



"Making A Difference"

ROBERT AND MARY ANDERSON CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

6629 South Beulah Road
Richmond, Virginia 23237

804-743-8128

December 28, 2010

Dear Friends:

Much time has passed since our last communication. I hope that you are doing well, and continuing to appreciate God's blessings each and every day.

I have been spending a good deal of time lately reflecting on my life's journey, and feeling a more urgent need to make a difference. I am certain that some of this restlessness comes from thinking about my age. In January, I will turn 50.

Many celebrate such occasions with a party, or a special challenge, like running a marathon. For my 50th birthday, I wish to go to Liberia again, and take part in another mission. I hope that you will want to participate as well.

The last mission trip of the Robert and Mary Anderson Charitable Organization took place in 2003. We still receive correspondence from the grateful individuals and facilities that benefited from your generous contributions of 40,000 pounds of rice, 100 computers, shoes, and school supplies.

In 2011, our organization will celebrate 16 years of making a difference. So much has improved in Liberia since we began our mission trips. My niece, Annette McGee, recently moved back to Liberia and has informed me that more roads and other infrastructure are being built, along with schools, new colleges and universities, and clinics and hospitals. Many of those who fled during the civil war are returning home, especially professionals.

Yet the country of my birth remains one of the most impoverished in the world, and still faces deep-rooted challenges. **Please help make things brighter for our Liberian friends by supporting our 2011 mission trip.**

We hope to ship at least two 20-foot containers to Monrovia, one filled with rice, the other with computers and school supplies. The rice and other items will go to orphanages, schools, groups serving those with mental and physical disabilities, and families and individuals in desperate need. I plan to travel to Liberia in July and work with volunteers to conduct the distribution. To ensure timely arrival of the containers for the July distribution, the containers will need to ship in May.

Here is some more information about the mission trip:

Container 1: Rice

We are currently negotiating with a rice producer to donate a 20-foot container of rice (about 30,000 pounds). Rice is the staple of family meals in Liberia, and the people there are always so happy to receive it.

Container 2: Computers and Backpacks

We are seeking donations of computers, which will be distributed to Liberian schools and after-school and job training programs. Past recipients are grateful to finally have access to the Internet, something most of us have enjoyed for many years. The overcrowded, underfunded schools simply can't meet this need on their own.

Additionally, we have the goal of collecting 4,000 backpacks filled with school supplies, to distribute to needy students. Please review the attached School Supply List for more information. In addition to the supplies, please feel free to include new shoes, underwear, or other essential items in the backpacks.

We would also be grateful to have volunteer assistance in this project, particularly in setting up drop-off points for the backpacks.

Financial Donations

Much needed are financial donations to fund this mission. The estimated cost for shipping, clearing, storing, and distributing the donated goods is \$12,000.

Scholarship Fund

We are also seeking donations for our scholarship fund. These funds offset the cost of tuition, fees, and uniforms for children in grades K-12. It is sad when a child must drop out of school because their parents cannot afford a small fee.

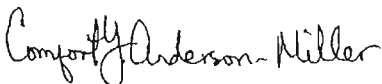
Additionally, our organization provides assistance to college students like Richardson Akoi. Please take a few minutes to read his enclosed letter, to learn how our scholarship fund helped change his life. I met this young man during a mission trip to Liberia. Despite being an orphan, he was able to graduate from college with a B.S. in Economics, thanks to the support of our organization. Young, educated people like Richardson are playing a vital role in the rebuilding of Liberia. Enclosed are additional letters received from other beneficiaries of the organization's services.

We are grateful for all financial donations, no matter the size. The Robert and Mary Anderson Charitable Organization is a 501(c)3 charity, and all donations are tax-deductible.

Finally, as I ask for your support for this mission trip on my 50th birthday, I am reminded of another special gift that I receive for my ninth birthday. It taught me one of the most valuable lessons in life—what it is like to walk in another's shoes.

Thank you for your on-going support as we strive to continue to walk in other's shoes. Wishing you many blessings for the New Year!

Warmest Regards,



Comfort Y. Anderson-Miller, President
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50 and Still Learning to Walk in Others' Shoes

For my ninth birthday, I received a very special gift. There was a girl, my age, who I just did not like or accept because I thought she was different. She was from a poor family and I felt I could not relate to her.

My parents informed me that they wanted to buy a pair of church shoes for this girl. Worse yet, they wanted me to pick out the shoes since we wore the same size. So, my older sister took me shopping for them.

To this day, I clearly remember how hard I looked for the ugliest shoes in town. After hours of looking, I finally settled for the most unattractive shoes I could find on Benson Street, in Monrovia. To make matters worse, I even decided to choose a pair that was one size too small.

However, when the morning of my birthday came, I was presented with the ugly shoes. It turned out that I had selected them for my birthday present. I was also instructed by my parents that I had to wear them for at least one year. I was very upset at the time, but I have come to realize what a valuable lesson I learned that day.

Over the years, I realized the importance of accepting people, regardless of our differences. I also learned to give to others only that which I would like for myself. My parents taught me how to walk in other people's shoes.

When I came to the U.S. in 1987, I remembered those lessons well. That is why at the early stage of the Liberian civil war, which started in 1989, I began speaking to various churches and civic groups about the Liberian people. I told them about their differences and similarities to the American people, and the war's devastating impact. I was confident that God would lead me to people who would be willing to learn of these differences and also become their brothers' keepers.

And I was right.





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Backpacks - School Supply List

Backpacks Stuffing Information

If you wish to participate, please select a grade level from the School Supply List. Then, you can purchase a backpack and fill it with the requested items. It would be helpful if you could indicate the grade level on the backpack, to aid in distribution.

In addition to the supplies, please feel free to include new shoes, underwear, or other essential items that you think would help. Students who would like to donate backpacks may include their names and school addresses, if they wish to encourage correspondence with recipients.

School Supply List

Kindergarten: Glue, Coloring books, Crayons, Watercolor Paint, Pocket Folders, Composition Books, Pencils, Sharpeners, Erasers, Bible Story Books;

1st Grade: Crayons, Glue, Notebooks, Pencils, Sharpeners, Erasers, Construction Paper, Scissors, Ruler, Pocket Folders, Markers, Bible Story Books or Bible;

2nd Grade & 3rd Grade: Crayons, Glue, Notebooks, Notebook Paper, Pencils, Colored Pencils, Sharpeners, Erasers, Construction Paper, Scissors, Ruler (with centimeter and inches), Pocket Folders (with fasteners), Highlighters, Flashcards, Bible Story Books or Bible;

4th Grade & 5th Grade: Colored Pencils, Crayons, Glue, Notebooks, Notebook Paper, Pencils, Sharpeners, Erasers, Construction Paper, Scissors, Pens (no red pens), Ruler (with centimeter and inches), Pocket Folders (with fasteners), Highlighters, Index Cards, Dictionary, Bible Story Books or Bible;

6th Grade, 7th Grade, & 8th Grade: 3-Ring Binders (1 inch and 2 inch), Dividers, Loose-leaf Paper (wide rule), Hole Reinforces, Composition Books, Colored Pencils, Pencils, Sharpeners, Erasers, Pens (no red pens), Ruler (with centimeter and inches), Pocket Folders (with fasteners), Highlighters, Index Cards, Bible, Dictionary, Sheet Protectors, Protractor and Compass, Calculator, Graph Paper (for 8th grade);

9th Grade, 10th Grade, 11th Grade, & 12th Grade: 3-Ring Binders (1 inch and 2 inch), Dividers, Loose-leaf Paper (wide rule), Hole Reinforces, Copybooks (large composition), Pencils, Sharpeners, Erasers, Pens (no red pens), Ruler (with centimeter and inches), Geometry Set, Calculator, Pocket Folders, Highlighters, Index Cards, Bible, Dictionary, Thesaurus, Stapler, Sheet Protectors.