



LOVE IN ACTION

The Quarterly Newsletter of the **STELLA MARIS FOUNDATION**

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Beyond Charity – From Barely Able, to Constable

‘The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your wealth, but to reveal to him his own’. Benjamin Disraeli.

In the mission of providing outreach & support, the Stella Maris Foundation has done remarkably well. Beyond that however, our most significant achievement has been our ability to provide avenues that move people from dependence to independence. Two examples of the many that bear testimony to the Foundation’s transformative approach are Dwight Facey (left in photo above) & Kenute Carter (right in photo above), both graduates of the Data Operations Training Programme. Dwight is not shy to admit that prior to enrolling at the Foundation, the only school he graduated was basic school. Since then he said, he has not graduated any other and, ‘If I never went to the Foundation, I would be hanging out or doing something negative. I feel proud to finally finish & can now say I’m a graduate who is on work experience.’

On the other hand, Kenute registered for Data Operations (run in partnership with the HEART TRUST NTA) but barely matriculated as he was struggling with literacy. He was provided with support through our Literacy Intervention Unit in order to fully transition to Data Operations Level I. Kenute did not only finish the programme on schedule, but he wrote and ably delivered the Valedictorian Address upon graduation. And even more amazing, Kenute is now a **District Constable in the Jamaica Constabulary Force!**

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FROM BROKEN, TO BREAKING BARRIERS



Above: Erica Leslie (right), graduate of the Early Childhood Education Programme, meets for a brief chat with Mrs. Karen Siyambola, Principal of Saints Peter & Paul Preparatory School.

Erica is proud to share that the Foundation’s training enabled her to be hired to work with an Autistic Child. She has held that job for over 4 years & works as Shadow for the child who attends Sts. Peter & Paul. The Principal noted that she is impressed with Erica, as she possesses the requisite qualities that any reputable institution would be proud to associate with.

Erica also expressed her gratitude to the Foundation’s Counseling Unit for ‘rescuing’ her marriage & family. She stated that after experiencing a testing period, it was the quality counseling that helped her and her husband to resolve and reconcile differences that threatened the health of their marriage.

Adding Value – The Value of Service

Sentiment has its place, but it is not sufficient. The Foundation is thankful to our partners, volunteers & donors who believe in our mission. And it is not simply because it feels good why we encourage more individuals & companies to support our work, but it is because our successes add value to the community & the nation as a whole. Clients that we have impacted are Customer Service Representatives, Accounting Clerks, Child-Care Givers & Teachers who are positively impacting the society. They are earning an income for themselves & their families; they are contributing to the growth of businesses & institutions in our country. Yes, there is a tangible return on investment; there is real value in service. Get on board!



Above: Stella Maris Foundation's General Manager, Omar Frith (3rd from left) is flanked by beneficiaries of the Foundation who are among the many success, who shared their stories with parishioners at Stella Maris Church during the weekend of January 14. From left are Kris-Anthony Cruickshank - Store Manager at Exotic Stone Creations, Ramona Williams - Guest Service Agent at the Wyndham Kingston & Chevanne Thomas - Inventory & Warehouse Clerk at Appliance Traders (ATL) Ltd. Ramona was also a recipient of the Prime Minister's Youth Award in 2005 for the category, Youth In Service.

Doing What Love Requires – Christmas Chair

'If you [think that you] can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one...' Mother Teresa



New Priest of Stella Maris Church & Patron of the Foundation, Father Howard Thompson, along with Chairman Hon. Beverley Lopez, presented over **160** grocery packages to Grants Pen/Barbican residents during a tour lead by General Manager Omar Frith, in December 2011. The annual Christmas gifts donated by the Stella Maris parish were distributed on a needs basis. *In photo above, Father Thompson (right) presents one of the grocery packages to resident, Madge while Chairman Hon. Beverley Lopez (2nd left) & Manager Omar Frith (2nd right) & resident Monique look on.*



Stella Maris Foundation graduate, Mark Williams, busy working as Customer Service Attendant at General Foods Supermarket.

Quick Facts

- The Stella Maris Foundation's Skills Training Programme is sponsored by the HEART Trust NTA. Students receive Level I Certification via the National Council on Technical Vocational Education & Training (NCTVET)
- Trainees are enrolled in either of two skills; Data Operations or Early Childhood Education & Care, spanning duration of 6 months
- We have trained & graduated over 700 (& counting) clients, many of whom are working or pursuing further training. Some have started their own small business
- Clients benefit from a rounded package that helps in the overall development process: Literacy Unit; Counseling Unit; Day-Care Centre for their children; CXC Mathematics & Accounts classes; Grooming & Social Etiquette, Life-Skills & Entrepreneurial Studies.
- Clients are given opportunities to develop an awareness of civic responsibility through community service & volunteerism.



Above: Father Howard Thompson praying for a young man at the request of his grandmother during the tour of the community in December.

Global Community Connections: International Volunteer Day (IVD)



Members of the Foundation Team carried out extensive voluntary projects in various locations in Grants Pen, in solidarity with global counterparts celebrating the United Nation's IVD on Dec. 5, 2011. A special initiative to coordinate service leaders across the globe was lead by Global Service Leaders Initiative (GSLI) & VOLINTEER. For more details on IVD visit <http://meridianserviceleaders.ning.com>. The aim was to achieve simultaneous projects in fifty countries, advancing one of the Millennium Development Goals. The projects were expect to demonstrate the potential to be continued beyond December 5 and also to engage marginalized groups that would not usually be invited to volunteer. A grant of US\$500 was awarded to the winning project [Theo Sobngwi of the Research Institute for Development (RIDEV), Mb-Bandjoun, Cameroon] courtesy of GSLI partner, Social Imprints.

Above, on one of the project sites in Grants Pen, members carried out cleaning and renovation of the home of senior citizen, 80yr. old Mr. Melvin McCarthy, who was also presented with groceries & toiletries. Approximately forty volunteers including students, residents and staff connected with the community. In addition to the clean-up exercises of senior citizens' homes, families were provided with groceries & toiletries, while our Early Childhood Education trainees visited and interacted with children at the Little Angels Basic School.

Happening Now – Training & more

Below: Current Data Op. trainees attentive in session on Fire Safety, presented by Sergeant Brown of the Jamaica Fire Brigade.



Below: Early Childhood Education Trainee, Lora Moore, putting her training into practice at the Little Angels Basic School.



LOCAL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: GROUNDED



Above: Skills Training Coordinator, Damion Powell & Receptionist Annastacia Bloomfield, interfacing with residents at a community expo.



Above: Admin. Assistant, Kisha Bhoorasingh presents a package to expectant mother, Joy Campbell, to assist with preparations for her new born.



Manager Omar Frith keeps in touch with residents to explore suggestions & ideas.

RIGHT NOW:

- Twenty Four newly trained learners in Early Childhood Education & Care will sit final assessments in January. These represent a competent cadre of citizens who will occupy posts as Child Care-Givers and candidates for further education and development in the field of Early Childhood Education & Care
- Forty Five new candidates have already registered to compete for one of the twenty five vacant spaces in the new cycle to start in February
- Meanwhile, Twenty Seven learners in Data Operations are on the final leg of training which ends in March. Efforts are being made to identify opportunities for them to perform scheduled work experience.
- Our Counseling Centre continues to provide quality intervention to students & other residents to assist with mitigating the effects of crisis, conflict, trauma & other mental or emotional hazards. Through partnership with the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology, Counseling Psychologists are able to complete practicum hours in our centre to fulfill required field hours for the completion of their Masters Degrees. We use this opportunity to welcome and thank the Centre's new Supervisor, Mrs. Judith Thompson, who also completed her own practicum hours in our centre when she was in training.

A Reason to Care – Norma Chang Day-Care Centre (NCDC)



The NCDC provides quality care, attention & interaction that ensure a healthy foundation for the toddlers in our care. However, we are desirous of improving the facility in order to fulfill the needs of our toddlers as well as to satisfy the demand for our services.

Events & Activities Update

Commissioned Justices of The Peace

The Foundation congratulates General Manager, Omar Frith & Philanthropist Laurel DeMercado, who were both officially commissioned in December 2011, to serve as Justices of the Peace in the parish of St. Andrew.

Fund-Raising Play, HERCULES

Congratulations to the hardworking fundraising team lead by Valerie Moodie & the dedicated Board & staff for pulling off the hosting of the Musical HERCULES, **Sunday January 22**. We also wish to thank the many patrons who made the event a success. Kudos to the Jamaica Musical Theatre Company for delivering an excellent production!

G-SAT Programme

One of the Foundation's brightest stars, **Etmour Williams**, will be leading an intervention project to assist with the preparation of students for the upcoming Grade Six Achievement Test (G-SAT). Commencing January 29, the initiative will be spearheaded by the **E-Vibes Foundation**. Over forty students drawn from Shortwood Practicing Primary & New Day Primary & Junior High will benefit from the project.

Board Retreat

The Board of Directors will convene an annual retreat on **March 3**.

Thank You

The Foundation wishes to express sincere thanks to our partners, community stakeholders (Community Based Organizations, Political representative et al), donors & the Stella Maris Parish including the Men's Fellowship for their continued participation & support. To the committed Board of Directors lead by Honorable Beverly Lopez & our fundraising committee, chaired by Mrs. Valerie Moodie, we thank you for your dedication. We must give a special thanks to the hard working staff, teachers & volunteers whose professionalism, passion & sacrifices daily on the frontlines bring the mission of the Foundation to life in spite of the challenges. For the many not mentioned, please know that without you, there is no foundation.

STELLA MARIS FOUNDATION

'Doing What Love Requires'

The Stella Maris Foundation is a not for profit non-governmental community development organization founded under the auspices of the Stella Maris Roman Catholic Church, that 'seeks to promote goodwill & secure sustainable social & economic development ... by means of skills training & social programmes ...

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PERSON OF THE QUARTER



ETMOUR WILLIAMS

Delivering the Keynote Address at the Stella Maris Foundation/HEART Trust Skills Training Graduation Ceremony 2009

WHO IS HE WHO DARED TO BE DIFFERENT?

He is Ambitious, Audacious & Motivated:

- ✦ Born & raised in Oddman Lane, Grants Pen, Kingston 8
- ✦ First recipient of Director, Jean Lowrie-Chin's ProCommunications Ltd./ Stella Maris Scholarship Fund to attend Calabar High School
- ✦ Conquered geographic stereotypes to be among the leading members of the Youth Uprising Youth Club at the Foundation, in collaboration with Richmond Fellowship
- ✦ Graduated Calabar to hold jobs at ProCommunications Ltd., Sandals Ocho Rios, Stella Maris Foundation & now at Grace Kennedy Remittance Services as Customer Support Offer
- ✦ Currently pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Marketing & Finance
- ✦ Now a Philanthropist, Youth Leader, & Founder of E-Vibes Youth Club.

Business Unit: Papier Mache



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