

# SWAHP: Sierra Leone Child Scholarship Project

## May 2007



Dear Friend,

On behalf of SWAHP  
(Students' War Against Hunger and Poverty)  
an organization at Lawrence University,  
We are asking for your help with a project that  
will provide educational scholarships to  
children in Sierra Leone, Africa.

### **SWAHP's History:**

SWAHP was established at Lawrence University in the fall of 2005 and has been working with the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness, which is committed to ending hunger and homelessness in America by educating, engaging, and training students to directly meet individuals' immediate needs while advocating for long-term systematic solutions. SWAHP has educated the Lawrence community about hunger and poverty issues locally, nationally and globally, while providing students with service, advocacy, and fundraising opportunities to combat these problems. SWAHP coordinated two successful food drives in conjunction with the National Feinsein Challenge, raising over 4800 food items and \$700 donated to local food pantries.

Fortunately, SWAHP has been presented with an amazing chance to DIRECTLY help people suffering from poverty on a global level.

### **The Case of Comforti School:**

Comforti School of Sierra Leone, was started in order to serve the needs of orphans and poor children after the decade long civil war. The school is staffed by a woman and her two sons with about 1 teacher to every 100 students, and classes are held in a make-shift building with dirt floors. In 2006, the children at Comforti school scored higher than children at any other school in the country on the national primary school exams. The dedicated teachers and community support has helped make this success possible.

### **Need for Assistance!**

This private school does not receive any financial support from the Sierra Leone Government or any UN agencies. There are many children in the area who are unable to afford the small fee needed to attend this school and receive a decent education. Children need **\$15.00 for one semester or \$30.00 for the whole year** to attend Comforti School.



Lawrence University's Associate Professor of Government, Claudena Skran, received a Fulbright Fellowship to study in Sierra Leone. She has since been giving presentations about her experiences around the Appleton Community and has been fundraising to provide scholarships to the many children (some former child soldiers) who are unable to afford schooling. Last September, donations organized by Professor Claudena Skran paid for 13 students to have full scholarships for the year and 7 students to have half-year scholarships.

She is returning this summer and again in 2008 to visit the area and hopefully help the same kids go to school for the second year. There are many more children who would love the opportunity to go to school. **BUT THEY NEED YOUR HELP!**

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As college students, SWAHP members are very excited about this opportunity to give our valuable dollars to the Sierra Leone Child Scholarship Project as we know our money will go **DIRECTLY** to help children get an education without large administrative costs. We hope that you are as excited about this opportunity as we are and would consider helping SWAHP with this fundraiser, but more importantly, helping to send more children to school in Sierra Leone.

If you would like to make a donation that will go a long way, please send a check payable to:  
Lawrence University  
and write "SWAHP Sierra Leone" in the memo

Please send checks by *Friday June 15<sup>th</sup>* to:  
Lawrence University  
Campus Activities  
P.O. Box 599  
Appleton, WI 54912-0599



*(Please include your name and return address so we can record the gifts.)*

As you can see from the cost of education at Comforti School, even a small amount like \$30 is enough to help one child have schooling for a whole year. Any amount is welcome and all donations make a huge difference! Never underestimate the power of many people giving a small amount!

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*  
*SWAHP, Professor Skran,*  
*& the children of Sierra Leone*

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*You can be sure that your donation will be especially appreciated and will go directly to the children with no overhead costs and very little administrative costs.*

*If you have any questions regarding this fundraiser or the work that Professor Skran does, please feel free to contact her: [claudena.skran@lawrence.edu](mailto:claudena.skran@lawrence.edu) (920) 832-6674*