



**Friends of Liberia**

# Annual Report

**2021**



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**Friends ★  
Of Liberia**

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# Letter from the board

Looking back, we could never have anticipated that 2021 would be such a challenging year worldwide, with expected norms and accepted practices so fundamentally altered. The demand to adjust and change was constant, and this was true for Friends of Liberia as well. Though 2021 proved to be a challenge and a year of change for FOL and the communities we serve in Liberia, our many volunteers persevered and delivered impressive results amid the uncertainty of the global pandemic.

We began 2021 with changes to our board with a new president and treasure. We are grateful for Sarah Morrison's tenure as president for guiding FOL through a period of growth and change.

Here is a short summary of the work of our teams and their many accomplishments in support of the Liberian people.

## Health

Capitalizing on the successful pilot Faculty Consulting Professional Development (FCPD) workshop conducted in January 2020, the FOL Health Team conducted a second FCPD workshop in January 2021. To expand their reach and leverage feedback received, the Team added a second and companion workshop in Clinical Professional Development for practicing nurses and midwives. Planned as annual events, these workshops reflect the commitment to provide meaningful continuing education opportunities for healthcare professionals in Liberia and laid the groundwork for 2022 and beyond.

## Education

Family literacy continues to be the central focus for the Education Team. Continuing the partnership with the WE-CARE Foundation and HIPPIY International, 2021 was year Six of the Family Literacy Initiative (FLI) in Liberia. More than 184 families completed the HIPPIY home visitors program a home-based program that works with parents to help improve their children's reading and comprehension skills to better prepare them for school. The Adult Literacy Program (ALP) focused on helping the HIPPIY parents and some other community members to better understand and use the HIPPIY materials and to improve their own reading, writing, and numeracy skills often with measurably positive results.

## Small Grants

As in years past, the Small Grants program continued to be an integral part of FOL's strategy to assist Liberians in their daily life. Though modest in scale and funding, the two projects implemented in 2021 have the potential to meaningfully impact target populations in literacy and building economic capability.

## Development

2021 saw the successful implementation of Kindful, a donation-management software that significantly improves FOL's ability to administer and personalize its donor program. From a funding perspective, partnerships with two other organizations brought impressive results. Working closely with Global Health Ministry, FOL was instrumental in providing critical PPE and other supplies to support Liberia's efforts to manage its COVID response. And a major success came as a result a collaboration between the FOL Development and Education teams and the WE CARE Foundation. The Teams assisted with the preparation of a grant proposal that resulted in donation of \$200,000 from Comic Relief USA to the WE CARE Foundation and its Family Literacy Initiative (FLI).

## Finance

The FOL Finance Committee was reconstituted in 2021 under the leadership of FOL Treasurer John Morlu, CPA. Accepted accounting principles transparently demonstrated that FOL maintained very healthy cash balances, over \$364K at year's end, thanks to the efforts of the Development Committee and prudence of all program heads. Some of the funds are designated obligations toward COVID relief programs already begun, and some were earmarked toward specific programs by generous donors., but the sustainability of FOL and its partnerships for education, health, and development in Liberia are assured with this level of stewardship.

# Friends of Liberia

## Our 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.

## Our Mission

FOL is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that seeks to positively affect Liberia and Liberians by funding educational, social, economic and humanitarian programs.



## Our 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 to their needs.

### 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.

# Our Strategic Issues

## 1

### **Programs**

Support programs with a large impact that draw on the expertise of Friends of Liberia membership, capitalize on FOL's comparative advantage, and support Liberia's long-term development strategy.

## 2

### **Funding**

Diversify, increase and sustain financial resources to support programming for bigger impact on Liberia and more engagement of members.

## 3

### **Governance & Operations**

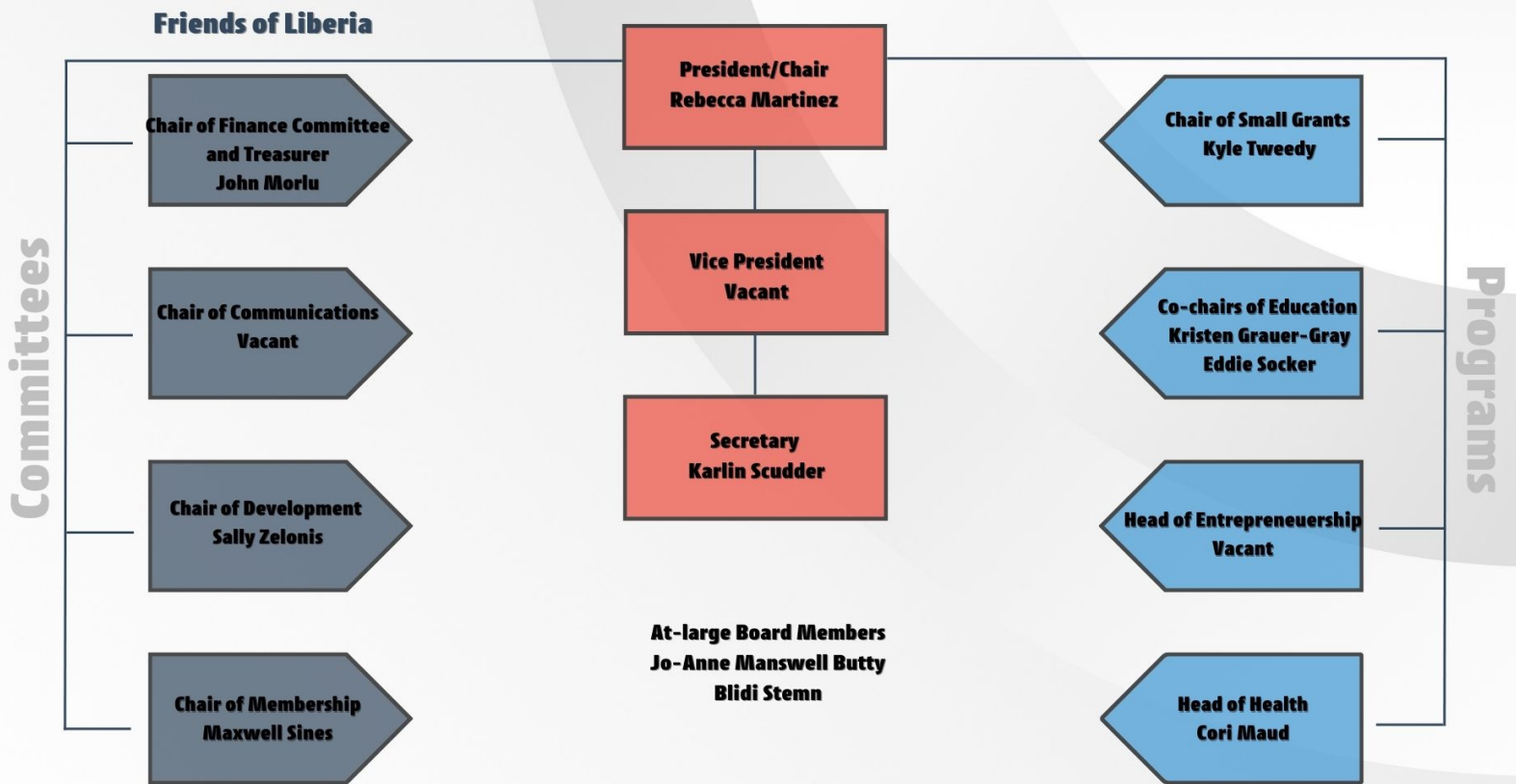
Organize more efficiently and effectively manage its work in the U.S. and in Liberia.

## 4

### **Membership Engagement**

Recruit new members and engage more members in its work by offering opportunities to carry out Friends of Liberia's mission.

# Organizational Chart



# Education

## Family Literacy Initiative Updates

This year was the sixth year of the Family Literacy Initiative (FLI). WE-CARE, FOL, and HIPPIY International launched the FLI program in November 2015 after a survey by FOL members indicated that the most significant unmet educational need in Liberia was early childhood education. More specifically, the preparation of preschoolers in literacy and other basic skills needed to thrive in school.

The Family Literacy Initiative (FLI) is a partnership between FOL, The WE-CARE Foundation, and HIPPIY International. FLI has two components: the HIPPIY program and the adult literacy program (ALP). The HIPPIY program provides training, educational activity packets, and other resources to the parents to help improve their child's literacy and readiness for school. The training and resources are delivered through home visitors, which WE-CARE employs. The ALP is a series of literacy classes using a curriculum designed to supplement the HIPPIY curriculum for those parents and other adults who want to improve their literacy as they help their children improve their readiness for school. Miriam Westheimer of HIPPIY International also provides resources and technical support as needed.



WE-CARE implements the program on the ground and adapts the curriculum to a Liberian context. FOL members hold regular online meetings with WE-CARE and HIPPIY representatives and provide support with budgeting, fundraising, and monitoring and evaluation. Details on FLI and reports on the program's impact are available online at <https://fol.org/programs/literacy-initiative/>.



# Education



HIPPY is based on the philosophy that learning begins at home, and parents or guardians are a child's first teacher. Each week, home visitors meet with parents to train them to teach literacy to their children effectively. 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 interactively. The parents then teach their children by reading with them and asking them questions about the readings.

Year Five of the HIPPY program came to a close in January 2021, with 180 of the 187 families who started the program completing the year. WE-CARE said goodbye to the 59 graduating families and welcomed 76 new families into the program, giving 197 families (201 students) for Year Six. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the group meetings were held in smaller groups, and the people present practiced social distancing.

Student retention was high for Year Six. 184 of the 197 families that started the program completed it. Sixteen families left the program during the year, primarily due to moving away from the program's communities. A graduation ceremony was held in January 2022, and 34 third-year students graduated from the program.



## Adult Literacy Program

The Adult Literacy Program (ALP) restarted in 2021 after pausing in 2020 due to the pandemic and the illness of the previous program coordinator. WE-CARE and FOL worked together to search for a new coordinator, with interviews held by Zoom and WhatsApp. The search was coordinated by David Rosen of FOL and Michael Weah of WE-CARE, with additional help provided by Kristen Grauer-Gray and Virginia Hesel of the FOL education committee. After a long search and numerous delays due to challenges with the Internet connection to Liberia, James Cooper was hired as the new ALP coordinator. James previously worked with NAEAL (the National Adult Education Association of Liberia) as a trainer, literacy facilitator, and field supervisor.

Since he began work in mid-2021, James has impressed both WE-CARE and the Education Committee with the thoroughness of his reports, his innovative responses to challenges, and his dedication to making the ALP succeed. For example, James used several strategies to improve attendance in ALP classes. One of these strategies was a susu using Vita cubes (bouillon cubes). Susu is a sort of community banking often done using goods. Each group member brings the same amount (of something) to each meeting. After the meeting, one group member gets all of what was brought that week on a rotating schedule, so everyone gets it at least once. Each learner would bring one vita cube to class, and one student, on a planned rotating schedule, would get to take home all of the Vita cubes for the day.

James also noticed that the Caldwell students were spread out over a large geographic area and that some of them were struggling to travel the long distance to class. He responded by splitting the Caldwell class into two sections held in different locations to reduce the transport distance for learners. James has also implemented a system of text reminders, where instructors text the students before class to remind them of the class time.

Year Two of the ALP began in August 2021, with ALP level 1 classes being held in three communities (Neezoe, Caldwell, and Duazon). Neezoe is a new community for ALP this year, while Caldwell and Duazon have held ALP classes in the past. Level 1 ALP classes are expected to be completed in early 2022.

ALP level 2 classes are expected to start in 2022, and the level 2 curriculum was under development in 2021. Curriculum writer Caroline Norman has written the ALP level 2 lessons, and Miriam Westheimer and education committee member David Rosen have reviewed the lessons. Caroline has also met with James Cooper on Zoom so that he can provide feedback on the lesson plans. FOL and HIPPY have split the \$10,000 cost of curriculum development between them, with each organization paying half of the cost.

**"I tell God thank you. That my first time ever sitting in class. I never knew how to position the letters when we started. I never knew the letters can sit on the line. Now I can write well. Our teacher really patient with us and she can talk to us good"**

**36 years old, mother of 5 kids, Duazon ALP**

The ALP lessons have had a profound and positive effect on the learners. They have helped parents read more effectively with their children, have supported them in their daily lives, and may have encouraged them to go back to school. Some ALP learners have learned to write their names or read receipts for the first time. Others have been encouraged to continue learning, with three ALP learners deciding to enroll in night school. The quotes below come from the November 2021 quarterly ALP report and provide some insight into the skills taught in ALP classes mean to the learners.

**"I used to see school building, but never enter for class. I never hold pencil to write, except when someone comes to buy, I hold it and give it to them. This is my first time ever holding pencil to write. All this hand writing I am doing is from the short time I started attending ALP school. I can write my name, the ABC, and trying to write short sentences. Good hand writing is now my problem"**

**Bendu Kollie, 31 years old, Caldwell ALP**

**"I used to ask people to write my receipt when people pay our house rent. Since I started attending the program, I can look at the old receipt and write new receipts. I no longer ask people to write for me. I can even teach my child the ABC. My short time of being in the program, I am improving."**

**Jessica Bockarie, Neezoe ALP**

# Health

## Nursing & Midwifery Workshop

### Introduction

The Friends of Liberia Board requested in 2014 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 US Health Team (USHT). A FOL Board Member position was established to serve as the liaison between the Health Team and the FOL Board.

### 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. As 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.



Initially, the FOL LHT conducted a needs assessment survey in order to identify the specific areas of need. 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.

Each year, the FOL LHT conducts needs assessments with both faculty and clinical members from accredited Liberian nursing and midwifery schools to determine that year's workshop curriculum. This keeps the curriculum relevant to the participants each year.

## Pilot Faculty Workshop

Second annual Faculty Workshop and Pilot Clinical Workshop:  
Following the successful pilot of the faculty workshop, the LHT decided to add a second week for practicing nurses and midwives after receiving some feedback in the needs assessment.

In January 2021, the LHT conducted a weeklong Faculty Continuing Professional Development Workshop at the Phebe School of Nursing in Bong County. Twenty faculty members from twenty schools of nursing and midwifery in Liberia and a member of the Liberian Board of Nursing and Midwifery were in attendance. Instruction was provided by the members of the LHT and the focuses were curriculum design and development, writing research proposals, test items analysis/banking, evaluating educational programs, and writing objectives using the backward design.

The following week the LHT conducted a weeklong Clinical Professional Development Workshop to enhance the clinical competencies of practicing nurses and midwives. They invited the hospital Directors of Nursing and Midwifery to the workshop with the expectation that they would share their training with their hospital staff. They had 18 nurses/midwives in attendance.



A representative from the Liberian Nurses Association was also in attendance. The main focuses were documentation, nursing processes (especially for critical patients), evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, customer service and performing emergency procedures.

Funding for the 2021 workshops was obtained from a grant from the FOL Board, donations to FOL designated for the FOL Health Project, and donations made through a Global Giving campaign.



## **Planning for 2022 Faculty and Clinical Workshops:**

Again, after feedback from the participants of the 2021 workshops and needs assessments, the decision was made by the LHT to plan a single week-long workshop. Faculty will attend a two-day workshop, followed by a single day joint session with practicing nurses/midwives, followed by a two-day workshop for the practicing nurses/midwives.

## **Funding For January 2022 Faculty and Clinical Professional Development Workshops:**

The FOL Board approved the budgets for the workshop and provided a grant to partially cover the costs. We also conducted a very successful fundraising campaign with Global Giving. In addition, FOL members made donations directly to FOL for the Health Project. In 2021 the fundraising goals were met for the two January 2021 workshops.

## **COVID Committee:**

While FOL was actively involved in COVID-19 response in Liberia in 2020, this was primarily done under the small grants committee. When there was a rise in COVID cases in Liberia over the summer of 2021, the board formed a sub-committee, which fell under the Health Team. The Committee formed a partnership with Global Health Ministries (GHM) who had received PPE donations, including masks, face shields, gloves, gowns, sanitizers, and soap. Together, the Committee and GHM were able to send a 40 ft shipping container carrying hundreds of thousands of supplies that will arrived in Liberia in early 2022.

## **Health Project Team**

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

*Liberia Health Team (LHT): Five members of the team in Liberia are graduates of the Master of Nursing/Midwifery 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. Dr. Edwin Beyan is the Chair of the LHT.*

*US Health Team (USHT): The sixteen members of the team in the U.S. are: Dr. Karen Hein, Roger Kropf, Sarah Morrison, Gary Leinen, Beth Fischer, Bob Fischer, Joe Franta, Chris Piccione, Pat McGeorge, Jim McGeorge, Madeline Farron, Laura Ridge, Dr. Cori Maund, Kyle Tweedy, Jim Gray and Katie Pierson. Cori Maund and Kyle Tweedy are the co-chairs of the USHT. Dr. Maund is the voting member of the board.*

## **How You Can Help**

**You can support the FOL Health Project by designating your donation to FOL for the "Health Program" at [fol.org](http://fol.org). Any amount helps.**

# Small Grants

## Summary of Small Grants Program

A pillar of FOL work for decades has been the provision of small grants to Liberian non-governmental, non-profit organizations that 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 staff salaries; the grantee must have other sponsors or use volunteers to carry out their projects, although special trainers may receive an honorarium. The projects are generally modest, such as helping start women's gardens in rural areas, 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 and feed the family. Capacity building and sustainability are important goals of FOL grants.

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



The chair of the early COVID Task Force did such a fine job that he was asked to chair and reconstitute the Small Grants Committee in 2021. A committee was formed with several members new to FOL participation who revised the application process and included Zoom calls with grantee finalists. Their work was impressive and the committee selected two proposals for funding before other time commitments overtook the volunteers and the proposal review process had to be suspended. In 2022 the FOL strategic goals will be revised, and the Board decided that it would be a good time to review whether the small grants projects are still a priority for FOL, and where resources can best be used, particularly if it continues to be difficult to engage young leadership in this area who have enough time to handle the responsibilities of this committee.

## Approved 2021 projects

PROJECT	FOL FUNDING
Pengai Village Financial Literacy Initiative	\$3000
<b>LIBERIAN PARTNER</b> Kpo'ma Women, Inc.: Pengai Village Women's Farming Cooperative	
<b>GOAL</b> Village Savings and Loan and participatory Small Business Development Training, plus seed funds for coop loan development	
PROJECT	FOL FUNDING
Capacity Building for Women, Girls, and the Disabled	\$1850
<b>LIBERIAN PARTNER</b> Capacity for Youth (C4Y) District 4, Montserrado County	
<b>GOAL</b> Provision of activities and skills to support, protect, and empower target groups including teaching to make and market soap, "bean" handbags, hair dressing and cosmetology	

### **Pengai Village Financial Literacy Initiative**

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#### **Bong County**

Pengai Village is a community of smallholder farmers who face enormous hardships including food insecurity, health issues and a high illiteracy rate. A lack of income diversification is a key factor in a cycle of poverty that disproportionately impacts women. The objective of the Pengai Village Financial Literacy Initiative is to improve outcomes for rural women farmers and their families. Its vision is to advance the economic prospects for the women, which will then improve the standard of living for families and the wellbeing of rural children. The key focus was to increase access to financial education and encourage business development among women of the village. The sponsoring non-profit organization, Kpo'ma Women, works to improve crop production and sustainability with women farmers in this area of Bong County, and decided to focus on this project after discussions with the women of the village on their needs. They indicated they were very interested in starting their own small businesses to alleviate food insecurity and to pay for their children's school fees. (For more details, please see [www.kpomawomen.org](http://www.kpomawomen.org))



## **Pengai Village - Kpo'ma Women Inc. Financial Literacy Initiative, cont.**

The project served 63 participants who are members of Pengai Women's Farming Cooperative. The women's ages ranged from 17 to 50 years old. Most of the women in the group have no formal education, so the training was developed to facilitate learning for those with limited literacy skills by using an overhead projector, hands-on learning, and interactive discussions reflecting successful best practices and meeting challenging experiences.

The initiative has three components: the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) training, business development training, and seed money for participants. The VSLA training was presented as an intensive workshop followed by ongoing weekly instruction. The business development trainings were held as workshops by local business leaders.

After the initial training, interested participants were grouped and trained to form associations and are currently making contributions. There are currently two VSLA groups formed with a total membership of sixty-three (63) members.



Each group is currently receiving ongoing training for the VSLA program and this will continue until June 2022. The groups meet once a week and the facilitators attend these meetings to ensure that the correct procedures are being followed.

The VSLA program has helped improve household financial security for the women, and it has provided the opportunity for loans. The VSLA has also set up a social fund to provide some relief for members who experience special hardship. Most importantly, the women in the group have built their self-confidence by their participation.



**Kpo'ma Women's Financial Literacy Initiative and associates**

# Membership

## Friendship Database: Kindful

Friendship Database. Kindful

The Friends of Liberia purchased and was able to implement Kindful, a new customer relationship management system (CRM), this year to keep track of our members and donors.

When each new Friend signs up using the FOL.org website, an email is sent out in which the data needs to be input into Kindful. Along with signing up and being added to the database, each new Friend is sent a welcome email and directed to their committee of preference.

Alison McReynolds transferred the FOL data base to Kindful, a new CRM resource tool. 1,682 Contacts were transferred over in May of 2021 and 886 contacts were transferred over in June of 2021.

From July to December, 45 new Friends signed up through our website and were implemented into Kindful by Sally Zelonis or Maxwell Sines. By month the break down is 4 (July), 3 (August and October), 2 (September), with a big uptake in December with 33 members joining after our Membership reach out letter and survey.



According to the Kindful data 51 Friends out of 2,613 identify as Liberian that were merged in the summer while out of the 45 new Friends from July to December, 2 of them identify as Liberian. Just under 2% of our Friends base are Liberian with the list compiled before the switch to Kindful, and just over 4% of the new Friends we welcomed in the second half of the year are Liberian. This now brings our Friends base of just over 2% Liberian. This is a number that the Membership Committee will work to increase in the coming years fulfilling our role to assist in building capacity.

## Staying Virtual

### Virtual Palava

For the first half of 2021, there was a Virtual Palava space for at least an hour each Saturday open to all Friends of Liberia. The idea is to bring the idea of a Liberian Palava to everyone who has something to discuss. The Palava would have certain focuses. One of the greatest turnouts that produced action was a Palava about how to support the people of Minnesota as the verdict of George Floyd's murder was being debated.. The weekly Virtual Palava stopped during the back half of the year as focus on individual outreach became a greater focus of the Membership Committee.

### The 26th Virtual Celebration

The Committee planned a 3-day weekend of virtual events to celebrate Liberian's Independence Day. The events included an open discussion on Saturday the 24th, in which a dozen or so Friends entered the zoom to voice their opinions and express themselves.

The Committee worked with the Faith United Church of Christ to continue to discuss ways in which assist the people of Liberia during the COVID-19 crisis. On Monday the 26th, an open Zoom was flooded with Friends who would pop in and out to celebrate each other and the Liberian culture we have all come to love. A barrage of Liberian dishes were enjoyed in-front of computer screens throughout the day.



## "One Liberia Against Coronavirus" 11 AM Sunday, July 25, 2021| Virtual Conversation

### PARTICIPANTS

- ✦ His Excellency George S. W. Patten, Sr., Ambassador, Embassy of Liberia, Washington, DC
- ✦ James Butty, Managing Editor, Host of "Daybreak Africa," Voice of America
- ✦ Wilhemina Jallah, MD, Liberian Minister of Health
- ✦ Sarah Morrison, President, Friends of Liberia
- ✦ Welma Radd, President, Liberian Community Association
- ✦ Patricia Jabbeh Wesley, PhD, Penn State Altoona

Faith United Church of Christ, Washington, DC  
- Facebook and Zoom 11 AM Sunday, July 25, 2021  
Bishop Dewayne D. Royster, Senior Pastor  
Ebony C. Washington, Moderator

A Program of the Faith United Church of Christ West African Ministry in collaboration with the Liberian Community Association

Questions or additional information: Call 202-825-7777 or email [usf2020@gmail.com](mailto:usf2020@gmail.com)



# Staying Virtual

## Virtual Auction

FOL conducted three virtual auctions in 2021 in which the items up for auction were donated by members and the funds are used to support FOL projects. This was coordinated by former president Stephanie VAnniversary of Peace Corps in Liberia events.

To unite Friends, FOL hosted a few book club discussions via Zoom in 2021. All the books were social justice themed or have authors with deep African origins.

*Friends of Liberia invites your participation to submit items for the auction @ <https://fol.org/60-years-of-peace-corps-service/60-fol-auction/> or to make a monetary donation and/or bid on items at the auction site beginning July 1st. Your support funds FOL's projects.*



**FOL's Cycle II auction link will be posted on July 1st.**



FOL's Auction Cycle II opens July 1 at 9:00AM PDT and will close on August 15th 9:00PM PDT. Be prepared for a couple "quick sales" during the cycle (July 10-15 and August 1-6).

## Virtual Reunion

Victoria Zawitkowski set up and organized a Zoom reunion for September 20th in which there were around 100 Friends who gathered and enjoyed an evening of love for Liberia.

## Outreach

The Membership Committee has been working on updating the strategic plan that was beautifully laid out in 2019. As an organization, we are going through a major transitional phase, as everything has during this pandemic. One of our biggest goals is to create a plan that encompasses the ideas of all of the Friends of Liberia. A massive outreach was conducted in the late fall and early winter of 2021 by means of an email and survey sent by Maxwell Sines. The survey resulted in over 100 responses in which each person was able to comment, make suggestions, and update their personal information for our new CRM. The list of emails obtained was a combination of FOL's older Membership Chair's list of names and that of the National Peace Corps Association. Maxwell Sines has been working with Molly O'Brien and Caitlin Nemeth from the NCPA Community Connect project to verify and update both organizations' mailing lists, either by updating new emails, address, phone numbers or removing those people who would like their privacy from either or both lists.

# Development

## Fundraising

In late December 2020, the FOL board voted to purchase the new CRM software Kindful. The transition to this new platform took longer than any of us had anticipated. Finally, in early June 2021, the transition was completed (or almost!). Donations received online through [www.fol.org/donate](http://www.fol.org/donate) are automatically thanked and entered into the database. This is extremely helpful as it does not require time-intensive downloads by our treasurer or development committee. One of the special features of Kindful is that it allows members to access their own record and make changes to their profile (address, phone, email address, etc.). If you are interested in helping—please check this out!

We are grateful to The Rolander Family Foundation, Jim and Pat McGeorge, Cori Maund and Isaac Doss, the Rotary Club of Indianapolis, and Diane Trombetta for their continued support in 2021. Our COVID Relief Program, Family Literacy Program, Health Program and Small Grants have received help from their significant gifts. THANK YOU!

Early in 2021, FOL learned that COVID was having a severe impact on life in Liberia. With the help of Pat Reilly, Dr. Mosoka Fallah, Angene and Jack Wilson, Dr. Siva K. Gandhapudi, Richard Nisbett, Sarah Morrison, and Dr. Paul Mertens swift action was taken to express ship 2,000 masks and oxygen regulators to hospitals and clinics in the Monrovia area.

A special COVID appeal was then sent out to members to ask for help in expanding FOL's support. Thanks to members, over \$37,000 was raised. In partnership with Global Health Ministries, Friends of Liberia was able to pay shipping fees for a 40-foot shipping container filled with PPE and other supplies. The container arrived in Liberia in late 2021 and a total of 23 schools of nursing and midwifery and 21 hospitals and health clinics were the beneficiaries of these supplies. Global Health Ministries was able to fill a second container with supplies that will arrive in Liberia in early 2022. FOL will help pay half of these shipping costs as well. Such supplies are essential not only in a crisis like COVID, but in the undersupplied clinics and hospitals across Liberia at all times.

## Engagement

Over the past several years the development committee has been working to develop capacity with our partners in Liberia. Efforts in late 2021 were successful when the WE-CARE Foundation was chosen by Comic Relief USA to receive \$200,000 to fund its Family Literacy Initiative. Members of both the development committee and education committee worked with WE-CARE to complete the application. It is exciting to see their hard work be recognized. We are all hopeful that this support will strengthen WE-CARE's connection with the Liberian Ministry of Education and lead to further expansion of literacy programs in Liberia.

Please take a look at the long list of honor and memorial gifts made in 2021. A benefit of our new software is the ease in which we can report these gifts. Perhaps you will consider a gift in 2022 to honor or memorialize a special Peace Corps or Liberian friend—we hope so!

Your fundraising support has made the expansion of programs in Liberia possible. Could we do more? Of course we could! You can help with financial gifts or volunteering for committee work. Thank you for all you do for Friends of Liberia and Liberia.



Yearend giving and/or gifts through Fidelity, Pershing, Schwab, Vanguard, Merrill Lynch, Wells Fargo, and other types of investment places—it is important to let Friends of Liberia know that you are sending these gifts. We aren't always notified who the gifts are from! *It is a fundraiser's worst nightmare not to be able to thank a donor.* **Please work with your advisor and make certain that somewhere on the check or with the check your name appears! Please have them mail your check to:**

**Friends of Liberia  
FOL Treasurer John Morlu  
2200 Optiz Blvd., Suite 200  
Woodbridge, VA 22191**

**Then if you don't mind, send me an email or give me a call and tell me who is sending the check, for how much, what it is for, and when it was sent. I will keep an eye out for it and we can track it.**

**If you would like, donations/checks may also be sent directly to:**

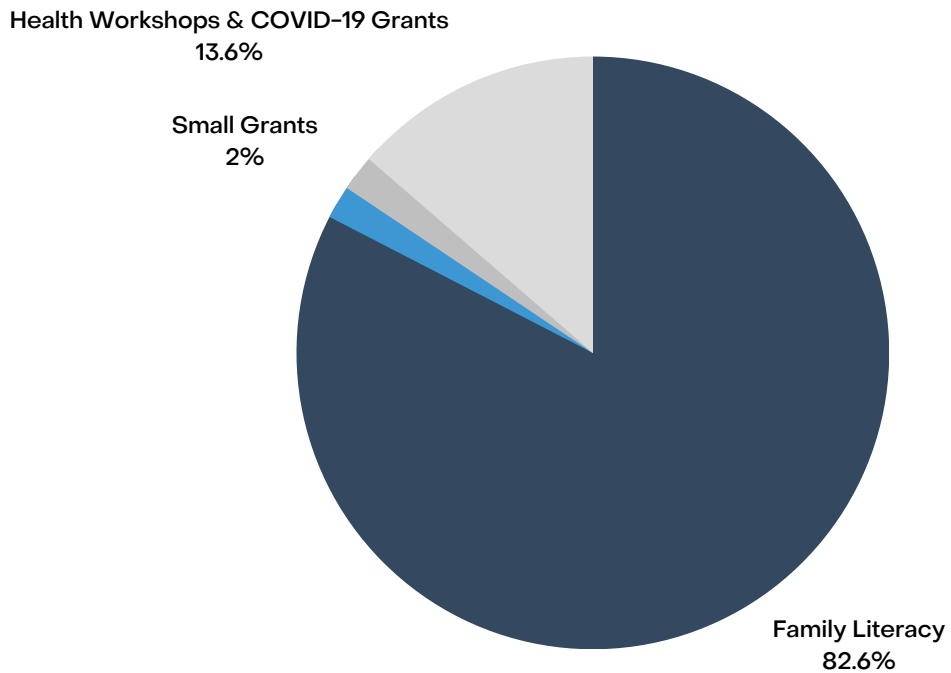
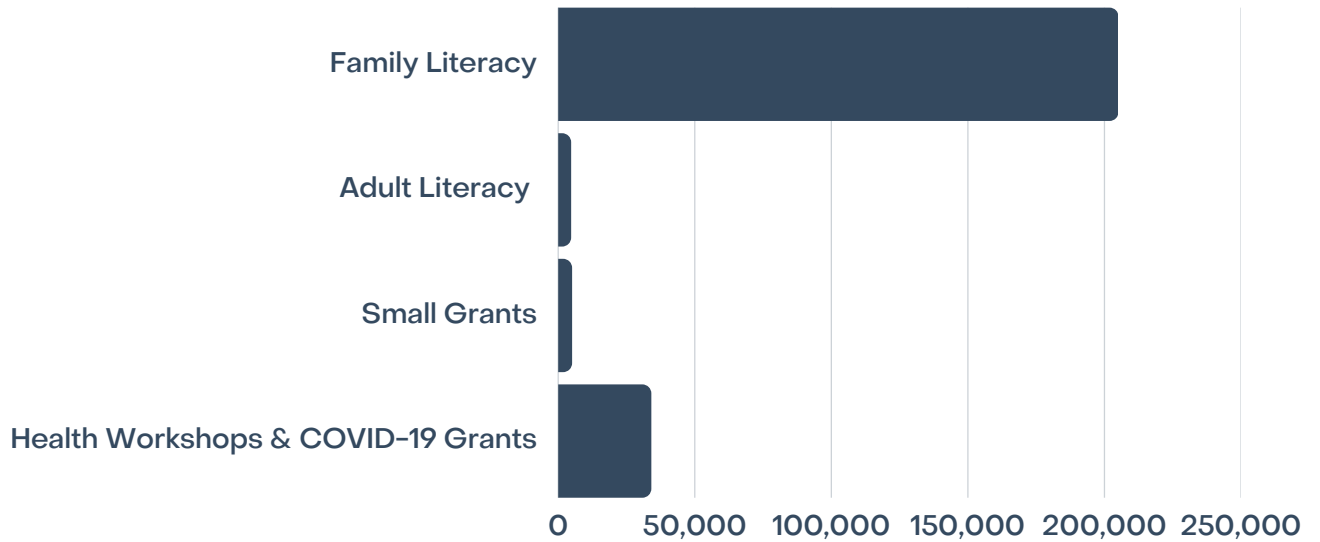
**Friends of Liberia  
Sally Zelonis, Board Member  
40 S Third St.  
Zionsville, IN 46077**

**Sally Zelonis  
Development Chair**

# Finance

## Program Funding

Here is the breakdown of where funds were spent on programs in 2021



**Friends ★  
Of Liberia**

**\$248,129.54**

**Total Spent on Education, Health, and Small  
Grant Programs in 2021**





# Honor Memorial

## 2021 GIFTS IN HONOR OF

### COVID Relief Program 2021

In Honor of All the healthcare workers in Liberia by: Jim & Pat McGeorge

In Honor of Maria Sanchez Carlo's Birthday by: Sarah Morrison

### Family Literacy Initiative 2021

In Honor of Joseph Barchae, former houseboy by: Myra Lewis

In Honor of Ken Walanski RPCV Liberia '67-'70 by: John McClure

In Honor of Liberian people by: William A. Wagner

### General Fund 2021

In Honor of Kathleen M. Bishop by: James K. & Kathleen Bishop

In Honor of Pat Reilly, Jim & Lyn Gray by: E. Cone

In Honor of Lucy and James, of Joqueken by: Thomas Hanley

In Honor of Albert & David by: Lawrence E. Manning

In Honor of Jim and Vivian Bowman by: Nancy Post

In Honor of Sister Mary Laurene Browne by: Robert Schwarz

### Health 2021

In Honor of The FOL-Liberia Health Team by: Sarah Morrison

## GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

### Adult Literacy Program 2021

In Memory of Mary Brownell, Liberian school principal by Virginia Hesel

### COVID Relief Program 2021

In Memory of My Liberian friends who are struggling by Chris Boyd

In Memory of Barclay Karnley by Mary Betsy Brenner

In Memory of Marcus Saye Gondah Dahn. Saclapea Mah Chiefdom, Nimba County, Liberia. 1952 – 2021. My friend, counterpart, supporter of Peace Corps and a Liberian patriot, statesman, educator and native son. by Barbara Gastian & Willard L. Eastman

In Memory of Old Man Toe by Larry Frankel

In Memory of Pat Bellinger by Ann Hammon

In Memory of Harry L. and William L. Morris by Peter Hartjens & Constance Hope

In Memory of Hamilton C Russ, Sinoe HS Principal 1962- by Phyllis Kirkwood

In Memory of Sarah Gamai Mulbah Family by Larry Lucas

In Memory of Alfred Harris by Lawrence E. Manning

In Memory of Mary Bennett, RPCV by Benjamin Newlon

In Memory of Jamie Hanson, Joyce Rasmussen, James Collins by Dennis Ramsier

In Memory of Former Liberian Ambassador to the U.S., Herbert Brewer by Leon & Nancy Weintraub

### **Family Literacy Initiative 2021**

In Memory of Billy & Marion Gargiulo by Ray Gargiulo

In Memory of Gloria Fleming by Mary and John Gemignani

In Memory of Marcus Dahn by Darla Hai

In Memory of Babbi Jordan by Timothy & Barbara Jordan

In Memory of Eugene R. Lemmerman by Pauline W. Lemmerman

In Memory of Christopher Rex - my son by Barbara Piskor Rex

In Memory of Jackson N. Wonde Jackson Wonde was our student in Grand Gedeh in the late 60s. He survived the war, losing everything twice. As Assistant Director of the Carter Center in Monrovia, he was evacuated out in April '96. He stayed with us, while applying for asylum and working to get his family here. They arrived in '97. After working at Red Cross and Walmart, he got a master's from Harvard's Kennedy School. He returned to Liberia in 2007 and was a Deputy Minister in two ministries of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's administration. He died of cancer in 2012. by Jo Sullivan

In Memory of Marion Sully by Paul Sully

In Memory of My father, Silvio Trombetta, who lived and worked in Liberia for almost 30 years by Diane Trombetta

### **General Fund 2021**

In Memory of Dr. Jane J. Martin by The Martin Family Revocable Trust

In Memory of Lorraine Bouffard, Peace Corps III Gbarnga by Jean Barnum

In Memory of by David Baur

In Memory of Marcus Dahn by Sue & Alan Boyd

In Memory of Evelyn Brown PC IX by John P. Kecker

In Memory of Steve Kelly by Joan Kelly

In Memory of Vince Groh by Thad Kerosky

In Memory of James Allen by William J. Lawhorn

In Memory of Dr. John H. Muir by Dory Muir

In Memory of Robert Long by Vinnie Nix

In Memory of Arline Pool-Riley "teacha-poo" by Michael Riley

In Memory of Alan Beiswenger, PCV Liberia 1972-1974 by Howard Rosenthal

In Memory of Carol Brandt Capra by Deborah Strode

In Memory of Dan Goe by Sean Sullivan

In Memory of Larry Smith by Bob and Liz Thomas

In Memory of Thomas Joseph Logan by Stephen David Webster

### **Health 2021**

In Memory of Esther Bacon, R.N. by Lola Dillon

In Memory of All deceased Liberians by Margaret Gile

In Memory of Ralph Dell by Karen Hein

In Memory of Vince Groh by Garrett Mason

In Memory of Marcus Dahn by Susan Righi

In Memory of William L. White - Liberia III by William Ringler

In Memory of Alan Trombetta 1955 - 2021 by Tom Trombetta

### **Small Grants 2021**

In Memory of Lorin and Merlyn Wolff by Elizabeth & Clarence Cooper

In Memory of Jordan Holtam by Suzanne and Rich Fahey

If you notice an error or omission, please contact Sally Zelonis, FOL development chair, at [development@fol.org](mailto:development@fol.org).

# We thank you for your ongoing support of our programs

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to Kelley McCreedy for helping draft, write, and finish this annual report. As well as the committees who worked to share all the successes of 2021.

We would also like to thank all our donors, friends, family, and collaborators around the world who continue to show their love and support for Liberia.

Friends of Liberia  
A 501(c)(3) non-profit  
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Washington, DC  
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Secretary@FOL.org or call  
571-217-3083 and you will  
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possible.