



- changing the lives of disabled people in Sierra Leone by preparing them for skilled employment through the provision of training scholarships in Information Communication and Technology

## ABOUT THE TRUST

The Dorothy Springer Trust (DST) was formed in 2006 and registered with the UK Charity Commission in 2007. Its vision is “to enable disabled people in Sierra Leone to support themselves and their families through skilled employment, allowing them to participate more fully as equal members of society”. The DST provides scholarships to disabled people in Sierra Leone to undergo advanced Information Communication and Technology (ICT) training and certification. On completion of their training they will be helped to find regular employment in Sierra Leone.

### Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends

**We would like to thank you so much for supporting DST. Thanks to your donations a big difference is being made in Sierra Leone! A year of studies is changing the lives of disabled people - “I stand out as a person now,” enthused Milton, one of our beneficiaries.**

**From all of DST, both in Sierra Leone and in the UK, as well as our beneficiaries, we would like to send you our greetings and wish you the very best for the forthcoming year.**

## ABS IN SIERRA LEONE

### DST Founder is in Freetown - and not just for a visit!

Dr Abdulai Dumbuya (“Abs”) has moved back to his native Sierra Leone, a great country, but one where life is far more difficult and an everyday battle.

However, thanks to Abs’ decision he can now closely monitor the Scholarship process and be in touch with the students as well as help them gain employment. “I really appreciate the regular meetings,” said one of the students. “It keeps us up to date.” For DST’s beneficiaries Abs is also a role model. One of the first year Scholars, Sheka, expressed: “I always see Dr. Dumbuya and I think to myself: I want to be like him, achieve like he did!”

At the moment a lot of Abs’ time is dedicated to fundraising, so that DST can make its desired step forward to expand its operations. And, of course, a lot of his time is also spent raising awareness of disability issues in Sierra Leone.

## AMAZING SUCCESS: THE FIRST SCHOLARS ARE NOW EMPLOYED!

### Excellent news: our beneficiaries now have jobs in ICT!

All three - Sheka, Sylvester and Adonis - are now employed: Sheka at the British Council, Sylvester and Adonis at IT consultancy Tytherleigh Ltd, in the Public Sector Reform Unit.

This is great news, especially now, when even more disabled people in Sierra Leone are turning to street begging for their main source of income. Thanks to you, our valued supporters, our first three Scholars have wonderful prospects. You gave these three men a great gift: a bright future!



*From Left, Adonis, Mr Michael (British Council), Sylvester, Sheka and Abs. The successful trio meeting Mr Michael at the British Council, where they were offered Internship opportunities.*

DST’s second group of students have now finished their courses; some are preparing to take their final exams and are also applying for Internships at other organisations. Thanks to Abs, DST now has a new link with the Sierra Leone Police, who are looking to employ disabled people in their growing Communications Unit! The Armed Forces has also expressed an interest in employment opportunities for disabled people.

## SUPPORT AND SUPPORTERS

Earlier in the year (March) Abs presented software (JAWS) kindly donated by Easthampstead Baptist Church to the Educational Centre for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ECBVI) people.



*Abs with Tomas Aliou, Director of the ECBVI*

And in June this year, Easthampstead Baptist Church, UK, the largest donor to the Dorothy Springer Trust, sent 11 of its members to Sierra Leone to see the work of the Trust and forge stronger relationships with ECBVI and Regent Road Baptist Church SL. (The picture shows the group, plus driver and helper, on Leicester Peak in Freetown.)



**NEW PEOPLE  
IN SIERRA:  
PHIL AND SARKA**

**Veni, vidi... and kept on coming back**

At the beginning Phil came to see Sierra Leone as a tourist, spent some time with Abs... and returned a few months later, the second time with Sarka, to work as DST volunteers.

**Phil** has a background in Real Estate Finance working for Deloitte in the UK.

**Sarka** is a Freelance Journalist and studied Anthropology in the Czech Republic and the UK.

**DST Aims High!**

In Spring 2011, Abs, Sarka and Phil put their heads together and wrote a proposal for grant funding to help DST grow and, more importantly, to become financially self-sustainable! This means that more money can be generated and more students can come on board.

At the moment the proposal has been submitted to various funding bodies - fingers crossed!

Also smaller project proposals have been submitted with the aim that DST will be able to secure a Centre with reliable electricity and working computers for its students to practise. But not only this - Abs' mission here in Sierra Leone is to promote Disabled Rights, therefore this Centre can also serve as an awareness-raising hub.

**MERCY SHIPS ... THANK YOU!**

**Computers, printers and AVI equipment - all for DST!**

What great news! With the equipment kindly donated by the crew of Mercy Ships (which is leaving Freetown) DST now has a great starting point once a location for a new Centre is found. All the DST students will have a place to practise with great facilities. Plus carrying all the boxes from the ship was great exercise!



*Dr. Abs Dumbuya and Mr Keith Brinkman*



*Transporting the goods*

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE DISABLED (3.12.11)**

Together with other organisations, DST promoted International Disabled Day, Abs chaired the conference.



**NEW YEAR—NEW STRATEGY!**



The Dorothy Springer Trust



**In 2012 DST will partner with Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD) to offer a basic ICT education. At the same time the advanced scholarships are to be suspended.**

At the moment there are not enough qualified individuals in Sierra Leone's quickly-developing ICT sector. Therefore the new partnership – DST and LCD – is to offer basic ICT training to produce a larger number of qualified individuals who can either continue as DST Advanced Scholars, or enter the growing job market.

Due to the lack of individuals with enough basic ICT education, it has been decided that the Advanced Scholarships will be suspended until 2013. The new strategy with LCD aims to put this situation right. Also, a new approach from DST is to actively encourage female students, especially in basic ICT training. DST recognizes there is an opportunity for talented ladies who are not offered chances like this as much as their male colleagues.

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Mrs Mary Calvert (Advisor); Mr Mark O'Kelly (Advisor); Mrs Margaret Atkins (Advisor) Charity Reg. 1120537*

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT ...**

*as applicable*

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- I would like to make a regular donation. Please send me a Standing Order form.

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**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**