

THE ‘LIBERIA’S HOPE’ QUILTING INITIATIVE

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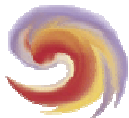
The Corporation for Economic Opportunity

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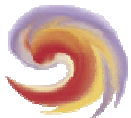
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ABOUT CEO

The Corporation for Economic Opportunity (CEO) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, which helps disadvantaged communities and individuals pursue their economic potential. CEO operates a variety of projects in the US and West Africa. See www.prosperityforall.org.

In the spring of 2007, CEO began to help a group of women quilters in Liberia, West Africa, by providing materials and helping to develop markets for their wonderful, hand-made work, in the US and elsewhere, under the trademarked name of “Liberia’s Hope”.

CEO has provided similar assistance to artisanal gold and diamond miners, in West Africa. In all of its endeavors, CEO carries out “Fair-Trade” principals, as a member of Co-op America’s Fair Trade Alliance.

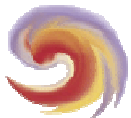


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ABOUT QUAGEH

In 2004, a group of women, who had fled the earlier civil crisis in Liberia, and now live in and around Caldwell Township, near the country's capital city, Monrovia, came together to begin making quilts, in order to help provide for the basic needs of their families.

They named their group Quageh, which comes from the Kpelle language and means "We can make it". In a country, which recently emerged from civil war and suffers from an 80% unemployment rate, the Quageh women learned this handiwork from the elder women in their communities, who made and sold quilts as a means of helping support their families.



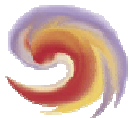
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ABOUT QUAGEH (*continued*):

It is believed that the elder women may have learned quilting skills, directly or indirectly, from women, who were among the freed slaves, brought to Liberia, after the U.S. Civil War.

Quageh currently has ten (10) quilters, including four of Maude's children, two women from nearby Bentol, and three other women who were taught the skill by Quageh. They do excellent, very artistic work. Quageh is also happy to have trained four other persons, who now do work on their own.

Quageh's leader, Maude Coker-Davis says, "We hope to see every Liberian woman do something, like quilt making, to help their family."



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AN HISTORICAL NOTE

There is a wonderful children's book, entitled *Martha Ann's Quilt for Queen Victoria*, which provides an account of a freed slave from Tennessee, living in Liberia in the late 1800's, who made a quilt for Queen Victoria, as thanks for her enforcement of the ban on the transatlantic slave trade. See www.blackthreads.com, for more information.

At CEO's request, Quageh is making a replica of that quilt, hoping to present it to Queen Elizabeth, as part of a celebration of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.



The “Liberia’s Hope” Quilting Initiative



Quageh Quilt – LG01
Dimensions: 100” x100”

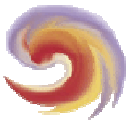


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Quageh Quilt – LG03
Dimensions: 100” X 100”

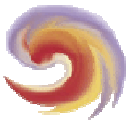


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Quageh Quilt – LG05
Dimensions: 100” X 100”



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Quageh Quilt – LG09
Dimensions: 75” X 50”



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Quageh Quilt – SM01
Dimensions: 50” X 50”

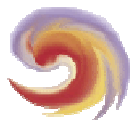


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Quageh Quilt – SM03
Dimensions: 50” X 50”

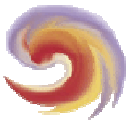


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Quageh Quilt – SM08
Dimensions: 50” X 50”

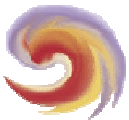


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Quageh Quilt – SM09
Dimensions: 50” X 50”



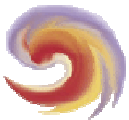
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Quageh Wall Hangings

Dimensions: 35" X 35"

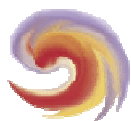


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QUAGEH'S AND CEO'S GRATITUDE

Speaking for her group, Maude expresses their gratitude, as follows: “We say thanks to our many buyers who have supported and inspired us through the purchase of our quilts. This is why we work so hard to satisfy them with good designs and durable quilts. And, to the Corporation for Economic Opportunity, we say thanks for helping and promoting us.”

CEO's motto is “Prosperity for all” and the Liberia's Hope Quilting Initiative is beginning to make the motto real for Quageh. They are not only “making” great quilts, they are “making” it in life. Thanks to the many new customers and supporters for their patronage and help. For details on purchasing or displaying Quageh's quilts, contact Joe James, at (803) 462-0153 or josephjames@bellsouth.net.



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