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SN Brussels Airlines Embarks on Life-saving Mission

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[\(/node/4335\)](#)*(l-r): Charlesetta Williams, Clarence, SN Brussels employee and Victoria Williams***By: Alaskai Moore Johnson, Health Correspondent**

MONROVIA – The Belgian-run airline, SN Brussels, has embarked on a life-saving mission for a Liberian child.

The airline has provided a round trip air ticket for both the boy's mother and himself to travel to Tel Aviv, Israel, where the ailing boy is expected to undergo an open heart surgery.

Five-year-old Clarence Williams' mother, Victoria J. Williams, was visibly happy when she was told that SN Brussels Airlines had agreed to provide round trip tickets for her and her son to travel to Holon, Israel, where the surgery will be performed at Save A Child's Heart Israel.

They were expected to leave Liberia today.

Speaking with the *Daily Observer* at his Ashmun Street offices, SN Brussels Airlines Country Director, Frédéric Vloeberghs, said that the airline was very proud to participate in the humanitarian mission.

"Brussels Airlines wants to do more than just transporting its passengers to and from Africa. We want to give back to the people who have welcomed our company; we are also very concerned about our passengers' welfare," he stated.

On what his entity hopes to achieve, Vloeberghs said, "We do not hope to achieve anything other than to see happiness and smiles on the faces of parents and children that we help. This gives us much pleasure, and that's our achievement."

The SN Brussels country director said that his company is also sponsoring James Cooper Foundation Orphanage Home, where, they have provided shoes and other necessities for the children. The items, he said, were provided by his colleagues in Belgium.

This is the third life-saving ticket that the airline has provided free of charge to Liberians. The first was to a mother and her twins, who travelled to the US for medical purposes, and the last two have been for medical trips to Israel.

Also speaking with the *Daily Observer* was Charlesetta Williams, the executive director of Health Page Liberia, Inc., under whose auspices the three tickets that the airline has donated were provided.

The project, which sends Liberian children overseas to seek medical attention, began in August of 2009.

Williams, along with Dr. James Tomarken of the Clinton Foundation, who was at the JFK Hospital and left in early January, travelled with an 11-person party to Cotonou, Benin, where Mercy Ships was docked. The ship's medical team had performed an echocardiogram x-ray on little Clarence and few other children, including Emmanuel Lormah and Josephine Jallah.

Williams praised the National Social Security and Welfare Corporation (NASSCROP), Karen Hoffmann of ICRC, Assistant Information Minister, Scholastica Doe, and Lucy Bondo for providing the funds and other forms of assistance that made the venture a success. She also said that more assistance is needed in order to take Lormah and Jallah to Israel for open heart surgery as well.

She added that despite Tomarken's departure, he is still helping Liberian children.

"He paid the taxes on the ticket provided by SN Brussels Airlines via his credit card," Williams disclosed.

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