

**Carter Center and Liberia Ministry of Health
Liberia Mental Health Champions
October 2022**



Gerald Hodges

**Youth Leader
Founder & Executive Director,
Mentor for Development**

Gerald studied **Economics and Management at Stella Maris Polytechnic University (SMPU) and Social Entrepreneurship at Watson Institute, USA**. He is the **Founder and Executive Director of Mentors for Development in Liberia**, a youth-led educational social non-profit venture that supports youth by creating an environment in which they have the opportunity, guidance, and motivation to transition from one academic level to another, discover a career, realize their potential, and be positive change agents in society.

Gerald also serves as **National Project Director at SMART Liberia**. SMART Liberia empowers Liberian Youth to be change leaders in their communities and beyond. They connect and enable youth organizations and young

Liberians to drive social change. Their theory of change is based on the formula: **Identify + Connect + Enable = Impact**.

He has worked for **World Merit**, a platform for young people trying to impact the world positively. They connect talented young people worldwide to opportunities to reach their potential. Gerald is a blogger for **Voices of Youth**, a UNICEF-funded project supporting a community of youth bloggers from all over the world, offering inspiring, original insight and opinions on various topics.

Lela Precious Dolo

Medical Student Project Manager

Help a Mother Help a Newborn in Liberia



Lela is a 23-year-old health enthusiast and young leader. **She has worked in Liberia, Ghana, and Switzerland.** She believes that the collective efforts of all Liberians can make society a better place.

Lela holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Chemistry from the Stella Maris Polytechnic University (SMPU) Monrovia, Liberia. She is currently a student at **AM Dogliotti College of Health and Life Sciences.** In January 2021, she obtained a **Certificate of Training in Hygiene, Infectious Prevention Measures, Cultural Exchange in the Field of Health and Pain, Pregnancy Control, Wound Management, Surgeries, and other relevant health course work from the OST-Ostschweizer Fachhochschule and Linth Hospital in Switzerland.**

Her experience living close to poverty and losing her younger brother to a curable urinary tract infectious disease led her to the medical practice and drive her passion for improving Liberia's health sector and impacting lives.

She has contributed to several medical causes, including serving as a volunteer for AIESEC in Accra, Ghana, where she supported hospitals and communities in delivering needed health services, and occasionally volunteered at the biggest referral hospital in Liberia, John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, where she assisted doctors and medical students to diagnose and treat patients

She is the Project Initiator and Manager at Help a Mother Help a Newborn in Liberia. "Help a mother and Newborn in Liberia" is a

project that addresses challenges faced in reducing maternal and newborn deaths by providing capacity-building training, awareness, and resources for health facility staff, Traditional Midwives, women, and young adolescents in Margibi County.



Clara Doe Mvogo

**Former Mayor of Monrovia,
Republic of Liberia**

Clara Doe Mvogo is the Chair of the **Monrovia City Council**, a member of the **Board of Trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal University**, and the **Past President of the Rotary Club of Sinkor**, Liberia. Madam Mvogo is a registered Medical Technologist with a Master of Arts degree in Clinical Psychology and a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry.

During the Ebola Virus Disease crisis in Liberia, she served as **Co-chair of the Montserrado County Incident Management System for Ebola** and **Chair for the Medical Waste Management System, Ebola Response Committee**. She was the **National Technical Coordinator of the West Africa Quality Program for ECOWAS and UEMOA**, implemented by **UNIDO**.

In that position, she was responsible for establishing the National Standards Laboratory of Liberia for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. She provided technical assistance in creating the **Quality Assurance Program for the Ghana Health Services Regional Hospital Laboratories**.

She was the **keynote speaker at the 2015 European Development Days Pre-Opening Program**. In 2016, she served as chairperson and member of several high-level panels, including the **7th AFRI-cities Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa**, the **Clinton Global Initiative meeting in**

New York, and the World Bank meeting in Dublin, Ireland for Least Developed Countries. As Mayor of Monrovia, she worked to improve the health and sanitation situation for the 1.5 million inhabitants of Monrovia. She is a strong advocate for mental health and has articulated the importance of integrating mental health into HIV and TB programs, which she termed a win-win.

Brenda Brewer-Moore

Founder and Executive Director
Kids Educational Engagement Project



Brenda has an Executive Master's Degree in Business Administration and is certified by the Human Resources Certification Institute (HRCI) as a Senior Human Resource Professional (SPHR).

Brenda Brewer-Moore is the Founder and Executive Director of Kids' Educational Engagement Project (KEEP), a national charity in Liberia that promotes a culture of reading among Liberian students.

She is **co-chair of the National Education NGO Forum** and previously served for 8 years as **Vice President of the Human Resources (HR) Association of Liberia**. She has 21 years of experience working in Human Resources and Organizational Development; She has received several professional awards from the United States Embassy and the Liberia Telecommunications Authority.

She is an active writer and has published several notable HR articles on renowned platforms. Some of her work include **'A Look at The Decent Work Act- An Update on Liberia's Maternity law'**, **'Not My father's Farm'**, **'Approval of the Decent Work Act- A Must for The National Legislature'** and **'A Look at Liberia's Paternity Law'**. She has also published several children's books, including **'Sundaymah's Adventure'**, **'My Body My Treasure'** and **'Deddeh Knows All About Corona Virus'**. In 2016, she

was named “**Community Service Ambassador**” at the **National Excellence Awards**, and in **2020** was the recipient of the national **2020 Literacy Award** from the **Ministry of Education**.



Stanton Albert Witherspoon

**Pastor, Freelance Multimedia Journalist,
Digital Strategist, Mental Health Enthusiast,
Country Director (volunteer), Mental Care Liberia**

Stanton is a certified Multimedia Journalist from Pearson University London, United Kingdom (2020). He obtained a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Theological Studies with a specialization in Education and Teaching from a University in Accra, Ghana, in 2015. He also has a Diploma in **Digital Journalism from Africa Digital Media Institute (ADMI), Nairobi, Kenya (2018 -- 2020)**.

He is a passionate digital strategist keen to learn and contribute to the growth and development of the growing youth of Liberia. He has experience working in Liberia, Kenya, and the UK (Online). He has professional **skills in online strategy formulation, implementing digital solutions, brand building online, and social media marketing and advertising**. He is also a **Youth Pastor** with over **five years’** experience organizing youth programs and providing guidance to teens and young adults in Liberia.



Kula Dukuly

General Secretary, Kakata Branch,

Cultivation for User's Hope (CFUH)

Ms. Dukuly is a graduate of the **Cathedral Catholic High School** in Monrovia. Her passion for mental health is driven by firsthand experience with discrimination and stigma. She has lived experiences with bipolar disorder. In 1997, during the Liberian Civil war, she fled to the Ivory Coast; where, she and her two-month-old daughter were abandoned by her husband. She then moved to Ghana to be with her family. In Ghana, she was again exposed to more abandonment and a series of adverse occurrences that triggered the onset of bipolar depression.

She was admitted at the Ankafo Psychiatric Hospital in Cape Coast and was discharged after 3 months. After her discharge, she got accepted into a **computer school in Accra**. She had several severe relapses due to continuous exposure to trauma, stigma, and isolation. Despite living with this condition, Kula was determined to make a livelihood for herself and her daughter, whom she supported throughout high school and University, while working as a Waitress, Office Cleaner and Jewelry Seller. Ms. Dukuly's daughter is now a **graduate of the University of Ghana with a bachelor's degree in Social Work**.

She said that at the lowest point when she suffered many relapses and was chained at home by her relatives, she decided that she needed treatment. That single thought made her leave her relatives' home in chains to go to the C.H. Rennie Hospital in Kakata, where she was assessed and treated by Mental Health Clinicians. She often says, **"people living with mental illnesses should receive treatment, not stigma."**

William Wodo, Jr.
Entrepreneur and Motivational



Speaker

Mr. William Wodo is currently a **senior student at the United Methodist University in Monrovia studying Information Technology**. He has lived experiences of drug addiction and is a **member of Cultivation of Users' Hope (CFUH)**. He is actively giving back by serving as an **Addiction Counselor and Senior Basketball Coach at The William V. S. Tubman Memorial High School** in Sinkor.

He is a certified **HIV/AIDS and trauma growth Counsellor** through training from Save The Children Liberia. He obtained a **certificate of participation from the Obafemi Awolowo University**, ICT-driven knowledge park, ILE-IFE, Nigeria, in the **Internet of Things (IOT) & Arduino Open Source** held at **United Methodist University**, in Monrovia. He was also **certificated in the 2nd ECHO training** by the **National Addiction Professionals of Monrovia**.



Mr. Seidu Swaray

Entrepreneur and Motivational Speaker

Mr. Seidu Swaray has a Master of Public Health degree in Community Health. He also has a degree in Psychosocial Counseling and Community Development Studies.

He is a certified GBV Specialist from the 2017 Cohort of the 'Managing Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies' (MGBViE) global training program with knowledge and skills needed to respond in emergencies including war, natural disasters, population displacement and to lead the design and implementation of GBV related prevention and response interventions.

The training was done in Amman, Jordan, and funded by UNFPA, the International Medical Corps, the Global protection cluster of GBV prevention and response, and the department of state of the United States of America.

Mr. Swaray has over 12 years of experience designing, raising funds, and implementing community-based **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)** programs with vulnerable groups and conflict-affected populations. He is an active team player in the development of national MHPSS related SOPs, manuals, and systems strengthening collaborations in Liberia. He currently serves as **Secretary General of the joint Advocacy and substance use sub-committee of the Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) on Mental Health in Liberia.**

Nim’ne E. Mombo, Sr.

Managing Partner, PKF Liberia



Mr. Mombo is a **Certified Public Accountant (CPA)**. He qualified as a CPA in Maryland, USA. He is also a member of the **Liberian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (LICPA)**.

He holds a master’s degree in accounting from **George Washington University, Washington, D.C., USA** and a certificate in Finance from **Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.**

Mr. Mombo is the current Managing Partner of PKF Liberia. Before joining PKF Liberia, he served as **Audit Senior at Price Waterhouse (Liberia)**. That was before the merger of the two firms, **Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand** out of which emerged the firm, Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC). Prior to joining Price Waterhouse, Mr. Mombo served successively as **Assistant Chief Accountant, Chief**

Accountant, and Financial Comptroller of the National Port Authority (NPA), Free Port of Monrovia.

