



Ebola Update

by Ambassador Hoover

November is the month of Thanksgiving in the United States. It is even more so for Sierra Leone.

November 7 marked the official end of the Ebola outbreak, and on November 21, the country held a joyous day of Thanksgiving at which the President and leaders from all religious affiliations gathered to give thanks to God and to the many people and organizations that helped deliver the country from the virus. I was again reminded of the resilience, diversity, and fundamental decency of the people of Sierra Leone. I would add to the big "tenki" my



own gratitude to all of you for your thoughts, prayers, and material support over the past 18 months. The recent cluster of cases in Liberia reminds that Ebola is probably with us forever.

We fully expect new cases in Sierra Leone going forward. But the country will be ready this time, and the U.S. Mission is well-positioned to support the government's efforts to prevent any new cases from becoming an outbreak. Looking back, the U.S. provided around \$300 million for the emergency response - second

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Appeal

by Peggy Murrah

This has certainly been a rough couple of years for Sierra Leone. At the time of this writing, thankfully, Salone is still Ebola free. But, there are numerous residual problems resulting from this terrible outbreak, and those are heaped on top of the existing problems that were already in place. Friends of Sierra Leone will continue to address as many of these problems as we can although most are beyond our means. However, a lot of them are ones we can address and we are calling on our generous members and friends to make this assistance possible.

For the first time, we are using social media to raise funds for a specific project that is helping young girls who were orphaned by Ebola. This newsletter contains an article by Jim Hanson, our projects committee chair, explaining our use of Go Fund Me to raise the needed money to

support the project. As always, we will happily accept donations via our website and by check delivered in the mail. We remain one of the few organizations run entirely by volunteers. No one gets a salary and trips to Sierra Leone are made at our own expense. 100% of funds goes to projects and nothing else.



The Friends of Sierra Leone annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the National Peace Corps Association's meeting to be held in Washington DC next fall. We had hoped to have it in Sierra Leone, but at this time we are not able to do so. We are hopeful that 2017 will see us return. More information about the 2016 meeting will be sent in a few months.

I hope you will consider supporting our work by one of the methods mentioned. Our friends and families in Sierra Leone thank you for all you do.

Projects Report

by Jim Hanson

After a very hard year, the news that Sierra Leone is Ebola-free brings a huge sigh of relief. Now, the country will try to get back to some kind of normalcy. Our FoSL donors have been very generous throughout this year, allowing us to fund over \$25,000 in Ebola-related projects. We have been able to fund Ebola education, sanitation, health clinic projects, and feeding programs for



vulnerable groups. Thank you to all whose donations enabled us to aid so many in Sierra Leone. I would also like to take this time to thank the members of the projects committee.

Anthony, Brandon, Marty, Kenley, Patsy, and Peggy spent untold hours selecting the best projects to fund, making your dollars reach as many people as possible. A special thank

you to Anthony, who also volunteered to serve on the Peace Corps Ebola committee, which funded projects in all three West African countries.

We are trying something new with our latest Ebola project. We hope to raise \$2000 to buy school uniforms and supplies for 20 girls orphaned by the Ebola epidemic through a GoFundMe web page. If we do not receive the full amount, we have pledged to make up the shortfall from the projects account. If this is successful, we may look to this method for more projects in the future.

With the end of Ebola, the projects committee is going back to funding regular development projects. So, any donation you can to FoSL will be put to good use. There is great need in the country after the economic collapse due to the Ebola epidemic. All of your tax-deductible dollars will go directly to Sierra Leone. No high-paid executives in this organization! Thank you again for making all of this good work possible. We are looking forward to a great 2016.

A Unique Chance to Reconnect with Salone

by Chris Siegler

Have you been wanting to do something positive for Salone? Want to help a Volunteer do a project in your village when Peace Corps returns to SL? Maybe collaboration with your local YMCA is the answer.

The YMCA of the USA is very interested in creating partnerships with RPCV groups like FoSL. YMCA-USA is urging its members to become more involved with immigrant populations in their communities and globally through partner relationships and service projects. The Missoula Family YMCA, where we belong, represents the model they would like to promote.

In June of 2004 my wife and I returned to Sierra Leone, for first time since our Peace Corps days, for a FoSL Annual Meeting. Jeannie had been a teacher in Kamabai 1968-70. I was a CD Volunteer from 1967-69 in the North. While at the FoSL meeting we connected with the YMCA of Sierra Leone and found they wanted to start a youth program in Makeni, which had been the last area held by the rebels and was in pretty bad shape. They were looking for \$5,000. Jeannie and I came back and

raised the money in a very short period of time. That was the beginning of a continuing and very rewarding collaboration between our YMCAs.

After discussions with the International Group at Y-USA, we decided to explore the potential of an RPCV-YMCA partnership with pilot programs in SL and Liberia. Y-USA has longstanding relationships in these countries and lots of confidence in the leadership at these Ys. We are open to any and all ideas FoSL members might have about collaborative projects.

FoSL members can connect with me or Nico Gourdet, Director of Global Leadership at Y-USA, to discuss their ideas. Christian Kamara, General Secretary of the SL Y, and his Board would screen potential projects. If it looks like a match, Nico will provide an introduction to the RPCVs local Y or Association. At the very least, as Jeannie and I have found, it gives an RPCV the opportunity to share experiences and perspectives with new and interested audiences.

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Saint Joseph Award



On Friday, July 31 FoSL Vice President Aiah Fanday, received a Community Care Award from Saint Joseph's Convent Secondary School Alumni Association USA. FoSL was awarded for its dedicated volunteer service to Sierra Leone, its people and relations to the U.S.

The award was presented by the President Ms. Linie Jusu-Sheriff at St. Joseph's Convent Alumni Association dance/dinner fund raising event in Maryland. Receiving the



award, FoSL VP Aiah Fanday thank the Association for recognizing FoSL for it dedication to Sierra Leone, and looking forward for a working relationship with the Association on any future endeavors. Aiah Fanday congratulates the Association on their successful event.

Mike Diliberti Remembered

MICHAEL DILIBERTI passed away on Sunday, August 9, at his residence in Falls Church, VA, following a two year battle with cancer, fought with his characteristic optimism and sense of humor. He is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Wendy, a daughter, Elizabeth, and a son, Joe. Mike was born and raised in Milwaukee,

Wisconsin, and was fiercely proud of his roots there. He also leaves behind a close knit circle of friends in Milwaukee, some of whom he knew since grade school. After receiving a degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, he served for four years in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone, West Africa, teaching primary



school and becoming the founding principal of a new secondary school in his village. He received two Master's degrees (Geography and International Affairs) from Ohio University in Athens. He worked at the World Bank for 30 years, first in the Latin America, then the Africa region. He lived and worked in Juba, South Sudan, shortly before it became an independent country, and then lived for four years in Nairobi, Kenya, as a Senior Resource Management Officer, overseeing and meeting with staff in 16 African countries. He was passionate about Wisconsin, Africa, history, politics, and geography, and had a knack for keeping people spellbound with his knowledge and humorous stories. Although he did not get to complete his dream of walking the entire length of the Wisconsin Ice Age Trail, he was able, with tremendous support from his family, to walk parts of it, in what was a celebration of nature, togetherness, love, and ice cream. As a president of Friends of Sierra Leone, a

volunteer organization, Mike was instrumental in bringing former Peace Corps volunteers back to the country for an annual meeting following its devastating 10 year civil war. This inspired many former volunteers, who revisited where they had been posted, to begin myriad charitable endeavors in that country. Mike's love of Sierra Leone was a theme throughout his adult life. Following the war, he and Wendy visited Sierra Leone three times, reconnecting with former students, and friends, some of whom had become chiefs and respected elders in their communities. Friends of Sierra Leone posthumously awarded him a Humanitarian Service Award August, 14, 2015, in appreciation for his outstanding leadership and success promoting humanitarian causes and for his dedication and commitment to the organization and to Sierra Leone. A funeral was held in Arlington, VA and there was a service for Mike in Milwaukee on September 19, 2015.

Donations may be made to Friends of Sierra Leone in remembrance of Mike. To do this, go to www.fosalone.org. Click "Donate Now!", select a donation amount, then click "Donate Now." Once you complete the payment information, click on the Add link next to "Note to Seller." There you should note that this is in remembrance of Mike Diliberti and add your name(s) and address. If you prefer, you can let us know at info@fosalone.org.

Mike will be missed tremendously by the Friends of Sierra Leone. He was a vital part of the organization and a guiding force.

Winds of Fate
By: Joe Diliberti

*I hear a rushing wind
Yet feel no draft or breeze
Unearthly current beckons
Stirring my unease*

*The gustful doom approaches
More time on Earth I plead
I'd bargain all I have and am
But lack in currency*

*The ceaseless blast no man can sate
It craves but one reply
No clouds there are upon it
For it comes not from the sky*

*The awesome gale draws closer
Comprised of many breaths
Fateful sighs escaped from lips
Those final puffs of death*

*A soldier on the battlefield
A mother in her bed
A million scenes of dying
Tears unnumbered shed*

*Words of love and grief
In haste or earnest spoken
A reaping squall to claim my soul
Collect its final token*

*When blight has won its battle
There remains but one more task
To resolutely shut my eyes
And yield my closing gasp*

*Unfastened from my shackles
My life-force floats adrift
The void surrounds my aimless soul
Bereft of all my wits*

*Amidst the whirling torrent
Another sound is heard
The flight of angel's wings
Tending to the herd*

*Cosmic fate has found me
Atop heavens heights I soar
Restored now is my being
Is it me you mourn for?*

only to the UK's laudable contributions among international partners. We are proud to have played an important role in the coalition that defeated Ebola. Looking forward, we are poised to invest an additional \$300 million over the next 2-3 years. This includes around \$200 million in new USAID programs, a robust U.S. CDC presence to build capacity around detecting, preventing, and managing disease outbreaks, and a \$44.4 million Millennium Challenge Corporation program that we signed on November 17 to improve access to reliable power and water in greater Freetown. I'm extremely excited that as Sierra Leone pivots away from Ebola and looks to a more hopeful future, the United States is at the right place at the right time with the right team and the right resources. We are thankful for this golden opportunity to support Sierra Leone's recovery and longer-term transformation into a healthier and more prosperous place for all its citizens. Thank you all again for your support.

It takes time to get a project started—and there will be some déjà vu moments of “unless tomorrow” but Christian and his staff are used to functioning with partners in the UK, Germany, Canada and do an incredible job working around problems and roadblocks in SL.

If this idea sounds interesting to you, give me a call (406-626-5611) or send an email (csiegler@montana.com) or get in touch with Nico at (800-877-9622) or nico.gourdet@YMCA.net.

Chris Siegler
19475 Conifer Dr
Huson, MT 59846

Amazon Smile

As a reminder to all Friends of Sierra Leone supporters, if you choose to shop with Amazon by using their "Amazon Smile" program, a small percentage (0.5%) of your purchase will be donated to FoSL. Yea!

Simply use this address to get to Amazon: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1732179>

(Don't be surprised to see FoSL registered by its original name - Greater Washington FoSL)

Donations directly to FoSL are also greatly appreciated:
<http://fosalone.org/donate.php>

Thanks for supporting FoSL



Annual Meeting 2015



Annual Meeting 2014



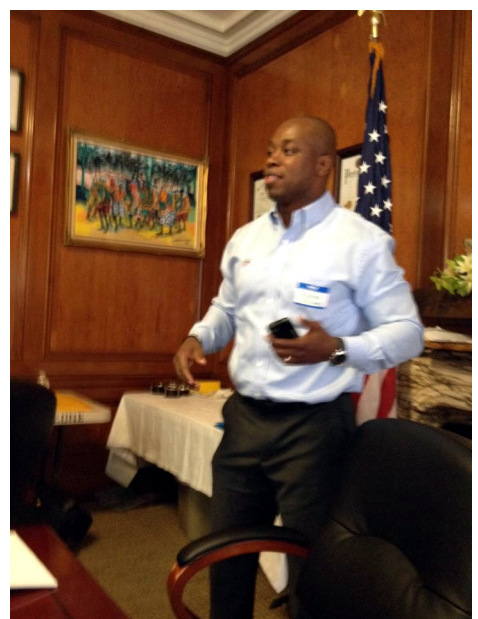
Ambassador Stevens



Award for Mike Diliberti



Award for all Health workers presented to Annerieke Owen with Ambassador Owen, Aiah and Peggy



Madieu Williams

The 2016 International Calendar produced by the returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison is available through the Friends of Sierra Leone. This annual publication includes, in addition to volunteers' photographs from host countries around the world, historic days, holidays and holy days from many cultures. The 2016 calendar features Sierra Leone on the May pages. The proceeds will go toward 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

2016 is coming.

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

P. O. Box 15875
Washington, DC
20003-0875

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Web: www.fosalone.org



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