Giving Tuesday and Silent Auction

**Tuesday Dec 3rd is “Giving Tuesday”** and this year a generous donor has offered to match all donations up to $200,000. Please go to [www.ewb-lvp.org](http://www.ewb-lvp.org) and click on the ‘donate now’ button. It’s only with your help that we are able to do these projects in Sierra Leone!

We’ll also be holding our annual **Silent Auction** at DeSalles University on Sunday April 5th from 4-7 PM. This is our main source of funding outside of Rotary Grants. We had out most successful auction ever last year and hope we can count on you to help us keep up the momentum.

Staff Housing

Tickets are bought and everyone has their Malaria meds - it won’t be long now before the teams are on their way to “The Best Place in the Whole Universe!” Our next installation is a complete renovation of International House for staff housing. The new facility is meant to provide living quarters for members of the medical staff who have many opportunities in the larger cities. Having a freshly remodeled home with bathrooms and electricity is a way to recruit and retain key medical professionals. This major overhaul will provide six large private bedrooms, a common area, study area, food preparation, and three full bathrooms with flush toilets and showers. The roof will be completely replaced as will the plumbing and electrical. Much of the funding will be provided by a grant from Rotary International (see more about the incredible Rotary Grant below).

The two teams will each travel for two weeks with less than a week in between. The first team will be Sean Dooley, Chiara, Dooley, Jose Silverio, and Tom Power. Sean was on the first LVP
trip to Sierra Leone and was part of the team doing the initial assessment of the Centennial Secondary School. He’ll be focused on the new roof. His daughter Chiara, now 17, will also be returning to SL - she was last there when she was one year old when her parents visited a project they had done in SL. She will be working on wiring in the conference room and getting the remote learning system installed and running. Jose ‘MacGyver’ Silverio, making his second trip, will be focusing on the steel roof trusses. Tom Power will be returning for the sixth time to work on plumbing, wiring, and walls.

Making up the second team are Carl Zvanut, Dr. Elizabeth ‘Lib’ Stanton, Sally Wright, and John Cecchini. Sally is a nurse going for her first time. She’ll be working on remote learning, assessing the previous projects and wiring up the staff housing. Dr. Stanton will be returning to Sierra Leone after her recent trip to install the Pediatric Toilet Facility. She’ll be working with Sally on the remote learning, assessments, and wiring. Carl Zvanut, on his fourth trip, will be leading the effort on the cesspit and plumbing. John Cecchini, with many years of project management, will be going to Mattru for the first time after his great work on our project in the Dominican Republic. He’ll be handling the administrative aspects of the trip and will work with Carl on plumbing.

We will once again be depending heavily on our incredible in-country construction manager, Ahmed Fullah and the great guide and minder Reverend Joseph Abu.
Rotary Grant

Once again, the Lehigh Valley Rotary clubs and Rotary International have been very generous in their support of our work in Sierra Leone. They are providing $25,000 towards the Staff Housing renovation which is critical to what we do there. But they are not stopping there. Training is a big focus for Rotary and, as they did at Centennial Secondary School, they are providing another $25,000 for medical textbooks, a conference room for continuing education, and a remote learning capability that will allow Mattru Hospital Staff to work with medical professionals here in the Lehigh Valley. Dr. Stanton and Sally Wright are working with LVHN residents and nursing students from Cedar Crest College of Nursing to form a partnership with Mattru Hospital. Using the new facility, they will be able to share techniques and information. The funding will also provide for administration and medical training from experts in Sierra Leone. Many thanks to our friends at Rotary!

New Connections

It’s amazing how many people and organizations are involved in Sierra Leone. After making a connection at the recent EWB conference in Pittsburgh, LVP is now talking to Plumbers Without Borders about working together in SL. We’ve also connected with the newly-formed Sierra Leone chapter of EWB and are planning to meet with them when we are in SL.

Get Involved!

You don’t have to be an engineer to be part of EWB. We are always looking for people with experience in the building trades, medicine, teaching, fundraising, home remodeling or someone enthusiastic and willing to learn. Please contact Tom Power at tpower1415@gmail.com or 484-464-3317.