

# 2021 NEWSLETTER

## 2021- A Year of Milestones

2021 has truly been a year of milestones for Mission of Hope and Rotifunk Hospital. Thanks to the generosity of our donor family, we have been able to greatly impact the lives of Rotifunk families.

1. A full complement of staff with doctors, nurses, a finance director, an anesthetist, an educator, and an SUV driver.
2. Completion of the doctor's house, accommodating 2 doctors and families.
3. Provision of WIFI for Rotifunk Hospital
4. Increase in surgical capabilities
5. Implementation of a new program for teen girls to maintain good reproductive health and prevent unplanned pregnancies.
6. Revision of our website, [www.Rotifunk.org](http://www.Rotifunk.org), thanks to the selfless work of a donor
7. Involvement of Big Blue Marble Academy, a chain of childcare centers across the US
8. Huge increase in numbers of Madonna Project mothers and babies

All of these wonderful improvements do not come easily. It takes the dedication of both MOH as well as the staff at Rotifunk Hospital, both devoted to making the lives of their patients healthier and safer. It also takes continuous generosity on the part of our donor family. You have truly changed the world, ONE MILESTONE AT A TIME.

**Pam Moffett**



## **The Madonna Project**

### **Babies- Little Bits of Heaven Sent to Earth**

As a result of our Madonna Program, in 2021, there were 298 beautiful little bits of heaven safely delivered at the Rotifunk Hospital, including 27 babies delivered by Caesarean section. Currently, there are 85 women in the care of the Madonna Program, awaiting their due dates. This year, our team of medical professionals from the Hospital made 48 Outreach visits to villages in the Bumpeh Chiefdom, where a majority of our pregnant mothers are identified and enrolled in the Madonna Program.

Once becoming a part of this program, expectant mothers are scheduled for appointments at the Hospital to be fully examined. Your donations make it possible for Mission of Hope to provide lab tests, medications, and ante-natal checkups on a regular basis prior to delivery. In addition, the delivery and post-natal care by well-qualified medical personnel ensure that mother and child receive appropriate treatment. Our Madonna patients are provided with 2 nourishing meals each day while in the hospital and, upon discharge, given, 27 pounds of rice with the promise of another 27 pounds of rice at the six-week postnatal checkup. And all of this is provided with NO CHARGE to our patients because of our commitment to provide for the delivery of healthy babies to healthy moms, in a safe, caring, compassionate environment. Thank you so much for helping to make our dream become a reality!

**Donna Hudson**

# Letting Girls Be Girls

## Preventing Teenage Pregnancy Through Education

After only six months in operation, the “Letting Girls Be Girls” (LGBG) program has had great success. This family planning program, funded by a \$1400 grant from the Methodist Church and under the leadership of Hassanatu Lahai, has already achieved many of its goals. Among them:

- Setting up LGBG clubs in five secondary schools;

- Creating friendly, interactive cooperation between the hospital and the community;

- Convincing many young girls through counseling to accept the LGBG concept;

- Free contraceptives, of the participant’s choice, have been provided to 229 adolescents.



Very importantly, the program is also changing attitudes and behavior throughout the Bumpah Chiefdom. There is increased awareness among 13-18-year-olds and their families of the value of staying in school and not getting pregnant. It has also cleared up doubts about the safety and ease of using contraceptives. It appears to be reducing teenage pregnancies based on hospital intake records.

Because of the success of this trial program, Mission of Hope has decided to continue funding for twelve more months.

For more information on “Letting Girls Be Girls” please go to the website at [www.rotifunk.org](http://www.rotifunk.org).

Dale Smith

# Rotifunk Expanded Surgical Program



Mission of Hope is always looking for ways to expand maternal services offered at Rotifunk Hospital. Our Norway partner, Haugesund Rotifunk, currently pays for up to 12 surgeries per month. These surgeries have largely been confined to male hydroceles, abscesses, and abdominal hernias that are disabling, in order to allow patients to return to their physically-demanding employment. Unfortunately, that has been the extent of surgeries currently being performed, besides emergency C-Sections. In a country as poor as Sierra Leone, few people have the ability to pay for any needed surgeries.

The medical-surgical staff has always wanted to perform additional surgeries. Now, thanks to a generous individual donation, we are now offering to pay up to \$300 per month for additional surgeries that the hospital is qualified to perform. These will include hysterectomies, uncomplicated fractures, bowel surgery, tubal ligation, fibroid and ovarian cyst removal, male circumcision, and other minor surgical interventions. This will allow an additional 5 surgeries per month. We praise God for the generosity of our donor and welcome this much-needed addition to our surgical program.

Ivan White



# Celebrating Our Partners



Students at Big Blue Marble Academy raised over \$13,000 for the Madonna Project through their Change for a Change Heart Project and their LifeTouch Portrait fundraiser. The children learned that mothers need healthy food, clean water, and doctors so that they can have healthy babies. The children made posters informing people of the need and asking for change to help the mothers and babies. As the change came in, the children were responsible for counting and rolling it into coin containers. We at Mission of Hope are so grateful for the involvement of Big Blue Marble Academy and look forward to their continued support.

Nan Rikard

**Mission of Hope would like to thank all our donors for their continued support. You have truly changed the lives of the people of Rotifunk, Sierra Leone.**

# December 2021 Mission Trip

This December's trip to Sierra Leone was a success, and I thank Mission of Hope: Rotifunk Hospital for giving me the chance to repeat this opportunity. As always, the people of Rotifunk and of the Methodist church in Sierra Leone were gracious and welcoming hosts. However, I would hesitate to recommend another group going while the current pandemic restrictions on travel are in force.

The improvements in the Rotifunk hospital programs since I last visited in the spring of 2018 are obvious. The pharmacy has been relocated to a more accessible location and expanded. There is still a need for a pharmacist. They have established a triage center in the separate building by the gate where incoming patients can be evaluated and also where there is room for isolating those that may need testing for contagious disease such as Covid-19. As of our departure, they have had no positive cases of Covid.



The Madonna Project is showing tremendous results. The maternity ward was nearly full while we were there. They had 2 emergency C-Sections the day before and the day we arrived. Because they were twins and early, not all survived, but without the hospital and its doctors, none would have done so. They did continue to express their need for better equipment to deal with early/small births.



As always, the children of Rotifunk are BEAUTIFUL!

Steve Smith