

### Looking For Us?

After years of being in the field, we are looking forward to staying grounded. We are beyond excited to announce that you can now find us at our new office space in Port Moresby! Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Pacific Palms Property, a Steamships company, Links of Hope will now be run out of Downtown Plaza, opposite the Grand Papua Hotel in the Town area of Port Moresby. Having a static facility to call our own is an important step in expanding the reach and maximizing the impact of Links of Hope. We have a dedicated team who you can find at the office from Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm.



In other news, while our programming is still slowed due to the threats of COVID-19, we are back at Anglicare (Waigani) for care package distribution. Our activities may look different, but we remain committed to serving the needs of the Links of Hope community. For example, because Papua New Guinea schools now require students to wear masks, we worked with Joie's Tailoring to ensure each LOH child has a reusable mask so that they do not miss out on any class. This is just one of the many things we are doing to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on those affected by HIV in Papua New Guinea.



### What Does COVID-19 Mean for LOH?

Two months into the onset of COVID-19 Papua New Guinea, we have seen 8 confirmed cases and countless efforts to contact trace and ensure others have not been infected. While the State of Emergency is coming to a close, the Government of PNG and Papua New Guineans themselves remain vigilant in an effort to curb future outbreaks.

Since Links of Hope works with an immunocompromised population, we have paused our community programming and urged the LOH families to stay home. Instead, we have taken Links of Hope virtual! We established a Hotline for both Port Moresby and Mt. Hagen based families and are doing weekly check-ins over the phone. When we call, we repeat messages of social distancing, hygiene, and updates from the government.

One of the major issues around the State of Emergency was the disruption in transportation. Many people could not cross town or provincial lines and public transportation was commonly unavailable. Where these issues interrupted one's ability to get to the clinic, LOH helped to deliver ARVs (HIV daily medication) and LOH care packages to the children on our program. We are also thankful for the support of the NCD Foodbank who supplied supplemental food packages for the LOH children. Every day, our dedicated team is working around the clock to make sure that those most vulnerable do not suffer at the hands of the pandemic.

We continue to operate the Hotline and do our best to support our community—such as by providing masks for kids to return to school. Now more than ever, **we need your help**. We understand that not only are global healthcare systems suffering, but so is the economy. As a small community organisation, that means we are taking a significant hit as sponsors are not able to support us during these difficult times. However, we also know that our communities need us now more than ever because health resources are being reallocated. Please considering making an additional donation this month or sponsoring a second child. Every bit counts! <https://www.linksofhopepng.com/donate>

### Child Protection

Links of Hope enacted a new Child Protection Policy in mid-2019. As an organization, protecting the rights and privacy of the children we work with is of utmost importance. Part of this includes holding our sponsors accountable for protecting the privacy of the children, as well; some key privacy terms are outlined below and you can see the full Child Protection Policy document on our website. If you have any questions, please contact: [development.linksofhope.pg@gmail.com](mailto:development.linksofhope.pg@gmail.com)

- A child's privacy is, for instance, violated by the production of unauthorised publicity material (pictures, films, texts, etc.) featuring the boy or girl; or by presenting sensitive information within a context that reveals the child's identity.
- We handle children's names carefully, especially in connection with sensitive information
- No label of a child's health or socioeconomic status may be assigned to media

If you choose to share information about Links of Hope or a sponsored child, a good rule of thumb is to only use pictures where a child is smiling and leave out any identifying or sensitive facts.

Thank you for helping to protect the children we work with!

### Stay Safe, Stay Well!

This is a hectic time for the world and, unfortunately, no one is exempt from the effects of COVID-19. We want to remind our supporters of the importance of good hygiene and social distancing. We **ALL** have a part to play in flattening the curve— stay home when possible, limit your exposure and ability to transmit, and protect others. Remember that young adults are just as vulnerable to the virus as the elderly and are often the asymptomatic spreaders. Be smart, air on the side of caution, and help keep your community healthy! Take a look at this amazing Tok Pisin prevention messaging put together by the World Health Organization (WHO):



**Save gut long sik COVID-19**

World Health Organization Representative Office for Papua New Guinea

**Wasim han olgeta taim**

**Taim yu kus, pasim maus wantaim elbo bilong yu**

**Noken holim pes bilong yu wantaim nus, maus na ai**

**Noken go long ol bikpla bung na stap longwe long ples igat planti manmeri**

**Stap 1m longwe long ol narapla sik manmeri husat igat kus na skin hot**

**Klinim gut antap bilong teibol, hendol bilong dua, ol baten, laptop, na ol samting we ol lain i save holim planti olgeta taim**

### Links of Hope Staff Spotlight

Meet Talitha, the Links of Hope Community Health Officer. Talitha is passionate about giving back to her community and lives by the Mother Teresa quote, "I cannot do great things, but I can do small things with great love." Though LOH is a small organization, she believes that its work plays an essential role in PNG by reaching out and impacting people's lives, especially those who are most vulnerable. Talitha's goal within Links of Hope is to help establish more operational centers, particularly in areas with high burdens of HIV, so that her work reaches more children impacted by the HIV epidemic. Talitha has been instrumental in getting our new office up and running and will be working to implement and strengthen all Links of Hope health activities.

