
Friends Of Liberia

2020 Annual Report





Photo Credit: Restore Hope Liberia, a former FOL Grantee

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Message and Summary from the President and Board of FOL

Dear Friends,

2020 was certainly a year of events that none of us predicted, but which affected Friends of Liberia (FOL) and all of us, one way or another. We hope that you and your families escaped severe health and economic consequences. If not, we are sorrowful with you, and know that condolences are never enough. (I am one many of you who lost a close friend or relative). Although it is difficult to collect full data across Liberia, we feel grateful that the impact of COVID has not been worse. So far. Even so, everything from the Liberian school year to health programs to FOL projects were affected.

Even before 2020 began, Peace Corps Volunteers in upcountry Liberia were brought to Monrovia and either reassigned closer to the capital or repatriated because economic conditions had worsened and banks upcountry closed. When COVID-19 became a pandemic in March 2020, the director of Peace Corps in Washington made what she called the hardest decision in her life, which was to bring all 7300+ PCVolunteers (PCVs) around the world home, including the remainder of Volunteers in Liberia, almost overnight. A delay would have left many stranded and in danger as airports around the world closed. Leaving assignments precipitously to return to the U.S., facing mandatory quarantines and not knowing what the future held, was understandably disturbing to PCVs.

When the news about the evacuations broke, FOL was immediately in communication with the Peace Corps Liberia Country Director. She agreed to provide evacuated PCVs with information about FOL, our members' desire to assist them as they returned to the United States, and Don Drach's email as a first contact. Recently returned PCVs themselves spearheaded Zoom chats with evacuated PCVs to try to help with their many re-entry challenges. Several began working on FOL committees and even joined the FOL Board in late 2020 and early 2021. The new Board reflects a significant turnover, adding younger members, experienced professionals, and persons who were not Peace Corps Volunteers but who have lived or worked in Liberia well and have a strong commitment to Liberia's progress. The fresh perspectives are much appreciated!

Liberia learned much from the Ebola outbreak in 2014-15, so when the first COVID case was diagnosed, treatment facilities, public health education, and preventive measures were put into place quickly. Friends of Liberia projects followed national guidelines and suspended activities as necessary, but in this report you will read how, for instance, FOL's implementing partner in the ongoing Family Literacy Initiative program, WE-CARE Inc., creatively responded with a holistic approach to help keep 180 participating families safe. Though the in-person home instruction of the parent teacher had to stop, the pre-school youngsters kept learning through specially constructed packets of learning materials. One of FOL's faithful members stepped up and provided a generous donation that covered the initial purchases of disinfectants, special buckets, soaps, etc. to help keep the families healthy as curfews were imposed. The WE-CARE staff received permission to deliver these with the learning materials and the fifth year of the program continued.

We turned often during the early stages of the pandemic to the FOL-Liberian Health Committee members, who are master's level nursing instructors, for updates on the situation and advice. We thank them very much for their recommendations, community education, and the monitoring of some of the small projects selected by our COVID-19 Task Force to help local organizations around the country help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Liberian Health Team was able to conduct its pilot in-service education workshop for nurse and midwife educators before the pandemic, thank goodness. More on all these projects and more can be found within!

To look ahead, the 60th anniversary of the Peace Corps is in 2021 and the 60th Anniversary of Peace Corps in Liberia will be in 2022. In 2020, a FOL Task Force began planning for our participation in these celebrations. Be sure to check our website and messages we send for the latest news on events – lots of activities are planned! Due to COVID-19, the National Peace Corps Association conference that was planned for July 2021 at Howard University is currently going to be held virtually in late September. FOL plans for the 2022 60th anniversary celebration include a group service trip back "home" and exhibit which will highlight the impact of Peace Corps in Liberia and on all of us who served there.

As the National Peace Corps Association and Peace Corps itself determines paths ahead and necessary changes, 2021 will also be a year for review of the FOL strategic plan and programs with our new Board. One of our Board members has expertise in ecology and is working on a proposal regarding various options for adding this area to our FOL portfolio, if there is sufficient interest among "Friends" to warrant that. As used here, this may include biodiversity and endangered species, conservation, environmental studies/science, community-based natural resource management, parks and wildlife, ecotourism, environmental pollution (e.g., particulate air pollution) as well as the interface of human health and environment. Please contact Richard (Ran) Nisbett at folrep2@fol.org if this is of interest to you.

We thank you, our donors and supportive friends, for continuing and even increasing your support during 2020 so that we could continue our flagship early childhood education program, FLI; provide in-service education to instructors from Liberia's schools for nurses and midwives; and support small Liberian non-profit organizations as they provided COVID-related community health services, teacher training, and tutoring and remedial education to out-of-school youth in one of the poorest neighborhoods of Monrovia. We will continue researching and applying for grants to continue our FLI program and support other activities, but we are proud that the main support of FOL projects comes from individual donors and family foundations who believe in our work – YOU! We also appreciate the thousands of volunteer hours contributed by our Board, committee members, and others who plan, monitor, evaluate, and assure accountability and transparency in all we do.

We truly welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions.

Respectfully yours,

Sarah

Sarah C. Morrison, President and Board Chair

Friends of Liberia

president@fol.org

P.S. A special commendation goes to Christine Sheckler, who joined the Board officially in January 2021 and agreed to be a co-president/right hand to coordinate projects like this Annual Report and other special needs as they come up. Thanks, Christine!

WHO WE ARE

36 years ago, Friends of Liberia (FOL) was created and formally organized as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C., allowing former Peace Corps Volunteers who had served in Liberia to maintain relationships with those who had similar experiences. It grew to include academics, health professionals, diplomats, missionaries, development workers, and Liberians, as well as Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs). FOL helps support Liberian-led nonprofit organizations and groups to meet needs and aspirations congruent with FOL's mission and resources.

Over the last 31 years, FOL has worked to improve education in Liberia. FOL trained more than 300 primary teachers after the civil war in five of its largest counties, conducting workshops and participating in conferences, renovating schools, and sending supplies and appropriate books for school children. Its training of primary school teachers from 1999-2013 helped to introduce the concept of Early Childhood Education (ECE) to Liberia, which now has an ECE Bureau in the Ministry of Education. During the Ebola crisis, FOL raised over \$100,000 to support community-initiated education, prevention, and treatment programs related to Ebola, and has since utilized its Small Grants Program to address long-term challenges communities and survivors have faced in its aftermath. We are proud that FOL has twice received the National Peace Corps Association's annual "Loret Miller Ruppe Award for Outstanding Service," most recently in 2016.

FOL associates, who now number over 2000, communicate through newsletters and social media, attendance at Board meetings, learning opportunities such as panels on Liberian issues, and social events organized by individual members in various regions of the US, Liberia, and elsewhere in the world, or by FOL itself, usually held in the Washington area in conjunction with a Board meeting. Of course, starting in early 2020 in response to the COVID19 pandemic, most activities moved online to Zoom. A positive result of that new operating procedure is that there has been a more inclusive engagement with associates located across the United States, Liberia, and the world.

All who support FOL's vision, mission, and values are invited to become associates. Though membership fees are not assessed, those who contribute at least annually to FOL are considered active partners and receive recognition and more frequent communications. Our associates live throughout the United States, Liberia, and other foreign countries.

The "*FOL Strategic Plan*" (FOLSP) guides our decision-making and ensures focus on what role the volunteer organization can most effectively play while feasibility for involvement is dependent upon individual donations. The FOLSP was revised and adopted during 2018 for the years 2019 - 2021. Just the cover page follows, but the full current plan can be found on our website, <http://fol.org/strategic-plan/>. The FOLSP 2022-2024 will be updated in 2021.

Vision

Our vision is that Friends of Liberia be an effective organization for helping Liberia in its quest to be a peaceful and just country in which every Liberian has opportunities for quality education and employment, and access to adequate health care.

Mission

FOL is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that seeks to positively affect Liberia and Liberians through education, social, economic and humanitarian programs, and through advocacy efforts.



VISION:

Our vision is that Friends of Liberia be an effective organization for helping Liberia in its quest to be a peaceful and just country in which every Liberian has opportunities for quality education and employment, and access to adequate health care.

MISSION:

FOL is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that seeks to connect and engage interested parties in Liberia to positively affect Liberia and Liberians through education, economic and humanitarian programs and through advocacy efforts.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2021

STRATEGIC ISSUE 1: PROGRAMS

01

What programs can we support with a large impact that draw on the expertise of FOL membership, capitalize on FOL's comparative advantage, and support Liberia's long-term development strategy?

STRATEGIC ISSUE 2: FUNDING

02

How can FOL diversify, increase and sustain its financial resources to support programming for bigger impact on Liberia and more engagement of members?

STRATEGIC ISSUE 3: GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS

03

How can FOL organize itself for more efficiency and effectively management of its work in the U.S. and in Liberia?

STRATEGIC ISSUE 4: MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

04

How can FOL recruit new members and engage more members in its work by offering opportunities to carry out FOL's mission?

CORE VALUES:



Service:

We are committed to timely and reliable service based on mutual respect. We engage in programs and activities that respond to needs identified by Liberians and that help them shape solutions.



Partnerships:

We value collaboration and seek partnerships with like-minded organizations and individuals. We build strong working relationships and coalitions to help ensure self-reliance and sustainability as ultimate goals of our work.



Accountability and Transparency:

We follow the highest ethical standards, and demonstrate honesty and fairness in every action that we take. Measurable outcomes and sound financial management are important elements of our accountability. We expect the same from our partners and those we serve.



Integrity:

We are responsible to our members, board, donors and the communities and country we serve for ensuring that our programs and activities meet the highest standards of professional and personal integrity.



Stewardship:

We are able to accomplish our mission through the generosity of our members and others. We respect donors' intentions on the use of their gifts, and are responsible stewards of the resources they entrust to us.

SECTION I: Program Committee Annual Reports

A. Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (E&ED)

“We can make it!” – Quageh (Kpelle)



Previously supported with FOL funds: These quilts, which touch on a variety of American and African themes, were crafted by a group of women who call themselves Quageh, which comes from the Kpelle language and means “we can make it.” The women, who had fled the civil war in Liberia in 2004, began making the quilts to help support their families when they returned to their native country, where nearly 80 percent of the people are unemployed.

In 2020, the revitalized E&ED Committee began to research new opportunities and strategies for FOL to successfully further promote and support E&ED in Liberia, consistent with Liberian priorities.

A strategic approach was identified which includes: a) coordinate with the Government of Liberia to better understand their priorities in the E&ED sector and, if feasible, design a collaborative approach, b) meet with the Liberian Ambassador to the U.S. and the upcoming American Ambassador to Liberia to share and harmonize ideas going forward, c) better understand U.S. policy and plans for E&ED in Liberia to determine what analysis of needs may have already been accomplished and ensure there is no duplication of efforts, and, d) maintain communication with appropriate U.S. business and non-governmental organization representatives who may provide helpful information and examples of best practices, and may become FOL partners.

Given the current limited amount of potential FOL funding for this initiative, E&ED will focus on opportunities to support existing or planned Liberian-driven E&ED activities. A successful example of partnering, using a small amount of FOL funds, was showcased in FOL support to Quageh, a group of Liberian women quilters, to help them secure fabrics and expand their markets for the sustainable sale of their beautiful, hand-stitched quilts.

We plan to identify additional E&ED opportunities to support small-scale business and training activities by Liberian non-profit groups, and possibly support marketing training in Liberia in a coordinated way, including in the important agriculture sector. FOL associates with skills and interest in this area who might join the effort as volunteer advisors are encouraged to write <econdev@fol.org>.

B. Education

Overview: Our flagship program, the *Family Literacy Initiative* (FLI), was launched after FOL members undertook a nationwide survey of education programs. It indicated that the greatest unmet educational need in Liberia was for preparation of preschoolers to have a quality educational experience. Several preschool preparation programs were researched for suitability to Liberia, and the *Home Instruction for Parents and Preschool Youngsters* (HIPPPY) model was



selected, which recognizes that parents are a child's first teacher and learning begins at home. A three-year pilot project was developed through effective partnerships with *WE-CARE Foundation* in Monrovia and *HIPPY International*, and implemented in November 2015. Propelled by positive Year 1 evaluations in 2016 and fueled with a generous *Open Society Foundations* grant, FLI completed its second successful year in 2017, and in 2018, 45 children completed the three-year FLI/HIPPY curriculum. Approximately 180 families from four communities participated in Year 4 of the program, including new first year children who replaced those who finished the third year. Details on FLI and reports on the program's impact may be read at <http://fol.org/programs/literacy-initiative/>.

General News: There were a few new additions to the Education Committee this year, as well as some changing of roles. Kristen Grauer-Gray and Vance Marlow joined the committee. Kristen and Edward A. Socker, who joined in late 2019, will take over the leadership of the committee as co-chairs officially in 2021. This position was previously held by Mary Gemignani (thank you, Mary). Kristen, Eddie, and Vance were all recent Peace Corps volunteers in Liberia, and all three of them served as teachers or teacher trainers.

Family Literacy Initiative (FLI) Updates: This year was the fifth year of the Family Literacy Initiative (FLI) described above to prepare preschoolers in literacy and other basic skills needed to thrive in school. An adult literacy program was developed in response to parents' desires to be able to read to all their children, keep ahead of them, and recognition that they could master skills to help them in their own work in the markets or even better jobs.

The Family Literacy Initiative contains two components: a home visitor program and an adult literacy program. The home visitor program is based on the philosophy that learning begins at home, and parents are a child's first teacher. Each week, home visitors meet with the parents to train them to effectively teach literacy to their children. The home visitors demonstrate the week's lessons, teach parents strategies for improving their children's reading skills, and use role-plays to train parents to teach their children in an interactive manner. The parents then teach their children by reading with them and asking them questions about the readings. The FLI program is a three-way partnership between FOL, Home Instruction for Parents and Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY) International, and the WE-CARE Foundation. The program curriculum comes from HIPPPY International. The WE-CARE Foundation implements the program on the ground and adapts the curriculum to a Liberian context. FOL members hold regular online meetings with representatives of WE-CARE and HIPPPY, and provide support with budgeting, fundraising, and monitoring and evaluation. In addition, Miriam Westheimer of HIPPPY International continues to

provide resource and technical support for WE-CARE. Details on FLI and reports on the program's impact are available online at <https://fol.org/programs/literacy-initiative/>.

In 2020, the FLI home visitor program included 187 families from four communities in the Monrovia area: Caldwell, West Point, Neezoe, and Duazon. 85 of the families were newly recruited for their first year of the program, 44 were continuing with their second year, and 58 were continuing with their third and final year. Retention was strong, despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19. Of the 187 families, 180 successfully completed the year, while 7 dropped out for personal reasons such as illness or moving to new communities.



FLI Graduation of West Point participants with parent teachers (held in January 2021)

Another part of the FLI program is the *Adult Literacy Program (ALP)*. ALP began when parents participating in FLI informed WE-CARE that many of them struggled to help their children learn to read because they could read very little themselves. The parents informed WE-CARE that they would like to improve their reading skills, and the ALP was born. The ALP program finished its first year in 2018-19.

Unfortunately, the ALP classes were not offered in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Progress was made, however, in writing some of the lessons of the second year ALP curriculum. When the home visitor program restarted, the ALP students were given distance-learning packets similar to the packets for FLI children. In addition, the ALP teachers checked in with their students via phone. Unfortunately, the ALP program had to be paused again when the skilled coordinator Sebastian Toe fell ill. He has been unable to continue his work as coordinator, so WE-CARE is now searching for a new coordinator for the program.

COVID-19 Response: One of the biggest events in 2020, as we all know, is COVID-19. This has been a large hurdle for everyone around the world, and WE-CARE was no exception. Like many obstacles put in their way, WE-CARE took this challenge in stride and kept moving forward. They quickly found a way to continue the FLI program safely, using some of their experiences during the Ebola outbreak of 2014-15.

At the beginning of the pandemic, WE-CARE created and distributed COVID-19 safety posters to the FLI communities. The home visitor component of FLI was also altered to follow social distancing restrictions. Usually, home visitors conduct in-person visits to train the parents in the week's lessons. However, in the early weeks of the pandemic, the families were instead given

packets containing several weeks of lessons to teach their children. The home visitors then contacted the parents by phone to monitor their progress and answer questions about the lessons. The reliance on phones created new challenges as many families lacked cell phones. *The difficulty of reaching the families by phone has remained a challenge throughout 2020, and we are currently looking into grants that will help us acquire cell phones for the FLI families.*

WE-CARE also saw a need to help the families with more than just the FLI program. The families needed food, a place to wash their hands, and other supplies to help them safely navigate the pandemic. After hearing about this need, FOL member Sally Humphrey provided a generous donation to help WE-CARE acquire these supplies for the FLI families. The supplies were distributed in buckets which doubled as hand-washing stations. The buckets contained hand sanitizer, soap, and FLI work packets. Each family also received food supplies including a bag of rice, milk, sugar, and oil. 25 of the buckets also had small radios which contained a memory card with pre-recorded stories and songs. Unfortunately, the radios were in short supply, so not every family was able to get one.



Photo: Supplies provided by FOL member Humphries to FLI families to help prevent COVID.

After COVID-19 cases decreased in Liberia, the home visitors were able to resume in-person training, but with precautions to reduce the danger of virus transmission. Both home visitors and parents have been wearing masks during training sessions, and meetings are being held outside and in small groups.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Our Liberian partner, WE-CARE, continues to monitor the success of the program and adapt it as needed. This year, WE-CARE staff visited the schools of children who had previously completed the program to observe the effect of their FLI experience on their success in school. While the results were mostly positive, some of the students' teachers commented that their writing skills lagged behind their literacy. Teaching in Liberian schools involves a lot of notetaking, and writing skills are crucial even for young students. After receiving this feedback, WE-CARE has decided to add writing lessons to the FLI program.

We also continue to monitor the school preparedness of FLI students using the *Bracken assessment*. In the past, the Bracken was administered as a pre-test when children entered the program, as well as a post-test at the end of each of the three years of the program. However, we have been concerned that overusing the Bracken test may make children too accustomed to it and skew the results. We have therefore decided to use it only as a pre-test for children entering the program and a post-test at the end of the third year. We are currently researching alternate assessments to use with the first and second-year children.

Peter Town, Bong County: FOL member and Liberia RPCV Sue Dee Shenk generously donated \$150,000 to FOL for working with a community called Peter Town in Bong County. Previously, Sue Dee had been working with Peter Town through her organization *Opportunities for African Kids* (OAK). OAK accomplished much, but wanted to let go of the reins. Sue Dee's gift will help WE-CARE to train the teachers at the Peter Town school and to bring the FLI program to Peter Town. WE-CARE has already launched one teacher training workshop in Peter Town, however,

the biggest obstacle to doing more work there is the road condition. The community is located on an unpaved road, which is really less a road and more a bush path (think hiking trail). The road often floods during the rainy season, making it impassable and dangerous. Michael Weah of WE-CARE is currently working on a grant proposal for improving the road.

Funding: One of our major challenges has been finding a stable and reliable source of funding for FLI. Much of the funding for expansion of the program in previous years was possible through grants from the Open Society Foundations (OSF). However, OSF is no longer funding early childhood education programs in Liberia, and WE-CARE expects the final funds from OSF to run out in early 2021. We continue to receive some small grants from family foundations that greatly help in running and improving FLI.

Much more of the funding for FLI must now come from the funds that FOL associates donate to the program. Thanks to generous donations over the last five years, the program is in good financial condition for starting Year 6 of FLI. However, we continue to search for additional funders so that we can put our focus into not only improving the program, but also striving to eventually expand it beyond the current four sites, perhaps by helping WE-CARE serve as a hub for teaching the model to groups across the country and region who would pay for the instruction, materials, and compensation to home visitors in their locations. The head of the FOL development committee, Sally Zelonis, has been working hard to find appropriate funding possibilities and apply for grants. Sally has also helped FOL meet the requirements for posting projects on Global Giving, and we were able to raise additional funds for FLI through our Global Giving project.

FOL is also striving to build the capacity of our partners to raise additional funds, as our goal is for FLI to become self-sustaining. To this end, Sally Zelonis funded an online grant-writing course with Michael Weah and Yvonne Capehart-Weah of WE-CARE. The three of them met weekly over Zoom to complete the course activities and discuss the lessons. All parties found the course extremely rewarding. Michael and Yvonne have both been completing new projects using their skills from the course; Michael is using his skills to find and apply for a grant for a road to Peter



Town, and Yvonne has completed the 2021 FLI budget utilizing new methods learned. We believe this activity provides a great model of collaboration and capacity-building, as well as a model for how FOL can take advantage of technology to collaborate with our partners, even when a pandemic and an ocean keep us physically apart.

Landscape Paper: The 2021 Liberia Landscape Paper has been released and is available on the FOL website. The paper aims to serve as a comprehensive resource about organizations working in

Liberia, including summaries of their projects, contact information, and photos showcasing their work. This year's paper includes organizations involved in literacy, technology education, and health. The health-related organizations are a new addition in this year's paper. The FOL website also contains two searchable maps showing the location of the organizations listed in the paper. <https://fol.org/programs/literacy-initiative/literacy-landscape/>

The research and writing of the 2021 Landscape Paper was completed by Landscape Paper Coordinator Jinny Hesel, with additional contributions by Kristen Grauer-Gray. Longtime

landscape paper contributor Mary Gemignani completed the maps, and David Eller formatted the final paper.

Treasure Trove (of teaching materials): A member of PC Liberia Group IX ('67-'69) sent Jinny Hesel a "treasure trove" of teaching materials. Jinny's friend obtained the materials from the Peace Corps Office in Monrovia sometime between 1967-1969. Unfortunately, after a thorough search, we have been unable to locate the author of the materials.

The materials include stories, folk tales, poems, illustrations, and activities for students and teachers in Liberian classrooms, preschool to Grade 6. Most of the stories are set in rural Liberia and reflect life experiences of Liberians. There are four "books": *Builders of Liberia* (2 books); *Peace Corps Readers I and II*, *Young People of Liberia*, and *Poetry and Legends*. Each story is followed by activities to build student vocabulary and test student understanding.

We would like to eventually print and distribute the materials for use by Liberian teachers, as well as possible use by the Family Literacy Initiative. Dave Eller scanned and Vance Marlow organized the materials. Jinny Hesel, Mary Gemignani, and Stephanie Vickers have volunteered to plan the project. In the future, the materials could become "books" for teachers to use in teaching literacy and for Liberian students to read and enjoy.

C. Health

Overview: In 2014, the Friends of Liberia Board requested that a small group of FOL members explore establishing a FOL Health Project. Late in 2015, a health project concept was identified. In 2016, Friends of Liberia Health Team was created with a FOL Liberia Health Team (LHT) and a FOL U.S. Health Team (USHT). A FOL Board Member position was established to serve as the liaison between the Health Team and the FOL Board.

First Health Project --- Faculty Continuing Professional Development Workshop: The Health Team assessed the need for an education-focused health project designed to help improve the knowledge base and competency of faculty at the Liberian schools of nursing and midwifery. Since nurses and midwives provide the bulk of the health care in Liberia, it is extremely important that these health care workers in Liberia receive the best quality of education while obtaining their initial instruction and throughout their nursing and midwifery careers.

Goal: The goal of this project is to identify specific areas where faculty members from the schools of nursing and midwifery need to improve their teaching competencies. This will help them do a better job of preparing nurses and midwives to work in Liberia, and in turn improve the level of health care in Liberia.

Background: The first step for the project was to develop a needs assessment to identify specific areas of knowledge needed by the nursing and midwifery faculty to improve their teaching abilities. In 2017, a needs assessment was conducted by the FOL LHT with faculty members from eleven (11) Liberian nursing and midwifery schools. Focus groups also served to clarify and expand upon answers to the needs assessment instrument. The data was tabulated and analyzed. The review of the data demonstrated that there was a *strong need for continuing professional development workshops to increase and improve the teaching skills of the faculty at the schools of nursing and midwifery.*

2019 Project Proposal for Continuing Professional Development for Nursing & Midwifery Faculty: In early 2019, the FOL Board approved the Health Team moving forward with the

development of a continuing professional development project proposal for nursing and midwifery faculty. In the fall of 2019, the FOL Board approved the submitted pilot project proposal for a weeklong workshop to be held in January 2020 at Phebe School of Nursing in Bong County. The LHT coordinated the project development, workshop content, and logistics for the workshops.

2020 Pilot Faculty Workshop: The pilot week-long Faculty Continuing Professional Development Workshop was very successfully held in January 2020 at the Phebe School of Nursing, Bong County with twenty (20) faculty members from twenty school of nursing and midwifery in Liberia. Instruction was provided by the five members of the LHT. The goal of the workshop was to *increase the knowledge base and proficiency of nursing and midwifery teaching faculty in the areas of Evidence-based Research, Evaluation and Testing and Leadership and Management.*



The faculty members were charged with sharing the workshop content with other faculty members at their institutions. The Liberia Team obtained the support of the *Liberia Board of Nursing and Midwifery* and the *Liberia Ministry of Health and Social Welfare* for the project. Jim Gray, a USHT member, observed the workshop. Following the initial workshop, the LHT prepared a

comprehensive evaluation of the workshop. Funding for the 2020 workshop was obtained from an allocation from the FOL Board and donations to FOL designated for the FOL Health Project.

Planning For 2021 Second Faculty Workshop: Following the successful pilot Faculty Workshop, the LHT moved forward with planning a second Faculty Workshop scheduled for a week in January 2021, to be held at the Phebe School of Nursing. Faculty members from the schools of nursing and midwifery, through a needs assessment, provided suggestions for the content of the second workshop. Faculty members and a member of the Liberian Board of Nursing and Midwifery were invited in December 2020 to attend. The LHT prepared workshop course content and made logistical arrangements.

Planning For 2021 Pilot Clinical Workshop: The LHT explored the concept of establishing a Clinical Professional Development Workshop for practicing nurses and midwives. The goal of the workshop would be to enhance the clinical competencies of practicing nurses and midwives. The LHT conducted a needs assessment of the Directors of Nursing and Midwifery at hospitals in Liberia and there was strong interest in this. The LHT proposed conducting a second week-long workshop as a pilot Clinical Professional Development Workshop in January 2021. The concept and budget were approved by the FOL Board. The LHT decided to invite hospital Directors of Nursing and Midwifery to the workshop. These workshop participants would be in a position at

their hospitals to share their training with their hospital staff. In addition, a representative from the Liberian Nurses Association was invited.

Funding for January 2021 Faculty and Clinical Professional Development Workshops: The FOL Board approved the budgets for the two workshops and provided a grant to partially cover the costs. The FOL Development Committee conducted a very successful fundraising campaign with *Global Giving* that had over 100 donors. In addition, FOL members made donations directly to FOL for the Health Project. *In 2020 the fundraising goals were met for the two January 2021 workshops.*

Health Project Team: The Health Committee is composed of a team in Liberia and a team in the US.

Liberia Health Team (LHT): Five (5) members of the team in Liberia are graduates of the Masters of Nursing Education program at Mother Patern College of Health Sciences in Monrovia. The members are: Edwin Beyan, Harriette Mondaye, G. Clinton Zeantoe, Humphrey Loweal and Peter Wainpa. Another member is a faculty member, Augustine Samorlu, at Cuttington University. Edwin Beyan is the Chair of the LHT.

US Health Team (USHT): The fifteen (15) members of the team in the U.S. are: Dr. Karen Hein, Roger Kropf, Sarah Morrison, Richard Nisbett, Beth Fischer, Bob Fischer, Joe Franta, Chris Piccione, Pat McGeorge, Jim McGeorge, Madeline Farron, Laura Ridge, Dr. Cori Maund, Jim Gray and Katie Pierson. Pat and Jim McGeorge are the co-chairs of the USHT.

***How You Can Help:** *You can support the FOL Health Project by designating your donation to FOL for the "Health Program" at fol.org. Any amount helps.*

D, Small Grants and COVID-19 2020 Task Force

Educate West Point Inc. COVID-adapted project



A pillar of FOL work for decades has been the provision of small grants to Liberian non-governmental, non-profit organizations which advance goals shared with FOL. These small grants, no greater than \$3000, can provide a portion of the funds required by a locally-led organization that has identified a need in the community which they are capable of addressing with FOL assistance. Grants are competitive and do not pay for direct salaries; the grantee must have other sponsors or use volunteers to carry out their projects. The projects are generally modest, such as building a well at a school for the handicapped, or providing sewing machines for a start-up project that can provide mothers with a skill that can earn them enough to pay school fees.

The recent appropriation each year for small grants from the general fund has been \$10,000 total, but designated donations to this program may bring the total higher. Over the years, the projects supported have been varied and have been located across the country. After helping address the Ebola crisis through special larger grants made possible through focused fundraising, for example, FOL small grants supported rehabilitation and community reintegration

projects for survivors. Many of the historical small grant projects are described on the FOL.org website.

Because we were not able to identify a leader for the Small Grants Committee in 2020, the proposal review process was in effect suspended after approval of two grants which had been highly recommended by the Small Grants Committee the last time they convened.

The approved projects include:

Project Title	Liberian Partner	Goal	FOL Funding
Community Education Worker	Educate West Point CEO Musa Sheriff <i>mercermitch23@gmail.com</i>	Outreach to bring literacy and numeracy to homes of children in WP not receiving education	\$2852
Teacher Development Continuing Education Project	ACE: Africa Community Exchange via Liberia Community Network <i>sophie@aceliberia.org,</i> <i>tonyehn@aceliberia.org</i>	Engage principals, empower teachers. Skills, pedagogy, and civic engagement. Margibi, Montserrado counties	\$3000

Remaining funds from the annual allocation of \$10,000 will be carried over to 2021 and available to a new committee once convened.



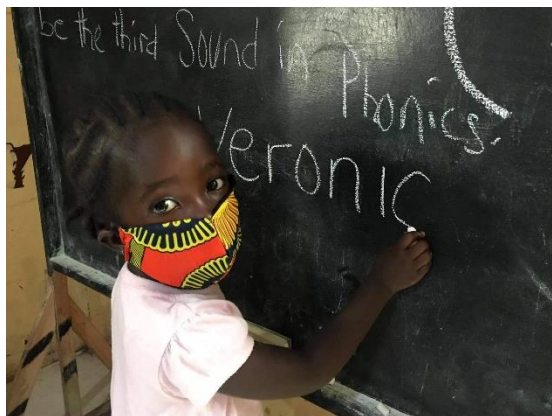
The Community Education Worker Project (CEW)

The Community Education Worker Project (CEW) is an evidence-based program piloted by the non-governmental organization Educate West Point (EWP) with co-funding from FOL during a portion of 2020. This educational outreach module conveys literacy and numeracy training to vulnerable children who have never had a formal learning opportunity, whose parents lack basic literacy, and who have been subjected to human rights violations including extreme poverty and a lack of access to basic services (health care, education, sanitation, and social services).

Prior to the kickoff of the community education program in March 2020, the global pandemic (COVID-19) hit Liberia and the entire country was at a standstill. Never-the-less, EWP was able to initiate its outreach training program, called “Learn from Home,” in April 2020. The program utilizes a strategic teaching plan in line with the Ministry of Education's student curriculum during COVID-19. Included as well was the basic literacy and numeracy training toolkit endorsed by UNICEF and USAID. Unfortunately, West Point was hit hard by erosion

during the rainy season and homes of many CEW participants were washed away or damaged badly, causing eviction.

Despite these challenges surrounding the CEW, EWP was able to find a space within the township of West Point for the establishment of a study center and a library where students, community members could access reading materials. To adequately achieve the project's objectives, EWP integrated the "Learn from Home" CEW project into the new public library in October 2020, making it easy for students and facilitators to trek to the library and continue the training on the basic literacy and numeracy model. A Book Club has also been started in the library as a sub-initiative of the CEW project to engage older youth, particularly those who missed out on schooling.



Progress: In addition to how to improve educational skills, EWP programs benefitted the children by providing training on child protection, safety, and emergency education strategies. EWP and CEW demonstrate how to support each child in an individualized, flexible, asynchronous learning process. A wholistic approach in the community includes life skills, entrepreneurship, ways to overcome negative coping mechanisms and peer pressure, etc., leading students to play a strong role in their "edutainment" and learning activities. Impact of the program will be assessed and reported on at a later date,

CHALLENGES: COVID-19 has upended the educational atmosphere of Liberia's education system. Disruptions and barriers have hindered children's ability to acquire better life-saving and educational support. Stringent preventive protocols put in place to curb the spread of the Coronavirus prevented some from attending, but the majority could come along with their protective gear like nose masks, sanitizers, etc. During the project, CEW learned that about 1,000 of the 3,000 children identified as being out of school may likely face additional constraints because of the virus (parental illness and unemployment, domestic violence, etc.), which may cause immeasurable disruption to the lives, learning and well-being of children in the community.

Teacher Development Continuing Education Project

Africa Community Exchange, Inc. (ACE)/ Liberia Community Network (LCN)

The Liberia Community Network affiliation with ACE started in 2017 through a conversation with the Former Director of the Kakata Rural teacher Training Institute (KRTTI) and a member of the ACE Board, Ms. Rose Sherman. ACE had decided to contribute to teacher development in Liberia to make a greater impact on quality education. The focus was on underqualified teachers in low-income, community-based schools. ACE believed that they could better achieve this goal by

partnering with an institution that was already training teachers, hence the involvement of KRTTI. One of the objectives of the program was for the teachers to ultimately obtain the “C” Certificate to officially qualify as primary school teachers.

The ACE/LCN 2020-2021 Teacher Development and Continuing Education (TDCE) program was adjusted due to safety constraints and deterioration of the economic and educational situation caused by Covid-19. The monthly tutorials scheduled for last two months of the 2019/2020 academic year were cancelled and the funds used for the “Keep Safe, Keep Learning” project (June-August) implemented by LCN.

On November 10, 2020 a one-day workshop was held for principals. There were 34 participants representing 26 schools (12 from Montserrado County and 14 from Margibi County). The criteria for schools participating in the TDCE program were reviewed and discussed. Other areas of concerns were discussed which included teachers’ salary and evaluation, record keeping, developing a strong PTA, the booklets, the practice of putting children out of school for nonpayment of tuition, and when period tests are given. There was a real concern from the schools that due to Covid-19, parents will not be able to pay tuition fees because this is the major (and in many cases the only) source of income for the schools.



The three-week TDCE residential workshop scheduled for July 2020 was cancelled and replaced with two one-week workshops in November, one in Montserrado and one in Margibi. A total of 94 teachers participated. The emphasis of the workshop was on essential baseline skills in math; language arts (reading, writing and speaking Standard English); change and civic engagement; and pedagogy (organizing the classroom and teaching strategies). Although all of the teachers (K-6) received the same presentation, the discussions and activities focused on how the teachers would use the content to teach the grade levels taught by them. The teachers worked independently and then as a group on a chart to verbalize and discuss the most important things they want from the School Administration, Parents, and Students and what they would in turn give to the School Administration, Parents, and Students. This will be shared and discussed with the administrators of the schools.

The TDCE staff are in the process of developing a series of basic education booklets, Essential Baseline Skills, for students in K to 6th grade. The booklets do not replace the regular Ministry of Education school curriculum. They will be used to support literacy and numeracy skills that students are having difficulties with, but need to master in order to navigate junior and senior high schools. The TDCE teachers are being trained on how to use the booklets and master these skills themselves, which many of them have difficulties with. Due to the limitation of time, funds and expertise, only three booklets were undertaken (K and 1st grade) (2nd and 3rd) and (4th to 6th). Most students do not have text books and these booklets are the closest things to a text book that they will own. The Ann Sandell Independent School (ASIS) teachers of those grades, their

specialty teachers, and principal are working with TDCE program assistants and LCN on the booklets.

FOL funding is only a small, but appreciated, component of the TDCE project to improve the quality of education in community-based schools.

FOL 2020 COVID19 Task Force: The COVID-19 Task Force was assembled in March of 2020 when the first cases in Liberia were reported. The committee was disbanded in December of 2020 when the committee felt that ongoing COVID-19 issues could be addressed under the Small Grants' or Health Committee's purview. During this period from March to December 2020, the COVID-19 Task Force Reviewed a total of 15 grants. Of the 15 grants received, six grants were approved for a total of \$18,420. The projects each addressed different communities and different aspects of issues created by the COVID 19 Pandemic.



MCAI supplies purchased with FOL grant

The Task Force held its meetings via Zoom each week to act quickly and responsibly to distribute funds through projects managed by reliable Liberian NGOs. The goal was to provide support to local Liberian community-based organizations while international donors addressed, as possible, the greater needs of the GOL health system response.

The Task Force used the lessons learned during the Ebola crisis to plan better, more effective interventions for Liberian communities. FOL's COVID-19 Task Force worked with counterparts on the ground to conduct a needs assessment and identify which communities and what

interventions were most needed. Proposals were rated on a number of considerations. The Task Force also provided organizations with technical support and knowledge when needed, especially around COVID-19 and public health awareness.

Six proposals were approved for the following amounts:

- POCHAWOIN COWICEF: \$2,700 (Full)
- KEEP Liberia: \$3,000 (Full)
- MCAI: \$5,420 (Full)
- Bosh Bosh: \$3,000 (Full)
- Healthcare Federation Liberia \$2,500 (Partial)
- Growing in Christ Ministries \$1,800 (Partial)
- Total Funds Approved: \$18,420
- Total Funds Allocated: \$18,470 Balance Funds: \$50

As an example of how these organizations made an important impact, please watch this wonderful health education video produced by KEEP Liberia for the hearing impaired:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMjSz8hcyWY>

Bosh Bosh mask production and COVID-19 prevention educators



Comments on FOL's Small Grant Program

It is critical to FOL and its donors that this program provide transparency and accountability even though the grant amounts are small. Challenges have included how to best evaluate project proposals and achievement of objectives when FOL has not had a constant presence "on the ground." When FOL members visited Liberia, we often asked them to visit projects and report on progress or sustained impact, but this happened infrequently. Although all grantees are required to submit reports, in a few cases they were absent and more often were insufficient for us to determine more than appropriate use of funds instead of sustainable impact.

In 2020, the FOL Board decided it should begin to reassess the small grants program. One of the FOL Board members with extensive expertise in this area, Richard A. Nisbett ("Ran"), provided a very helpful "white paper." A few of Nisbett's thoughts include:

First reality check: That which is measurable is not necessarily great many of his antecedents).
Second reality check: Simply stated, there are too many good ideas and genuine needs for us to fund. Accordingly, whichever option we choose, our overall goal should be leadership development and mentoring.

Our funding strategy reflects our institutional capability, with funding priorities that match our strategic plan and the skills and expertise of our Board and FOL membership. We should redouble our efforts to promote active engagement: (1) to facilitate leadership development in our local partners who will be empowered to adhere to best practices for implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting, and (2) to encourage broader and deeper FOL membership participation and partnering with local PCVs.

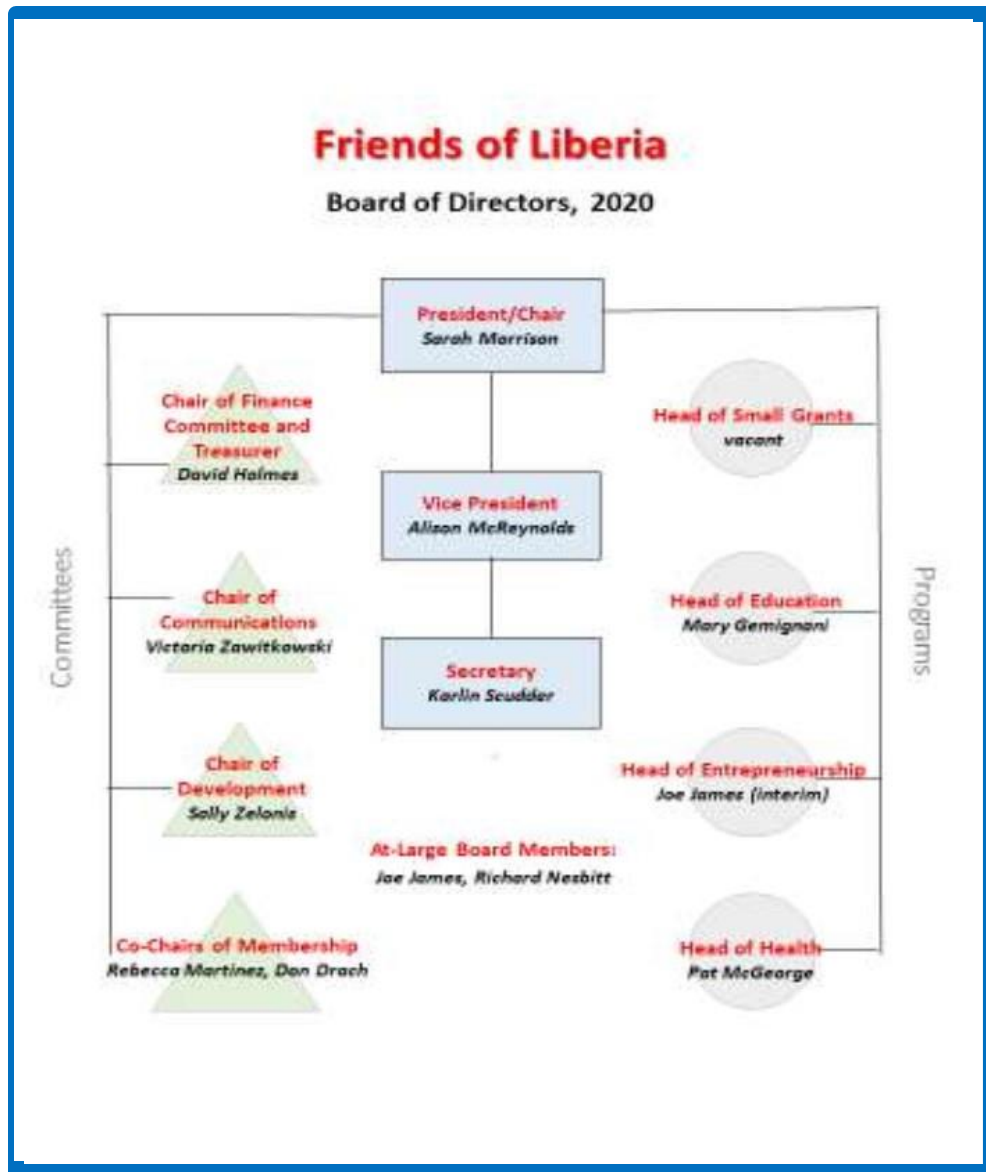
General aims of a re-envisioned small grant strategy were included as well as ideas for mechanics and process of implementation. As a general rule, funding priorities would mirror FOL's organizational structure, with standing committees responsible for reviewing applications which fall in their topical area (currently health, education, and economic development/entrepreneurship). Annual metrics were proposed for the overall program, including numbers of proposals reviewed, grants awarded, projects implemented/completed; direct beneficiaries; indirect beneficiaries; professional development of leaders (successful completion of pre-implementation training; and final self-evaluations/exit interview completed).

FOL had established a small in-country team of members who were working in or living in Liberia, and they began to meet in Monrovia to determine what FOL priorities they could reasonably advance, such as support to the selection of grantees, and a strategy to do so. Unfortunately, COVID-19 forced the evacuation of most in-country team members and all Peace Corps Volunteers in March 2020. When it becomes possible for FOL members and Peace Corps Volunteers to return to Liberia, our plan is to re-establish an in-country team. The team members and perhaps Peace Corps Volunteers may engage with small Liberian organizations that have been FOL grantees and with potential grantees as counterparts in capacity building, accountability, resource identification, proposal development, and impact assessment. FOL looks forward to assisting more directly with PC Volunteers' local "after work" community projects. The group might also check references and visit potential grantees in order to make recommendations to the Small Grants Committee regarding an organization's potential to successfully complete its proposed project.

SECTION II: FOL Governance, Operations, & Outreach

Friends of Liberia complies fully with the “District of Columbia Code for Incorporation as a Nonprofit,” and has been recognized since 1988 by the Internal Revenue Service as a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable, and tax-exempt organization. The governing board of trustees includes the FOL officers, committee chairs, program heads, and at-large members. FOL revised its bylaws in 2016 to adopt the organizational structure shown in the following diagram, with a flexibility that allows FOL to make several structural changes, as needed, to address evolving needs and member participation.

2020 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



The Board & Board Meetings: The Board meets quarterly, at least once a year in person and at other times either in person or via electronic participation. Due to the 2020 COVID 19 pandemic, meetings were held via Zoom.

Board meetings may be called at other times and decisions can be discussed and voted on electronically. A quorum must participate for official decisions to be taken, such as budget allocations, changes in structure or Board membership, and project additions or major changes. A majority vote of that quorum prevails. Program committees confer often, and communication among committee members is frequent between official board meetings. Hundreds of hours per year are voluntarily dedicated by the Board, committee members, and support persons to ensure that FOL operates successfully, efficiently, and effectively.

Join the Board and/or Board Meetings: FOL supporters are welcome to attend Board meetings and share opinions at any time. Supporters interested in serving on the Board or on a committee should contact the 2021 Membership Committee chair, Maxwell Sines, at membership@fol.org. He can answer questions about position qualifications, expectations, or forward your expression of interest to the proper person.

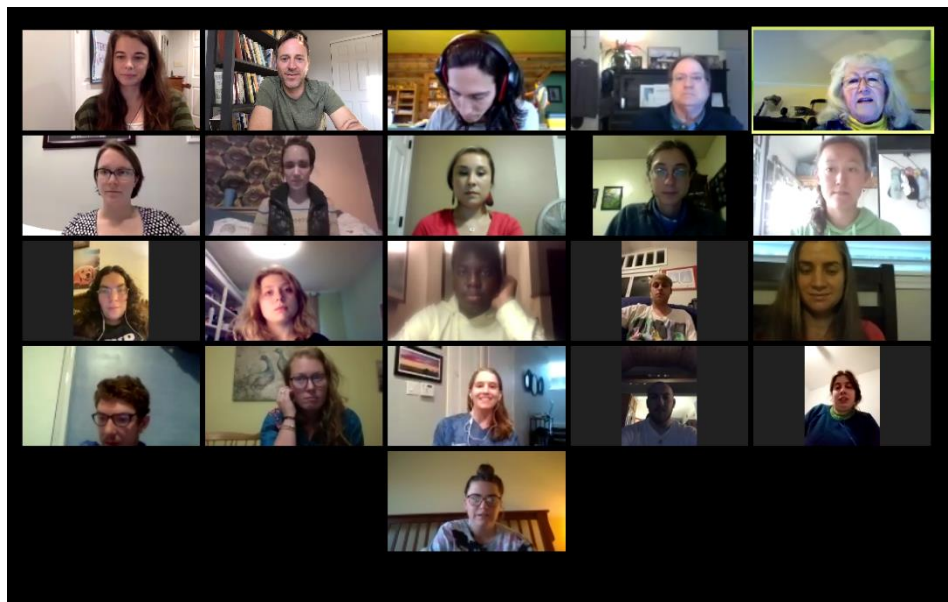
COMMITTEES

A. Membership and Outreach (M&O)

Two unexpected events shaped FOL's Membership & Outreach Committee's work in 2020:

- a) In December 2019, most up-country Peace Corps Liberia Volunteers were evacuated due to a *banking liquidity crisis*, and
- b) In March 2020, all remaining Volunteers were evacuated due to the *COVID-19 pandemic*.

Virtual "Welcome Home" support: FOL M&O Committee's focus shifted to helping evacuated Volunteers as they returned home to a national health crisis -- and for them personally, an uncertain future. In March 2020, as FOL looked for ways to help, it began by hosting a virtual "Welcome Home" get-together. Facilitated by Communications Chair, Victoria Zawitowski, the program featured presentations by post-civil war RPCVs Garrett Mason, Rebecca Martinez (who was part of the Ebola-related evacuation in 2014), Kristin Caspar and Amanda Newlove. Over 25 Peace Corps Volunteer and FOL members attended part or all of the Zoom. As a result, many evacuees and FOL members connected, often based on geographical proximity, and subsequently met and kept in touch to provide mentoring, job/school advice or just a friendly, empathetic ear.



Career/job search support: In April 2020, M&O hosted a career/job search webinar led by career planning expert RPCV Jodi Hammer. Jodi provided practical advice and guidance on topics such as resume writing, interviewing, networking, and translating Peace Corps skills and experience to the job market.

Virtual County “hang-outs:” During the 2020 summer, virtual “county hang-outs” were held for FOL members from Bong, Nimba, Lofa, and southeastern Liberia counties. These virtual events served as a social and networking opportunity for members; they have also sparked interest in an informal mentorship program.

We hope these programs helped evacuated Volunteers with re-entry to the U.S. At the same time, FOL has also benefited in that a number of recent RPCVs have joined FOL, and many of those have joined committees, with six now serving on the board. *Our “Friends” grew by 67 in 2020 and was 2,159 at year’s end.*

At the December board meeting, committee member RPCV Maxwell Sines (LR-1), who moderated the July 26 hangout committee, was voted onto the board as M&O Committee Chair. Also in December, the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) asked FOL to join them in their project to identify all those who served in the Peace Corps over its 60-year history.

Looking ahead to 2021 when Peace Corps celebrates its 60th anniversary: We are seeking members to work on a committee to organize a variety of related programs, as we did for Peace Corps’ 50th anniversary in 2011. For more information about membership programs and activities: membership@fol.org.

B. Communications

In 2020, FOL continued to communicate with membership through periodic email updates, twice yearly mailed appeal letters, and regular posts on our social media pages – Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We post regularly to our website’s blog (thank you, Fred Lange), highlighting the work being done by FOL and its partners as well as noting Liberian news items that might be of interest to our membership. Chair Victoria Zawitkowski started to host some virtual hangouts through Zoom to increase engagement and help connect our members, which were very successful. FOL benefits so much from our young leadership!

We compared data from 2019 to data from 2020 and found an increase in the number of followers and engagement across all our platforms.

Platform	2019	2020	Percent Change
Facebook	1,109 Followers	1,305 Followers	↑ 17.8%
Instagram	112 Followers	237 Followers	↑ 111.6%
Twitter	2,030 Followers	2,502 Followers	↑ 23.3%
Website: FOL.org	6.5k Users	10k Users	↑ 53.8%
	8.7k Sessions	14k Sessions	↑ 60.8%

We plan to increase engagement about our upcoming Peace Corps Anniversaries and numerous events that will be planned by FOL and the National Peace Corps Association, "Peace Corps Connect."

C. Development Committee

2020 began with the receipt of a generous donation from *Sue Dee Shenk*, RPCV Group 28, and her parents' trust, the *Gerald Schlosser Family Trust*. This gift will be used to expand the Family Literacy Program, teacher training, and community building activities to Peter Town.

While it seemed as if 2020 was beginning like a “normal” year—we know things didn't stay “normal” once COVID hit the world. We were fortunate to receive a major donation of \$7,500 from long-time FOL member, *Sally Gosline Humphrey*. This was given for the purpose of supporting all FLI and ALP families with a distribution of hand-washing buckets with soap and food supplies. Food shortages had been reported by our partner WE-CARE Foundation and Sally stepped forward. This distribution was gratefully received by the 200 participating families in May 2020. Meanwhile, our 2020 spring/summer appeal was sent out to all FOL members asking for donations to support COVID relief efforts via small grants of up to \$3,000. *Over \$17,000 was raised.* (see Small Grants/COVID Grants for a report on grants awarded).



We continued our efforts to find additional funding for our COVID relief grants, Family Literacy Initiative and health projects. FOL joined *Global Giving's Accelerator Program* in September to raise monies for the Liberian Health Team's 2021 health training workshops. We received an initial gift of \$5,000 from long-time supporter *Diane Trombetta*, putting us at just over \$14,000 raised for the project. That qualified FOL to be a permanent partner with Global Giving! Diane demonstrates her love for Liberia by supporting FOL projects generously, and deserves our ongoing adulation.

The *Rolander Family Foundation* continued their annual support for FLI with a gift of \$5,000. We are grateful to them and *Stephanie Vickers* for this long-time assistance. A new project for

Global Giving was developed and launched in November to support Year Six of the Family Literacy Initiative. This project has received gifts of just over \$11,800 through Global Giving. *More than \$27,000 was also raised directly from FOL members with our appeal letters.*

FOL Development Chair Sally Zelonis, Michael Weah and Yvonne Capehart from WE-CARE completed a ten-week grant writing course given by *GrantsMagic.org* in November. Sally continues to work with Yvonne and Michael on researching grant opportunities and developing funding resources. This course was helpful in building WE-CARE's grant writing skills and capacity to grow on their own. Working together has also helped to provide a better insight into the challenges WE-CARE faces in their daily operations.

Development Chair Sally Zelonis outlined the need for new fundraising software and proposed the purchase of a new program at the board's December meeting. The board asked for further investigation into other alternatives.

FOL's development efforts continued to be challenged by the need for more grant funds. Research is ongoing looking for opportunities.

The FOL development committee is pleased to report that the numbers of individual donors AND donations increased in 2020. Because of YOUR support, FOL has been able to expand our health program, provide COVID relief grants and continue support for FLI and ALP in 2021 -- thank you!

D. Finance Committee

Friends of Liberia (FOL) started 2020 with \$331,000 (rounded to nearest thousand) on hand, of which \$158,000 was unrestricted (not allocated to a specific program by the donor). At the end of 2020, FOL accounts totaled \$477,000, of which \$155,000 also remains unrestricted and/or unobligated. Unspent funds are carried over to 2021, and those allocated to projects will provide bridge funding during periods when decisions about grant awards are pending.

During 2020, FOL received donations of \$260,000 (rounded to nearest thousand), of which \$150,000 was a grant from the *Schlosser Family Trust* for the Peter Town. Another \$26,000 was donated specifically to help with Covid relief projects. Earmarked grant donation to Literacy projects decreased by \$61,000 or 62% due to the loss of funding from *Open Society Foundations International*. FOL joined *Global Giving*, which received donations to the Family Literacy Initiative for \$11,000 and Health projects for \$14,000. Individual member donations were \$57,000 in 2020, or 21.8% of the total. This was an increase of only \$1,000 from 2019's individual member donations.

Total Expenditures for 2020 were \$114,000, a decrease of 27%, driven by a 31% decrease in Direct Program spending. This decrease was driven by programs, most specifically the Adult Literacy Program that was put on hold due to the pandemic. The indirect costs associated with fundraising include printing appeal letters twice a year, fees for payment processing platforms, and postage. Total indirect costs (including bank fees, money transfer fees, insurance, etc.) were just about stable, but as a percent of the lower Total Expenditures (11.7%) is higher than 2019,

It should also be noted that hundreds, actually thousands, of hours of expertise are not included as in-kind income, but have been donated by the dedicated FOL members serving on committees and the FOL Board, as well as providing tangible gifts such as refreshments for various events and outreach materials. Please contact treasurer@fol.org if you would like to request a copy of IRS 990 financial reports.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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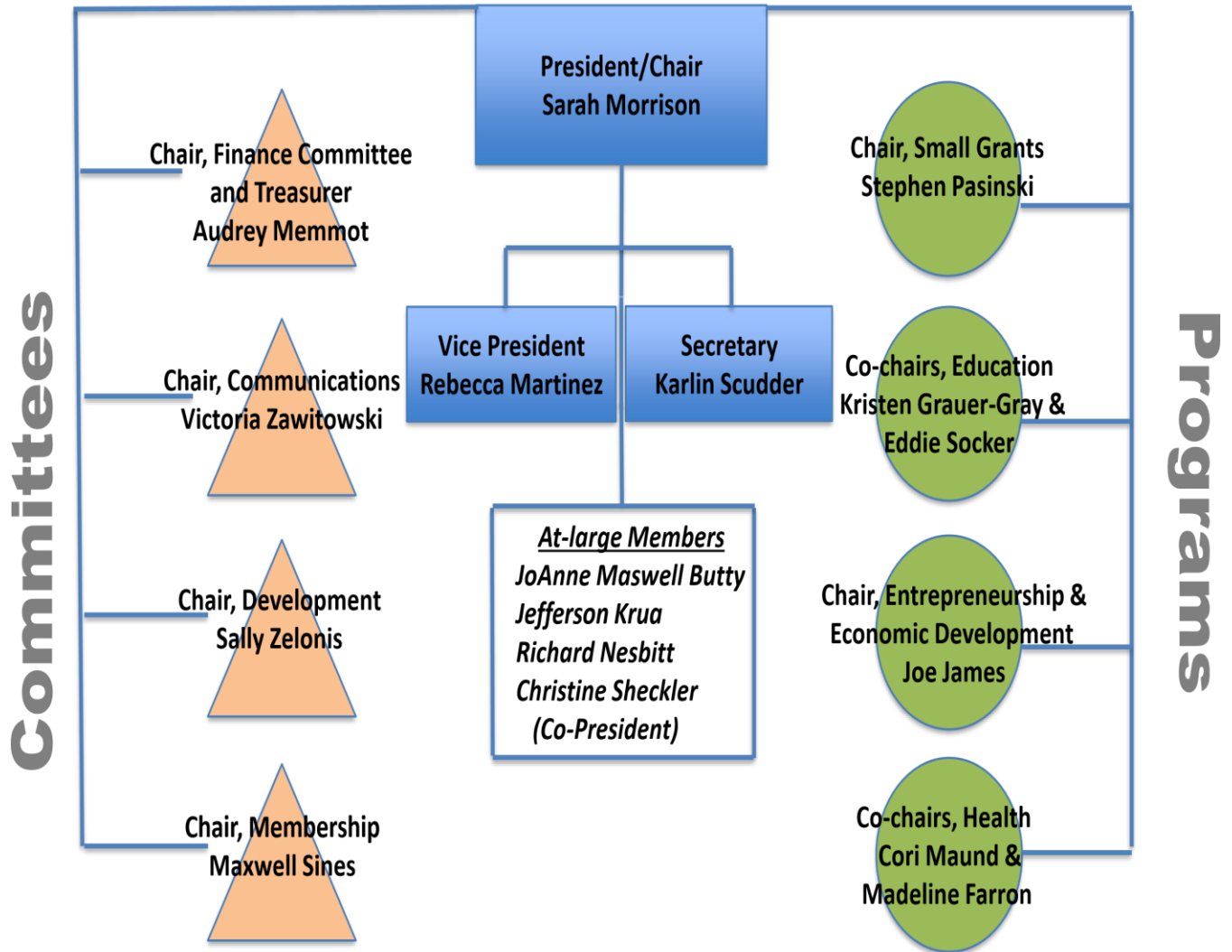
folrep4@fol.org

Official Website: www.FOL.org

Facebook: [Friends of Liberia](#) and [Friends of Liberia Public Page](#)

**EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 1, 2021**

**Friends of Liberia Board of Directors
2021**



Watch for 2021-22 activities -- an anthology of Peace Corps stories through the decades, reunions, Zooms, oral interviews, auctions, perhaps a 2022 return to Liberia service trip – AND MORE!
Let's all stay healthy as we enter the year of the 60th Anniversary of Peace Corps followed by the 60th Anniversary of the Peace Corps in Liberia.