

## Working To Keep Students Safe: Vietnam Veteran Steps Up Support To Schools



**EU Delegate To Liberia Cuts Ribbon**

A Vietnam veteran of Afro-American descent continues to provide 500-gallon pure and safe drinking water to school campuses in communities susceptible to water borne disease along the Somalia Drive in Montserrado County. Recovering from a scar of the Ebola virus disease which took away many lives and left several thousand orphans in the sub region, Liberia faces a number of challenges especially with no or little supply of safe drinking water to schools across the country.



The water, sanitation and hygiene sector remains a cardinal aspect in post-Ebola recovery process as far as the student community is concern.

Against this back drop, as part of Project Kind Initiative for Kids Shoes' (PKIKS) Ebola prevention activities, the group has so far donated three poly tanks to schools in Montserrado County.

The project which has been distributing shoes to kids is currently providing safe drinking water to schools. The safe drinking water supply to school campaign has been solely funded from the pension and retirement benefits of elder Paul Chatham, II, a 69 ear-old Vietnam vet African-American and Army community service officer (RET) and a US Army Europe-NATO-Command. The donation brings to three the number of poly tanks donated with 500 gallons of

safe drinking water to Great Commission School, Ward Preparatory School and the Christian Community College.

"I hope that my contribution will serve as an example and inspiration to individuals and organizations to join the clean water campaign today," the Afro-American Vietnam vet pleaded.

Project Kind Initiative for Kids Shoes country Director Sekou S. Dukuly commended volunteers for identifying schools in District Twelve in Montserrado County and he was especially grateful for the project to find solution to the acute need of safe drinking water on the campus.

Mr. Dukuly used the occasion to call on others to join the campaign to help nearly 4580 schools in the country to have access to safe drinking water.

Considering the urgent need for safe drinking water in schools, he asked: "what will we be doing now until pipe-borne water can be supplied to schools".

He added that on April 29, 2015, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf provided similar poly tank to the Charles D.B. King School on Warren Street in Monrovia to solve the drinking water problem that is experienced on school campuses.

In a remark, Ward Preparatory School Principal Abeyome Doe also lauded PKIKS for the timely



"Hand pumps, and wells cannot solve the problem except poly tank which serves as reservoir to hold clean and safe drinking water for a student population," he said.

donation which according to him will alleviate the spread of water-borne diseases.

"We were given 500-gallons poly tank with water free of charge and the students also received books from PKIKS



## Vietnam Veteran Steps Up - continued

to enhance their level of comprehension”.

Great Commission School instructor Alexander Kparh similarly commended the program for the initiative as one who gives water gives lives.

Receiving the poly tank, Liberia Christian College Principal Rev. Leon Brosius also commended the project for the gesture and call on others to follow suit.

For his part, Head of Section

Cooperation Second Secretary of the European Union delegation to Liberia Stephano Ellero, said water is life because it is evident that when a child is born about 77 percent of its weight is water.

“Water made of 65 percent of the weight of an adult and humans die in three days without water in the body”.

He said as Liberia is reach in ground water it is a common effort to bring water to schools. “It is extremely

important because water provides protection against Ebola so it is necessary to provide water in many schools in Liberia.”

Commenting further, he added that it is the responsibility community to maintain the facility to ensure that the poly tank is kept clean.

Mr. Ellero said the EU is currently working with rural communities to provided water to 500 schools in eight

counties in Liberia.

Also commenting, Sophie Tyler, Advisor to World Health Organization Representative to Liberia called on other organizations to join the safe drinking campaign in Liberian schools.

She encouraged implementing partners and other development agencies to emulate the example of PKIKS to ensure safe learning environment.

