



# House of Hope

Sierra Leone, West Africa

Food, Clothing, Shelter, Education, Christian Love—A Future—A Smile on Their Faces

[www.fwwoc.org/hope.htm](http://www.fwwoc.org/hope.htm)

Update No. 1, Nov. 28, 2008

## Highlights

- Praise the Lord for a good harvest which is providing groundnuts and other staples through the dry season.
- Church members constructed beautiful handcrafted furnishings with wood purchased from Moms for Hope donations.
- Fifteen children moved into the home in October under the care of Sister Adama and Sister Bakiatu.
- We met all school startup fees and expenses through sponsor donations.
- All the children are healthy. Pastor Abdul has negotiated a retainer contract with a local doctor, and each child will have a health check-up this month—the first preventative health care they have ever received.
- The children who have not yet moved to House of Hope are being fed regularly at the home.
- We averted a water crisis two weeks ago, and in the process, have developed a good working relationship with the village chief.
- We currently have five sponsor families and a sixth beginning in January.
- Suzanne has given presentations to organizations that have resulted in donations of over \$700.
- Moline Rotary Club responded very favorably to a proposal for funding of a drip irrigation project at House of Hope. Funding will not begin until 2010, but will probably be ongoing and matching funds are a strong possibility.



Sponsors have asked about sending a Christmas gift to the child they sponsor. In future years, we will be established enough to organize a shipment of Christmas gifts to the children and staff of House of Hope, but we're not there yet.

This time, we are working to collect donations for a beach party for all the children and to make sure each child receives a Christmas present. We also want to honor and thank our House of Hope mothers, Sister Adama and Sister Bakiatu. **If you want to contribute to this, please get your donation (checks payable to FWWOC—House of Hope) to Suzanne or to Pastor Tonya so that we can send a Moneygram by December 10.**

We also hope to send a gift of rice to the families that have taken care of the children. Approximately half of the children still live with guardian families, who face great hardships trying to meet the needs of the orphan children along with their own families. The price of rice, their main staple, has tripled on the world market this year.

## Bucket Kits Are on their Way

Three bucket kits from Chapin Living Waters are on their way to House of Hope. Although 130 inches of rain falls during the six-month rainy season, water scarcity makes it nearly impossible to grow crops during the dry season. A bucket kit is a simple drip irrigation system designed for vegetable gardens in regions where there is no rain. Drip irrigation makes extremely efficient use of water by delivering water slowly to the root system and minimizing evaporation or saturation of the soil. This simple technology has the potential to vastly improve food security for the children and to the rest of the village if this pilot project is successful.



## Global Hunger Index

The annual Global Hunger Index (GHI) was released in mid-October. Hunger is a major threat in 33 countries, but Sierra Leone is one of six nations ranked as "extremely alarming." The GHI is a multi-dimensional index based on several impacts of food shortage. The problem of hunger is being intensified by rising food prices. As always, children suffer the most from malnutrition, and hunger in early childhood can produce lifelong deficits. Sierra Leone's high rating on the GUI stems primarily from the fact that this nation still has the highest level of under-five mortality in the world (27%). Please pray for ways to change this tragic statistic.

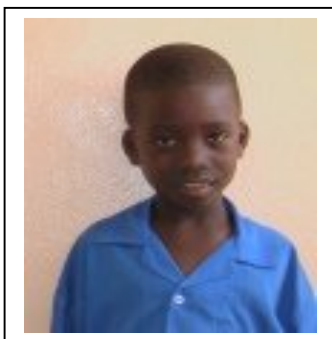
## Our Water Crisis

About three weeks ago, we began getting urgent reports from Pastor Abdul about a looming water crisis at House of Hope. There is a good well at the House, but it is used by other families in the village in addition to a community well. When the pump at the community well broke, everyone began pumping from the well at the house, and the water level was decreasing rapidly. No one was taking action to repair the community well. Abdul found a mechanic who diagnosed the problem and estimated the cost to repair the pump. Abdul also talked with the village Chief, who organized villagers to dig the well deeper. The village managed to raise \$35 of the repair cost, and House of Hope met the remainder of the cost. The well was repaired just as the House of Hope well was going completely dry. The situation had grown so desperate that Sister Bakiatu, one of our House of Hope mothers, was guarding our well and arguing with villagers that they could not pump more water. Praise the Lord for using this situation to open doors of opportunity for ministry in this community. The leadership that Pastor Abdul provided has given him a good working relationship with the Chief, and the villagers now see House of Hope as an asset to the village. They realize that we are working for the good of the whole village, not just our children. This is consistent with our vision to be a beacon light of God's love and faithfulness to this muslim community and to see many people come to the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Moline Rotary Club Proposal

Moline Rotary Club has given tentative approval to funding for a proposed for Drip Irrigation Project at House of Hope. The project will involve drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and well rehab projects. Partners in the project will be the Rotary Club of Freetown, Sierra Leone, Living Water International, which has a team in Sierra Leone, Chapin Living Waters Foundation, House of Hope, and the chief of the village where House of Hope is located. This funding will not begin until 2010, but it has the potential for matching funds from other Rotary International sources. Suzanne gave a presentation to the Moline Club in May after returning from Sierra Leone, and she is working to arrange speaking opportunities with other organizations.

## Emilia, Foday, and Aminata Still Need Sponsors—Please Help Find Them



Sponsors, thank you so much for the spiritual and financial support you are providing for the your child. Noah and Josh pray every night in Moline for their "brother" Samuel in Sierra Leone. Your faith for these children will change their lives and the nation. If you haven't written yet to your child, please do that right away. They will be thrilled to hear from you. The things you have done for the least of these, you have done to Jesus. (Matthew 25:40)