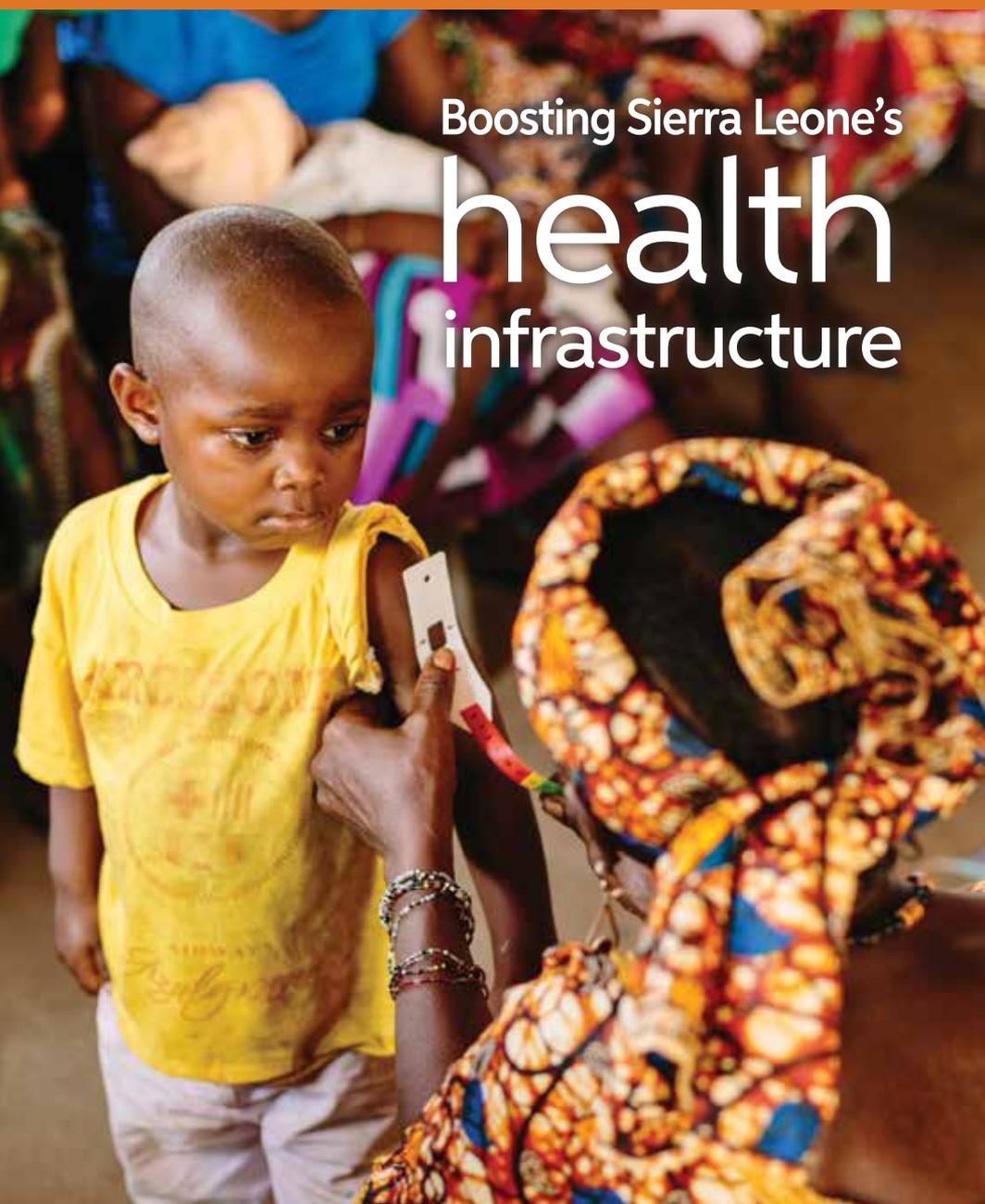


WORLD HOPE

Live!

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 1 | *Published semi-annually for the donors and supporters of World Hope International*

Boosting Sierra Leone's health infrastructure



HEALTH & Nutrition

Dear Friends,

We all remember the fear that gripped us in October 2014, when the Dallas health infrastructure nearly collapsed because of multiple Ebola transmissions from an infected Liberian patient. News stations were dominated by grim projections. Terror spread across the nation. This deadly and contagious virus, that had once seemed safely confined to a faraway land, was now knocking at our front door.

World Hope took up arms against Ebola in Sierra Leone by running ambulances, setting up Community Care Centers and Isolation Units, providing training for health workers, helping with safe burials, and working tirelessly to care for survivors and their families. Without your support through selfless giving and urgent prayer, we would not have been able to provide these vital services and end the Ebola crisis.

We are thankful that God used us to help manage the Ebola outbreak, and that he continues to allow us to take a proactive role in healing Sierra Leone as the nation

...when we allow the poorest of the poor to depend on weak public health infrastructure, we are all rendered unsafe.

works through the long-term repercussions of such a deadly virus. We praise God that Ebola was contained overseas and in the United States. When we look back, we recognize a clear lesson from the Ebola crisis: when we allow the poorest of the poor to depend on weak public health infrastructure, we are all rendered unsafe.

While other NGOs packed up their bags and departed the country after the Ebola crisis subsided, WHI rolled up its sleeves because we recognized that this is when the real work begins. Ebola may be behind us, but the future of Sierra Leone is dependent on the development of a strong public health system that can contain destructive viruses and provide quality of health for its people.

In this newsletter, you will learn about the vital health and nutrition programs that we are using to change the landscape of health services in Sierra Leone. World Hope needs your help to provide these crucial services:



Helping Babies Breathe: *saving the lives of newborns through training on basic infant resuscitation*



Enable the Children: *providing physical therapy and support for children living with disabilities and their families*



Post-Ebola Services: *giving care and advocacy to stigmatized Ebola survivors*



Supporting Hospitals: *providing ambulance transportation, ultrasound machines, medical supplies, and clean water for hospitals and care centers*



Boosting Maternal and Child Health: *fighting malnutrition through Mother's Support Groups, drilling clean water wells for Maternity Centers, and training Community Health Workers for rural areas*

We follow the example of Christ when we care for the health of others. I'm reminded of when Jesus touched the leper to heal him in Matthew 8. In a culture where the sick were marginalized and discriminated against, he acted in radical love and bravery. He showed us that reaching out with courage and compassion can transform lives.

Like the leper, the sick and suffering in Sierra Leone are often marginalized or forgotten. Indeed, it is easy for us to forget just how connected we are to our brothers and sisters in Sierra Leone, until their suffering touches our shores in the form of horrors like Ebola. Yet let us remember that in this beautiful and interconnected world, what affects one of us affects all of us both physically and spiritually. When we fail to help those in need, we are dehumanizing the needy and callous ourselves to their pain. When we dehumanize the needy, we also dehumanize ourselves and deaden our own spiritual connectedness with our neighbors. Acting in compassion for all, as Christ has called us, enlivens our own spiritual relationship with God. Would you join me in reaching out with Christ's courageous compassion?

In Christ,

John Lyon
CEO & President



Mohamed's Story

Mohamed Rashid Kamara suffers from cerebral palsy and has only limited use of his four limbs (quadriplegic). His parents, Sheka Kamara and Zainab Conteh live with him in Kossoh Town, about nine miles east of Freetown. He only recently became part of the ETC Program.

His parents, especially his mother, Zainab, is being trained to put him through his exercises. His dad is also quite supportive. According to them, he seems to be gaining strength and his condition is much better than when he started in the program. His mother is currently teaching him new exercises she learned from our physical therapy team.



Two Unique Ways to Support Children Living with Disabilities in Sierra Leone

1 ENABLE THE CHILDREN

In Sierra Leone, good quality prenatal care and child health services are scarce and often unaffordable. This means that many children are born with or acquire mental or physical disabilities, the most common being cerebral palsy. Extensive poverty, high illiteracy rates and traditional beliefs compound the situation, leaving children rejected, abandoned, or even viewed as a curse.

That is why World Hope International is currently implementing not one but two different programs to help children with disabilities living in Sierra Leone. The first program is called Enable the Children (ETC). ETC provides physical therapy, occupational therapy, care, and support services to approximately 580 children living with disabilities in Freetown, Sierra Leone. This program not only fights the stigmatization surrounding disabilities, but provides much-needed support to children, families, and their communities. Program staff visit children in their homes

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” —Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

and teach their family and caregivers how to support children with disabilities using interactive play, developmental positioning, and feeding support. ETC also provides counseling for the family as they learn how to nurture their child while simultaneously providing a loving home life. Pervasive cultural beliefs lead many mothers to blame themselves when a child is born with a disability. ETC constantly reassures parents that they've done nothing wrong by parenting a child with a disability.

2 NEW PROGRAM — SPONSOR A CHILD WITH DISABILITIES

WHI is excited to pilot a new program for supporting children living with disabilities through sponsorship! For just \$44 a month, you can give hope to an entire family. When you sponsor a child with special needs, you provide:

- A caseworker for the child and their family



Saving a Newborn's Life: Sierra Leone's Helping Babies Breathe Program



- A customized plan for each child, which includes their therapy needs, family and community training, and specialized equipment
- Hope for an entire family, as they receive the support they need to parent their child with special needs

Please go online to www.worldhope.org/special-needs-child-sponsorship to see the children that are waiting for your support today! There you can also find the stories of Mamusa, Mohamed, and Neneh, whose lives have been changed since having an ally through World Hope. We hope that you will explore this new opportunity and, more importantly, join us in prayer for these precious children, their families, and the World Hope team that is sharing Christ's love with them.



In 2016, ETC:

- trained 5 therapy workers and assistants, 3 family support workers, and 1 pastoral support worker
- conducted 97 disability clinics where 404 new patients were admitted to the program
- made 1,923 home visits
- provided specialized equipment to 207 children
- provided business start-up grants to 12 families so that they can support their child with disabilities
- supported 23 children living with disabilities via school sponsorship
- assisted over 1,000 families via 210 local leaders who helped them to understand the needs of children with disabilities

Sierra Leone is ranked among the worst countries in the world for under-five mortality.¹ In fact, each year, 16.1 percent of Sierra Leonean children die before their fifth birthday, compared to just 0.7 percent in the United States. Of those 9,430 annual deaths, 19 percent occur² during the first day of life.

One means of improving the high infant mortality rate in Sierra Leone is by training all those who attend births, including volunteers, in basic infant resuscitation. Over the past year, WHI, in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics and Children's Prize Foundation, has been implementing a new child and maternal health program called Helping Babies Breathe (HBB).

Through HBB, WHI is training 2,150 caregivers from 42 chiefdoms in five districts with the ultimate goal of reducing neonatal mortality in hard-to-reach areas. To do so, WHI is educating birth attendants on the "Golden Minute," which means that babies should either be breathing well or ventilated with a bag and mask within the first minute of life. The training materials are pictorial-based to facilitate easy learning for individuals who can't read. They consist of a flip chart, learner workbook, poster, and a realistic newborn simulator (manikin) with a bulb suction and bag-mask ventilator.

We look forward to providing you with updates on our HBB program throughout the year.

Congratulations to WHI's Anna Vines!

We are excited to congratulate Enable the Children Program Director, Anna Vines, on being named a UK Points of Light award winner! The Daily Point of Light award recognizes outstanding individuals who are making a change in their community. The award, which was presented on January 4, 2017 by British High Commissioner, Guy Warrington, honors the invaluable work Anna and her team in Sierra Leone do to provide community-based physiotherapy to children with disabilities.



¹ Sierra Leone African Region Maternal and Perinatal Health Profile. UNICEF, 2015.

² Sierra Leone: WHO Statistical Profile, WHO and UN Partners, January 2015.



A Story of Survival

Sarah,* a middle-aged female Ebola survivor was complaining of abdominal pain and had been seen at the Public Health Unit (PHU) several times without relief. Sarah's Survivor Advocate (SA) soon became aware of the situation, further intensified by her family's wish to exile her because they were beginning to believe she was possessed by an evil spirit. The SA facilitated a referral from the PHU to the District Hospital where further testing revealed abdominal tuberculosis. Upon this medical diagnosis, Sarah was admitted, treated and discharged as healthy to return home. The medical treatment administered influenced the family and village to fully accept Sarah rather than view her as possessed by evil spirits.

**Name changed to protect privacy.*

Rebuilding Sierra Leone Post-Ebola

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
—Hebrews 13:16 (NIV)

WHI has been working to provide assistance to Ebola survivors since the country was declared Ebola-free in November 2015. This includes continuing to train health-care workers on proper sanitation and infectious disease techniques to prevent another outbreak. Additionally, WHI has opened Ebola Survivor Static and Mobile Clinics in the Bombali District of Sierra Leone to provide acute care and ongoing management.

Most recently, WHI developed a process for how Ebola Survivor patients are referred from the public health unit to the district hospital to more advanced care, depending on their needs. Thanks to these efforts, Ebola survivors made 432 visits to public health centers in 2016. In addition, WHI Survivor Advocates conducted 2,813 home visits to monitor survivors' wellbeing and health needs.



Supporting Hospitals

In addition to helping Ebola survivors, WHI has assisted with supporting hospitals in several ways. Many female patients in Sierra Leone live far from medical centers and don't have any means of transportation. In 2016, WHI provided ambulance transportation for over 750 pregnant women to three hospitals in Sierra Leone using three ambulances built for rough roads. Getting women to the hospital faster has saved the lives of many women and their babies. At the Makeni Regional Hospital, the WHI ambulance is now covering the night shift. In an average evening, the WHI ambulance will transport two to four maternity patients who need medical care from the local Public Health Unit to the Regional Hospital.

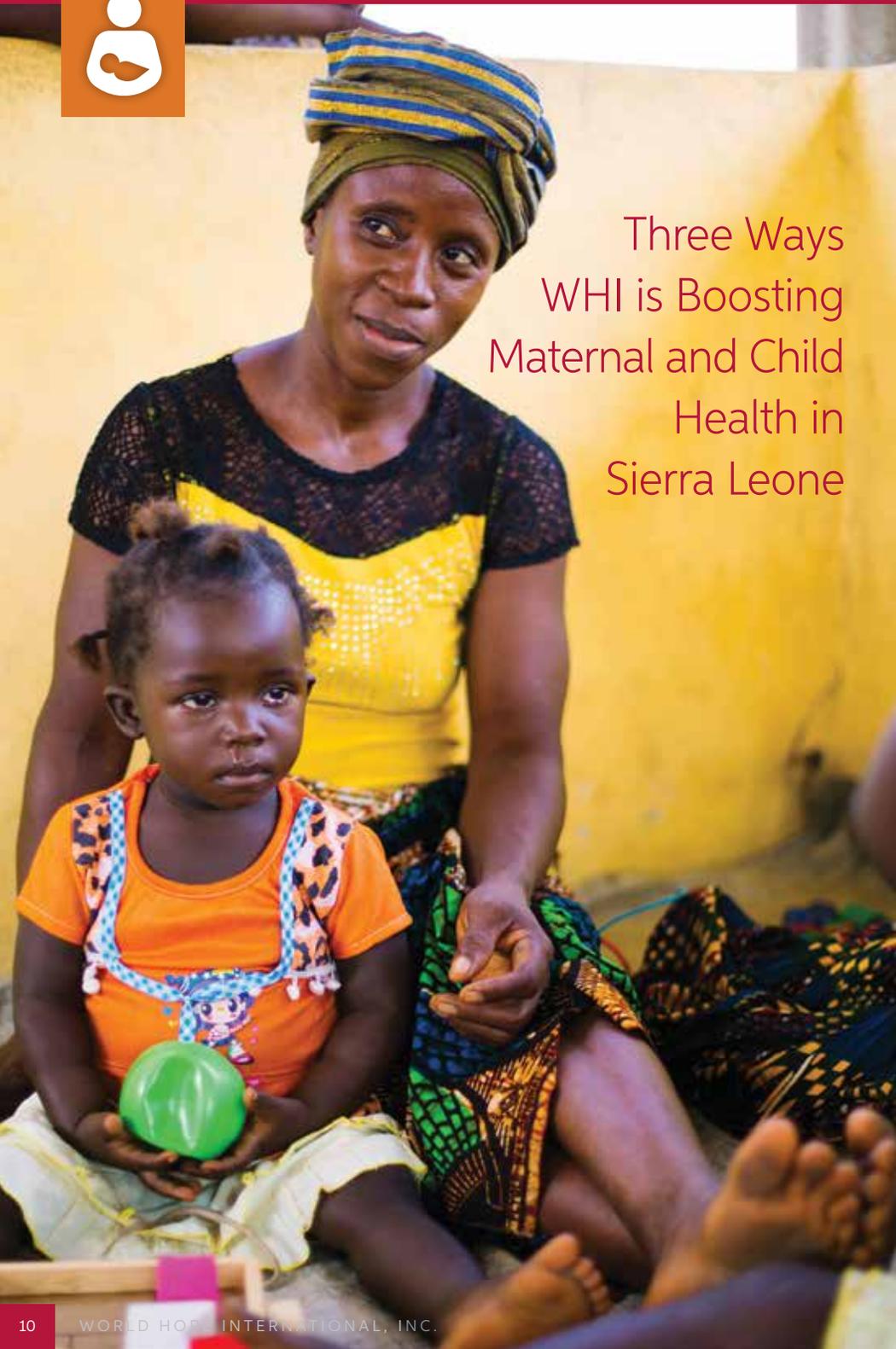
WHI also coordinated the delivery of medicines and supplies to 38 health centers in Sierra Leone. One of these deliveries involved 2 technologically advanced

ultrasound machines that were donated by General Electric (GE) to Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital and Masanga Hospital. WHI set up training sessions for hospital staff with a GE technician from Nigeria. The ultrasound machines have already improved diagnoses and care at both hospitals, and many women have been able to access better prenatal care because of them. There have also been plenty of smiles from mothers-to-be who can see their growing babies for the first time! One WHI staffer reported that, on the first day of using the new equipment, "everyone woman left the clinic with a big smile on her face after having seen her baby on the ultrasound for the first time with a technology that has never been used in that area of Sierra Leone." We know that this is a special experience for mothers, and a testimony to the fact that God sees the unborn, and even "knits us together in our mother's womb."





Three Ways WHI is Boosting Maternal and Child Health in Sierra Leone



1 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Did you know that many children and mothers in Sierra Leone suffer from poor health? In fact, 37.9 percent of children under the age of 5 in Sierra Leone are stunted³ (low height for age) and 74 percent have anemia⁴.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are the main providers of health services in rural Sierra Leone. In order to address the high maternal and infant mortality rates in Sierra Leone, WHI has been training and supporting CHWs to deliver quality services in the areas of disease surveillance, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, and child health services, and community based management of malnutrition in the Bombali district.

³ Global Nutrition Report 2016: From Promise to Impact: Ending Malnutrition by 2030. International Food Policy Research Institute, 2016.

⁴ Global anemia prevalence and trends 1995-2011. WHO, accessed 2017.

In 2016, with support from UNICEF:

- **750 CHWs completed a 10-day training on maternal and neonatal health and malnutrition.** These 750 CHWs now provide oversight and care to 20,000 pregnant and lactating women and 87,000 children aged 0 to 5
- **76,000 children were screened for malnutrition**
- **3,000 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition** with the help of ready-to-use therapeutic food





2 MOTHER'S SUPPORT GROUPS

Nearly one third of children under the age of 5 in Sierra Leone are chronically malnourished.⁵

To combat this problem, World Hope International has partnered with UNICEF to work with local communities to form Mother's Support Groups (MSG). Through these groups, WHI is able to help promote pediatric nutrition, exclusive breastfeeding, infant and child-care, and health education. Mothers are empowered to

initiate breastfeeding within one hour of birth. In addition, they are instructed to continue to do so exclusively for the first six months of their child's life, and then for up to two years or more thereafter. This is coupled with nutritionally-adequate, safe, age-appropriate and responsive complementary feeding.

Not only is breastfeeding integral to providing infants with adequate nutrition, but it also allows parents to avoid purchasing baby food for the first six months of life, leaving them with more money to spend on other necessities.

⁵ Kassaye. Clubs, Books and Tape: The Low-Tech Solutions Saving Children's Lives in Sierra Leone. UNICEF, 13 Apr. 2016

3 CLEAN WATER AT MATERNITY CENTERS

World Hope International, in partnership with the John Snow Institute (JSI), is currently constructing solar-powered water supplies for 12 Community Health Posts in Sierra Leone to provide clean water to hospitals and maternity centers. These solar-powered water supplies consist of a well, a water tower and solar panels that generate power for an electric pump. A hand pump is also installed in the same well as a backup power source in case any issues arise with the solar panels. By providing access to clean water, hospitals and maternity centers will be able to properly clean and disinfect their medical equipment and facilities, as well as offer safe drinking water to staff and patients.



In 2016, with support from UNICEF:

- **254 new Mother's Support Groups were formed** in which mothers and others learn about infant feeding and mobilize the community to recognize and get help for malnourished children
- **1,746 existing Mother's Support Groups (3,492 members) were supported**
- **10,900 women of childbearing age and 87,000 children who are under five years old were supported**

WHI in the news

Aljazeera

World Hope International's Enable the Children Program is mentioned in an Aljazeera article discussing the journey of a mother and her child living with disabilities:

"The two of them travelled back to Freetown and have been enrolled in a programme called Enable the Children, run by the charity World Hope, which teaches parents to nurture children with disabilities."

NJ.com

World Hope International Health Program Specialist, Carrie Jo Cain, is quoted in a NJ.com article discussing the 1-year anniversary of Sierra Leone being declared Ebola free:

"There's refurbishment, there's wells being dug, there's water systems being created, there are latrines being dug and outfitted, there's staff being trained. So there's a lot of activity going on," she says, "but it'll take a couple of years to actually see that impact."

Hero with a Thousand Faces:

Check out This New Ebola Fighters Documentary



Documentary filmmaker, Joel N. Clark of Atlas District Pictures, visited the red zone in Sierra Leone during the Ebola outbreak to film an emotionally riveting movie titled *Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

In the film, Joel aims to tell the unheard story of "Ebola fighters." These fighters include ambulance drivers, grave diggers, red zone cleaners, command center organizers, social mobilizers, community health workers and many more. They are ordinary people who did the extraordinary and risked their lives daily to battle this deadly disease.

Available now on iTunes and Amazon, *Hero with a Thousand Faces* also showcases the hard work of World Hope International during the deadly Ebola outbreak. You will see our on-the-ground teams fighting to save lives, bringing much needed food, medical supplies and prevention education to Sierra Leoneans and so much more. Please consider purchasing the film on iTunes or Amazon today and spreading the news on this great film.

Working Mother

Jo Anne Lyon, Founder of World Hope International, discusses 5 Ways to Make a Difference Both Inside and Outside the Office in *Working Mother*: "Random acts of hope and kindness can be simple yet make a real impact. From bringing your receptionist a Starbucks coffee to picking up the tab at your next team lunch, there are many big and small ways to bring joy to those you work with."

Yes, I would like to help World Hope International deliver better health and nutrition to the people of Sierra Leone.

Please use my gift of \$ _____ to support:

- Helping Babies Breathe
- Supporting Hospitals
- Enable the Children
- Maternal and Child Health
- Area of Greatest Need

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

- Yes, I'd like to receive my gift receipt via email only.
- Yes, send updates regarding World Hope International's work around the globe via email.

Make a recurring or single donation in one of three ways:



Give online at
worldhope.org/healthnewsletter



Make a credit or debit card payment
by calling 888-466-4673



Return a check in the
attached envelope

In the unlikely event your chosen appeal becomes overfunded, surplus funds will be redirected toward a similar health and nutrition program.

Your gift is very much appreciated and fully deductible as a charitable contribution. A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained by writing to World Hope International, 1330 Braddock Place, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-923-9414. If you are a resident of one of these states, you may obtain financial information directly from the state agency: CALIFORNIA - A financial statement is available upon request from World Hope International, 1330 Braddock Place, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314. FLORIDA - A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 1-800-435-7352 (800-HELP-FLA) WITHIN THE STATE OR AT www.800HELPFLA.com. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Florida Registration (CH15660). GEORGIA - a full and fair description of our organization's programs and activities and a financial statement are available upon request from World Hope International at 1330 Braddock Place, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314. MARYLAND - A copy of the current financial statement of World Hope International is available by writing 1330 Braddock Place, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314 or by calling 703-923-9414. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401, (410) 974-5534. MISSISSIPPI - The official registration and financial information of World Hope International may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office by calling 1-888-236-6167. Registration by the Secretary of State does not imply endorsement by the Secretary of State. MINNESOTA - World Hope International is located in Alexandria, VA. All contributions made to World Hope International are 100% tax deductible. A full and fair description of our organization's programs and activities may be obtained from our website at www.worldhope.org. NEW JERSEY - INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING (973) 504-6215 AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/ocphm#charity. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. NEW YORK - A copy of the organization's latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the organization (World Hope International, 1330 Braddock Place, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314) or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271. NORTH CAROLINA - FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION AND A COPY OF ITS LICENSE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE SOLICITATION LICENSING BRANCH AT 1-888-830-4989. THE LICENSE IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY THE STATE. OHIO - World Hope International is located at 1330 Braddock Place, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314. PENNSYLVANIA - The official registration and financial information of World Hope International may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. VIRGINIA - Financial Information about this organization is available from the Virginia State Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. WASHINGTON - Financial Information about this organization is available from the Charities Division, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Washington, Olympia, WA 98504-0422, 1-800-332-4483. WEST VIRGINIA - Residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. WISCONSIN - A financial statement is available upon request from World Hope International. A full and fair description of our organization's programs and activities may be obtained from our website at www.worldhope.org. Registration with any of these state agencies does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by any state.

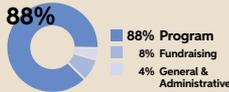




DONATE TODAY at
WorldHope.org or send a check
 in the enclosed envelope to:

World Hope International
 Attn: Gift Processing
 P.O. Box 743794
 Atlanta, GA 30374-3794
 888-466-4673

You can also visit Worldhope.org
 to get involved and find easy
 ways to raise awareness.



FOCUSED ON THE MISSION
 In fiscal year 2015, 88% of all expenditures went to program services.



FOLLOW US ON



1330 Braddock Pl., Suite 301
 Alexandria, VA 22314

