

Williette Safehouse

Policy Brief

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Williette Safehouse Activities

This edition of the policy brief focuses on categories of analysis of the following:

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Executive Summary

Williette Safehouse is a registered NGO that actively works to enhance the economic and social development of young marginalized individuals within the Liberian disabled community. We believe real change can be seen by empowering these young people through sustainable development programs. To achieve this, we run impactful and life-transforming youth focused programs in the Liberian disabled community.

Williette Safehouse believes that extracurricular activities are important for students with disabilities to acquire leadership skills, teamwork, time management, communication skills, networking opportunities, and much more. We operate clubs in schools for those with disabilities yearly. These school clubs provide participants with developmental skills and knowledge while preparing each individual to become self-sufficient.

Williette Speaks is our radio program that focuses on advocacy through education. The disabled community is riddled with

stigmatization due to the lack of proper information. Radio and videos are used as a platform to provide the public with relevant education and awareness about the disabled community in Liberia.

Methodology

Williette Safehouse operates clubs at three schools for the deaf in Monrovia. Each of the clubs contain a total of ten students, 5 girls, and 5 boys. At the beginning of the club, a pre assessment is conducted to assess the performance of each student during the club. At the end of the club, a post assessment is also conducted to measure student growth and ultimately success of the clubs.

Student Amputee Network

Williette Safehouse has a Student Amputee Network that currently consists of 11 students, 7 boys and 4 girls. The spread of Covid-19 has led to the compulsory closure of schools nationwide. In order to maintain positive educational engagements with our beneficiaries we

established the Williette Safehouse Homework Package. A reading assessment was conducted with each student. Letter recognition, phonemic awareness, and decoding, were the key factors of fluency while the ability to ask and answer questions and citing evidence to support a stance of a passage were the main focus of comprehension in all of the assessments.

Reading Accuracy

Reviewing and making logical decisions in regards to programs centered on youth reading accuracy is critical. Williette Safehouse gathered data from the pre assessment that was conducted on our students from our amputee network. The students scored at an average of 100%. Each of the reading passages testing accuracy was timed for 3 minutes, this was done to accurately track their fluency skills. A total of 10 students from grades 5 to 12 were assessed. Of the 10 respondents, 7 are males and 3 are females. Measurements of students' accuracy was done by listening to a list of oral reading and counting the number of errors in a word count of 100. The accuracy assessment has provided Williette Safehouse to gain insight into the student's ability to use strategies to decode unfamiliar words. This assessment provides realistic data information about areas in which each student needs further instruction to improve fluency.

Reading Comprehension

Good reading comprehension is the ultimate goal of reading instruction at all grade levels and for all children. Accurate assessment of reading comprehension is necessary to determine if students are

reading on grade level, to identify specific areas of remediation, and to use data to help plan future instruction. The 10 students from Williette Safehouse Amputee Network, 7 males, and 3 females between grades 5 to 12 were assessed using a scale of 100%. Each student was given a passage to read, and questions were drawn from the passages for each of them. This was done to pinpoint key strengths and weaknesses of each student. A short story that is appropriate for the student's independent reading level was given to each student. The focus of the assessment was on the student's comprehension of the text rather than their fluency skills.

Williette Speaks

Williette Speaks is our radio/video program that is aired on ELWA 94.5 FM weekly. It is a series of oral documentaries used to inform a range of audiences on a wide array of topics dealing with disabilities. As an organization, we are using this platform to engage and inform the general public while gathering feedback about the challenges that face the individuals within the Liberian disabled community. Williette Speaks provides real-time information and most recent updates to listeners. We have become a valuable source of information where reliable news is scarce. Williette Speaks is aired both on ELWA 94.5 FM and Facebook Live on Saturdays for 30 minutes, from 12:30 - 1:00 PM to reach a wide range of listeners and followers.

Sports Club

Williette Safehouse School Sport Club teaches discipline, self control, and self defense through Taekwondo. This leads to increased energy, better health and fitness, greater coordination, and higher

self-esteem in the life of each participating student. Williette Safehouse performed a pre assessment during the pilot face of the sports club. The total of 8 students were assessed, the assessment considered students responsibility (being accountable in dealings with others), pace (the speed at which a student is able to comprehend topics surrounding Taekwondo), self defense skills, self discipline, self control, and growth. Each component encouraged the student to become an independent thinker in order to properly handle critical situations. The sports club was conducted for three months after which a post assessment was considered using the pre-assessment questions to determine the performance of each student. The students' results were exciting because they greatly improved after the three months of instruction. Their performance accumulated an average of 87 out of 100%

Chess club ran for three months and students were taught how to play chess while developing a positive mind set. An endline assessment was conducted using the pre-assessment questions to determine the performance level of each student. Their overall average score was 80 out of 100%.

Chess Club

Williette Safehouse Chess Club helped students learn to concentrate, think logically, overcome obstacles, and categorize information. It helped with the development of problem-solving skills, planning, patience, and self-discipline. Williette Safehouse performed a pre assessment for 8 students; 6 males and 2 females, during the pilot face of the Chess Club. The assessment considered students problem-solving skills, calmness under pressure, self-confidence, logical and creative thinking skills, and sportsmanship. This consisted of rating the student on the dimensions below. The scale used was 1 = Fair, 2 = Improving, 3 = Good 4 = Very Good 5 = Excellent. The