

Updating Our Community Programming

Our 2020 New Year's Resolution is to continually strengthen our systems and programs, starting with building a brand new community health education curriculum. This year, we're changing things up! We have built an 11-month health education program, to be delivered to the Links of Hope caregivers, each month having a specific theme. The themes we will be covering this year include: Child Protection, Intro to HIV, Life Skills, Healthy Lifestyles, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV, Positive Parenting, Homebased Care, Resilience, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Gender-Based Violence.

Each month's theme also includes sub-topics for each week and specific objectives that we're aiming to teach. For example, we want people to understand the services accessible to survivors of gender-based violence, know what forms of contraception are available in Papua New Guinea, and fully realize how parents living with HIV can have a child without transmitting the virus.

This year, we're taking the program deeper into the communities. The Links of Hope Port Moresby team will be delivering the health education curriculum, alongside pre-school literacy sessions, twice weekly in two different designated location. This change comes in an effort to reach a larger population of our Links of Hope families on a more regular basis. By being closer to them, we are setting a precedence that we are entirely community-based and locally-owned. We hope to deliver the same weekly program in Mt. Hagen later this year! Stay tuned.



An International Visit & Big Thank You's!

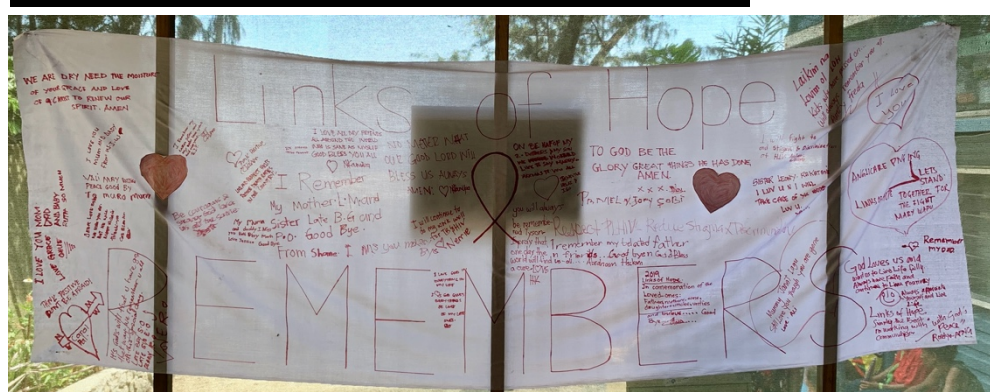
This month, we were privileged to have a visitor from Spain who volunteered his time with Links of Hope to produce some new media. Filmmaker Miguel started with our team in Mt. Hagen where he was able to shadow uniform distribution, home visits, the hospital referral process, and even snuck in a trip to Mt. Wilhelm (the tallest mountain in PNG) with several of our staff. Miguel then came to Port Moresby where he worked with our team to understand the sociocultural challenges plaguing people living with HIV. He visited the Well Baby Clinic, the Links of Hope Respite Home, and spent time with some LOH caregivers and children. We aimed to give him an authentic experience and show him a glimpse into life in Papua New Guinea.

You can see Miguel's portfolio of work here: <http://mrchallengefilms.com/>
And we will share the Links of Hope short film once it's finished! Can't wait!!

We are of course forever grateful for our partnerships and support from groups on the ground in PNG and supporters from Australia and across the globe, including by not limited to: Deloitte, Capital Insurance, Pacific Industries, Kraft Heinz, Trukai, the All Nations Women's Group, the Brian Bell Foundation, and the incredible team of volunteers who cook lunches for our pre-school literacy program.

We can't pull off our programs or accomplish our big goals without our dedicated Board of Directors and our staff teams in Port Moresby and Mt. Hagen. Thank you for their undying commitment!

****An important note to our supporters: if you are ever contacted by an unfamiliar person or by a non-Links of Hope e-mail address, claiming to be a representative of Links of Hope, please contact us before responding. Thank you! Linksofhope.pg@gmail.com**



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

- 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!

What's on Tap?

We cannot believe it's already 2020! We're wishing for a safe, healthy and productive New Year, starting with some key activities.

February:

- Finishing up school uniform distribution
- Start of year-long pre-school literacy and caregiver health literacy programs.
- We've moved! LOH programming will be in new locations this year. Let us know if you're looking for us.
- Hygiene supply distribution in partnership with CPL Foundation and City Pharmacy
- Theme: Child Protection

March:

- International Women's Day- March 8th
- Theme: Intro to HIV



Links of Hope Staff Spotlight

Meet Seruma, the Links of Hope Operations Manager. Prior to her time at LOH, Seruma taught bookkeeping and computer skills at a training and development organization. When she moved to Port Moresby from Milne Bay, she studied Early Childhood Education and began working with Links of Hope as a pre-school literacy teacher. She has since taken on the role of Port Moresby Operations Coordinator and now country-wide Operations Manager. Seruma exemplifies everything that is Links of Hope—passion, love, integrity, and perseverance. When asked, she'll tell you that she loves working for Links of Hope because it reaches out to marginalized families who are too often left behind. In the future, she hopes that Links of Hope can build its partnership base in order to deliver more expansive sustainable community health education programs.

