

July 11, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

SWIFT Education Center at The University of Kansas is pleased to recommend Child Health Improvement Program International (CHIP-I) based on a long history of working together to serve students who are too often excluded from all that education systems can offer.

We commend CHIP-I's commitment to working with children with autism and special needs in health-challenged environments. Without doubt, CHIP-I's involvement in Africa, where autism is not fully recognized or understood, is vital in helping families and educators to identify and understand the implications of children's atypical characteristics and how to respond. CHIP-I's team has the passion, professionalism, and management skills necessary to lead efforts to develop more educators who honor the full humanity of these children, and to increase educator skills to create systems and use instructional methods that tap into the many ways students learn and grow.

SWIFT began the ongoing collaboration with CHIP-I more than a decade ago when I served as their advisor to the National Ghana Education Service for Students with Special Needs in Ghana, Africa. CHIP-I's high level of respect among the Ghanaian community enabled our Center team to provide multiple workshops at the 5th and 6th Annual Cape Coast Autism Training Workshop on Inclusion, University of Cape Coast Ghana, School of Medical Sciences. The groundwork laid by CHIP-I opened doors for us to lead two learning series—"Strategies and Skills for the Special Needs Child" and "Successfully Educating All Children." These workshops provided essential information about children with learning and behavioral differences, addressed mindsets about their capacity to learn and contribute to school and community life, and taught strategies and methods for meaningful interactions and learning in general education.

CHIP-I's work is important to not just the children and families who are journeying through life with autism. They are unleashing the potential of these children to make a difference in their local communities, and perhaps the world, as they become employees, artists, musicians, inventors, entrepreneurs, neighbors, parents, and so much more. We are pleased to be partners with CHIP-I in this life changing venture.

Sincerely,



Amy B. McCart, Ph.D.
Director, SWIFT Education Center
Research Professor, The University of Kansas