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# MHA Hosts Children

## ...For Easter Festivities

By: Roland Davis-0776107962/0886714762

My Heart's Appeal (MHA) Incorporated with its local branch in Gaye Town, Old Road, over the weekend identified with some Liberian children facing challenges of Down Syndrome/disabilities.

The organization brought the children together and fed them with food, provided opportunity for them to play games together, do reading and also distributed some items including children toys, among other materials as gifts for their Easter celebration.

Speaking during presentation of the items, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Founder of MHA, Lovetic Major, said My Heart's Appeal being non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO)

decided to identify with children facing disability challenges in communities by providing some attention to them during the observance of the Easter period.

According to her, MHA was established in Maryland, USA in 1996 as humanitarian institution to meet the needs of disabled children through special education programs and training access for people who are disabled in Liberia and West Africa at large.

"We saw the need to bring together disabled children especially those affected with Down Syndrome problems because they are not being cared for in many communities because of their conditions. They are also human beings, have something to do in society; people with Down Syndrome problems need care too.

The communities need them because they are part of every society," Madam Major stressed.

According to her, My Heart's Appeal has a program that brings disabled children and their parents together and identify with them through interaction and other activities at the end of last Saturday in every month.

She also said MHA was inaugurated in 2001 and is incorporated with the US, Oklahoma and has defined its target population as the mild, moderate or severe intellectually disabled.

According to her, the children also have a worldwide program called World Down Syndrome Day celebrated and was celebrated recently at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS) in Monrovia, intended to identify with people of Down

Syndrome and provide more awareness for them to be cared for in communities despite their conditions.

Madam Major said some of the objectives of the organization are to generate funds to support the mission of My Heart's Appeal Incorporated, to create a safe campus in Liberia that will provide the opportunity to teens and adults in West Africa with intellectual disabilities, the opportunity to train, work and be productive.

Others include providing training programs for teachers and assistance to work effectively with people with disabilities and educating the public about the many skills and capabilities of people with intellectual disabilities, among others.

According to her, since the launch of the MHA in Liberia, the organization continues to provide basic opportunities for people of disabilities, including access to free

quality education, healthcare services as well as basic vocational programs.

Meanwhile, Madam Major has appreciated all those who continue to show commitment towards the works of MHA in helping the organization to build capacities for disabled people.

Madam Major, at the same time, called on Liberians, NGO's, local and international partners, to always show commitment in helping to care for people with Down Syndrome/disabilities in communities, noting that this will help in providing more communities, access to people with disabilities.

"I have learnt that people forget what you said, people forget what you do, but people will never forget how you made them fee. The values of My Heart's Appeal Incorporated," she indicated.