

Welcome to Peace Island Community

A Decent Place to Live

Slum Upgrading Project in Greater Monrovia

Peace Island is a small island in the large lagoon which is surrounded by buildings as the city of Monrovia expanded beyond its official city limits. The lagoon became the septic tank of the city as residents lacked proper sanitation and waste management services. Even so people desperate for a place to live began inhabiting this small island, preferring to live in the capital city rather than in a rural village. The population surged to now hosting around 30,000 inhabitants. The place was full of solid waste and there was a severe lack of water making for a very unhealthy environment. To get water, women and children had to walk to the mainland and cross one of the busiest roads in the country carrying heavy loads of water.



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There was no bridge to the island but during the dry season a road appears as the water recedes and during the rainy season, it is covered with highly contaminated water. Peace Island was a dangerous place to live.



The mission statement of Habitat for Humanity "*Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.*" When they saw the conditions on Peace Island, they made a plan to do something and began bringing together people with resources to make a difference. Several partners were coordinated to tackle different aspects of the slum upgrading. The local YMCA did community training and organized groups to clean up all the solid waste. Cities Alliance played a role in funding some of the work, especially on the training portion. OPEC's Office for International Development funded some of the infrastructure work.

The drilling of two wells for the necessary water supply began in April and May, however, Habitat was struggling to find a partner to manage the construction of the water piping, water tower and solar pumps to complete the water system. In addition, there were plans to rehabilitate two dilapidated

community toilets and to construct two new toilets all with flush toilets. One of the new toilets was designed to produce biogas which was to be used for heating water for hot baths.

Habitat was still needing a partner to manage the infrastructure project and add additional funding. WHI did not have funds to devote to this worthy cause, but when the opportunity was shared with **Celebrate Church**, the response was an immediate “Yes” which enabled WHI to take on the challenge. The construction work began in earnest in November and completed in March.

The inhabitants of Peace Island are so happy with the improvements in their community and willing to pay a small fee to maintain the water and sanitation services. A Project Management Committee made up of local leaders has been established and trained to oversee the continuation of the services, but local enterprises are contracted by them to operate the water and sanitation businesses.

High level government officials attended the dedication ceremony and gave praise to WHI and Habitat for Humanity and all the partners for the great effort to bring hope and dignity to the people of Peace Island. **Celebrate Church** was a key partner in the project by giving \$50,000 to enable the completion of infrastructure construction. Thank you for your generous contribution!



Community Social Hall



Reservoir & Kiosk



2 Renovated Bio Fill Toilets



New Bio Fill Toilet



2 Water Kiosks



New Bio Gas Toilet “BEST”



Borehole Solar Pump System CAC Road