



NOTES FROM THE UNFORGOTTEN: MAY 2014

Today, May 30th, The Unforgotten celebrates its 7th birthday! We report our pledges from federal and state fundraising campaigns. We also share a heartwarming story of our new schoolgirls in Sierra Leone participating in their first track and field event, and introduce our in-country staff. Wish Amanda safe travels as she makes the trip to Freetown! As always, thank you for your support!

Happy Birthday to “The Unforgotten”! The Unforgotten was founded on May 30, 2007 to join the global effort to work towards the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Specifically, we have been working on the goals to:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, by helping those whose income is less than \$1 US per day.
- Increase access to safe drinking water.
- Achieve universal primary education.
- Promote gender equality and empower women.



In these seven years we have found our niche—our target aid recipients are the hungry mothers and their children that survive as wastepickers in the trash dumps of developing countries. Our projects are directed towards helping them reach these MDGs.

And in these past seven years, we have honored our pledge to direct all donations towards program services and projects, by operating with little to no

overhead. We govern the charity by an active (volunteer) Board of Directors, and hire only local (in-country) staff to execute our work.

There are eight MDGs in all – which range from halving extreme poverty rates to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015. They form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world’s poorest.

The UN is also working with governments, civil society and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the MDGs and carry on with an ambitious [post-2015 development agenda](#). In the coming year, share with us how you would like us to engage in that effort!

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and State Employee Campaign Results

Thank you to all the donors of the Fall 2013 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and State



Employee Campaigns! We are just now receiving the pledge results. We received \$48,000 US in pledges from the CFC and

\$8,000 US in pledges from the State Campaigns. Unfortunately, because of federal furloughs, this year’s donations were substantially lower than last year’s. But we are so grateful to those who could find it in their budget to contribute!

Most donors remained anonymous, but 87 did provide us with their contact information. So to those new donors, welcome! You should be

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*Providing clean food and water, shelter, schooling and a
future for mothers and children living in extreme poverty.*

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receiving a thank you letter from us shortly; and thank you to our new volunteer, Anchal Shukla (pictured here), for helping with the effort! She's a high school student at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Olney, Maryland, and chose to fulfill her community service hours by serving with us.

And remember, donors can find us in the CFC listed under the Charity Federation "Charity Without Borders", as "Aid for Trash Dump Children: The Unforgotten", **CFC# 87509**. In state campaigns we will be listed with the Independent Charities of America, and our ID # will vary by state. If you need help finding us in a catalog, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Track and Field Sport Meet—King Tom, Freetown, Sierra Leone. By Alimatu Jusu and Sheku Seymour-Wilson. Our girls from King Tom have come such a long way in only 4 months – truly, truly unbelievable. In just January of this year The Unforgotten built a school in the King Tom Bomeh of Freetown (trash dumps are referred to as bomehs in Sierra Leone). These girls had never been to school and suffered from hunger.



But in April, our girls were invited to participate in a track meet by the neighboring

school, Jasmine Primary, at the Prince of Wales Secondary School playground. Our Sierra Leone field team was a bit worried about the expense and whether our girls would be ready in time. But the girls exceeded our expectations!

On April 11, 2014, The Unforgotten children, competed with three other primary schools. They not only competed in all track and field events, but they placed second in the competition!! The girls attributed their success to their loose fitting uniforms and the refreshments they received prior to the competition. Our field team also credits the success to the two weeks of training to get the girls fit for the competition.

Because of the solid performance of our girls, we were promised by the heads of the other competing schools that they would be sending invitations to us to participate in their upcoming sport meets and other extracurricular activities.

Keep in mind all we have in the bomeh is a "Bridge Program" – designed to prepare the children to attend a primary school next year. With very little in the way of resources (a small classroom and a teacher), these children are showing us what the human spirit can accomplish!



Meet Amanda Ward — Cornell University, Ithica New York. Please wish Amanda Ward safe travels as she leaves Cornell University this summer to spend it in Sierra Leone. She will focus on developing the sponsored mothers' business ideas. Our mothers can't yet read nor write, but are full of entrepreneurial spirit. Amanda is looking forward to this challenge with great enthusiasm. She hopes

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to put them on a path towards self-sufficiency, so that they would not be reliant upon donor support.

Amanda is currently a graduate student at the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs, working on her master's degree in Public Administration.



Amanda is concentrating in International Development with a focus on women's economic empowerment. She is currently involved in the Cornell Policy Review, Women in Public Policy student organization, the International Affairs Forum, CIPA New Orleans Partnership Program, the Arab Student Association, and the Cornell Latin American Student Society. Prior to attending graduate school, Amanda was a corps member in Teach for America in Memphis, Tennessee, where she taught 8th grade history at the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering. Amanda received her bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Social Justice from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in May 2007.

Introducing the UNFF Sierra Leone Staff. By *Aminata Alharazim*. The success of UNFF-SL can be attributed to our talented and dedicated staff and volunteers. Pictured from left to right are Sheku Seymour-Wilson, Abu-Bakarr Sesay, Huratulai Bah, Francess Barlay, Alimatu Jusu, and Francis Sesay.

Sheku Seymour Wilson is our Projects Manager, and led the effort to legally establish our presence in Sierra Leone. Sheku is a graduate of The University of Sierra Leone - Fourah Bay College with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. Before joining UNFF Sheku worked with youth

organizations within the Freetown communities. In the past few months he led our efforts to identify



aid recipients, secure land to build the Bridge Schools (at both the Kissy and King Tom sites), and network with other nonprofit organizations in Sierra Leone.

Huratulai Bah is our Field Coordinator. She is a graduate of

The University of Sierra Leone - Fourah Bay College with a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce. Huratulai worked for Africell SL Ltd before joining our team. She has developed relationships with the community youth organizations and elders to ensure that the UNFF programs are implemented as designed.

Francis Sesay is the teacher at the Kissy Site. Francis is a graduate of Freetown's Teachers College - Jui Kossoh Town with a Higher Teacher's Certificate (HTC). Francis is fluent in Temne, the tribal language of the Temne people, which is the primary language of our sponsored mothers and children at the Kissy site. He has been instrumental in organizing the community and rallying them to get the project up and running at Kissy.

Alimatu Jusu is the teacher at the King Tom site. Alimatu will graduate from Freetown's Teachers College - Jui Kossoh Town in 2016. Alimatu is a member of the Kolleh Town Youth Organization, and lives in the King Tom community. Before joining UNFF she was teaching students at the

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neighboring schools, and tutoring children in the King Tom community. Her dedication to teach and give young girls a better life is known throughout the community. She performs assessments to ensure the girls will be ready when the new school year begins in September.

Francess Barlay is the cook for the King Tom site. Francess is a graduate from the Devine Grace Vocational Institute. Francess is a member of the Kolleh Town youth organization, and lives in the King Tom community. Francess has provided nutritious foods for all the aid recipients in the King Tom site.



Kadiatu Kargbo (pictured here) is the cook for the Kissy site. Kadiatu is a member of the the Kissy community. She is well known in the community for her delicious foods and cooking skills.

Abu-Bakarr Sesay is a volunteer who has dedicated much time to UNFF. Abu is a graduate of Freetown's Teachers College - Jui

Kossoh Town with a Higher Teacher's Certificate (HTC). Abu-Bakarr currently works for the Ministry of Youth Affairs in Freetown Sierra Leone. Abu is the liaison for UNFF, attending the monthly Freetown City Council Child Protection meetings, and networks with other youth organizations who attend these meetings.

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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