from the past five years along with a few new concepts and had a two-week training course for all staff members. Here are



thoughts from the training from some of our staff members:

"We should see the kids as our own and make them know they are not working for grades but working for progress. I have never learned that in other schools. I am so happy to be a part of Hope." - Ms. Chea, K2 Teacher

"The daily application of God's Word in my life will help to transform others around me." - Rev. Sackie, HS Bible/Economics Teacher

"Hope has taught me through professional development that accountability matters in everything that I do. I have also come to know that teaching is a calling not just a job. Another wonderful thing I learned from the professional development is assessment for learning; this helped me to know that I must be totally involved in my students learning and know where I need to help them more." - Mr. Dekpah, MS/HS Social Studies Teacher