

CURRENT FOR CURRAN

Frequently Asked Questions

CURRAN LUTHERAN HOSPITAL

What is Curran & How is the ELCA involved?

Curran is a hospital in Northern Liberia with 125 beds, outpatient services, a school of nursing, and supervision for 23 community health centers and clinics. The ELCA has been supporting Curran Lutheran Hospital since its inception in 1924.

Current for Curran is part of a bigger initiative called Skip the Grid that was inspired by a Women of the ELCA trip to Phebe Hospital in Liberia in 2012. In 2014, a memorial was passed at the Women of the ELCA Ninth Triennial Gathering to encourage women throughout the organization to pray for and support the initiative. In April 2017 the Phebe Hospital solar array began producing power for the hospital. Construction of a solar array at Curran will help build the Liberian solar workforce by using the skills of those that were part of installing PV for Phebe.

RREAL will also further this solar training for four Liberians in the Fall of 2017.

What is RREAL?

The Rural Renewable Energy Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to making solar energy accessible to communities of all income levels. Founded in 2000, RREAL has designed, installed, and managed hundreds of solar installations. RREAL is a pioneer in the use of solar energy to address poverty and worked with locals to install the first Skip the Grid array at Phebe Hospital in March of 2017.

What is Skip the Grid?

Current for Curran is part of the larger "Skip the Grid" model. Many developing countries have skipped developing traditional telephone landlines and gone straight to cell phones. Similarly, in "skipping" a traditional electrical grid, places like Curran can produce and consume its own local renewable energy. Curran will serve as the second WELCA-driven, world-changing project for rural electrification for hospitals around the world.

How does the project fit within the ELCA's ministry of Caring for Creation?

The ELCA's 1993 Social Statement *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice* addresses the vital and urgent role Lutherans play in participating with God in the redemption of creation. There are currently two diesel generators used to power Curran Hospital. The generators put tons of carbon waste into the atmosphere, are extremely expensive, leak diesel oil & fuel contaminants and can be dangerous to humans. Clean, renewable solar power offers an opportunity for environmental stewardship by reducing Curran's carbon emissions. As stewards of the Earth, humans are called to actively care for all creation upon which we depend. Current for Curran is an opportunity to, as a church, show how the earth is not simply a stage on which human redemption is carried out, but is itself a co-recipient of God's reconciling love.

How does the mission fit within the accompaniment and Global Missions initiatives of the ELCA?

The ELCA's mission of accompaniment calls on Lutherans to share in global struggles and mutually work in vulnerable areas toward empowerment. This project will work directly with local tradespeople and electricians to build this solar array and be trained in maintaining it. Solar power will also allow the hospital to put more funds toward its own mission of caring for others instead of paying for expensive diesel generators.



1105 E Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802



3963 8th Street SW
Backus, MN 56435
www.rreal.org 218-947-3779

Follow Skip the Grid & RREAL on social media for project updates!

