



# Love In Action

Volume 2, Issue 1

The Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Stella Maris Foundation

April, 2005

## Netball Rally — the ball is in Grants Pen's Court

### STELLA MARIS FOUNDATION

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

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*Charlton Youth Club (green and yellow) and Marvel Sports Club (blue and white) square off in SMF netball rally*

In a bid to continue the interaction among Youth Clubs in the Grants Pen Community as well as to assist in their development, the Stella Maris Foundation hosted a Community Netball Competition (USAID Funded) in the month of November 2004. The competition commenced with a Rally and Opening Ceremony on Saturday October 23, 2004 at 9:00am at the Queen's High School courts. Paula-Ann Porter of FAME FM, also a former national netball player, delivered the keynote address. Matches proceeded every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5:45pm – 8:00pm at the Upper Room Community Church. The Prize Giving Ceremony took place in February, 2005.

### Mission

The Stella Maris Foundation endeavors to develop the inner city community of Grants Pen through a process of empowerment with the provision of skills training, Childhood Development and Social Development activities necessary to effectively facilitate the self-help and development process.

The Foundation seeks to build the capacity of residents in order that they may ably participate in sustainable programmes. We intend to chart social attitudes and practices through professional provision of these services in the community.

## Parenting Programme - Strengthening Families in Grants Pen



The Parenting Programme continues to provide a medium through which Parents sharpen and develop their parenting skills. Of key note however, is the opportunity provided to allow parents to relax and explore some of the challenges common to parenting in any sector of the society and further allow parents to chart positive attitudes in responding to these issues. The programme is realized through the joint efforts of the Stella Maris Foundation and Parenting Partners and funded by United States Agency for International Development.

## Computer - Processing Potential



The Foundation has taken a further step forward in securing meaningful partnerships to materialize quality service in Grants Pen. The HEART Trust NTA has topped their contribution to the development of Skills Training in Grants Pen, by taking on two additional programmes offered by the Stella Maris Foundation.

The Computer programme is now operating under the sponsorship of the HEART Trust NTA, and students will be certified at Level One Data Operations, under their NCTVET Curriculum. Residents are encouraged to register early and keep in touch with the Foundation, as the demand for the programme is significant.

## Childhood Development - Our Future



***"I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way..."*** Yes, you must be familiar with that Whitney Houston '80s hit. That is exactly what the Childhood Development programme is all about. Children are most vulnerable in the formative years and require all the positive physical and mental stimulation in order to develop cognitive and motor functions.

Our Childhood Development Officer continues to sharpen the children's awareness with creative play and educational games. To extend Childhood Education, Lamaze classes are also offered to expectant mothers at the antenatal clinic (Edna Manley Health Centre). Efforts are underway to create an outdoor play area for the children. Funding is however been sought.

## Sewing



Training in Sewing Skills including Garment Construction continues at the Foundation. The programme's inception was made possible by funding from the Embassy of Japan, which facilitated the furnishing of the room with the requisite equipment. A formal programme with the accompanying Certification was necessary, hence the HEART Trust NTA was willing once more to partner with us to expedite this venture.

Residents are encouraged to utilize the opportunity provided to increase competence.

## HIV/AIDS Programme - Increasing Awareness



The statistics are alarming. HIV/AIDS is the second leading cause of death in children aged 1-4 years. An estimated five thousand, one hundred and twenty five (5125) children under the age of 15 years are orphaned by the loss of a mother or both parents from HIV/AIDS. (stats provided by the National AIDS Committee - 2004).

The Foundation's HIV/AIDS Programme continues to conduct sensitization workshops with select target groups in Grants Pen in order to increase awareness of the epidemic. Here, a sensitization workshop is being conducted by SMF Outreach Officer, Omar Frith with expectant mothers at the Edna Manley Health Centre.

## APPRECIATION DINNER



Faith like a mustard seed can move a mountain. And so, there are those special human beings, whose faith in Christ's Love as made manifest in their faith in human development, we honour for their selfless sacrifice and inspiration.

**The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Richard Albert (Founder)** was honoured for his Inspiration, while Mrs. Anne-Marie Thomas (former GM) and Mr. Gregory Mair (former Chairman) were honoured for their Selfless Sacrifice. Msgr. Richard Albert shared his considerable prize money from the Opus Foundation to assist the Stella Maris Foundation. Mrs. Daphne Hewett was honoured for her timely assistance regarding her role in expediting the urgent purchase of the building from which we operate.

## GROUND BREAKING



Under the USAID funded Community Policing Project, the Stella Maris Foundation is responsible for the Community Empowerment Component. However formidable a task may appear, collaboration certainly assures a greater likelihood of success. Thus, in order to support the PERF, AMCHAM and JCF effort of violence reduction we facilitate a number of community activities and training programmes

The overall effort will culminate in the Construction of a Multipurpose Police and Community Centre which will be utilized by the many Community groups the Foundation has trained and impacted through the project.

## Marching Band



The Foundation continues to unlock the potentials of Grants Pen Residents and music is no exception. Thanks to PRO-Communications Ltd., funded was made available to start a **Marching Band** in collaboration with the New Day Primary and Junior High School. Mr. Dwight Richards Musical Director, leads the team that trains band members in Drums, Wind Instruments and Drills. Members of the band are assured quality training and receives a comprehensive development programme. The Band caters to ages twelve to nineteen.

## Christmas Treat



Traditionally, children and even adults look forward to a usual gift or extra kindness from someone during the Christmas Season. Christmas causes the heart to expect something one longs for or something one would not usually receive or have access to on a regular basis.

The foundation hosted a treat for the children last Christmas with an added treat. Children were given access to the Mobile Library from the Jamaica Library Service including a special gift from volunteer mentors.

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## Meet our New Chairman



*Mrs. Jean Lowrie-Chin (Chairman)*

Jean Lowrie-Chin is the Founder and Managing Director of PRO Communications Limited, a full-service advertising and public relations company.

She has been involved in voluntary church and other philanthropic activities and her Company has donated funds and services to various worthy causes, including the setting up of a scholarship

fund for two children from the Grant's Pen community as well as the recently formed Marching band.

She is a recognized poet and columnist with the **Jamaica Observer**. Mrs. Jean Lowrie-Chin has won many awards and spear-headed countless accomplishments too many to mention here. She therefore brings a keen sense of professionalism and high standard to the Stella Maris Foundation which will inform the continued growth of the organization. She is married to Hubert Chin, Director of Administration at PRO Communications Ltd. They have two children – Anita, 20 and Noel, 17. She is a Sunday School Teacher and Lector at Stella Maris Church and her interests include community outreach, literature, current affairs and yoga.

Mrs. Lowrie-Chin is a rare Jewel among Professionals. Her combination of a no-nonsense approach, and her energetic and motivating spirit, will bring the best out those with whom she interacts. A solution seeker and a community builder, Mrs. Lowrie Chin would say to me, "where is your note pad? You can't meet with Jean Lowrie-Chin and not have a note pad..." Indeed you cannot. She brings a wealth of experience that will only make the Stella Maris Foundation stronger.

## Prime Minister's Youth Awardee



*Ramona Williams in Studio at KLAS Sports Radio*

What does a typical teen-age girl in Grants Pen do in her spare time? The best person to ask would be Ramona Williams of Grants Pen Avenue. She would tell you that she is president of the Youth Uprising Youth Club (Operating under the Stella Maris Foundation). She would also tell you that she is a dramatist and philanthropist. And yes, she is in school. She is a fifth form student of Merl Grove High School where she is prefect, peer counsellor and wears a host of other badges that reflect positions of responsibility.

Ramona has been involved in a host of Community Outreach Activities during which she assists with the coordination of Christmas Treats for the Elderly in her community, the hosting of summer camps, outreach for children at the Bustamante Hospital for Children among countless selfless endeavours. It is her service to community building that lead to her nomination and ultimately winning of an award at the annual Prime Minister's Youth Award in the category "Youth In Service".

What is even more interesting, is that there are many more Youth like Ramona in Grants Pen. You will see and here more of them, soon.