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## Healey International Relief Foundation News: April 2015

**HIRF Annual Awards Reception on April 22, 2015 was successful, informative and entertaining!**

The Awards Reception on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 in Washington, D.C. was successful, informative and entertaining! Both event organizers HIRF and Capital Reach conduct humanitarian work in Sierra Leone. The ongoing Ebola crisis has made the work of these groups more urgent and all funds raised from the event will go towards HIRF's project to rebuild health clinics in Sierra Leone, as well as Capital Reach's effort to build a much-needed school in Lunsar, Sierra Leone. The reception hosted by Taylor Kinzler featured presentations by HIRF President Robert T. Healey, Jr., and Capital Reach Executive Director Kadir Mohammed, followed by the awards ceremony of our honorees Senator Tom Harkin, Congressman Chris Smith, and Mrs. Philomena Yumkella. The reception featured a silent auction of unique items brought from Sierra Leone, and a musical performance by Sierra Leone's singer Daddy Rhymes. We want to thank our honorees, our event partners and everyone who attended. The pictures of the reception are now posted on the HIRF Facebook page [www.facebook.com/HealeyIRF](http://www.facebook.com/HealeyIRF) and on our website [www.hirf.net](http://www.hirf.net).



### **HIRF Team from Sierra Leone Visits the U.S. in April 2015**

Two of our special guests at the Annual Awards Reception came all the way from Sierra Leone: HIRF In-Country Manager Ishmeal Alfred Charles, and Executive Director at Caritas Freetown and HIRF Advisory Board member Father Peter Konteh. Charles and Father Peter have a busy itinerary for their two week stay in the U.S. On Friday, April 24th, Charles served as a panelist at his alma mater Fordham University's Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs (IIHA). The panel discussion was about the current situation in West Africa as it continues to recover from the largest Ebola epidemic in history. Panelists discussed the successes and challenges of the ongoing humanitarian response in the region as well as opportunities for the future.



### **HIRF Team U.S. Attends the 2015 Spring Meetings of World Bank and IMF**

HIRF Executive Director Ben Parra and Government Relations Officer Vicki Middleton attended the 2015 Spring Meetings of the World Bank and IMF on April 16th and 17th in

Washington, DC. The team attended several presentations including a forum on how faith organizations can help contribute to the goal to end poverty by 2030; a panel on private sector development; as well as a panel discussion on how to prevent future Ebola outbreaks by strengthening health systems. In addition to the Spring Meetings, they also attended an event organized by Sierra Leonean Empowerment Network (SLEN) called "Let's Talk Sierra Leone: Past, Present, Future" on Friday, April 17th.

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