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“My Heart's Appeal” Highlights Plights Of Children With Disabilities

In its quest to highlight the plights of children with disabilities in the country, a Non-governmental Organization, “My Heart's Appeal” on March 15, 2016, celebrated the 4th World Down Syndrome Day in Liberia.

“My Heart's Appeal” on Wednesday, joined others the world over in commemorating the day in honor of thousands of Liberian children who are faced with disabilities. World Down Syndrome Day was set aside by the United Nations to create awareness on the plights of the children.

In an interview following the observance of the day, ‘My Heart's Appeal’s Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Lovetie Major, said the ceremony was held to highlight the benefits of children living with disabilities throughout the country.

Madam Major said the celebration of the World Down Syndrome Day in Liberia is to point out the benefits of an inclusive environment for today’s children and tomorrow’s adults. She said her organization My Heart's Appeal’s aim is to connect children with disabilities with their friends and communities so that the communities will be proud of them as children with future.

Madam Major urged the community to accept these children and be proud of them as human beings though they are in one way or the other disabled. She said World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated one day in every year to create awareness for people to understand that these children are God’s creatures and for the community to also know that they exist.

She called on well-meaning Liberians to join the efforts of My Heart's Appeal in highlighting the plights of children with disabilities, accept them and give them the opportunities like other children in achieving their goals. She also called on the community to create an enabling environment for children with disabilities to be educated as their counterparts.

Earlier, the Acting Director for Social Assistance at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Patricia N. Togba, said children with disabilities must be given attention in providing them with education, medical and social intervention.

She called on the public to stop discriminating against children with disabilities adding that many parents are mainstreaming their children due to their conditions adding, “Disabled children must be allowed to grow up with other children. She said children with disabilities are usually denied access to education and other social activities.

“Inclusive education means all children must be given the opportunity to go to school; inclusion shall be the responsibility of not only the classroom teachers but everybody including the community,” Madam Togba added.

Madam Togba who served as Keynote speaker pointed out that children with disabilities must be made to feel the love of their parents and communities. Togba said some of the benefits of children with disabilities include, developing new skills through education, have the opportunity to learn from others, learn new social and real life and other skills that will equip them to live in their various communities.

My Heart's Appeal was established to generate funds to support the mission of the organization; to create a safe campus in Liberia, West Africa to give teens and adults in West Africa with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train, work and be productive and to provide training programs for teachers and assistants to work effectively with people with disabilities.

The organization was also established to assist in funding the purchase of social equipment, materials and transportation for the deserving applicants and to assist in the cost of furthering the education of the mild, moderate, or severe intellectually disabled teens and adults in West Africa.



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