To Our Friends at Project Redwood,

We received the news yesterday that you have selected us to receive our 4th (and final) grant. We are so very grateful for what your support, advice and generosity has made possible. We had long dreamed of having on-site vocational programs and now, because of you and the hard work of our Liberian partners, we have three.

The news is poignantly mixed with sadness we are certainly all sharing over the passing of our sponsor, Elizabeth Gage. For those of you who knew Elizabeth personally, we share in your sadness and grief. She was an amazing human.

Just two weeks ago I returned from Liberia. The COVID restrictions had made it not possible for us to visit the school, in person, over the last nearly three years. Seeing firsthand, the impact of Project Redwood's support and specifically, the wise fingerprints of Elizabeth's insight and support, left me full of deep gratitude.

Elizabeth helped us create our first on-site vocational training program, Sew Much Hope. She had a sharp mind, asked such good questions, and had such a great, witty sense of humor. The program is thriving, and in large part, this is because of Elizabeth.

She did the same for our second vocational program, Cooking Up Hope. The program's success is due to her skills in the early stages and support of its development. She asked hard questions and has made our programs and our organization better. I believe I think differently for having known and worked with her.

A few months ago, my teammate Andrea and I had a chance to visit Elizabeth at her facility. I asked if I could bring her a treat (she liked a specific type of Lay's potato chips), but she asked instead for a chocolate milkshake from Dick's Drive-In, a Seattle favorite. She had a few sips and was very happy. You won't find it hard to believe that her humor and wit stayed in-tact, even when she had to type it out, one finger at a time.

We are grateful to you and grateful to Elizabeth.

Jackie Frazier

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Executive Director | The Hope Project