

1. ROOTS

The Stella Maris Foundation is an outreach of the Stella Maris Roman Catholic Church, incorporated in October 1997 and has its offices at 1 Grants Pen Road, Kingston 8. It seeks to promote goodwill & secure sustainable social & economic development within the community, by means of skills training & social programmes & to pursue those objectives through the Christian virtue of *doing what love requires*". SMF was conceived through the instrumentality of parishioners, led by Mr. Peter Mais (first Chairman), inspired by Monsignor Richard Albert (the then Pastor of the Stella Maris Roman Catholic Church) who has established Skills Training centers elsewhere in the island.

2. CORE FUNCTIONS/SCOPE OF WORK

The Stella Maris Foundation endeavors to pursue a process of Social, Spiritual and Educational transformation through the following strategic objectives:

A. To Promote Education & Skills Training

- Data Operations/IT (Level I & II) [Supported by the **HEART Trust NTA (Approx. 50 annually)**].
- Early Childhood Education & Care (Level I & II) [Supported by the **HEART (Approx. 50 annually)**].
- CXC Mathematics & Accounts (Extra Lessons for clients who cannot afford other options)
- Pre-Vocational Skills Training, supported by the Citizens Security & Justice Programme (Literacy & Numeracy using computer software + curriculum from the Jamaica Foundation for Life-Long Learning)
NB: **Over 40** currently in training. Graduates include persons who have moved from Level I Literacy to being gainfully employed.
- Support to community students in schools:
 - i. Scholarship Programmes (ProComm/SMF Scholarship Fund & American Women's Group Scholarship Fund)
 - ii. Homework Assistance Unit

B. To Facilitate Employment & Business Development opportunities

- Job Placement and Referral System (Skills Bank): To date, we have trained and placed over 800 graduates in employment. We also maintain a data-Base of skilled residents who are seeking jobs & try to connect them with employment opportunities or further certification.

C. To ensure access to Basic Health, Mediation & Outreach Services

- **Counseling Centre** (In partnership with the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology) **with highly qualified professionals delivering more than 4,000 hrs per year, valued at over 2 million annually. More than 50**

clients are attended to each month to deal with a wide range of issues, employing proven methods: Psychotherapy, Grief Counseling, Mediation etc.

- **Conflict Management & Violence Reduction** through sports and youth clubs development
NB: We mentor 'At Risk' Youth and provide leadership & support for Youth considered dangerous, many of whom have turned away from destructive lifestyles.
- Day Care Centre
- Medical Referral System Patients are referred to a panel of Medical Doctors who volunteer quality care.

D. To Help Build and Facilitate Spiritual Awareness for Wholesome Development

- Promote & maintain spiritual awareness through daily devotional exercises
- Foster community spirituality through Community Praise & Worship & Fellowship Services.

3. CRITICAL & ESSENTIAL SERVICES

In addition to the regular clients served (approx. 150) in current programmes, more than 150 other clients visit the Foundation monthly for a range of critical services including:

- **Reference Letters** (Character references, Job Placements,) – Approx. 20 per month
- **Assistance with completing applications** (Birth Certificates, Passports, Visa, PATH etc) – Approx. 30 per month
- **Assistance with school issues** (Fees, transportation, books, lunch, transfers etc.) – Approx. 30 per month
- **JP Services** (Bail/Surety, Certification & Verification of documents, Mediation etc) – Approx. 25 per month
- **Medical Assistance (Referrals etc)** – Approx. 10 per month
- **General Queries, Advice & Referrals** – Approx. 30 – 40 per month

4. FUNDING & PARTNERSHIPS

1. **Stella Maris Roman Catholic Church:** As the main outreach of the Church, a monthly subvention is allocated to support the Foundation's work. However, this covers only approximately 25%-30% of the budget. We rely on fundraising, grant writing, volunteerism & strategic partnerships to fulfill other programming & operational obligations.
2. **Grant Seeking:** SMF has advanced Grant Seeking Proposals to benefit from funding to support projects consistent with its mission. In the past, SMF has benefitted from USAID, the US Embassy, The Embassy of Japan, Digicel Foundation, NCB Foundation & Jamaica National Building Society, among others, for specific projects with varying durations.

3. Strategic Partnerships: The sustainability & relevance of SMF relies heavily on short term as well as long term partnerships that have produced a mix of funding, technical support, human resource, data & key linkages. Key agencies/partners with a mix of financial & technical support for programmes include: The HEART Trust NTA, Citizens Security & Justice Programme (CSJP), Community Empowerment & Transformation Project (COMET) and the National Council on Drug Abuse among others. Other key strategic partnerships that compliment programme objectives include Grants Pen Community Policing Consultative Committee, University of the West Indies (Department of Psychology, Sociology & Social Work), Northern Caribbean University, Caribbean Graduate School of Theology (Department of Counseling Psychology), & The United Theological Centre among others.