

Dear Friend of Liberia,

Where have the first six months of 2020 gone? It seems like we have been social distancing and quarantined for longer than any of us ever imagined or anticipated. We have all been changed by this pandemic and our partners and friends in Liberia are no exception.

Here are the FOL updates:

- ❖ If you haven't seen FOL's [2019 Annual Report](#), check it out.

We successfully completed the first continuing education health workshop, which was held in January 2020 at Phebe School of Nursing. Faculty members from twenty schools of nursing and midwifery attended the workshop. The instructors were the five members of the FOL Health Team in Liberia. The cost for this first workshop was under \$10,000 and was funded by **YOUR** donations—thank you! A big shout out to the FOL Health Teams here and in Liberia for all your hard work!



- ❖ Year 5 of the Family Literacy Initiative (FLI) began with pre-testing and staff training in February 2020. Home visitors started their visits with the 192 registered families in West Point, Neezoe and Caldwell in Montserrado County; and Duazon in Margibi County. FLI was able to continue in 2020 using the final grant monies from Open Society Foundations and **YOUR** donations—thank you!
- ❖ At the end of 2019, funding to continue the Adult Literacy Program (ALP) in Duazon and Caldwell was received from a generous donation by the Gerald Schlosser Family Trust, Sue Dee Schlosser Shenk, Trustee, (PCV Group 28) and plans were underway to teach another Year 1 class and add a Year 2 class for past participants in March. We are completing curriculum writing now. Classes will resume once the pandemic allows teaching to resume.
- ❖ Mid-March found the United States and Liberia in lock down. Conversations with our partners at WE-CARE told us that home visitors were no longer able to visit FLI families, but telephone calls were being made twice a week to encourage parents and caregivers to continue their literacy work. WE-CARE offices were closed and staff began working from home when possible.
- ❖ On April 1st, the Schlosser Family Trust, Sue Dee Schlosser Shenk, Trustee, (PCV Group 28), designated \$150,000 for FOL to partner with WE-CARE Foundation to develop and administer a teacher certification program in Peter Town, as well as Adult and Family Literacy programs there. We are excited about the opportunities this funding creates to expand programming into rural Liberia. This gift will make a huge difference in the life of Peter Town residents and the surrounding communities. Thank you to Sue Dee and the Schlosser Family.



- ❖ A timely, generous donation from Sally Gosline Humphrey (PCV 1963 to 1965 Salala), allowed WE-CARE to distribute 200 hand-washing buckets, soaps, basic food supplies and a month-long instructional packet for all our FLI and ALP families. Thank you Sally for this wonderful support!





COVID RESPONSE

In mid-May the FOL Board decided to make \$10,000 available in emergency relief funding for COVID response efforts in Liberia. This is such a small amount, and we are hopeful that many FOL members will step forward with a special donation designated to COVID Response that will enable the committee to expand its work to more groups. The FOL COVID-19 Task Force had its first virtual meeting on May 19th and is meeting weekly to act quickly, but responsibly, to distribute these funds through projects managed by reliable Liberian NGOs. **Please help!**

We are so fortunate to have many of the evacuated Liberian PC Volunteers stepping up to help our FOL efforts. A good way to get to know them and each other is to attend one of our *FOL Virtual Hangouts*. Many of them are looking for connections across the United States and world to help plan their next career move—you could help them! Make sure we have your current email address so you can be part of these fun events.

What do we do now? Your support is even more critical than before.

- Donate. *It shows you care!*
- Volunteer on one of FOL’s many committees that make FOL tick-- It is not too late to sign up. We would love to have your hands-on help on one of our committees. Check out our [website](#) and see how you might become involved.
- Make a legacy gift—you can make a difference—many of you already have! It is never too early to include FOL in your will. Yours can be a living legacy! Check out the [donation page](#) on our website for more information. As many of us age, remember that donations directly from your required minimum distributions (from IRAs and many retirement plans) are not taxed.

Mission

Friends of Liberia is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that seeks to positively affect Liberia and Liberians through education, social, economic and humanitarian programs and through

New legislation, the CARES Act, signed into law on March 27, 2020, allows you to make a \$300 gift to a public charity (like FOL) and take a \$300 deduction for non-itemizers.

What about your stimulus check? If you do not really need it, consider gifting a portion, or all of it to Friends of Liberia. Maybe a special COVID Response gift?

With your donations, **YOU** are the foundation of our work. Many of us find it easy to help by making a monthly automatic deduction via PayPal and using Amazon Smile for those purchases ordered from home.

Please consider making an additional gift this year to support our COVID RESPONSE

We cannot do our work without your generosity. Your financial contributions are needed to continue our important programs. Please make a gift today and help us carry on our work to support sustainable Liberian development. Your contributions, large or small, all make a difference!

With gratitude for your consideration,

Pat Reilly, *Development Committee*
 Stephanie Vickers, *Development Committee*
 Sally Zelonis, *Chair, Development Committee*
 Sarah Morrison, *FOL President*

