

Project partners: Peaceful Schools International (PSI)

PSI, a volunteer-run Nova Scotia-based charitable organization, was established in 2001 by peace educator, Hetty van Gorp (twice named "Canadian hero of the year.") A network of locally-based volunteer Regional Coordinators provides support to over 240 member schools around the world that have declared a commitment to creating and maintaining a culture of peace. PSI facilitates networking among schools and organizes workshops, exchanges, production of video and print materials, etc. The work of PSI has been featured in several NFB documentaries.

Centre for Peace and Development (cdpeace)

PSI is working with the Sierra Leonean organization, cdpeace, to help rebuild rural communities traumatized by the recent civil war. cdpeace was regarded as a leader in designing and delivering formal and non-formal women's, community development, and peace education programs in Sierra Leone during the early part of the war. During the war, its office and training premises were destroyed and founders relocated to Canada. Since 1997, PSI and cdpeace co-founders, Thomas and Mary Turay, have been collaborating on work in Canada and more recently, in Sierra Leone.

The project:

PSI will be supporting the re-establishment of cdpeace and its development and education work in Northern Sierra Leone over the next three years. During the upcoming year, PSI will have a volunteer teacher-educator in the Northern Sierra Leone to facilitate Canada-Sierra Leone school twinning, provide teacher-training in basic skills and peace education, and support health and women's community groups. PSI is also raising money to help rebuild and refurbish destroyed schools (including rebuilding cdpeace), purchase and ship school materials,

support community health (vehicle to transport medical emergencies, ship medical materials, etc.) and support girls' education (scholarships for teacher training).

This project has captured the imagination of many Nova Scotians who have contributed thousands of dollars worth of materials to be shipped, made personal contributions, and volunteered time and skills. Members of the communities in Sierra Leone have contributed land, labour, materials for the rebuilding, and are providing housing and support for the PSI volunteer. Students and teachers in Nova Scotia have written letters to Sierra Leonean students, raised money for schools, and collected materials. All of this work is coordinated and carried out by volunteers as PSI receives no core funding and has no paid staff.

Project needs

PSI is seeking financial support for these projects in Sierra Leone. 100% of donations goes directly to project work (no administrative costs or overhead is deducted) and is tax-deductible. We are seeking \$2,000 to cover shipping costs of donated educational and medical materials, \$3,000 for a community "ambulance", \$14,000 for school support \$23,000 to rebuild cdpeace, and \$2,000 for girls' scholarships for teacher training.

Your contribution to this project is greatly needed and will make an immediate difference in people's lives. Any amount is welcome and will go a long way.

Cheques can be made out to Peaceful Schools International and mailed to:

**Peaceful Schools International
PO Box 660, Annapolis Royal, NS, B0S 1A0**

Sierra Leone

Peace Education, Health, and Community Development Project

Background

Sierra Leone, emerging from an eleven-year civil war largely fought by child combatants, has been named by the U.N. as the "second least livable country in the world". Children, who were in large numbers displaced, abducted, forced into fighting, maimed, traumatized, and lost schooling, were most affected.

Many children lost years of education and 78% of existing primary schools are in need of rehabilitation. The situation in the health field is similar, and Sierra Leone has the second highest rate of maternal and infant mortality and an average lifespan of about 40. Many health clinics and hospitals, already inadequate, were destroyed during the war.



Despite this bleak picture, this is a time of great hope, possibility, and potential, as civil society is deeply committed to ensuring long-lasting peace, development and education and moving beyond the constraints of a post-war period. **Peaceful Schools International** and the **Centre for Development and Peace Education** are involved in peace and development work in Northern Sierra Leone and are seeking your support.

Please include the following information:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Donation amount: _____

I would like to allocate my donation to:

- the area of greatest need identified by project organizers
- rebuilding cdpeace's community education and organizing centre
- education (building, supplies, teacher support, shipping donated materials)
- health ("ambulance", shipping donated materials)
- girls' scholarships

For more information, please contact Carolyn van Gurp, (PSI volunteer) carolyn@cdpeace.com or (902) 425-5200

www.cdpeace.com
www.peacefulschoolsinternational.org

