



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa – March 3, 2014** - The non-profit organization “My Heart’s Appeal” (MHA) continues engagement in advocating for individuals with intellectual disabilities in Liberia. January of this year, Mrs. Lovetie Major met with Dr. Moses Massaquoi, President of the Liberia Medical and Dental Association (LMDA) in Monrovia at his office and expressed MHA interest in forming collaboration and partnership with the association to initiate, develop and manage special programs that allow individuals to maximize their potential for intellectual development as would enable them to contribute to national development.

Attending the bimonthly scientific and business meeting of the association at the Firestone Medical Center in Duside, Margibi County, Saturday March 1, 2014, Mrs. Major was allowed to address teams of medical professionals present. Along with her remarks, she shared a mini video presentation that showed individuals with intellectual disabilities given the opportunity to enjoy little pleasures of life that had been denied this population. She stated that her organization was only one part of a triangle in meeting the needs of this special population with society and the medical world being the others.

Mrs. Major also alerted the team of the upcoming 9th anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD), which is a global awareness day and is officially observed by the United Nations, March 21st every year and that the date signified the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of chromosome 21. This is the second for Liberia and MHA is honored to be representing, The Republic of Liberia, she went on to say. The 2014 Theme is “Health and Wellbeing - Access and Equality for All” and she would also like the support of the association in planning this event.

Dr. Roseda Marshall, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the A.M. Dogliotti School of Medicine, stated in supporting remarks that it is the common place for Liberians to wait for the government to act, we are the government she went on to say and welcomed the opportunity to work along with MHA for taking up the charge to address a need in society. The organization in its final vote accepted the challenge and assigned the Pediatric Department of the John K. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Monrovia to work along with MHA.