

“Mission of Hope”: A Partnership with the NC Conference of the United Methodist Church, Sierra Leone Annual Conference, and Haugesund Rotifunk



Mission of Hope: Rotifunk Hospital was originally started by Rev. Edie Gleaves and three other members of Wrightsville United Methodist Church, following a visit to a civil war torn hospital in Rotifunk, Sierra Leone. Learning about the devastating civil war that

occurred from 1991-2002 and the hardships endured by the resilient people living in this area, inspired the mission team to help rebuild the hospital into one that is fully operational again. Since the historic visit back in August of 2013, Mission of Hope: Rotifunk Hospital has become a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and works in partnership with Haugesund Rotifunk in Norway, the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and the Sierra Leone Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The “Mission of Hope” is to rebuild, staff and operate Rotifunk as a full service, high quality hospital and community health center, which will substantially improve the health and save thousands of lives residing in and around the town of Rotifunk.

The people that we serve live in one of the poorest countries in the world. In fact, Sierra Leone has one of the three worst health care systems in the world. It is our goal to help improve the dire health conditions by rebuilding the hospital and providing quality healthcare services. As reported by the World Health Organization:

- Life expectancy in Sierra Leone is 46 years.
- 1 in 6 children die before the age of 5 (the second highest rate in the world).
- 1 in 23 women die from pregnancy-related causes and childbirth.
- 70% of the population lives in extreme poverty.

In less than two years, the following has been accomplished by Mission of Hope: Rotifunk Hospital:

- The completion of an initial assessment to prioritize needs.
- The partial refurbishment of select sections of the hospital.
- The installation of a deep bore well which now provides water to the hospital and surrounding residents.
- The shipment of critically needed medical supplies, equipment & medicine from North Carolina – which were delivered to the hospital.
- Over \$100,000 has been raised to support the mission.
- Two mission teams have traveled to Rotifunk Hospital.

Even though much has been accomplished, there is still much more that needs to be done for over 145,000 people living in this area and who are in desperate need of healthcare. The goals for Mission of Hope: Rotifunk Hospital are to:

- Strengthen community relationships and trust by sending mission and medical teams who will listen to the needs from people who have endured through the adverse of times, yet are resilient and hopeful for a healthier future.
- Implement a solar power system, which is a more reliable and efficient energy source than a generator. This will make a difference in the lives of thousands of mothers and babies.
- Continue to work with and strengthen partnership with Haugesund Rotifunk, the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Sierra Leone Annual United Methodist Conference.

Under God's direction and the intervention of the Holy Spirit, the "Mission of Hope" is committed to rebuilding the hospital, helping those who need it the most, and embodies the priority of all United Methodist people to engage in ministry with the poor and in global health. Please help us to reflect God's love to the people of Rotifunk.

You can learn more about "Mission of Hope" and get updates on our work by visiting our website at www.rotifunk.org and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/missionofhoperotifunk.
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