## Dream Project Liberia

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# Hello!

I am Patrick A Sowah,

President and Founder of

**Dream Project Liberia** 

I came to the USA from Liberia in 2014 and have not forgotten where I come from.

Welcome Letter

Helping the children of Liberia live a better future, today

HCLLBFT

In conjunction with the Church of Redemption Praise Chapel Ministry, Inc. Banjor, Lower Virginia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, West Africa austinkonah2017@gmail.com Cell ph +231 886699988 or +231 77091007



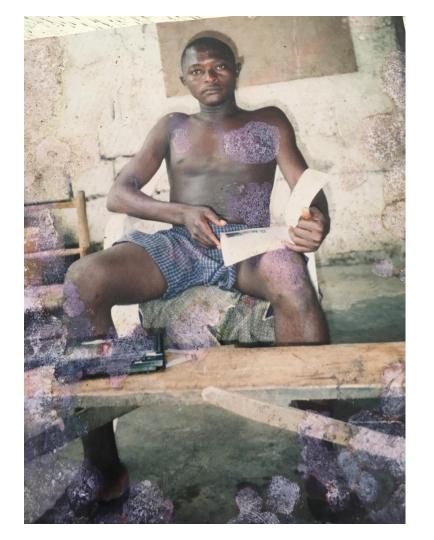
#### DREAM PROJECT LIBERIA

**Patrick A Sowah** 

Founder and President, Dream Project Liberia, based in Aberdeen, SD USA



Cell Phone: 605-941-0641 Email: DreamProjectLiberia@gmail.com WhatsApp: 605-941-0641 Facebook: A Patrick Sowah



You might be very surprised to learn that this picture is a photo of me, who you see humbly standing in front of you today. I am A Patrick Sowah, and in this picture, I was a student at the University of Liberia in Monrovia. I was in my twenties and had spent four years in neighboring Guinea as a refugee. Life as a refugee was very hard and I understood I needed an education. I walked with two friends through the civil war that was raging. Two of us arrived safely in Monrovia three months after starting out.

Here I was living next to a mud house in the capital city of Liberia. This is where I lived and studied. People commented, "He always has a book in his hand."

I knew that education was the way out of extreme poverty. Here I am recovering from an illness.

#### Why do I feel a great need to give back?

#### Please allow me to share a bit more

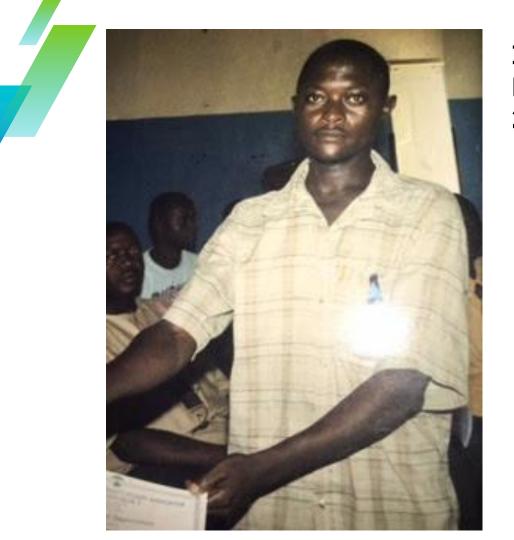
#### about myself...



I wore these boots for nine years. They served me well. I did not have money for anything else. I also had one pair of sandals which lasted four years. I wore these to university.

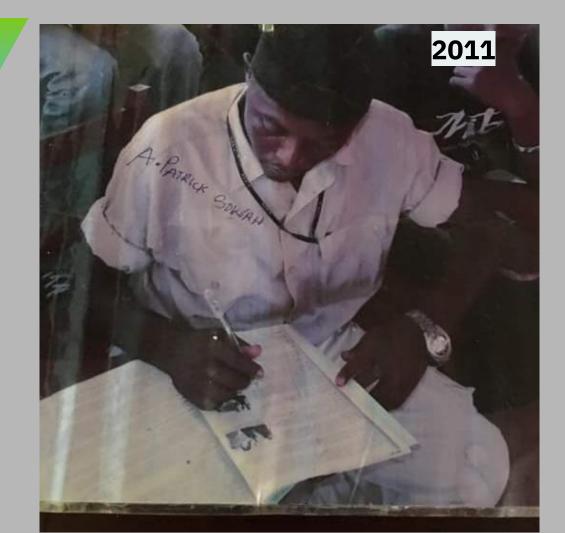


These sandals were worn four years at university.



#### I received an award of Most Outstanding Youth in 2010.

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Studying without electric lights was just one of the challenges I faced.

Nowadays electricity is somewhat more available; however, students lack the internet and the technology they need to compete in today's modern world.

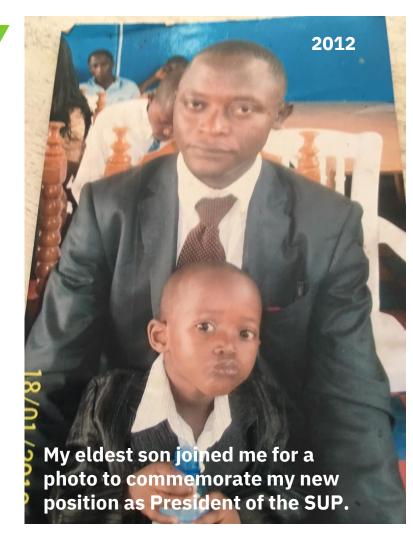
I got my first e-mail address at age 39.

I first opened a computer to type an assignment when I arrived at Northern University in 2020.

I had no car, so I rode on the shoulders of a friend to campaign.

I was honored to be elected to be President of the Student Union Party at the University of Monrovia.

PRESIDENT



My first set of dress clothes. I borrowed the jacket and had to return it as soon as photos had been taken. 9

My first meeting with the Vice President of Liberia, 2013, as Student Union President.





#### Graduation December 2013



After being wished safe travels by family (left), Patrick Sowah, University of Liberia Student Union President attended a student exchange program at Savannah State University in Georgia, USA in 2013.

2013



After the student exchange, I returned to Liberia to graduate. I obtained a government job, but soon I made the pivotal decision of my life, to return to America to further my education and pursue my goals. I started in Baltimore, MD, then traveled on to Sioux Falls, SD and now attend Northern University in Aberdeen, SD, where I will, with God's grace, graduate with a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling in May 2022.



My first car I obtained in Baltimore. There was a family in church without a car. I gave it to them before I left for Sioux Falls, SD. The American Dream has helped me to give back to those still suffering in Liberia today. I have given back as much I was able on my own since 2013, but through the assistance of new American friends and colleagues, Forming a non-profit will help in a much broader sense. My new friend <u>Ricardo Pierre-Louis</u> has done this for his home country of Haiti. I read his book "Hunger for Hope" and it is very inspirational. My good friend <u>Mary Ann</u> <u>Crow</u> introduced me to him. They work together teaching school in Bismarck, ND.









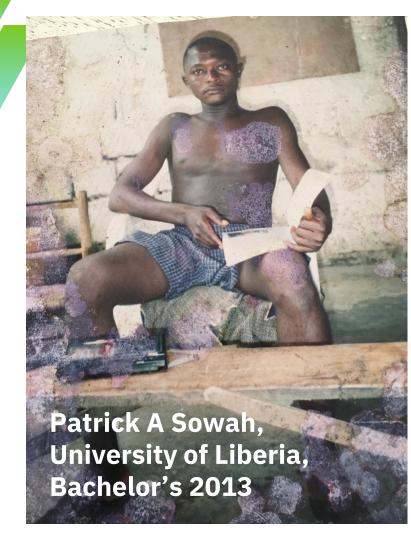
#### To God be the Glory!

The United States has provided me the opportunity to work to provide for my family, enjoy improved health and experience opportunities I never dreamt possible! Attending Northern University in Aberdeen, South Dakota has changed my life and I deeply desire to help my people in my career as Mental Health and Career Counselor and as President of a non-profit I would like to form called *Dream Project Liberia*.





A photo of a much healthier me in Sioux Falls, SD.



Patrick A Sowah, Northern University, Aberdeen, SD 2022 <u>Master's in Counseling</u>





### Coins for Children

# Help pay for medical needs



My friends and colleagues, there is a need that must be fulfilled before I can continue with the 501c(3) to make Dream Project Liberia a fully operational non-profit organization.

\$700 is required to be submitted along with the application.

If God is calling you to assist with helping to fulfil this need, please let me know.

Our children are waiting.



### 19

In order to succeed in life, you have to help others succeed first. If you want to achieve something that no one has ever achieved, you have to do something no one has ever done.

Patrick A Sowah, Founder & President, Dream Project Liberia



<u>Receipt of 72 School</u> <u>Tuitions Paid in direct</u> <u>support for Children</u>

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Apply to Help Support a Child's Education

### **DPLPurposes & Objectives**

- 1. To obtain donated goods and funds to benefit war-affected children positively in regards to mental health, food and education from Liberians living in the US, well-to-do Liberians and from Americans willing to assist internationally.
- 2. To work in conjunction with appropriate institutions, school principals and medical health professionals in the Republic of Liberia to ensure proper distribution to the neediest.
- 3. To enhance mental health literacy, mental health awareness and to provide career counseling to encourage further education and provide employment.

Provide school fees to pay for children's education in existing schools

Provide food and clothing to support a child's education

Provide high quality mental health literacy for those affected by childhood trauma, create mental health awareness and provide career counseling

Support the community through food, donations of clothing, educational tuition fees and mental health literacy, create mental health awareness and provide career counseling to encourage further education and employment

Develop a healthier, mentally well-balanced and well-educated population, and prepare the men and women of tomorrow;

Assist the neediest and most vulnerable of the population and

Train staff in best practices in regards to the above.



#### Developmental goals:



Digitally: In the next few months, create online donation, website, Facebook page, book of the Founder's Life, child sponsorship, and blog.



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Physically: In the next 4 to 5 years, Dream Project Liberia's (DPL) goal is to build the first Dream School in Liberia (we have already purchased an acre of land in Lofa County, Kolahun District, northern Liberia) that will help provide quality education for all Liberians and the Dream Church, which will help preach the good news about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In addition, the Dream Mental Health Home will help care for the disabled. And the Dream Mental Health Clinic, which will help promote mental health literacy in Liberia. Finally, the <u>Dream Social Club</u> will help bring everyone together socially to promote good mental health.

<u>Photos and videos of</u> <u>Dream Project Liberia</u> <u>in action</u>

See the children

#### The children are the future. They require proper

Mental health care (war-affected children)
Food and water (plentiful, clean and frequent)
Education (\$50/yr per child when many subsist on \$1.25 US a day.)

Let's provide them the tools that can make a better future.

Children are waiting for the opportunity for an education.

Founder Patrick A Sowah has been privately donating since coming to America, but the need is

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Equal opportunit for all



#### Membership

Become a member today for free. Bring your gifts, talents and ideas by volunteering. It is amazing what a few minutes of your time can do! You *can* make a positive difference!

<u>Become a member / register</u> <u>HERE</u> online.

If you prefer, please let us know if you would like a paper copy to register.

DreamProjectLiberia@gmail.cor

# You + Me =

#### POSITIVE CHANGE

Together, we can eliminate ignorance and intolerance, educate and promote wellness and good mental health to create a safer world for children.



#### **Donation Photos**

**Welcome Letter** 

**Membership Form** 

**Dream Project Proposal** 

#### Dream Project Liberia

our office in Aberdeen, South Dakota

Liberia

#### Private donations + From caring people like you

#### **Grant monies =**

That are available

#### **100%** Positive impact for needy children

#### DPL non-profit organizational structure



- **Chair or president:** This person oversees the work of the board and the organization's CEO and/or senior management team. They should possess strong leadership skills and be invested in the success of your organization.
- Vice chair or vice president: This person supports the work of the board chair and board executive, including filling in for the board chair when needed, and fulfills special assignments as required. They should be ready to lead and committed to learn about the ins and outs of your board.
- Secretary: This person is responsible for maintaining meeting minutes and monitoring compliance with your nonprofit's bylaws. They're usually required to attend all meetings. Your secretary should be highly organized and detail oriented.
- **Treasurer:** This person tracks your nonprofit's financial standing, reviews the annual audit and usually serves as chair of the finance committee. They should have a strong background in financial accounting.

#### **Standing Committees**

- **Governance committee**: Responsible for recruiting and orienting new board members and providing education opportunities for the board.
- Finance or audit and risk committee: Responsible for reviewing the organization's accounting policies and audit reports and helps identify and manage potential financial risks to the organization.
- **Executive committee**: Responsible for dealing with significant issues that may arise in between board meetings. It's typically comprised of the organization's lead and board directors (staff and non-board volunteers typically don't serve on the executive committee).
- **Fundraising committee**: Responsible for developing fundraising strategies in support of the organization's mission, including by supporting fundraising event targets.
- Marketing committee: Depending on the size of your organization, the marketing committee can be responsible for either developing and executing a marketing strategy or providing advice to support staff-driven marketing strategies.
- Collections committee: Assists with running website, blog, sponsorship, fundraising, grant writing and donations.

#### Members at Large and Standing Committees

<u>Collections</u> currently unfilled <u>Distribution</u>

Austin Konah, Pastor, Liberia, West Africa and wife Hawa Konah

#### Fundraising

Michelle Schwab, manager of Arioso Music Academy, Bismarck, North Dakota USA and husband Jayme Schwab

Governance The Board of Directors volunteers needed

Marketing	currently unfilled
<u> </u>	-

<u>Audit</u> currently unfilled

#### **Further Committees**

Sourcing Committeeassists with land purchasing,maintenance, architecture, design, cost estimates, etc.Building Committeeassists with construction onthe ground in Liberia, oversees and reports to the Boardthe status of buildings.

<u>Volunteer Coordination</u> coordinates with several committees about their various needs for volunteers, recruits volunteers both in the US and in Liberia.

#### **SWOT Analysis**

#### STRENGTHS

Caring, compassionate, able adults coming together to collectively make a positive impact by working together.

Education for future decision-makers, Understanding, Tolerance, Health & Wellness

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

#### WEAKNESSES

Ignoring the problem Acknowledging there is a problem, but feeling too overwhelmed Hunger, Ignorance,

Lack of Education and Healthcare, lack of awareness of mental

health issues and overcoming the stigma





# Much love & respect!

Helping the children of Liberia live a better future, today

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