



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

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Update No. 7, Jan. 2, 2010



Highlights

- While we were in Sierra Leone, we rented a new house, and the children were reunited in early November. Rent is \$1,500 per year.
- All the children are healthy and doing well. It was heartwarming to see how some of them have blossomed in the year we've been helping them.
- House of Hope has a new "Mom," Salina. We spent enough time with her to feel very comfortable about her and to believe that she is hand-picked by God to care for the children.
- We visited the children's schools and have a great door of opportunity for ministry there. Lack of books is a big problem. We would like to start a project to get books for classrooms. Any ideas?
- We forged a good relationship with Chief Abdullah Kamara and have his cooperation for the well rehab and drip irrigation project we are proposing for Rotary International Foundation funding.
- We have two new sponsors in Chicago, but we have lost some of the Sierra Leonean sponsors. We asked Pastor Abdul to put a renewed emphasis on recruiting and encouraging sponsors.
- The children have a bicycle courtesy of one of the FWWOC sponsor families. Thanks!
- There's far more news. The story of the new house and lots of photos are on the website.

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God Bless Living Water International



One of the problems of the new house was this open well. The landlord agreed to dig the well deeper, and Living Water International (LWI) installed a hand-pump, which would have cost over \$1000. Even more wonderful—the LWI team, Ruth and Robert Search, have installed a toilet system with a sealed septic tank at St. Monica's School, which our younger children attend. Prior to that, 257 children, along with staff, had no sanitation whatsoever—not even a pit latrine. The children are also receiving sanitation training so they will understand how to prevent disease transmission.

New Home for House of Hope



Art with Dr. David Kisinger, Mary, and some of the children in front of the new House of Hope location at #2 Mandela Lane, Tardi, Lungi

Sonita's Story

Sonita is not one of our House of Hope children, but she wants to be. She gravitates to our children and always tries to be part of whatever is going on. She took me (Suzanne) aside and confided that she is always hungry. She said that her mother doesn't have money. Near the end of our visit, she pulled me aside again and said, "My mother is dead." I questioned her about this, but she kept insisting, "My mother is dead." I know from talking to our friend Mary, the school Principal, that Sonita's mother is alive, but gone somewhere for long stretches of time. This was the most heart-wrenching experience of the whole stay.

Thank You Sponsors

Over the past year, you have made a remarkable difference in the lives of these precious children. It was a joy to personally tell them about you and to see their faces light up when we told them how much you care. We wish you could have seen them dancing and celebrating when we had our big party complete with goat stew and orange Fanta. The needs there are great, so please continue to pray fervently for the children, for Salina, and for Pastors Abdul and Faith. We have made steady progress with our Hand-in-Hand sponsorship program, but we still need more sponsors to meet monthly expenses. **Please help us find them.**

Please tell someone about House of Hope. The story is at www.fwwoc.org/hope.htm. Art and Suzanne are available to speak to churches and organizations.

