**ORGANIZATION SPEECH**

**FOR**

**JOSIE WULU**

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guess, friends and family.... and let’s face it, we are ALL family, especially when it means that we all come together in support of this necessary and worthwhile cause. FOYTOM brings us all here... it brings us together and unites us in giving back and giving hope. Tonight we’re gathered to participate in this wonderful installation ceremony. It’s a great honor for me to be installed as the third president of this organization, and it is a privilege to share my thoughts and plans with you.

I’d like to give you all a brief history of how I got here and of my relationship with FOYTOM as it tells a story and lays the foundation for my commitment to all of you and the people we serve. My dear friend, Mrs. Edna Brown, founder and treasurer, introduced me to this group and from the beginning, I was intrigued and drawn to be involved. During my first year I was asked to be part of the social committee with our focus on the fourth convention in 2015 held in Maryland. As luck... and providence... and hard work and dedication would have it, I ended up becoming the event **(? Is this correct? If not, please revise**) chair. I’m happy to say that my participation and dedication were recognized and respected, and at that first convention, our FOYTOM sisters elected me Vice President of the organization. In the early days of 2017, upon the resignation of the President, I then served as both acting President as well as Vice President, and in June this year, I was elected as President. What a vote of confidence!!!! After all, here was and is an organization, founded by mature ladies residing in the United States, having realized the importance of having a solid, caring support system, there in good times as well as in bad times, to help meet the social, moral, financial, and spiritual needs of each other and our fellow Liberians back home. FOYTOM stands for “Friends Of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” and we are committed to the advancement of well being as we give back to our Motherland. Our people back in Liberia had to endure fifteen years of civil war and those living in rural areas are most affected, having been consistently underserved. As we solicit funds from generous donors, and as we volunteer our time and skills, we demonstrate respect for our past by sharing what we can for the advancement of the women and children still living in the rural parts of Liberia, West Africa. We who are here tonight have been blessed with so much... to be able to give back and support this much needed cause increases our personal fortunes... that of caring, integrity, commitment... one hundred fold. The Ancient Greek philosopher, Aristotle, said, “What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good.” Yes. It’s that simple.... that meaningful, and that impactful. FOYTOM is growing in its outreach and impact. The good works we do make a tremendous difference in the lives of those we serve.

As President, I have plans.... Our platform for 2017-2018 will remain focused on our purpose....that is to reach out and identify those women and children most in need, both in Liberia and right here in our own United States. It is crucial for us to understand and empathize with those who have less... these women and children may be underserved, but their hopes and dreams are as real and poignant as ours. We must come together to find the means to provide education, health awareness, and other basics to those in need of a helping hand. There are things we take for granted, and whether it is a bit of lifesaving knowledge or much needed basic health supplies, we must remember.... sharing is caring and caring is KEY.

For the coming year, my vision and intentions for FOYTOM are as follows:

1. To provide educational materials for children that would otherwise be unaffordable
2. To identify and provide scholarships to three students.... selection is based on need and demonstrable academic standing.
3. To gather and distribute toys for children in need.... Yes... discovering joy and learning to participate in activities is a NEED...
4. To plan for and construct a multi purpose building to be used for many and various activities. As with anything we know and do, having a dedicated space promotes good will, interest, a sense of dignity, and desire to self improve.... and that is our ultimate and overall goal.

I look around this room and do you know what I see? I see a room full of interested, interesting, caring and generous **partners**. I see a room filled with people who know what it means to overcome circumstances. I see a room filled with people who know that service to others, as Mohammed Ali has said, “... is the rent we pay for our room here on this earth.”

Although this organization began small, it is growing, and my tenure as president will focus on expanding our base, enriching our membership, and strengthening our impact on the communities we serve. FOYTOM functions as a viable non-profit organization that follows the by-laws established by the United States. Our world is facing unprecedented challenges and tonight, I invite you to participate in a new challenge. ...one that will support others.... one that will shed light on issues that need to be addressed and resolved.... one that provides services and supplies so that we can bring our fellow Liberians and Americans into the light in order to discover and access their own inner strength and resourcefulness. I invite all of you to join our sisters in FOYTOM to continue our good work on new and far reaching levels. I look forward to standing here next year as we review unprecedented progress and impact on those in the world that really need us. Thank you all!