



LYDIA HOUSE INTERNATIONAL



IMPACT REPORT 2023

SPEAK OUT

RISE UP

LEAD ON



**GIVE HER A SHARE IN THE FRUIT OF HER HANDS;
LET HER WORKS PRAISE HER IN THE CITY GATES.**

Proverbs 31:31

WWW.LYDIAHOUSEINTERNATIONAL.ORG

LYDIA HOUSE OPENS ITS DOORS

This year we admitted our first round of residents at Lydia House – our women’s home in Bong County, Liberia. Our 60-bed facility offers safety and healing to young women and their children who are fleeing human trafficking, exploitation, and gender-based violence. Residents and their children receive free health care, education, vocational training, and spiritual support. We offer free legal representation to survivors of gender-based violence if they choose to prosecute the perpetrator.





HOPE AND HEALING

We welcomed our first ten residents and their children in August 2023. None of their children had ever attended school, eaten regular meals, or had access to clean water. The ladies had also never completed school, which left them vulnerable to all types of exploitation in order to survive and care for their children.

Now that they are living at Lydia House, our residents and their children are eating and sleeping regularly and receiving their education. The ladies are also enrolled in vocational training programs that will enable them to earn income and become financially independent upon graduation.



TRANSFORMATION LIFE

The residents of Lydia House are given a safe space to heal physically and emotionally before they enter into our work-study program. Our psychosocial counselors provide them with trauma-informed care on an individual and group basis throughout their time here. Daily chapel and weekly worship are also part of their new rhythm as they work toward a new beginning and a future full of hope.

Our comprehensive "Transformation Life" model provides for all the ladies' basic needs, aids them in completing their educations, and places them in vocational programs that work sustainably to support our residential program while they complete their apprenticeships. This year the ladies were able to choose from tailoring, cosmetology, and sustainable agriculture.

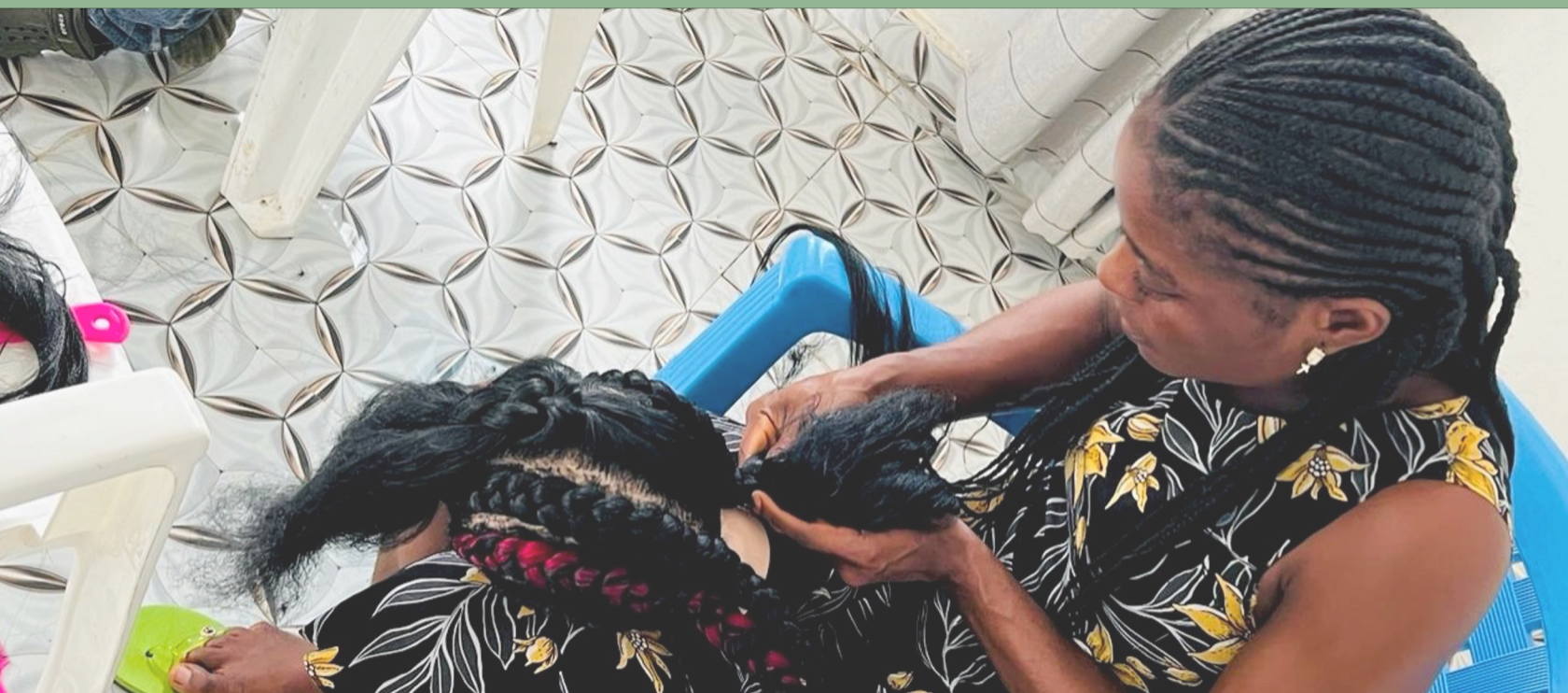




TRANSFORMATION **TAILORING**

Our residents are proudly operating these two businesses, serving the local community through hair styling and custom tailoring, in support of Lydia House! They are earning a profit while being apprenticed to local professionals.

TRANSFORMATION **SALON**





SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Lydia House is working toward a goal of full financial sustainability within ten years. Our agricultural program not only provides crucial vocational training for our residents, but it is also a key component of the sustainability model. We currently have a large flock of goats, over 100 chickens, and several hogs. We are also farming cassava, which is a staple crop in Liberia.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Our *Speak Out* program educates local leaders on sexual harassment and gender-based violence, harmful gender norms that lead to social inequalities, and how to create an effective reporting system for sexual abuse that protects victims and prevents further abuse. We are educating parents, teens, and local leaders who bring this awareness into their homes and transform their communities. Those who receive our training join nationwide support networks formed to increase reporting and prevention of gender-based violence and harmful discriminatory practices in schools, clinics, churches, and local community centers.

Speak Out

A Sexual Gender-based Violence
PREVENTION RESOURCE

BY LYDIA HOUSE INTERNATIONAL



Our worldview must shift from one of perpetrator privilege to victim advocacy.



People who are sexually assaulted often do not report the crime or seek services due to the stigma and shame attached to the issue, or because they have been pressured to keep silent about the sexual assault in order to protect the reputation of the perpetrator.

If we want to work to end sexual and gender-based violence, we must begin by refusing to protect the aggressors.



ENDING PERIOD POVERTY

In Liberia and around the world, girls often miss school because they cannot afford a reliable way to manage menstruation, and this can lead to them dropping out entirely. We distribute Sustainable Feminine Hygiene Kits to girls across the country, to help them stay in school. Our hygiene kits contain washable menstrual products, underwear, and cleaning supplies: one kit can help a girl stay in school for up to 4 more years!

As part of our vocational program, our tailoring students will sew these feminine hygiene products to sell to organizations who serve women throughout Africa. This will generate sustainable income for Lydia House; but at the same time, women across the continent will be gaining access to sustainable menstrual products that will keep them in school and at work. It's a win-win!

LIBERIA *fast facts:*

- 40% of the population is malnourished
- Over half the country lives on less than \$2 a day
- Over 60% of children never finish school

Women and girls bear the brunt of poverty:

- Over one third of Liberian girls become child brides
- Close to 70% of Liberian women are illiterate
- 40% will experience rape, half of these before age 18

We partner with Liberian leaders through LYDIA HOUSE to:

- **EDUCATE** girls
- **RAISE UP** women leaders
- **BRING HEALING** to survivors
- **PREVENT** gender-based violence



GIVE NOW



**SPEAK OUT FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK,
FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL THE DESTITUTE.
SPEAK OUT, JUDGE RIGHTEOUSLY,
DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR AND NEEDY.**

PROVERBS 31:8-9



WWW.LYDIAHOUSEINTERNATIONAL.ORG

SUPPORT US

ONE-TIME, MONTHLY, QUARTERLY, or ANNUAL GIFTS
may be made through our website:

WWW.LYDIAHOUSEINTERNATIONAL.ORG



CONTACT:

info@lydiahouseinternational.org

42 Broad Street Road #135

Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103

Lydia House International is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit.
All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

