

NOTES FROM THE UNFORGOTTEN: APRIL 2014

This month we present a case study from our Sierra Leone program; the situation we are working in is especially dire. Hunger relief is our primary focus at the moment. We are also pleased to report the results of our Benefit Concert and the Donor Match for our Zambia Ag project. If you are in the Maryland area, please join our latest clothing and school supplies drive. And please welcome our newest Board Member! As always, thank you for your support!

Mary Williams and Mariama Bangura: Profiles of a Mother and Daughter in the King Tom Bomeh-- Freetown, Sierra Leone. Mary Williams is the mother of Mariama Bangura—both are in The Unforgotten's program at the King Tom Bomeh (trashdump) in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Mary Williams was born and raised in the King Tom Bomeh, which is a dumpsite on the west end of Freetown. Several generations of Mary's family were born and raised in the Bomeh. Her mother was born and raised in the Bomeh and her siblings all live in the Bomeh. She has seven children and one grandchild; all of them were also born in the Bomeh. Her oldest child is eighteen and her youngest child is two years old.

Mary, her seven children and her grandchild all live in a dwelling made of rusted aluminum, which her mother built inside the Bomeh. The dwelling is about 11-ft by 9-ft in size. It is a single room: it has no toilet, no in-house plumbing, and no electricity. She draws water from the nearby public water spout and uses the Bomeh as a toilet. She and her two youngest children sleep on a mattress laid on the floor while the other children sleep on the bare floor.



Mary is a single mother who has never attended school. She does not know how to read or write. All of her children, except Mariama Bangura who is in our program, are presently not attending school, because she cannot afford to pay their school fees. She waste-picks and sells trash, earning not more than LE 6,000 (about \$1 US) a day. She does not earn enough to feed her family; she has difficulty even providing a meal a day. So she relies on handouts from her community, and discarded and expired food she can find in the Bomeh.

Mariama Bangura (the daughter of Mary Williams) is in The Unforgotten's Bridge Program. She, because of donor support, is being tutored by The Unforgotten's teachers, in a schoolroom constructed by The Unforgotten in the community. The plan is to enroll Mary in one of the private schools on the west end of Freetown next academic year, once she is ready. Our field team convinced Mary and





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Mariama that they need not feel ashamed of their living conditions, and not to worry about Mariama being ridiculed in school. Mariama is now excited to be in the Bridge Program, and sincerely appreciates the opportunity. She is performing well, and has a perfect attendance record. Mariama has a chance at a future outside of the Bomeh.

Mary knows the Bomeh is not a suitable place to raise a family, but she feels trapped in the circumstances that she has been raised in, with no way out. She and her family often suffer from diseases like malaria, typhoid fever, skin infections and other contagious diseases. During the rainy season, there is flooding in her surroundings and there is no way she can prevent runoff water from entering her dwelling. The place becomes a breeding ground for mosquitoes, rodents and pathogens. She is an outcast in the community, and people do not want to associate themselves with Mary because of her situation. They say she is filthy and odorous.

Mary prays nightly for her family to be rescued from this dreadful existence. Her dreams are to live in a more decent environment with her children, start her own business, and to educate her children. With your support we can start her on that path.

Our field team in Sierra Leone is working in dire conditions. The desperate women and girls we are helping are literally fighting over the food we are trying to deliver. Hunger relief is our primary activity at the moment, and we simply do not have the resources to meet the overwhelming need. So, we are trying to reach those who most urgently need aid. We also must maintain an eye on the long term, by investing in the children's education, to break this cycle of extreme poverty.

Carnatic and Hindustani Violin Jugalbandhi: Benefit Concert-- Ellicott City, Maryland. What a beautiful evening of music!! We won't forget it. Our thanks to the artists: Smt. Pavani Malladi (violin), Sri Srikanth Mallajoysula (violin), Sri Rajasekhar Atmakuri (mridangam), Sri Arun Bagal (violin) and Sri Abhjit Panse (tabla). Our thanks to the organizer in chief: Dr. Sriram Padmanabhan.



And of course our thanks to all our supporters who made the event a success: thanks to your generosity we raised \$2,500!! The funds we raised will indeed

change the lives of some of the most vulnerable and destitute women and children on this Earth. We'll create a short video of the event; in the meantime please take a look at the YouTube clip posted on our channel (YouTube.com/UnforgottenFund) or use the link below:



<http://youtu.be/stRzcpbaSlg>



And if you have an interest in making videos --- please let us know! We can certainly use the help!

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Donor Match Results: Special Targeted Fundraising Campaign: Agricultural Project – Chingwere, Zambia. Thank you to all our supporters who took advantage of this donor match!! We did indeed surpass our \$10,000 target, and because of your support, we will initiate the agricultural project in Chingwere!! This is a project proposed by the women in our Self Help Group in Zambia to raise chickens, pigs and some crops on a small plot of land. Some of the products would be used to feed their children; extra will be sold to help them earn an income.

School Supplies and Clothing Drive-- Maryland.

If you live in the Washington DC/Baltimore area, please participate in our school supplies and clothing drive. Indira Kalvakolanu has kindly volunteered to spearhead this effort. She can be reached at: ikalvakolanu@verizon.net

For school supplies Indira is collecting books, backpacks, pencils, pens, crayons, scissors, rulers, calculators, unused notebooks, loose paper, erasers, glue sticks, english dictionaries, and staplers. She is also collecting gently used clothing for women and girls. Shoes are especially needed.

Indira has graciously volunteered to pick up your donations at your doorstep! Or feel free to drop off your donation at:

1770 Heatherwood Way, Sykesville, MD 21784.
Phone: 410-505-4395

Or

3709 Grosvenor Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042.
Phone: 443-668-2648

Incidentally, the story books (English text) we delivered to Zambia in January were extremely needed. The school had no library until we started one!

Meet Rame Hemstreet: New Board Member. Special Projects and Fundraising Committees— San Francisco, California.



Please welcome Ramé Hemstreet to our Board of Directors. Ramé will be serving on our Special Projects and Fundraising Committees.

Each year, funds permitting, The Unforgotten tries to execute *special projects* to improve the lives of the extreme poor. In the past we have executed various drinking water projects. We developed a water harvesting system in Wangni, India; we developed a community water supply in Ngwerere, Zambia centered on a borehole and handpump; we developed a borehole, electric pump and supply storage for the orphanage and neighboring community in Kabanana, Zambia. This year, we are planning the





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aforementioned Agricultural project in Chingwere, Zambia.

Ramé is a senior executive with a wealth of expertise managing engineering projects. Ramé is currently the Vice President of Operations and Chief Energy Officer at Kaiser Permanente's National Facilities Services. Ramé joined Kaiser Permanente from the U.S. Navy, where, as commanding officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Washington D.C., he led a team of 70 officers and 1,500 civilians delivering \$1.5 Billion/year of facilities management and construction services to Navy and Marine Corps clients.

Ramé holds a master's of science degree in construction management from the University of California, Berkeley; a master's of science degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College; and a bachelor's of science degree in civil engineering from Tulane University. He also completed the Executive Management Program at the University of Virginia Darden Business School.

Thank you for reading this month's Notes from The Unforgotten, and thank you for making this work possible! Feel free to also take a look at our website: www.unforgotten.org

And we are: www.facebook.com/unforgottenfund

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