

PKIKS Delivers 30,000 Gallons Safe Drinking Water to Schools



Elder Cheatham & PKIKS Volunteers

As part of a clean and safe drinking water campaign after the outbreak of the Ebola virus in Liberia, Project Kind Initiative for Kids Shoes (PKIKS) has delivered 30,000 gallons of safe drinking water to students in seven schools in Gardnersville, a suburb of Monrovia.

Making the disclosure during an interactive meeting with beneficiary schools Thursday at Ward Preparatory School in Gardnersville, the group's executive director, Sekou Dukuly said it is of no use in the first place for anyone or institution to wait for an emergency to provide safe drinking water to schools in the country.

"No institution or individual should wait for an emergency before safe drinking bulk water can be provided to schools in the country; water should always be there for students to drink and be healthy because healthy people build a vibrant nation" Dukuly said.

The group's executive director indicated that of the 20 schools targeted by the campaign, seven have benefited so far along with the

installation of a similar drinking water facility in a community.

Elder Paul Cheatham, II, a US Army veteran, who is sponsoring the safe drinking bulk water campaign in the country, five years ago brought into the country ship load of brand new shoes for kids to wear to go to school.

"But, while the shoes were being distributed to the kids, we later discovered that the kids need more than shoes. These needs include access to quality education, medical care, water and sanitation, clothing and shelter, all of which are fundamental human rights," elder Cheatham said.

Veteran Cheatham, who said he served the US Army for 30 years, asserted that the first 20 schools to be identified by the campaign will receive more consignments of books, and other materials for students and schools alike. "All the first set of seven schools will continue to receive my support when I get any increase from other philanthropists."

"I pray that I get increase. For the remaining 13 schools I need more funding to make that happen. The

campaign is being supported my pockets and through the grace of God," he recalled.

Cheatham, who traced his ancestry to a Kru man from Grand Kru County 150 years ago in 1823, said his great grandparents were sold as slaves to America, and he is pretty happy to come home to give back from his retirement benefits to needy people happy in Liberia.

"In 1825 during the reign of Liberia's fifth president James Monroe, my great grandfather came on the ship that navigated from New York to Liberia. My grandfather arrived in 1825 and he went to find the Kru speaking people," he added.

The elder lauded the effort of local volunteers of the program especially the country's executive director and his team for standing up to the task to give back to their communities. He promised to visit Liberia once again to reach out to needy kids and make them happy.

Meanwhile, PKIKS Liberia has begun the distribution of plastic buckets and sanitary materials to schools captured under the campaign. This begins with Ward Preparatory School, the first beneficiary of the 500 gallon poly tank in the LPRC community Gardenesville.

