

**February 2017**

Next progress report: May 2017

*"The size of your dreams must always exceed your current capacity to achieve them. If your dreams don't scare you, they're not big enough."*

- Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia

This project is a manifestation of President Sirleaf's quote above. A faith walk from the very beginning, indeed, an army of believers brought it here to this point!

And thanks to the incredible support of over \$400,000 from more than 600 individuals, 400 ELCA congregations, conferences, and synods from west coast to east coast, Global Health Ministries, Wheat Ridge Ministries, the ELCA Churchwide Global Missions office, National Geographic Society, and countless additional supporters, the dream of bringing solar power to Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing is being realized!!! From Liberian concert fundraisers in the Twin Cities Metro, MN to speaking engagements in the Grand Canyon Synod, from ice cream socials in Pine City, MN to various fundraisers in New Jersey, this project is a living manifestation of the unstoppable, caring, powerful, **Bold Women** of the ELCA today.

Two containers of components, materials, and supplies have been shipped, and the team from RREAL will be on a plane on March 20<sup>th</sup> to begin the 100kW installation in collaboration with 8 local partners who will gain a paid hands-on learning opportunity in installing solar energy systems. The first container has arrived at Phebe Hospital and is being off-loaded on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The second container is expected at the beginning of March.



Container #1 pulling out. Global Health Ministries Operations Director Scott Lien says, "It's a sin to ship air," and they fill every square millimeter with medical supplies

*Container #1 being packed by volunteers from Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka, MN, and Global Health Ministries staff*



*A Merry Band of volunteers helps Global Health Ministries staff load Container #2*



*Container #2 packed! Global Health Ministries once again crammed every available cavity with medical supplies for three hospitals in Liberia*

Stay updated on our progress! Here's how:

1. Follow updates on the NE MN Synodical website: <http://www.nemnsynod.org/>
2. Follow updates on RREAL's website: <http://www.rreal.org/>
3. Like RREAL on Facebook for pictures, and regular update briefs: <https://www.facebook.com/ruralrenewableenergyalliance/>
4. Come see us at the Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention hosted in Minnesota this summer!

The people who are making this possible:



And the RREAL team members heading out on the installation include Ben Butcher, Construction Manager; Michael Hills, Licensed Electrician; BJ Allen, Project Manager; Joel Lindstrom, Master Electrician, and Jason Edens, Licensed Contractor and Director.

