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SRSG LAYS FOUNDATION STONE FOR YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER IN FREETOWN

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 10 December 2005 ----- The efforts for productive rehabilitation of the youths in Sierra Leone, yesterday received a big boost with the foundation laying ceremony of a Youth Resource Center, co-founded by The Miracle Corners of the World-USA (MCW) and UNDP, by the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Sierra Leone, Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago, in Kissy Mess Mess, eastern Freetown.

The Youth Center, valued at 101,400,112 Leons. (\$34,000), comprises a multi-purpose hall, a computer room with internet facilities, a store, a Restaurant with café shop and office spaces for administrative purposes and is meant to provide facilities for skills training opportunities for over seven hundred unemployed youths in the east end of Freetown as well as offer computer training for Officers of the SLP in that Divisions. The project is also aimed at strengthening the Police Civil relationship in that Division and building the capacity of the youths in managerial skills and entrepreneurship.

Speaking at the foundation laying ceremony, the SRSG, Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago, called on the youth of Kissy to see the project as a catalyst which has the capacity to usher in other projects. He advised them to provide devoted and selfless leadership for the project so that it meets the goals for which time and resources have been committed to it. He advised the entire Kissy community to invest their time in building for the future in order to achieve self sufficiency and terminate the culture of dependency.

Speaking on behalf of the community, the Local Unit Commander pledged their commitment to the project, noting that "...we have buried all reservations and our pre-occupation now is to see that the project is completed and is commissioned on time.

Miracle Corners of the world-USA (MCW) is a grassroots youth founded, not- for-profit, community development and revitalization organization that has developed and assisted with numerous community projects in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the USA. Today MCW has a substantial network of partners through its board as well as partnering organizations and individuals who support the mission and project initiatives of the organization. MCW projects have received recognition from various government leaders and international organizations.

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MCW has organized community development projects in Africa, which include the construction of the Dr.Herman Wrice Youth Village Community Centre in Arusha, Tanzania that today serves as a resource Centre for both the Local community and Volunteers from Abroad. The self-sustaining Centre offers services to over 1,000 community members a year, including a pre-school education programme, computer training at the Dr. Shils “UJUMA” Community Technology Centre, after school sports youth development programs, vocational training, including English and French Language courses, and an arts and craft youth programme support through a community-based tourism initiative.

Through the good will of the SRSG, Ambassador Daudi Nwakawago, MCW was invited to Sierra Leone on needs assessment of the Youths, which led to the identification of this project. It is hoped that the after completion of this project, it will be replicated in other parts of the Country.