



# LOVE IN ACTION

Volume 1, Issue 2

The Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Stella Maris Foundation

June 2004

## Computer Lab Well Utilized

**Stella Maris Foundation**

**Patron:** The Very Rev.  
Father Michael Lewis  
**Founder:** The Rt. Rev.  
Msgr. Richard Albert

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### Collaborating Institutions



*[The Police Executive Research  
Forum (PERF) on display at SMF's  
Health Expo-2004]*

The Stella Foundation has partnered with the United States Agency for International Development, the Embassy of Japan, the Canadian International Development Agency, the US Embassy, Heart Trust NTA, Kingston Restoration Company (KRC) and PERF in an effort to stimulate a process of Empowerment in the Grant's Pen Community.



Ladies from the Stella Maris Catholic Church attending computer classes at the Foundation.

Stella Maris Foundation



Students of SMF's carpentry programme receiving computer lessons

The Computer Lab is currently well utilized. The primary beneficiaries of this programme are students of SMF's Carpentry Programme who receive lessons as part of their complete training while enrolled at the Foundation.

In recent times, the programme has welcomed the enrolment of ladies from the Stella Maris Catholic Church who pay an hourly fee to learn and sharpen their computing skills.

All queries regarding the Computer Programme can be made at the Foundation.

## Honouring Philanthropy



**Mrs. Beverley Adams and family honoured:** Mrs. Beverley Adams (right), matriarch of the philanthropic Adam's family, receives a plaque in recognition of their contribution to the Stella Maris Foundation at the luncheon held recently at the Foundation's offices in her honour. Her late husband Mr. R.K. 'Dickie' Adams, founder of Bevad engineering, was a pioneer in mentoring and community outreach programmes in Grant's Pen. The Adam's family provided the initial funds to establish the Stella Maris Foundation, which serves the Grant's Pen/Barbican area. The presentation was made by board member Mrs. Jean Lowrie-Chin (left) and accolades were given by Patron Father Michael Lewis and Founder Msgr. Richard Albert. Mrs. Tracy Adams-Goldson was also presented with a plaque by board member Dr. Annette Alexis.

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## Fundraising

Doing What love requires means sacrifice, selflessness, commitment and faith - it also means teambuilding, partnership and yes, funding. To this end, the Stella Maris Foundation has launched its Fund Raising Committee April 21, 2004, with Attorney - At - Law Ms. Salma Aitchison as Chairperson. The Committee will focus on raising funds in an effort to continue the process of upliftment and empowerment of residents in the Grant's Pen Community.

The committee intends to host a series of events beginning with a benefit performance "Purlie" to be held at the Phillip Sherlock Centre UWI (mona) on July 18, 2004 at 3:00pm and 7:pm.

Members of the committee meets at the Stella Maris Foundation Thursdays at 4:00pm.

## Over 200 attend SMF Health/Wellness Expo 2004



Booths displaying National Health Fund and Ministry of Labour.

The USAID funded 2004 Health expo, hosted by the Stella Maris Foundation for the people of Grant's Pen was indeed a success. The theme 'wellness for life mind, body and spirit'

was expounded upon by Dr. Annette Alexis who reminded the residents that "this is not a health fair where we have doctors checking up people, but rather we are seeking to empower the residents of the community with knowledge by giving them information that they can use to better their lives".

Over two hundred residents turned out for the event. The Fair was realized on a budget of approximately \$100,000.00. Fish Medical, The Diabetic Association of Jamaica, The Cancer Society of Jamaica, The Ministry of Health:Behaviour Modification and Mental Health unit, PERF, Nestle Jamaica, The National Insurance Scheme, The National Health Fund, St. Joseph's Hospital, Ted Emmanuel, PATH, Health Associates, Symmetry, as well as Tony Williamson in conjunction with the



Grant's Pen resident being attended to by representatives from the Diabetic Association of Jamaica

Cardiology Unit of the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) also participated.

## Strengthening Families for a Stronger Community

The Foundation recognizes the importance of parenting and family relations as it relates to socio-economic issues locally and internationally. In an attempt to stimulate a community response to these issues in Grant's Pen, a collaborative effort is undertaken with Parenting Partners to discuss progress of their manual revision. Further, SMF Community Officers attended a three-day workshop to undergo training as parenting facilitators. A list of parents in the mentorship programme at the Shortwood Practising was obtained and contact made to invite them to be a part of focus groups/training. A second list was formed comprising parents from the Grant's Pen Community for a second focus group.

As part of the Community empowerment Project, Plans are afoot to form a **Women's Group**.



*Sistren Theatre Collective using Drama to speak to issues surrounding domestic violence (held at community meetings facilitated by Barbican Grant's Pen Upliftment Movement*

This component would realize the selection of women from across the Grant's Pen community

who were invited to attend a meeting at the Stella Maris Foundation an April 2, 2004 in an effort to empower them through training and discussions about wellness, conflict resolution, better parenting, domestic violence prevention and other issues surrounding life in an inner-city community.

The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) chaired the Domestic Violence Work Group meeting held on May 20, 2004. This meeting was called to discuss the way forward with all the stakeholders at the table. It was agreed that monthly meetings were sufficient to discuss progress and issues related to Domestic Violence sensitization.

## YOUTH UPRISING CLUB HEADS TO CAMP

Uprising indeed! That is precisely what this dynamic group of youngsters from Grant's Pen are causing. An uprising of talent, brilliance, dedication, commitment and focus—the hallmarks of success.

The Youth Uprising Club is an active Youth Club Operating in Grant's Pen under the umbrella of the Stella Maris Foundation. The youngsters have distinguished themselves academically, but most importantly in their philanthropic undertakings.



Youth Uprising in Studio at KLAS

They have appeared on KLAS as guests on the popular programme "Teen Jam".

They are volunteers for the two Summer Camps (PERF at Calabar High and Stella Maris Foundation in collaboration with Mrs. E. Buchanan Hinds at the Shortwood Practising School).

The Youth Club also planned a Weekend Camp which was held between July 2—5 2004 at Highgate Park Great House in St Catherine.

## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT—ALIVE AND KICKING



**Ms. Kerry-Jo Lyn (Project Coordinator) and Mr. Donovan Corcho in planning session with team managers and coaches**

In an effort to revive and re-launch the Youth Clubs in Grant's Pen as well as offer training in Conflict Resolution and other issues such as the rights of the citizens, the Foundation launched a football Competition in the month of June, 2004.



**Teams undergoing dispute resolution training**

The Foundation aims at forming a Youth Club Committee within the Community in order to facilitate the Youth Clubs' growth, guidance and sustainability.

The football competition comprises ten teams from two age groups—under 25 and under 15.

### CHEERLEADERS GIVE A BOOST



**Cheerleaders' meeting at the Foundation to prepare for the upcoming competition**

In order to target female participation and inclusion in the activities, SMF approached PERF to sponsor a Cheerleading Competition, which runs concurrently with the football Competition with the final judging taking place on the day of the prize giving slated for July 11, 2004.



**Andrew's Pen youth Club/Football team, One of the ten clubs that are entering the competition. The Games are held on the Andrew's Pen football field**



**As part of dispute resolution training, teams must respect the national anthem**

## More Graduates for Carpentry Programme



**SMF Carpentry Students Undergoing Lifeskills facilitation session ( Provided by Dr. W. Abel, dept of Psychiatry UHWI) funded by KRC.**

The Stella Maris Foundation offers an invaluable opportunity for youth whose lives may otherwise be untimely snatched away by vices, voices or crises common to the inner-city experience. Youth in the HEART sponsored Carpentry Programme additionally benefit from a wholesome environment made possible by a supportive staff, a well rounded curriculum and importantly, a mechanism by which future interaction may be maintained with past students.

We are approaching the culmination of another cycle in the aforementioned training programme and tentatively anticipate the graduation ceremony of a batch of students at the end of July, 2004.



**SMF Carpentry Students in Practical Session.**

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## Board of Directors

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Mr. Michael Chuck	Managing Director, <i>Riomar Limited.</i>
Mrs. Janet Morgan, Secretary	Attorney At Law, <i>Dunn, Cox.</i>
Mrs. Jean Lowrie-Chin	Managing Director, <i>Pro Communications Limited.</i>
Dr. Annette Alexis	Ophthalmologist, <i>Parkington Eye Center.</i>
Mr. Fabian Brown	Executive Director, <i>St Joseph's Hospital.</i>
Ms. Salma Aitchison	Attorney - at - Law, <i>Frazer &amp; Aitchison</i>

### Not for Money, But for Love



Mrs. Anne Marie Thomas, General Manager

A thirty year veteran of the Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica Ltd., Mrs. Anne Marie Thomas held several managerial positions, the most recent being Branch Manager of BNS Newport West and Senior Manager Corporate Banking.

After much thought, Mrs. Thomas decided three years ago to take early retirement from the banking sector in order to pursue the things dearest to her heart, such as helping the less fortunate, gardening and traveling.

With a warm sincere smile and her usual spirit of thanksgiving, Mrs. Thomas remarked, "I am truly blessed and I believe it is time to share my blessings".

When the Stella Maris Foundation found itself without a General Manager, then Board member Mrs. Anne Marie Thomas agreed to demit Directorship to serve in this capacity. Since assuming office as part-time General Manager, the Foundation has blossomed into an active dynamic organization. With her extensive experience and expertise in the capacity as manager, one would imagine that such terms of reference must be qualified by significant financial rewards. However, this is not the case with Mrs. Anne Marie Thomas as she states, "I am here in service to the Lord and my fellow mankind. I am *doing what love requires*".

### STELLA MARIS FOUNDATION MEMBERS OF STAFF "Doing What Love Requires"

MRS. ANNE MARIE THOMAS  
General Manager

MR. OMAR FRITH  
Community Liaison Officer

MRS. CORETTA JOHNSON  
Community Counselor

MS. KERRY-JO LYN  
Project Coordinator

Ms. Andito Wilson  
Childhood Development  
Officer

MR. MARK GEORGE  
Accountant

MRS. ANDREA HANSON  
Administrative Assistant

MR. STEVE BROWN  
Carpentry Instructor

MR. VALMORE GREEN  
Property Caretaker

MRS. DOROTHY BYFIELD  
Ancillary

### Satisfaction In Helping People



Mrs. Andrea Hanson, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Andrea Hanson has been working with the Foundation for over two years in the capacity of Administrative Assistant. It is her responsibility to see to the effective and efficient day-to-day running of the office. She attends to the residents of Grant's Pen on a daily basis, listening to their request and directing them to the relevant officers or assist where possible.

Mrs. Hanson has also been instrumental with regards to the coordination of the Carpentry Skills Training Programme with specific attention to the monitoring of the accounts and the submission of financial reports to HEART Trust.

Her secretarial skills are made manifest in her ability to prepare official letters, minutes, organize files as well as in her efficient way of assisting residents with the preparation of application letters and resumes. The multifarious nature of her Terms of Reference (TOR) includes her supervision of ancillary staff as well as the overall maintenance of the building as it relates to electrical, plumbing and security issues.

With a quiet, and pleasant atmosphere, Mrs. Hanson is very approachable. With the usual smile on her face, Andrea remarked "I enjoy my job as I get satisfaction from helping people and being able to serve in one way or another. I try to be aware of what is happening so as to have knowledge and to provide information when necessary".

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