



PEACE AFRICA ALLIANCE CONSULTING, EDUCATING AND TRAINING CENTRE

International Office:
3520 – 42nd Street S.W.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3E 3M8
Telephone: (Canada) 001-403-803-5320

Africa Regional Headquarters:
12 Juba Estate.
Juba, Freetown.
Sierra Leone. West Africa
Tel: +232 78 133116

Website: www.paacet.org **E-Mail:** info@paacet.org

HELPING HANDS – REBUILDING SIERRA LEONE FUNDRAISER NOVEMBER 16, 2017

After months of preparation and marketing, PAACET's Fundraiser "Helping Hands – Rebuilding Sierra Leone" launched at approximately 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2017.



The fundraiser focused around three main themes:

1. Raising funds for shipping a container of \$35,000 worth of donated medical supplies to Sierra Leone. The medical supplies have been earmarked for distribution to two main Projects: (1) Njala University Medical Training Centre, and (2) a Bomaru Medical Centre. It is estimated that the shipment container for these goods may cost as much as \$6,000 - \$7,000 CA, including port fees in Sierra Leone.
2. Collecting new and used Textbooks and computers for Njala University Library; and
3. Collecting primary school children's reading materials and school supplies such as notebooks and pencils for SAIO Primary School in Regent, Freetown, located directly adjacent to the August 2017 Sugarloaf Mountain mudslide.



The Program for the evening included African Music playing in the background as our guests arrived and were invited to check out the amazing array of items in our Silent Auction (above left), organized by our very capable and hardworking Board Member, Karen Huggins (above right). Nearly 50 items were for sale, including a wide variety of artwork, home quilted items, craftwork from Africa, a selection of African fabrics, and a king size hand-made quilt with an African theme.



While enjoying a very tasty meal of ethnic Ethiopian food (page 2) catered by local restaurant Marathon Ethiopian, audience members listened to the formal presentation (left), including a powerpoint presentation of PAACET's work over the past year, emphasizing the work completed under each of our six Programme Areas. The Executive Director, Janyce Konkin, shared highlights from her recent month-long stay in Sierra Leone and the daily challenges faced regarding electrical outages, internet access, and the lack of infrastructure such as secondary roads for traveling to remote areas, etc. Members of the audience were especially overcome by the news of the August

flooding and mudslides that had occurred and the lack of coverage by Western media. They were also impressed by our daunting road trip to Bomaru and the trainings we have identified that need to be done in that area.

Board Member Augustino Lucano, himself from South Sudan, presented his very personal story of Healing & Reconciliation undertaken on his December 2016 trip to Nyamourang State in South Sudan (below left). There, he brought together local



residents of the Didinga and Toposa

Tribes who were constantly breaking out in conflict over local resources. *A Fire Circle Reconciliation*® helped the two sides to work out solutions and commit to living in peace while sharing resources.

Volunteer, Erika Gomez, has taken on the incredible task of organizing our Book Drive for Njala University Library and presented background information and the

very great need identified during the Executive Director's and Africa Regional Director's meeting with the University Chancellor and Deans in October (right). She then outlined a comprehensive plan and asked those present at the event to not only donate any of their own used textbooks, but also to spread the word far and wide. Books have already started coming in, and we are eagerly searching for a free space to collect and organize everything prior to shipment at the end of January or early February, 2018.



Finally, local Sierra Leone Performer, Hawa Hunt (left), entertained



us with a song and dance performance that totally enthralled the audience. We were grateful for Hawa's commitment to our event and for her shared story to those present.

While a morning snowstorm and numerous other seasonal events in the city hampered turnout to our event (26 attendees), those who came agreed that they learned a great deal about Sierra Leone, its challenges, and the important work that PAACET has undertaken on so many fronts. Donations of books and other items on our wish list have already started coming in. The next few months promise to see a great deal of hard work for local volunteers in coordinating

pick up and coordination of textbooks and organizing the container for shipping.

***Our Sincere Thanks to All Who Participated
To Help Raise Funds and Awareness!***