

March 2018

Each time I visit Liberia, I'm struck by Liberia Animal Welfare & Conservation Society's far reaching impacts and the difficult conditions under which they work. **LAWCS Founder/Director Morris Darbo (picture right, with Humane Ed material donated by AKI supporters)** often reminds us that animal welfare is a new concept in Liberia. But what does that actually mean for animals in Liberia? It means that typically, people believe that cats and dogs don't feel pain, don't have feelings, and certainly don't have unique personalities. An engineer I work with answered for his country people when he told me, "Liberians don't believe animals feel pain or love and sadness. We just don't think about animals. We don't see their suffering on the street." He went on to say that **the reason for this is not because Liberians aren't kind and compassionate, but because most people haven't been introduced to the idea that animals have feelings.**



In Liberia, it's all about Humane Education

Which is why AKI supports LAWCS Humane Ed program, reaching about 35,000 children and adults every year. It's so important to encourage and nurture feelings for animals in children and adults. Only LAWCS can do this, on a continuous basis while reaching many 1000s of people.

(Picture right: LAWCS Finance Manager Hajja, Community Animal Care Specialist Abie, Humane Ed Specialist Aminata, and a motorbike that LAWCS was able to buy thanks to AKI donors. Motorbikes are the only way to get to many of the villages where LAWCS works. I took this picture outside the LAWCS office in Voinjama, Lofa County, Liberia.)



[Find out more about our AKI partner, LAWCS, here](#)

But now, LAWCS only covers a small portion of the country

LAWCS works in only 1 of Liberia's 15 counties- Lofa County, and within Lofa, they work only in Voinjama, Kolahun, and Foya districts.

Imagine how many children and adults LAWCS could reach-and needs to reach--if they had the resources.

Here's the plan to address that challenge:

By training large groups of teachers in humane ed and teaching them to incorporate information about animals in the subjects they teach, LAWCS can reach 1000s more school children and adult community members.

Recently LAWCS hosted a workshop for 50 teachers (workshop participants pictured above). **LAWCS hopes to train an additional 100 teachers before the end of the year.** To do this, they need money for meals for the participants, transportation to the training facility, and materials for the teachers--all the teachers get HE material to take home so they can continue to learn even after the formal training is complete. (The training venue is provided free of charge.)

The total cost to train an additional 100 teachers is \$2000 and we'll be working to raise that money for LAWCS during this year. We certainly welcome your support! And as always, we'll keep you updated on activities and progress.

[**Donate to LAWCS HE Program here**](#)

Recent Posts from the AKI Blog

The AKI Blog: Here's how Liberia AWCS used your donations from October through December 2017

Morris Darbo, wrote to me in December that LAWCS "recently added 3 new schools" to their Humane Ed program and that without AKI funding, these new schools and LAWCS Basic Animal Care Clinics would not have been possible. [**Continue reading about how your donations are helping LAWCS.....**](#)

Support from AKI is so important to our partners: Imagine having 100s or even 1000s of dependents (in our partners' cases, the dependents are cats, dogs, donkeys, horses, and the people who love, care for, and rely on them), but with no assured budget to provide care. But because we work differently than grant-making organizations, our AKI partners know they will always get funding to care for their dependents-



as long as they comply with our requirements for accountability, transparency, and open communication, and of course, as long as they use our funds for animal welfare purposes only.

Helping dogs in rural Romania-Sava's Safe Haven, a haven for dogs in Galati, Romania

Although not an AKI partner organization, when Alexandra Sava got in touch with me to tell me about the work she's doing to help dogs, mainly in rural Romania, it touched my heart, I wanted to hear more, and I thought others would like to also. The animal welfare need is huge in rural parts of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (where our partner Save the Animals-Armenia works), but it's so difficult to make inroads. Sava's Safe Haven is, and here's how she's doing it.

[More about Sava's Safe Haven, Galati, Romania.....](#)



The AKI Blog: Have-a-Heart-Mobile (Namibia) Looks Ahead to 2018 & Beyond

In this AKI Blog post, Namibia's Have-a-Heart-Mobile tells us about their plans and challenges. "Although we help hundreds of animals during our spay trips, every dog and cat is truly special to us. We often are called upon to help beyond the routine spay, neuter and vaccination and **thanks to the generous, on-going support of Animal-Kind International [that means you, our donors!], we are able to provide such help.**"

[Learn more about HAH-Mobile in this AKI Blog post.](#)



The AKI Blog: Your support feeds and provides care for pets in Katutura, Namibia: November-February 2018 update

Erika tells us about her team's visits to Katutura, a poor, sprawling township outside of Windhoek, where the Katutura Pet Care & Feeding initiative works with residents to help them help their pets (thanks to AKI donor support). [Find out what your support accomplishes in Katutura, Namibia.](#) (Yes, there's a cat in that bag.)



How You Can Help....

Send me a message and I'll send you our AKI Volunteer Packet with many ideas about how you can help our AKI partners. If you have 10 minutes/week or 10 hours, we have ideas for you! (And we'd like to hear yours too).

Of course we need your support to help animals in some of the poorest countries!

Please click the picture to the right or the link below to get to our donor page, where you can then choose your preferred donation method and amount. As always, we send 100% of your

donations to our partner organizations to support animal rescue. And through the AKI Blog, we always let you know just what your donations have accomplished (you can always send me an email message too to find out more).

I'd like to donate to AKI



[DONATE TO AKI HERE](#)

Soon after April 30, we'll have AKI's 2017 Annual Report available and on our website. Why does it take us several months into 2018 to publish the report? Our partners report to us by April 15 about how they used their final 2017 disbursement from AKI. So we're gathering and compiling 2017 accomplishments through April.

You can donate to help animals in any of the countries where we work: Uganda, Tanzania (2 partners), South Sudan, Namibia, Liberia, Ghana, Armenia, Jamaica, Honduras, and Barbados.

AKI always sends 100% of your donations to our partner organizations.

When you shop online at [Amazon Smile](#), please remember to designate Animal-Kind International! Thank you!

Karen Menczer, Director &
the AKI Board

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