

School in Madina, Sierra Leone

There is a school started in a small village of Sierra Leone, West Africa, because of the determination of Fort Wayne's Francis Mustapha to pass along the opportunity to have an education. Francis, born in Madina, Sierra Leone, says it is because of the Western-educated nurse from a neighboring village who raised him that he was given a chance at life at all. His twin brother died at birth, as well as several siblings before him.

After years of nurturing his dream of a school in Madina and a decade of groundwork, construction started in January, 2011. Two classroom buildings are under way. The Sara Dinehart Well is completed and will provide water for construction as building continues. A mining company contributed machinery and manpower to clear the land for future buildings and a second well. The Madina community has pitched in along the way, from clearing brush and transporting sand for handmade blocks for walls to providing meals for workers.

Much has been accomplished. Now, funds are needed to proceed with the framing and roof of the second classroom building, complete the interiors of the classrooms and start the administrative building. When construction is complete, the school will accommodate 600 children from Madina and surrounding villages. "Who knows what these students may become with an education," says Francis.



Handmade blocks are put in place, and the walls of the only school in the Madina area grace the landscape.



With the installation of the roof on the first classroom building, excitement for the village school grows.

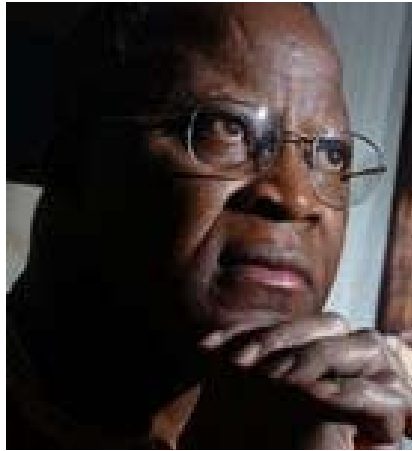


Francis Mustapha surrounded by children of Madina. For him, education is life. He is fulfilling his dream of giving many children life – and opportunity.

It's taking shape!

Join the dream! Tax-deductible donations can be sent to: Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, 4700 Vance Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46815. Memo "Mission School Project." Call 260.483.8816 for more information.

Francis Mustapha ...



Mustapha has always had the dream to build a village school in gratitude for his life and education.

- Born in Madina, Sierra Leone, West Africa. 1948
- Saved from infant death by the care of a Western-educated nurse
- Leaves Sierra Leone to further his education, knowing he would return to give back for the education that saved his life. 1968
- Earns degrees from Indiana Wesleyan University, 1972; masters, 1973, and Ed.S., 1975, from Indiana University
- Marries Roberta J. (Bobbie) Strahm, 1976. (The Mustaphas have three adult children and four grandchildren.)
- Teaches in Liberia, Sierra Leone and the United States, retiring after 12 years at South Side and 14 years at Snider high schools in Fort Wayne, Indiana. 1975-2010
- Master teacher (1991-1997) and program director (1996-2004), Indiana University Summer Biology Enrichment Program for Minority Students
- Master teacher in Exploration of Careers in Science sponsored by National Science Foundation and Indiana University. 1992-1996
- Recognized for teaching excellence: Fort Wane Community Schools and Indiana State Teacher of the Year, induction into the National Teachers Hall of Fame and Milken Family Foundation National Education Award, 1994; National Rainbow Teacher of the Year, 2009
- Travels to Sierra Leone to give teaching award money to village leaders to start a school. Civil war erupts during his visit. Francis escapes and funds instead go to villagers' relief. 1994
- Partners with Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne to build a school in Madina as post-war Sierra Leone becomes more stable. 2010
- Begins fund-raising after a decade of groundwork. Support and encouragement come from the downtown Kiwanis Club, friends, teachers, students, former students and their parents. 2010
- Supervises construction of the village school. Brush is cleared, a well is built and construction is started on two classroom buildings. 2011
- Continues fund-raising for completion of the two classroom buildings and starting an administrative building immediately after arriving home in Fort Wayne. July 2011

making his dream a reality

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