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Parents Urged To Love Children Affected With Down Syndrome

The founder and Executive Chief Officer (CEO) of a mental ill Institution under the banner of 'My Heart's Appeal Incorporated' (MHA), has urged parents to love and accept the condition of their children affected by Down syndrome.

Down syndrome is a set of physical and mental traits caused by a gene problem that happens before birth. Children who have Down syndrome tend to have certain features, such as a flat face and a short neck. They also have some degree of intellectual disability. The risk of having a baby with Down syndrome comes about when a woman is older before getting pregnant.

Madam Lovetie Major, whose younger sister is a victim, noted that children are gifts from God, and as such, anyone that comes forth from him should be given equal treatment rather than being discriminated.

She pointed out that though Down syndrome is a lifelong condition, with care and support, children affected by it can grow up to have healthy, happy and productive lives just as normal human beings.

Madam Major made the comments when her foundation celebrated Liberia's 4th World Down Syndrome Day on Tuesday, March 15 at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS) in Monrovia. The celebration brought together several children from different

communities affected by the ailment.

The celebration was held under the theme: "My friends, my community-The benefits of inclusive environments for today's children and tomorrow's adults."

Liberia's 4th celebration of Down Syndrome Day came barely six days ahead of the main celebration of 2016 Universal Down Syndrome Day, which is slated for March 21.

Speaking further, the CEO said the observance of the day in Liberia was intended to create public awareness so as to generate funds to support the mission of MHA to ensure that more children with Down syndrome are incorporated in her institution.

She stated that her organization's desire is to help several children who are affected with Down syndrome, but indicated that due to self-sponsorship, she has been able to only cater to 20 children.

The guest speaker at the occasion, Madam Patricia N. Togba, stressed the need for more focus on the talents and ability of disabled rather than despising them for their condition.

Madam Togba, who is the Acting Director for Social Assistance at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, pledged the Ministry's support to the organization.

She said the initiative undertaken by Madam Major is a kind gesture that must be supported. *(By: Vivian M. Nah)*



Children Affected With Down Syndrome Pose For A Photo