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Kickstarter Campaign Launched for Documentary on Ebola Crisis

Film to Bring Much-Needed Attention to Liberia's Ongoing Struggles

SAN DIEGO – The Foundation for Women, a San Diego-based non-profit working to end poverty through microfinance, has launched a new Kickstarter campaign to raise funds for a powerful documentary about Liberia, West Africa, entitled HOPE.

HOPE highlights the resilience and tenacity of Liberians in the face of the deadly Ebola virus that caused an unprecedented health crisis in 2014, killing more than five-thousand citizens and leaving thousands of orphans in its wake. The disaster was layered upon the country's existing problems of extreme poverty and fallout from a senseless civil war fourteen years earlier.

The film personifies the country's struggle to manage a death toll that climbed to horrifying proportions with seemingly no end in sight. It provides a raw and insightful look into the lives of a cross-section of Liberia, including a female doctor who treated hundreds of Ebola victims, and several Ebola survivors. It shows the valiant goals of those scrambling to put their country back together, to reinstate the Liberian spirit of generosity and engagement destroyed at the onset of Ebola, replaced by distrust, suspicion, and growing fear and paranoia throughout the country.

According to Deborah Lindholm, founder of Foundation for Women and Executive Producer of HOPE, "Those featured in the film are the heroes of Liberia and of the world, really. They inspire hope in all of us as they've lived through poverty, war, and now Ebola and still remain optimistic about their lives and the future of their country."

The film also frames the reality of a country trying to move forward as thousands still suffer from ongoing medical issues and the stigmatization of having survived the deadly virus.

Lindholm believes it's a metaphor for the world's universal issues. "Ebola is not the last global issue we, as one human family, will face. We need to look at what we learned from this tragedy, and how we will find love instead of fear to help those suffering now, and in the future."

The Kickstarter campaign is looking to raise \$22,000 by the end of May to finish production of the film. Two Liberian reporters, Henry Karmo and J. Anthony Armah, are producing the film.

The Foundation for Women brought its proven microfinance program to Liberia in 2007. It continues to help women establish small businesses and also provides microfinance capital to low-fee, independent schools throughout Liberia, impacting more than 20,000 children.

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