



GLOBAL RESCUE MISSION SIERRA LEONE

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

JUNE-DEC 2008

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Pg 1:

I have a dream...

Pg 2:

Catching Dreams

Promoting peaceful participation in politics

Feeding the minds of young people

Pg 3:

UK Sierra Leone School Partnership News

Improving education for pikin in Salone

Amputee Help

Promoting Human Security in Sierra Leone

Pg 4:

Fundraising news

Pg 5:

Christmas virtual gifts

Thank you's....



“I have a dream...”

The beautiful West African nation of Sierra Leone is a land full of dreams. They fill the air of the overcrowded classrooms and linger around the thatched roofs of rural jungle villages. Over 5 million dreams shine bright in the dark skies over Sierra Leone each night, lighting up the night with hope of a brighter future for ‘Sweet Salone.’

Our work in Sierra Leone is about hand picking these dreams and making them come true. Each project is about accomplishing a dream for an individual, group or community. And when GRM-SL helps these people achieve their dreams, we too manage to realise one— a dream where the most marginalised children, women and youth are given a chance to shine.

In 2009 our biggest dream is to build a primary school for underprivileged children in Kenema, Sierra Leone; a school free of fees and full of opportunities. And for as little as 50p you can help us accomplish our dream by buying a gift from our ‘I love you and Africa too’ Christmas virtual gift scheme.

Here at GRM-SL we know that we will never be able to change the world, but little by little, dream by dream, we may just be able to change *a* world.

Always believe in the power of dreams. Together we may just find a way to make them come true.

Team GRM-SL

“Let’s find a way...”

CATCHING DREAMS



The boys enjoying the night shelter

GRM-SL’s 6 month outreach programme for street children in Kenema district came to an end in August. In September GRM-SL launched an interim programme for 14 of the street boys. A night shelter was opened where 9 of the boys now sleep and the remaining boys have been placed in group homes. GRM-SL has placed 11 in education and 3 in skills training programmes. All receive feeding and health care. The programme will come to a close in December, with the boys being reintegrated with their families in various parts of the country or placed in group homes. News of the final stage will be available in our next newsletter.



Mohamed Manor learning tailoring

6 homeless youth in Lumley, Freetown also had their dreams come true by being selected to take part in a one year rehabilitation programme with GRM-SL in March. They are now enjoying vocational training, group homes, counselling, literacy training and monthly allowances.

PROMOTING PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

GRM-SL secured a second set of funding of British High Commission, Sierra Leone in June to run a 6 month project on promoting participatory democracy in local governance. The project included a series of educational training workshops, stakeholders meetings and sensitization/publicity campaigns.



A snapshot of 100 participants at a British High Commission workshop

FEEDING THE MINDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

In partnership with the UK funding body Feed the Minds, GRM-SL is running a ‘Critical Literacy’ programme in Kenema. The programme is benefiting the Kenema Youth Alliance, a youth serving agency founded by GRM-SL in 2007, and aims to sensitise participants in the reading of social, political and literacy texts within the wider context of their construction. In the past months GRM-SL has held workshops on culture and literacy, newspapers and the media, stories and point-of-view and NGO materials and advertising. Future activities include workshops on poems and emotions and political writing and persuasion and the creation of community study groups.



A participant shows of his new t-shirt

UK SIERRA LEONE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP NEWS



The 2008/09UK Sierra Leone school partnership scheme is now underway. 3 Scottish schools have established links with schools in Kenema and a further 3 have joined this term. This term GRM-SL has been assisting the Kenema schools with letter and newsletter writing. GRM-SL also helped film cultural performances at each school for their Scottish school partner.

To promote Sierra Leone, GRM-SL launched a new Kids Rights Pikin Rights online magazine in July where the children in Scotland can learn all about life for 'pikin' in Sierra Leone. Visit www.kidsrights-pikinrights.org for more information.

IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR PIKIN IN SALONE

When **Airyhall Primary School, Aberdeen, Scotland** began to learn more about the constraints of their partner school in Sierra Leone, they did not waste time in finding ways to help! Over the past year Airyhall Primary has done a tremendous amount to assist S.L.C. Primary School, Kenema. In April they donated funds which built 55 benches and chairs and 2 latrine toilets. And their help did not stop there. At the end of last term Airyhall held class fundraisers and raised an amazing £2500! The funds are currently being used to rehabilitate an unused 2 classroom building which was destroyed during a storm in 2006.

Saint Charles Lwanga Primary School, Kenema has also just had word that their partner school **Sacred Heart Primary, Greenock, Scotland** has raised £500 for them! The funds will be used to build benches and chairs.

Princess Diana Bilingual School, Kenema, partner School of Shapinsay Primary School, Orkney, will be receiving a donation of school equipment and resources thanks to a kind donation from **The S.A.F.E Foundation UK** in December.

Everyone at GRM-SL would like to say 'plenty tenke' to everyone who has contributed to improving the learning conditions for pikin in Salone!

AMPUTEE HELP

At the beginning of 2008 GRM-SL received funds from the Birsay, Harray and Sandwick Church, Orkney, to implement an agricultural initiative for the Kenema Amputee and War Wounded Association. The programme is now in the trusted hands of the group. They have already had a successful crop of cassava and yam and we wish them many more successful crop years to come!

PROMOTING HUMAN SECURITY IN SIERRA LEONE

As the Eastern regions representative for Sierra Leone Action against Small Arms, GRM-SL will be working with secondary schools in Kenema over the coming months to organise inter-school debates on the topic of human security in Sierra Leone.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

GRM-SL's SCOTTISH SISTER CHARITY – WE LOVE AFRICA FOUNDATION!

GRM-SL now has a sister charity in the UK which will greatly aid GRM-SL's fundraising efforts. The charity was founded by GRM-SL's co-founder Kirsty Wood, together with the help of Steve Smith of Orkney Independent Financial Advisors and Jacqueline Besant, Orkney's volunteer community fundraiser. A special newsletter will be available shortly, detailing ways of supporting the foundation in the UK.

FUNDRAISING IN SCOTLAND

Orkney's volunteer fundraiser Jacqueline Besant has been holding a series of fundraising events over the past months including coffee mornings, a race night and a Halloween ball for the pupils of Kirkwall Grammar School. So far, she has raised over £2800.



GRM-SL wishes to say a big thank you to Jacqueline and to everyone who supports her events in Orkney. To find out ways of supporting Jacqueline's fundraising events contact her at – j.besant@grm-sl.org

COMPUTER DONATIONS

ComputerAid recently donated 15 computers to GRM-SL which will be used for ICT centres in Freetown and Kenema. The shipment costs are being covered by Orkney Independent Financial Advisors who donated a very generous £1000.



DUTCH SUPPORT

Friends of Sierra Leone, a small fundraising body in Holland, was set up by friends Rob and Marteen who were impressed by the work GRM-SL was doing in Sierra Leone. They have already held fundraising events in aid of GRM-SL for various projects. In July they visited Sierra Leone and spent the month with GRM-SL. During this visit they donated a motorbike for the Kenema office! For more information on supporting Friends of Sierra Leone in Holland visit www.friendsforsierrealeone.nl/whoweare.html

CAR WASH HELP

GRM-SL has just had word that Child at Venutre, a Dutch charity, will be funding the organisation to work with a group of homeless youth to improve their car wash business in Lumley, Freetown. The car wash will have a complete make over and more news will be available on GRM-SL's website and next newsletter.

OTHER FUNDRAISING NEWS

Former GRM-SL volunteer Iona Naylor held a African themed party in a London nightclub in August and joined up with a few local Bristol restaurants over the summer to run a special 'Sierra Leone style' menu. GRM-SL wishes to thank Iona for all her support both in Sierra Leone and the UK!

'I LOVE YOU AND AFRICA TOO' CHRISTMAS VIRTUAL GIFT...

This Christmas, why not give a gift that truly makes a difference? In collaboration with the We Love Africa Foundation, GRM-SL is offering a very special 'I love you and Africa too' virtual gift.

As part of our 2009 dream of building a primary school for the most underprivileged children in Kenema, we are offering Christmas gifts of virtual bricks for the Mama Educate Primary School project

Each brick costs just 50p and you can buy as few or as many bricks as you like. In return, you will receive a small Christmas voucher, as shown below, which you can give to the gift recipient. The gift receiver will also be added to our 'Buy a brick for Mama Educate' campaign and their name will be added to a special wall on the completed Mama Educate Primary School building. A very special and long lasting 2008 Christmas gift...

For more information about purchasing a Brick for Mama Educate virtual gift please e-mail Jacqueline Besant - at j.besant@grm-sl.org
Please donate any postage costs – 50p

I LOVE YOU AND AFRICA TOO CHRISTMAS VIRTUAL GIFT...

At a very special time of year, I have decided to buy you a gift that truly makes a difference

This Christmas I have given you a gift of XXXX bricks which will be used to build a primary school for underprivileged children in Sierra Leone. Your name has been added to the We Love Africa Foundation/Global Rescue Mission Sierra Leone's 'Buy a Brick for Mama Educate' supporter's campaign. Your name will also be added to a special wall on the completed Mama Educate building to acknowledge your support.

To stay updated on the campaign please visit www.grm-sl.org/buyabrick

Wishing you a very merry Christmas!

A BIG THANK YOU...

GRM-SL's work would be impossible without the kind support of the following donors:

FUNDRAISING BODIES AND TRUSTS

British High Commission Sierra Leone, The S.A.F.E Foundation, Aintree Aid and Overseas Action Trust, STAR4AFRICA, Feed the Minds, OrkAid, Central and West Lancaster Communications Workers Union, Friends of Sierra Leone, We Love Africa Foundation, ComputerAid, Child At Venture

COMPANIES

Orcadia, Law Business Research Ltd, Orkney Independent Financial Advisors, Fusion Nightclub, Torvhaug, Launderama, All the local businesses in Kirkwall who have generously donated gifts for raffle prizes!

INDIVIDUALS

The entire Wood family, Nana Wood, Laura and Arthur Cromarty, Anne and Jim Seatter, The Barnett's, Wilma Currie, May Stockan, Colin and Lynn Thompson, Maureen and Magnus Hunter, Mhairi Trickett, Iona Naylor, Sarah Fox, Jacqueline Besant, Sarah and George Stevenson, Elma Stockan, Mrs Bews, Allan Besant, Martin & Jenny Findlay, Betty Kirkpatrick, Inga & Douglas Hourston, Margaret Flett, Gladys & Robert Lesley, Ron & Julia Johnstone, Jack & Helen Muir, Jack & Hilary MacIntosh, Isla & Kevin Holloway, Lesley Howard, Lynn Gray, Tina Brown, Ian & Maree Rendall, Andrew, Callie, Ross, Paul & Leigh, Jade Taylor, Linda Besant & Kenny Seatter, Lorraine Besant, Allan & Helen Besant, Katie Bichan, Everyone who baked for the Coffee Mornings! Christine Laird, Daniel Gould, Carol Granere

SCHOOLS

Airyhall Primary School, Sacred Heart Primary School, Kirkwall Grammar School

CHURCHES

Birsay, Harray and Sandwick Church

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTACT US?

If so, you can get in touch with us on the contact details below:

HEAD OFFICE:

16 Regent Road,
Lumley,
Freetown,
Sierra Leone

REGIONAL OFFICE:

11 Kuyateh Street,
Kenema,
Sierra Leone

E-MAIL US: info@grm-sl.org

TO KEEP UPDATED ON OUR NEWS VISIT - www.grm-sl.org