



LOVE IN ACTION

Volume 1, Issue 3

The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Stella Maris Foundation

September 2004

Melba Moore Relives "Purlie" for SMF

STELLA MARIS FOUNDATION
Founder: The Rt. Rev.
 Monsignor Richard Albert
Patron: The Very Rev.
 Father Michael Lewis

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Fund Raising Committee

The Stella Maris Foundation Fund Raising Committee wishes to acknowledge our sponsors such as; American Airlines, Strawberry Hill Hotel, PRO Communications Ltd., the Russell-Brown Family, Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Digital Press Ltd., Supreme Ventures Ltd., The Hewitt Family, Tastee Patties, Grace Kennedy & Co. Ltd., Pepsi Cola, Caribbean Producers Ja. Ltd., Big Joe Fruit Drinks, V.A.P Ltd., JPS Co. Ltd., National Continental Foods, Geddes Grant Ltd., WISYNCO Ltd., Thomas Finnegan and Wine Merchants Ltd.

We encourage you to continue "*Doing what Love Requires*" as we play our part in nation building.



The Stella Maris Foundation Fund Raising Committee hosted the benefit performance "Purlie" at the Phillip Sherlock Centre UWI Mona on July 18, 2004. The event's success was evidence of the hard work and dedication synonymous with members of the Committee as well as the professionalism of the Jamaica Musical Theatre Company.

To top the evening of excellence, the famous Melba Moore (front left) who starred in the original Broadway production made a special guest appearance and thrilled the hearts of patrons with nostalgic moments of magical melodies. Ms. Moore was presented with a plaque and gift from the Stella Maris Foundation. The presentations were made by Mr. Gregory Mair, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Ms. Salma Aitchison, Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee.



Members of the Fund Raising Committee in planning meeting (Chaired by Ms. Salma Aitchison). The other members of the Committee are; Michael Hemmings, Marjorie Campbell, Valrie Moodie, Keith Russell-Brown, Beverly Adams, Daphne Hewitt, Pat Perrier, Gloria Moodie and Pat Dunwell.

Football Competition — Kicking tensions aside



Belgium United (yellow) and Progressive Youth Club (red) battle in semi-finals

The USAID funded Community Football Tournament allowed over two hundred Grants Pen Youth the opportunity to kick conflict and tensions to the curb. Skill, commitment and teamwork brought magical moments of glory and inspiration to a community that longed for an end to conflict.

The Competition aimed at identifying and strengthening existing Youth Clubs in Grants Pen with the intent of establishing a Youth Club Committee. In the final analysis, it is hoped that this Committee would have played a critical role in increasing the residents' capacity to participate in Community development programmes that are sustainable and as a consequence, create an atmosphere that would aid in the process of violence reduction.



Shortwood Lane (Angels) Cheerleaders demonstrates coordination and precision

In an effort to boost the Football Competition, as well as enlist the participation of women in the event, a Cheerleading Competition was hosted simultaneously.

The audience was entertained by a thrilling display of skill and fashion designing showcased by the talented young ladies representing each of ten teams. Of key note, was the lyrical content presented which was a key focus for the judges. The ladies sang, chanted and wrapped about the futility of violence and the productive results of peace. They urged listeners to 'throw down the guns' and unite in peace and unity. The message was clear. The ladies from Shortwood Lane (left), emerged as one the crowd's favourite, but were edged by the energetic team, Rising Star of Grants Pen Avenue.



Andrews Pen Youth Club, champion team showing off their trophies

The competition's success made all participants winners. Each team member was awarded a certificate of participation, coaches and managers received gift baskets and accolades. But it was the Andrews' Pen Youth Club that emerged as champion team, defeating Progressive Youth Club (Morgan Lane) in the finals.

The prestigious award though, was won by Evening Light Youth Club (Grants Pen Drive), who proved to be the most disciplined team.

After the presentation of awards, the winning team (Andrews' Pen Youth Club) displayed their trophies and gift packages in the company of Ms. Kerry-Joe Lyn (Project Coordinator) and Mr. Gregory Mair (Chairman of the Board of Directors).

WOODWORK & SEWING GRADUATION CEREMONY— REWARDING PERSEVERANCE



SMF graduating class 2004 in the company of Chairman, Mr. Gregory Mair (second from right) and teacher, Mr. Steve Brown (right front).

The Stella Maris Foundation officially graduated students of the Woodwork and Sewing Programmes on July 25, 2004. The Woodwork students completed training in pre-level one Furniture Manufacturing under the NCTVET curriculum.

The Sewing students completed training in embroidery made possible by funding from the embassy of Japan. The Japanese ambassador, His Excellency Hiroshi Sakurai was in attendance and was presented with a plaque from the Foundation in recognition of kind sponsorship. He along with the Chairman as well as Patron, Father Michael Lewis unveiled a plaque mounted in the Sewing room furnished by the Japanese Embassy.

Dr. Aggrey Irons delivered the keynote address and challenged the students to persevere until the very end in order to achieve their goals.



Children display items that they have designed, guided by Mrs. Coretta Johnson (Centre)

Summer Camp 2004

The Stella Maris Foundation recognizes the importance of childhood development and undertakes to impact positively during these critical years. To this end, a summer camp was hosted at the Shortwood Practising Primary and Junior High for children in the community. The camp was coordinated by Community Counselor, Mrs. Coretta Johnson (Centre of photograph) and was made possible by the invaluable support of Mrs. Elizabeth Buchanan Hind.

The children were also attended to by Youth mentors from the Youth Uprising Club as well as summer workers provided by the National Youth Service. Creative educational exercises allowed the children to develop and showcase their talents as well as discover latent abilities.



Grants Pen Youth in studios at KLAS Sports Radio expressing their views and concerns about living in an inner city

Bridging Gaps

Residents in the Grants Pen Community often feel that their community is misunderstood and misrepresented by non residents. They are concerned that while news headlines highlight incidents of crime and violence, the majority of the community is peace loving, hardworking and law-abiding.

The Stella Maris Foundation is proud to be associated with the residents of Grants Pen as together we partner in the development process. As part of this process, we believe that their voices must be heard and success stories must be told. One such story is that of the Evening Light Youth Club whose members are dedicated, disciplined and focused. The Stella Maris Foundation in partnership with KLAS Sports Radio gave the young men the opportunity to speak to Jamaica on the popular "Teen Jam" programme in August.

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Parenting Project — Strengthening Families for a Stronger Community



Parents in Focus Group Discussion at the Stella Maris Foundation with facilitators Raquel Bremmer and Omar Frith, Community Liaison Officer (standing right)

The Second phase of the Parenting Project is underway. Having recognized the importance of parenting in nation building, the Stella Maris Foundation is partnering with Parenting Partners and a select group of parents from the Grants Pen Community in an effort to strengthen families.

Parents will undergo ten Focus Group training sessions during which issues such as Stress and Stress Management, Child Development, Gender Roles and Self esteem are discussed.

The facilitation sessions further enable parents to freely vent and discuss issues that commonly face parents in the inner city.

At the end of the project, Parenting Partners, the Stella Maris Foundation as well as parents and children of Grants Pen would have played a significant role in strengthening families in Grants Pen.

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