

WE-CARE FOUNDATION /FOL/ HIPPY
FAMILY LITERACY INITIATIVE
1ST QUARTER REPORT
October 2016 – January 2017

Introduction

The Family Literacy Initiative (FLI) of the WE-CARE Foundation/Friends of Liberia (FOL)/HIPPY USA is a child-centered education program that works with parents, in giving them the skills, tools and confidence they need to become their child first teacher and preparing their children for success in school. The program which began with a pilot in November, 2015 successfully worked with 54 families and 57 children. Because of the achievement in its first year, FLI has been extended to include additional families and to continue working for another year in the three original communities of Duazon, Caldwell and West Point.

For this second year, the program targeted 120 families involving 123 children and 12 practice children who will be working with 12 home visitors under the supervision of the two coordinators.



RECRUITMENT PROCESS

The Family Literacy Initiative family recruitment process for the second year of program implementation was conducted in the three targeted communities Caldwell, West point and Duazon. The recruitment process ran from October 10-27, 2016: Caldwell recruitment was from October 10-13, 2016, West point was conducted from October 17-20, 2016 and Duazon recruitment, from October 24-26, 2016. Before the recruitment begun, the team met with the elders, commissioner, town chief and community leaders to inform them about the FLI program and its activities in their communities. This recruitment process was a joint effort of both coordinators and the home visitors. Criteria set for the recruitment were:

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING FAMILIES

1. Family must be living in the community
2. Parents must have lived in the community over 2-5 years
3. Parents must have a child three year old who has not been to school.
4. Parents must be available for training one hour a week from Monday-Wednesday (between 8:00am-6:00pm) based on a planned schedule.
5. Parents must teach their child/children 15-20 minute every day.
6. Other community dwellers should know and recognize you as a member of that community
7. Most times parents/families who are not working but have a business at home, are the ones recruited, especially when it is the parents/family own residence.

Community leaders and WE-CARE executives along with FLI Coordinators met and discussed the successes and challenges of the program implementation in the first year in each of the three communities. The community leaders thanked WE-CARE and FOL for the program and promise to work along with WE-CARE to ensure that families remain in the program and instructional materials are retrieve if a family has to drop out of the program. They asked that WE-CARE continue to engage and involve them in activities of the program.

AREAS/NEIGHBORHOODS IN CALDWELL COMMUNITY

- Samukai Camp
- Kukatonor
- Benson Street
- Coffee Farm
- Sirleaf Town
- Lukorkor



Some newly recruited family in Caldwell community

AREAS/NEIGHBORHOODS IN WEST POINT COMMUNITY

- Block 401
- Block 402
- Block 404
- Block 405
- Block 406



Some newly recruited families in west point community

AREAS/NEIGHBORHOOD IN DUAZON COMMUNITY

- Sand Beach Road
- Freeport
- Ma- zee Village
- Rock Crusher
- Macintosh
- Norway



Some newly recruited families in Duazon community

Numbers of Newly recruited families from the three targeted communities

COMMUNITY	YEAR 1 OLD FAMILIES	YEAR 2 NEW FAMILIES	BACKUP/NEW FAMILIES
Caldwell (Samukai Camp, Kukatonor, Benson street, Coffee farm, Sirleaf town, Lukorkor)	15	25	15
Duazon (Sand beach road, Free port, Ma- zee village, Rock Crusher, Macintosh, and Norway	13	27	15
West point (401, 402, 404, 405, 406)	17	23	15
Total	45	75	45

Note: 54 families ended year one. During the recruitment process, nine families were unable to continue the program because of these reasons: families moved out of the communities, some parents/home instructors who were teaching the children were not available to continue the teaching process.

ASSESSMENT

The program has conducted the pre-assessment for all its newly recruited children in the expanded areas of the old communities.

The Purpose of the Assessment

- To set a baseline for the child's awareness of the preschool literacy skills as required by the curriculum
- To have an idea of the child's ability to respond to the different parts of the assessment tool.
- To be used in tracking the child's future progress.

Below are dates the assessments were conducted:

NO	COMMUNITIES	DATES	NEW AREAS
1.	Caldwell	11-08-10,2016	Coffee Farm, Sirleaf Town, Lukorkor, Benson street, kukatornor, Samukai and Town
2.	West-Point	11-15-16,2016	Block-401,402,404, 405 & 406
3.	Duazon	11-22-24,2016	Rock crusher, Norway, Mackintosh, Sand Beach, Free Port, Ma-zee Village

Here are some pictures during the assessment in the communities



Home visitor's recruitment

During the process of recruitment and assessment, the Home Visitors vacancy announcements were placed in various areas in each of the three communities. Twenty-five applicants applied and 12 were short-listed and participated in the home visitors training. During the training, applicants were observed and six were selected. Among the six selected to serve as Home visitors, three are parents who participated in the year 1 program.

Training

FLI in preparation for the implementation both year one and two curriculums, conducted a five day training workshop at the YMCA gymnasium on Crown Hill from December 12-16, 2016. There were 22 participants (7 male 15 female) which included; six old home visitors, twelve short-listed applicants for home visitors, the education supervisor from SOS children village, one staff from the Ministry of Education (Bureau of Early Childhood Education) and two staff from WE-CARE Foundation.

Trainers

Gbima K. Bahtokpah_____FLI coordinator

David S. Sanjor_____FLI Assistant Coordinator

Yvonne Capehart Weah_____WE-CARE Foundation Coordinator

Training Sessions

The workshop started with the registration of the participants at 8:00am to 8:30am.

During the formal opening of the training workshop, FLI Coordinator Gbima K. Bahtokpah welcomed the participants and explained the goals and objectives of the training. The WE-CARE Foundation Coordinator, Mrs. Yvonne Capehart Weah, gave a brief history and overview of the FLI program and challenged the 12 candidates for Home Visitors to do their best as they competed and prepared for the final selection of the six (6) home visitors who would be selected after the workshop. Lastly, she encouraged every participant to make use of the opportunity by participating fully during training.

Topics covered during the training were:

Weekly lesson role play

ECDCEAP

Skill & Concept

Scope and Sequence

Professional Development

How to retain FLI families

Preparing for Group Meeting

Scenarios for mock home visits

All the sessions of the training were done using active and participatory learning strategies and role play. Each day ended with participants writing exit cards. Questions from the exit cards served as a review at the beginning of the next day.

After background community check and interaction with the twelve short-listed applicants, six were selected to serve as home visitors. They are: Ms. Florence C. Zor, Mr. Rufus S. Joe and Ms. Lovetee During (replaced Robert) from Duazon community; Ms. Tenneh Taweh and Ms. Genevieve Akoi from West point (both are parents from year one West Point community); Ms. Anima Menepalay (parent from year one) and Mr. James B. Morris from Caldwell community.

Ongoing Weekly Friday Training

The regular Friday training began on January 13, 2017. At these meetings, Home visitors are trained in the role play activities of the week and they role play the week's activities with their practice child before going out into the communities to teach the families. The first two

weeks activities in the communities were successful. **Of the 120 families in the program, 110 have received the two weeks instructions while ten families have received only one week due to their being absent from home at the appointed time for instruction.** The weeks ran from January 20- February 3, 2017.

Training Session Pictures



There are 12 home visitors, Two sections are run. The 1st section is from 10-12pm for year one curriculum and the 2nd section is from 1pm-4pm for year 2 curriculum training every Friday.

Cross section of picture during the training



Participants role play activities during the training



David guides the process as participants role play...



Coordinator Gbima role play activities

Coordinator demonstrates on skills & concept



There were some important topics presented such as; ECDCEAP, skill & concept, scope and sequence, Professional development, How to retain FLI families & preparing for Group meeting, various scenarios was explained and role play

With toys donated by Youth Prize, USA WE-CARE distributed toys to the children that participated in FLI program in year 1 during the Christmas holidays.



Community Leaders received Christmas gifts



Detail information of Old & New Home Visitors

No.	Name	Community	Education level	Work experience	Curriculum year	comments
1.	Florence C. Zor	Duazon	High school graduate & senior student University of Liberia	Sale Manager 2 year	Year 1 & 2	Good output, community dweller
3.	Lovetee During	Duazon	High school graduate/ Attending a teacher C' certificate program	Teacher 5 years	Year 1	Good output, community dweller
4.	Rufus Joe	Duazon	High school graduate	Laundry Working /2year	Year 1	Good output, community dweller
5.	Amina Menepalay	Caldwell	High school/Senior student	Home instructor 1 year	Year 1	Good output, community dweller Serve as home instructor in year 1
5.	James B. Morris	Caldwell	High school graduate	Deputy Business Manager Self Help Café/1yrs	Year 1	Good output, community dweller Volunteer his time in year one FLI
6.	Tenneh Taweh	West Point	High school graduate	Mentor Samaritan Purse 2yrs	Year 1	Good output, community dweller Serve as home instructor in year 1
7.	Genevieve K. Akoi	West Point	High school graduate	Secretary at Calvary of Hope Foundation\ 2 yrs.	Year 1	Good output, community dweller Serve as home instructor in year 1
8.	Jeff T. Gbaleh	Caldwell	High school graduate Attending a Teacher C certificate program	Library Attendance, Office Assistance	Year 1 & 2	Good output, community dweller
9.	Henrietta Sackie	Caldwell	High school graduate	FLI home visitor Year 1	Year 1 & 2	Good output, community dweller
10.	Louise Zayzay	Duazon	High school graduate Attending Nursing School	Secretary/T-Five FLI home visitor year 1	Year 1 & 2	Good output, community dweller
11.	Mercy Q. Nagba	West Point	High school graduate	FLI home visitor year 1	Year 1 & 2	Good output, community dweller
12.	Nathaniel Wleh	West Point	University graduate\ University of Liberia	Teacher 5 years, FLI home visitor year 1	Year 1 & 2	Good output, community dweller

Note: Robert Kargba (a year 1 home visitor) resigned after the 1st weekly training and was replaced by Lovetee During (One of the participants from the workshop). His old families were divided with Louise Z. Zayzay and Florence C. Zor after showing some potential in demonstrating activities and role play.

TABLE 1. END-OF-JANUARY ENROLLMENT STATUS OF RETURNING (2016) FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

COMMUNITY	Initial family enrollment this quarter	End-of-quarter family enrollment	Initial child enrollment this quarter	End-of-quarter child enrollment this quarter
Caldwell	15	15	17	17
Duazon	13	13	13	13
West Point	17	17	17	17
TOTALS	45	45	47	47

TABLE 2. END-OF-JANUARY ENROLLMENT STATUS OF NEW (2017) FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

COMMUNITY	Initial family enrollment this quarter	End-of-quarter family enrollment	Initial child enrollment this quarter	End-of-quarter child enrollment this quarter
Caldwell	25	25	25	25
Duazon	27	27	28	28
West Point	23	23	23	23
TOTALS	75	75	76	76

TABLE 3. HOME VISITS BY EACH HOME VISITOR DURING THE FIRST QUARTER				
COMMUNITY	Name of Home Visitor	# of families	Number of completed home visits	Number of scheduled home visits not completed
Caldwell	Jeff Gbalah	14	27	1
	Henrietta Sackie	14	27	1
	Amina Menepalay	6	12	0
	James B. Morris	6	12	0
Duazon	Louise Z. Zayzay	17	32	2
	Florence C. Zor	10	19	1
	Rufus S. Joe	7	13	1
	Lovetee During	6	12	0
West Point	Nathaniel N. Wreh	14	27	1
	Mercy Q. Nagba	14	27	1
	Tenneh Taweh	6	10	2
	Genevieve K. Akoi	6	12	0
TOTALS		120	103	10

TABLE 1. ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN BY COMMUNITY AND HOME VISITOR AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF YEAR TWO BY INITIAL 2017 ENROLLMENT

COMMUNITY	Home Visitor	Number of 2016 children at beginning of year two	Number of 2016 children at end of year two	Number of 2017 children at beginning of year two	Total # of children at the beginning of year two	Number of 2017 children at end of year two
Caldwell	Jeff Gbalah	8		8	16	
	Henrietta Sackie	9		5	14	
	Amina Menepalay	0		6	6	
	James B. Morris	0		6	6	
Duazon	Louise Z. Zayzay	9		8	17	
	Rufus S. Joe	0		8	8	
	Florence C. Zor	4		6	10	
	Lovetee During	0		6	6	
West Point	Nathaniel N. Wreh	9		5	14	
	Mercy Q. Nagba	8		6	14	
	Tenneh Taweh	0		6	6	
	Genevieve K. Akoi	0		6	6	
TOTALS		47		76	123	

Accomplishment

- Recruited and trained new home visitors
- Expanded in three new neighborhoods within the old communities
 - a. Caldwell- Coffee Farm, Sirleaf Town & Lukorkor
 - b. West point- Block-406,405,402, 404& 401
 - c. Duazon- Rock Crusher, Macintosh
- Recruited 75 new families in the expanded neighborhood within the old communities
- Replacement of year one dropped out families with new families.
- Conducted the bracken assessment for all new families children
- Successfully started to implement year one and two curriculums through field visits by home visitors and coordinators
- completed three curriculum weekly training for home visitors and two weeks of home visits
- Submission of first quarter report

CHALLENGES

There are several challenges including these major ones:

- During the recruitment, the age factor (only children age 3 were recruited) caused some delay for the process and distances between recruited families are far apart.
- Some parents with child within the age range could not be recruited because they expected the program to provide materials or financial benefits
- Some parents could not remember their child or children birthday(we tried to work around this)
- In some communities the children were available , but there were no home instructors available
- At the beginning of year two, 15 parents from year 1 could not continue with the program in year two, due to relocation of the family from the community, and other reasons not explained
- There is a delay in receiving the shipment of books; this will cause setback for the implementation of weeks 4 and onward
- Due to the sea erosion in West Point, we were unable to recruit from block 401 & some parts of block 402 in West Point
- One of the old home visitors from Duazon abruptly resigned without notice and took employment with another entity after the first week of year two

Way forward

- That all story books according to the curriculum year (year1 & year 2) be available prior to starting of the curriculum year
- That potential home visitors among the new home visitors be identified during the program year for any possible replacement
- Make visits to the parents during the break to keep them engaged, before the starting of each New Year
- Work on community buy-in

