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ACE Liberia

AFRICA COMMUNITY EXCHANGE

9TH ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2015

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Ann Sandell Independent School Addresses the Issue of Teachers Qualification and Initiate K-1st Grade Classes Upgrade

Africa Community Exchange (ACE) continues to work with the Ann Sandell Independent School to improve the school facilities, and enhance the quality of teachers. The school has been able to reduce class sizes, install electricity, add restrooms, and with support from the LINKS, Inc. establish a library and put textbooks in every classroom K-9th grade. In spite of these improvements, the availability of quality of teachers continues to be a huge obstacle to learning. Unfortunately, this is a national problem.

Funding from the LINKS, Inc. and other donors has helped to renovate and furnish the K and 1st grade classes to make the learning atmosphere more interactive. In addition to providing instructional support to the teachers, the classrooms went from students sitting on rows of benches to sitting on colorful table and chairs. All of this has reduced rote learning and memorization and engaged the students with hands-on, experiential, interactive activities (see photos). ACE is now trying to ensure that the necessary resources and materials are made available to support this new learning environment. You can help make this a reality by contributing via our website.

In order to expand the support of teacher development and continuing education, ACE has also provided funds for the hiring of one Specialty Teacher for Language Arts and one for Mathematics, as well as an Education Consultant to work with the teachers throughout the school year. The Specialty Teachers will have limited class time to allow them to work with the other teachers one-on-one. This new endeavor is to be attached to the partnership ACE is initiating with Teach For Liberia.

NAUW Continues Its Support for ASIS

The National Association of University Women has been an advocate and supporter of Ann Sandell Independent School for the past three years. The organization of African American educators will continue their contribution to the school by making the cafeteria a reality. The school has been providing snacks to the students through a small feeding program. The school has had space for a full cafeteria, but limited resources to move forward with a full service for lunches. The NAUW has pledged to make it possible for the school to purchase the equipment and supplies to make the cafeteria fully functioning by 2016.

Our Mission

To provide a model of education for youth that helps to meet their basic needs and normalize their lives allowing them to overcome the impact of disaster and conflict.



Learn more about ACE at:
www.anceliberia.org

Liberia and its two neighboring countries, Guinea and Sierra Leone, experienced a devastating health crisis in 2014 when over 12,000 individuals lost their lives to Ebola. During this time, all schools were closed to reduce the spread of the disease.

With the assistance through a fundraising campaign by ACE, the Ann Sandell Independent School was able to purchase and distribute equipment and supplies to the community to encourage residents to wash their hands and practice good hygiene. School staff members also provided information about the disease to help reduce superstition and increase understanding of the importance of sanitation.

Learning materials were provided to the children, who were out of school, to encourage them to continue their studies and practice what they had learned in school about health and hygiene. The school unfortunately lost one student to the disease, who had moved out of the area.



TEACH FOR LIBERIA - A New Education Venture

ACE is excited to partner with the Teach For Liberia (TFL) endeavor. Teach For Liberia's mission is to assure that every Liberian child receives an excellent, world-class education by placing high quality, qualified teachers in high needs classrooms throughout Liberia. By addressing the issue of teacher quality, TFL tackles the single greatest factor in determining student outcomes and achievement. Based on the highly successful Teach For All Network, TFL will enlist Liberia's most talented young professionals and leaders to teach full-time for a commitment of two years.

TFL applies a four pronged strategy which includes:

Recruitment and Selection of the best and the brightest young Liberians at home and abroad to teach; **Training and Support** of said teachers to equip them with both the know-how and resources to be successful; **Placement** of teachers in high needs classrooms across all disciplines; and lastly foster an **Alumni Movement** of teachers as leaders in both the education community and beyond well after their two-year commitment.

The organization is spearheaded by Desmond Diggs and a Board of Liberians and others dedicated to improving the quality of teachers. For more information, you may contact Desmond Diggs at: info@teachforliberia.org.

ACE Upcoming Events:

Projekt for Progress

ACE partners with the Richmond band sensation, DJ Williams Projekt (djwilliamsmusic.com), and the popular Richmond restaurant, The Answer Brewpub, for a night of food, drinks, music, and fun. The next Projekt for Progress event is scheduled for Thursday evening, March 10th, 2016.

Unity Church Charleston African Market

For 9 years, the Unity Church of Charleston hosts the Annual African Market fundraiser in support of Ann Sandell Independent School. The event includes a presentation about the school at both Sunday morning services; followed by a silent auction, drumming and dancing performances; a simulated African market with food, clothing, and artifacts; and a celebration of unity. The next African Market at Unity Church of Charleston is scheduled for Sunday, April 27th, 2016.

Africa Community Exchange, Inc. is a charitable non-profit identified by the US Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization, making all gifts and donations tax deductible. You can make contributions or contact us by mail: ACE, P.O. Box 444, Midlothian, VA 23113, or by visiting our website: www.anceliberia.org. Thank you for your support.