

**COALITION OF CAREGIVERS AND ADVOCATES FOR THE ELDERLY IN LIBERIA  
(COCAEL) MONROVIA, LIBERIA, WEST AFRICA**

**PRESS RELEASE**

September 15, 2014

The Coalition of Caregivers and Advocates for the Elderly in Liberia (COCAEL) has set up an Ebola Response Committee to design strategies and mobilize resources to provide an effective Ebola response for older people in Liberia.

The COCAEL Ebola Response Committee comprises representatives of provider agencies, caregivers and advocates who attended a Consultative Meeting of the group held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 in collaboration with the Ageing Unit of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW). The meeting, which was held at the Conference Center of the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in Monrovia, was facilitated by the Center for Community Advancement and Family Empowerment (CECAFE) of the Social Work Department of the United Methodist University.

According to a press release of COCAEL, the group is placing more emphasis on its Ebola response to ensure that older people in Liberia, who are also bearing the brunt of this health crisis, remain survivors and not victims of the deadly Ebola virus.

The COCAEL Ebola Response Committee has begun a campaign of soliciting items to enable the group to provide food items, preventive and awareness materials for older people residing in old folk's homes and various communities in Montserrado and other counties.

The group is therefore appealing to the public, humanitarian organizations, corporations and philanthropists for donations of food items, preventative materials (buckets, chlorine, soap, etc.) And awareness materials (posters, flyers, etc) to be distributed to older people, as its contribution to the fight against this pestilence.

A press release issued by the group also advised that all donated items can be dropped off at the Refuge Old Folks Home located on Ashmun Street, which has been designated as the Receiving Point for all donations made to the Coalition for distribution to its membership.

In a related development, the members of COCAEL have elected an interim leadership to steer affairs of group during its organizing process and Ebola response campaign. Those elected as interim leaders of the group include Rev. Anna Kpann, Chairman, Mr. Augustus Nelson, Vice Chairman, Rev. Aaron Paul, Secretary, Mr. J. Togar Seekpee, Treasurer, Mr. Albert Scott, Financial Secretary and Mimi Dennis, Chaplain.

Signed:

Pastor Aaron Paul, Interim Secretary (0886-589-486)

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