DAY SERVICE INITIATIVES

2017



JAMAICA 55 DIASPORA CONFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

The Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference was held in Kingston, Jamaica - July 23 to 26, 2017. On July 27th, the Conference was closed with the roll out of the 3rd Diaspora Day of Service, organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.



...the sessions were well planned and effectively executed; deliberate meaningful goal oriented and very interactive; down to the final moments."

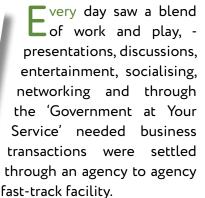
Conference Delegate

Jamaicans residing around the globe were invited to come home for the three day Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference 2017 and to spend one additional day, volunteering and sharing their skills, time and resources to execute community projects of their choosing in all parishes. Come, let's revisit this reunion of Jamaicans at home and abroad.



WORKANDPLAY

Delegates began the Conference with a wonderful opening ceremony at the Pegasus. Over the course of the next four days, Jamaicans at home and abroad threw themselves into range of activities that made this event the most memorable to date.



T h e marketplace was

a delightful arena for business, investment and discovery. Some highlights were the Jamaica National Building Society's open invitation to spend an evening with the National Dance Theatre Company. Memories were revisited at the Ward Theatre with side-splitting laughter from the Ity and Fancy Cat comedy duo.



INTRODUCTION

DDOS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Sub-Committee consisted of strategic stakeholders drawn from government agencies, as well as academic and faith based institutions. It was given the responsibility for delivering added value for the smooth execution of the projects in seven key areas.

The primary assistance rendered involved:-

- 1. Identification of potential community needs for planning and execution of projects by Diaspora organisations.
- 2. Facilitating contact between community based organisations and members of the Diaspora
- 3. Facilitation with customs clearance of imports
- 4. Certification of medical practitioners for medical clinics
- 5. Addressing potential security and safety concerns in project locations
- 6. Provision of volunteer support for project administrative needs
- 7. Public relations support Media coverage (print and radio)



STAKEHOLDERS

University of Technology, Jamaica

The University of Technology provided Chairmanship support through its Vice President Prof. Rosalea Hamilton, who drew on the resources in the Division of Community Services & Development to identify projects, volunteers from the student body and social media support.

Ministry of Education, Youth & Information

The Ministry, through its National Education Trust facilitated the importation of school supplies for educational projects and partnered with two diaspora organizations for the execution of two projects.

Ministry of Health

MOH's Foundation, the International Cooperation in Health, facilitated import of medicines and medical equipment to reduce time and cost implications. MOH also processed certified medical professionals for medical clinics.

Jamaica Customs Agency

The Agency provided the Committee with general customs information, in particular for health and education related projects. Hands on customs assistance for project organisers at the port of entry was invaluable.

Social Development Commission

The Commission conducted an assessment via its parish managers, to identify needs that could translate into projects. They sensitized communities in the different locales about the projects in order to mobilize support and identify potential beneficiaries.

Jamaica Diaspora Institute (JDI)

The JDI worked in tandem with the Sub-Committee as a contact point for the diaspora to have their questions addressed and to obtain assistance with project registration.

Jamaica Constabulary Force

Security and safety for project teams saw the different locales being monitored prior to DDOS. Teams were also deployed to projects during actual project implementation based on sensitivity of the locations.

Jamaica Umbrella Group of Churches

Conducted a needs assessment in communities to assist in identifying potential projects and through their international networks, they promoted the Conference and Day of Service initiatives to Jamaicans living abroad.

DDOS COORDINATOR TASKS

The Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring the planning, and timely completion of task and activities related to the responsibilities of the Day of Service Subcommittee. The primary tasks included:-

- 1. Planning and executing the programme within defined parameters
- 2. Delivering a central coordinating DDOS operation and information source for the programme
- 3. Gathering representatives from key organizations with a vested interest in the programme and also to support logistical preparations and requirements
- 4. Planning and executing a supporting logistics structure on the day, for Diaspora groups and individuals in the implementation of the community projects
- 5. Engaging a critical number of Jamaicans overseas to encourage their participation in the day
- 6. Providing an avenue for consistent information in the preparations for the day
- 7. Organizing a welcome and thank you processes / recognition.

Diaspora Day Of Service Projects

"I am on top of the world. We came with modest expectations but we got so much and more."

Lesleyann Samuel President of the Union of Jamaican Alumni Association, USA



DIASPORA DOS PROJECTS

This third roll out of the 'Day of Service' saw a 60% increase in philanthropic investments.

project Summary: The initiatives totalled 29 projects. Kingston and St Andrew benefited from 19 projects and 10 were executed in the rural parishes. Contributing diaspora organisations and individuals hailed from the USA (20), the United Kingdom (4), Canada (3) and the Middle East (2).

Approximately 153 members of the Diaspora poured time, money, knowledge and love into the twenty nine initiatives that were dispersed across eight general thematic groupings. Youth Development - 8: Education - 7; Health - 5; Community Development - 4; Fixer-Uppers - 2; Agriculture -1; Immigration Consultation -1; Heritage Development -1



Project Roll Out

The day was a mixture of fun and hard work as paint, brushes and jelly coconuts were generously distributed to volunteers. The beautification extended from the buildings to the grounds, as the team pitched in for landscaping. Additional support came from Tanya Savage from Blue Banyan Books, who donated books to the community that is home to her favourite festival - Calabash.

Then there was the rest and rejuvenation as the team headed 1/4 mile out to sea to enjoy food and dominoes at the remarkable Pelican Bar - "the coolest bar in the world".



MARLON HILL - USA

PEDRO PLAINS INFANT SCHOOL TREASURE BEACH, ST ELIZABETH

Marlon Hill, former Jamaican Diaspora Advisory Board Member for the Southern United States in partnership with Do Good Jamaica, Helping Hands Jamaica Foundation, Donovan Bailey Foundation, BREDS Treasure Beach Foundation and Food for the Poor built on a previous donation of a new building by some of the same organisations in 2016. This project was designed to promote literacy, numeracy and national pride at the early childhood level through murals.

The Mural Crew









Loving Hands Children Network

"Raising Awareness on Disabilities" **HANOVER**

o-founder and Director of the Network, Antoinette Page with a team of 4 in collaboration with the Nathan Ebanks Foundation provided a treat for children of the West Haven Children's Home for the disabled in Copse, Hanover. Training and learning resources were shared with caregivers to improve the stimulation of the wards of the Home.









Jamaica Nurses Group of NY

Port Morant Health Centre & Princess Margaret Hospital Medical Clinic ST THOMAS

Jamaica has a high incidence of non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Nine nurses from the Jamaica Nurses Group of New York and the Jamaica Diaspora Health Sector Northeast USA with the coordinating efforts of Claudette Powell, volunteered their skills and worked beside their counterparts in the clinics to provide health screening for 75-80 patients. Basic life support training for registered nurses we also conducted by the team.













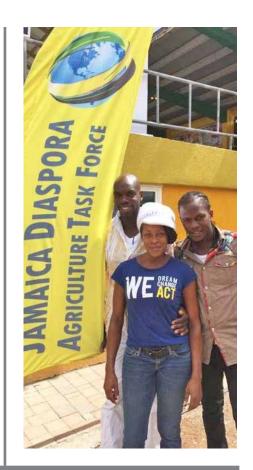
Jamaica Diaspora Agriculture Taskforce

"Day on The Farm" - ST THOMAS

The Jamaica Diaspora Agriculture Taskforce in partnership with the Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement and Source Farms & Eco Village in St Thomas, hosted field visits to organic farms. Participants were able to tour the farms, sample produce, and leave with a better understanding of the benefits to and challenges of the organic food movement in Jamaica. Networking opportunities for new business linkages were significant outcomes of the day.







Gregory Roberts

"Jamaica-Diaspora Heritage Trail"
ST THOMAS

pr. Gregory Roberts hails from the UK Diaspora and has set out to celebrate our Jamaican ancestry by restoring the old slave trails that tells a story of our history and resilience as a people.

The Paul Bogle trail that runs from Stony Gut to Seaforth was selected to launch the initiative. The day was spent clearing the trail and trading stories between participants and members of the Diaspora, which included discussions about local economic development initiatives that these trails can provide for the unemployed in the area.





Jamaica Canadian Diaspora Advisory Committee

Manchester, Kingston & Portland

embers of the Canadian diaspora organisation made contributions to three communities as part of the Diaspora Day of Service.

The Porus Infant School, in Manchester, was one of a list of community needs that the Social Development Commission identified as potential projects. The school serves approx. 105 children and many are faced with a challenge in finding food at home. The diaspora organisation donated \$75,487.50 to help the school with tools and seedlings to plant a garden to assist with preparing meals and using the surplus for sale to generate funds for the Food Programme.



The Eira Schrader Home for the Aged located in Trench Town, Kingston which takes care of senior citizens, was the beneficiary of both a cheque and 14 gift packages - a total value of approx JMD\$96,000.

The third beneficiary of the organisation's efforts was the **Portland Rehabilitative Management Homeless Shelter**. The organisation had learnt of their need from a Jamaica Observer article on the need for a refridgerator and reached out with a deep freezer which was filled with food donated by the Jamaica National Building Society.



Refridgerator donated to the Portland Rehabilitative Homeless Shelter



Cheque donated to the Eira Schrader Home for the Aged, Trench Town



Gift baskets for residents at the Eira Schrader Home for the Aged

Kimone Gooden, Former DABM West/Midwest & Friends "Drums Fi Life" ST JAMES



Former DABM West/ Midwest, & Friends partnership USAID funded 'Fi Wi Jamaica Project' designed and implemented the 'Drums Fi Life' project.

The project sits within a larger initiative entitled the

This project specifically sought to transform the lives of high-risk youths in communities of St James (Norwood, Flankers and Salt Spring) where the murder rate has spiralled. With drums donated by members of the diaspora and the support of the Trelawny Town Flagstaff Maroons high risk youth will be taught how to use and make drums, while teaching them about issues relating to violence, in particular gender based and domestic violence. The Day of Service saw a wonderful kick-off with the presentation of the drums (by diaspora family members including Ms Kimone Gooden and Mr Leo Gillings) drumming sessions and reasoning with youth representatives present.

understanding that will

decrease GBV (gender

based violence).

Legacy Learning Foundation Inc.

"Empowering the Teenage Parent" ST ANN

mpowering the Teenage Parent was the second of two Day of Service projects implemented by the Foundation. It targeted the teenage girl who found herself thrust into parenthood and an uncertain future which often leads to a vicious cycle of poverty, broken relationships, depression, social stagnation and other barriers to success. This seminar helped teen mothers and fathers take charge of their circumstances and seek ways to improve their chances of living a life that is fulfilling.





Melanie Baker

"FACING AUTISM MANAGEMENT EMPOWERED" KINGSTON & ST ANDREW

elanie Baker was one of three individuals who having heard the Ministry's invitation for social investment and responded. They delivered a workshop seminar at the Mico Teachers College, that strengthened the understanding and awareness of educators, caregivers and parents about autism.

This awareness building consisted of strategies to help with facing the initial diagnosis and coping through the use of techniques to deal with the more severe aspects of the condition.



Princesses & Ladies Inc Fi Wi Future A Go Bright KINGSTON & ST ANDREW



ounded by Jamaican born, Cynthia Lincke, husband Patrick Lincke and locally based director Simone Francis-Grant mentors girls and provides empowerment tools to women through Princesses & Ladies Inc, which is based in Illinois, USA.

With support from the **Digicel Foundation**, the organization hosted their 3rd annual girl's and women's event as a two day celebration of Jamaica 55. Both the conference, implemented at Girls Guide of Jamaica and the Fun Day at Hope Gardens, included seminars for both girls and their mothers, facilitated by local health, law enforcement and education professionals.

- 1. Cynthia Lincke handing out certificates on Day Two
- **2. & 3.** Miss Portland and Miss Hanover, competitors in the Miss Jamaica Festival Queen competitor, share as the girls listen keenly about the importance of "being the best you possible".
- **4.** Princesses and Ladies Inc. is a family effort. Cynthia and Patrick are seen there with their three children, who were both recipients and contributors to the DOS project.







UK Jamaica Diaspora Crime Intervention & Prevention

"FIGHTING CRIME THROUGH TRYING TIMES" KINGSTON & ST ANDREW

The diaspora members of this organisation led by Dr. Leroy Logan, in partnership with Operation Save Jamaica led by Pastor Bruce Fletcher, visited the Tower Street prison to see the conditions and interact with the inmates. Through this pre-arranged visit they were given an opportunity to hear directly from the inmate's stories, perspectives and perceptions about the social and cultural contexts that have contributed to their life of crime. The visit was primarily a fact



finding one, as the first step in designing a programme that will reduce or remove the likelihood of recidivism (a former convict's relapse into criminal behaviour).

Photos: Minister Pearnel Charles Jr., Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, members of the UK Diaspora team, Operation Save Jamaica, the Jamaica Constabulary and the Correctional Services.

Jamaica Education Taskforce UK "STEM Creative Futures Jamaica" **KINGSTON & ST ANDREW**

teach STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and business subjects.

The rest of the afternoon saw the attendees benefiting from the inspiring story of Principal Keisha Hayles of Padmore Primary whose story was an authentic demonstration of many of the principles of creativity and innovation discussed in the previous session. Ms. Hayles reymour Mattis of JET/UK hosted a spoke on her MAD (Making A Difference) approach to workshop at Mico Teachers College where education which saw her entering competitions and 28 teachers from various parishes were guided winning resources for the school, selling her car to fund through new methodologies on how to repairs created by decades of neglect and improving the motivate students, with a focus on those who school to move enrolment from 38 to 250 students.











Honey Extractor Donated to

Scherie Murray

YOUTH ADVOCACY POLICY & LEADERSHIP KINGSTON & ST ANDREW



ona School of Business, Kingston Social Sciences Lecture Theatre accommodated the highly motivational workshop organised by Ms. Scherie Murray targeting youth development for leadership.

The youth present spoke of being impacted by the life journey of speakers such as Cortia Bingham, CEO of We Inspire Ltd and Dr. Claire Nelson of the Institute of Caribbean Studies in Washington. Remarks from former Prime Minister, Bruce Golding and Ambassador Audrey Marks drove home the call to all young Jamaicans, to create their own personal mission statement as a guide their individual path to success and contribution to Jamaica's VISION 2030 goal - of making this island the "place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business."











UK Jamaica Diaspora Crime Intervention & Prevention

"FIGHTING CRIME THROUGH TRYING TIMES"
KINGSTON & ST ANDREW

The primary objective of the workshop was to leverage the competencies of criminal justice practitioners within the diaspora to lend support to the efforts of the government and that of their private sector partners.



This was the vision of Dr. Rupert Francis who conceptualised the project when the task force was formed in 2016. Much of the day's discussion was on community policing and putting in preventative

measures that would deter the youth from engaging in crime. Other speakers included Dr. Clovis Nelson as well as Supt. Stephanie Lindsay, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Steve McGregor & Dr. Elizabeth Ward, Violence Prevention Alliance.

The floor was opened up for a very interactive and engaged discussion on current and policies under consideration. The martial arts group 'Sensei' shared its defence skills with attendees.





UK Jamaica Diaspora Crime Intervention & Prevention

"DIASPORA THANKSGIVING SERVICE" KINGSTON & ST ANDREW

Thanksgiving Service was hosted at the Church on the Rock premises at the end of the Day of Service. This was spearheaded by the UK Jamaica Diaspora Crime Intervention & Prevention group in collaboration with the Sons of the Fathers Men's Movement based in Jamaica and the University of Technology, Jamaica's 'Fi Wi Jamaica' Project.

The objective was to acknowledge and encourage the spirit of volunteerism and philanthropy in Jamaica, particularly the contribution of men. Plaques of appreciation were awarded to three diaspora members for their contribution to education, sports and health, while prayers were offered by Bishop Neville Owens and gift baskets were presented to all participants, compliments of Lasco Distributors Ltd and Continental (National) Bakery Ltd.







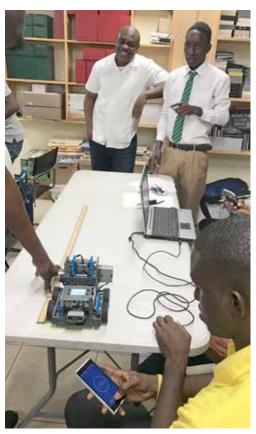












Dr. Hansel Fletcher EXSEED JAMAICA 2017 KINGSTON & ST ANDREW



John W Warren
JAMAICA MIDDLE EAST DIASPORA
KINGSTON & ST ANDREW

r. John Wayne of the Jamaica Middle East Diaspora and Dr Hansel Fletcher of Loma Linda University, USA, partnered with the Calabar High School Robotics programme (launched in 2016) to deliver the project which empowered teachers to motivate STEM students through robotics.

EXSEED stands for Excellence in STEM Experiential Education, and was developed to qualify more teachers to effectively teach in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math. The project was hosted at the Jamaica Teachers Association's headquarters.



Jamaica Cares Project Inc

"Collaborative Mentoring" KINGSTON & ST ANDREW







amaica Cares Project Inc. hosted an empowerment seminar in partnership with Mona Social Service, UWI at the Mona Commons Basic School. This workshop targeted the youth - primarily teenage parents and delinquent youths between the ages 12-17.

The organisers provided young fathers and mothers with an opportunity to explore their circumstances through the lens of greater self-awareness, self-management, and social awareness. Improved relationship and decision making skills as well as learning coping strategies were also key objectives of the seminar.





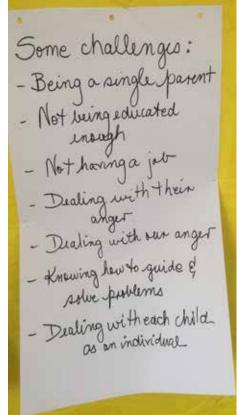
Dr. Michelle Urquhart-Brown, founder of Jamaica Cares Project has lived abroad for 38 years and returns to Jamaica at least once per year. Two other diaspora members of the team, Winston Brown and Angella Harris were a part of the support team.

Since the founding of the NGO in 2012, each trip back to Jamaica has seen the implementation of a project to impact the lives of Jamaicans at home.

Union of Jamaican Alumni Assoc. "Connecting School & Community" KINGSTON & ST ANDREW

The 23 year old, Operation Restoration Christian School in Trench Town was selected by the diaspora organisation with a team of three to implement a workshop targeting twenty parents in the community. Forty two beneficiaries shared parenting challenges with each other and the facilitators - Pres. LesleyAnne Samuels (USA), Lorna Stanley and Joyce Hewitt (Jamaica) etc.









Gift packages were shared to express the love and support from Jamaicans abroad to Jamaicans at home, while they got to know each other better over a spread of Jamaican 'nyamins'. The Strong Women of Trench Town and the Parent Teachers Association were on hand to provide additional support. Officers from the Jamaican Constabulary were on hand to ensure that the project was implemented with any disturbances.







Jamaica Middle East Diaspora
"Empowering Youth for Global
Market" KINGSTON & STANDREW

ailing from the United Arab Emirates, the Jamaica Middle East Diaspora implemented a workshop that informed participants, in particular recent and soon to be graduates, about the diversity of the global job market. Diaspora member, Kristen King who bravely moved to the Middle East as a teacher, sought to make it easier for those who are willing to seek

employment opportunities outside our region and the traditional job market.

Kristen shared rich experiences of living on the other side of the globe, as well as the challenges she and others have had to navigate and the adjustments that had to be made to reap the rewards and make the contributions Jamaicans make all over the planet.



Female Development World Organisation

"Protect the Children"

KINGSTON & ST ANDREW







President of Female Development World Organization Lavern Deer and team hosted the 'Protect The Children' Symposium. It was part of the 'NUH GUH DEH' Diaspora Taskforce initiative, aimed at ensuring a cohesive effort in combating child sex abuse in the local and international community. Local support was provided by the 9 year old NGO Eve For Life, that provides support to sexual abuse survivors.

Mothers and their daughters learnt about child sexual abuse and trends from victims and community leaders. It was one more step taken to galvanise communities in South Florida and Jamaica towards a greater understanding of child sexual abuse and to begin an open dialogue around an issue that is often repeated across generations.







Give Me Dignity "GLOW POWER SUMMER CAMP" KINGSTON & ST ANDREW



Give Me Dignity's signature programme is an annual intensive empowerment camp to help girls victimised by childhood sexual abuse reclaim their power and dignity. This year it was designed as a part of the Jamaica 55 Day of Service project as a two day overnight retreat on the campus of the University of Technology.

The 40 wonderful young ladies, ages 12-16 were bused in from the nearby parish of St Thomas. and were gifted with a care package - a backpack with personal toiletries. Julie Mansfield as founder and survivor herself, designed sessions, such as "Changing the Inner Dialogue", "Introduction to Journaling" and "Creating Your Safe Space" etc.









Immigration & Deportation Prevention Taskforce KINGSTON & ST ANDREW

On the heels of a strong turn out at the first staging of the Family Unification Resettlement Initiative project for the 2015 Day of Service project, US based attorney Joan Pinnock returned with an even larger representation of attorneys. The University of Technology was the base for the assessment of cases to provide free consultations to Jamaicans who had been deported and needed advice on their eligibility to return to the USA.









Cynthia G Blake Ebanks Fdn

"Strong Stretched & Centred"
KINGSTON & ST ANDREW

r. Mariama Williams President of the Cynthia G Blake Ebanks Foundation delighted young professionals and young girls that have suffered emotional and/or physical abuse with introductory yoga classes and new self-empowerment techniques.

The 'Strong Stretched & Centred' sessions were conducted at the beginning and end of the Day of Service. The techniques taught can be easily done at home and sought to assist the young women/girls to relieve stress and promote their mental and physical health.



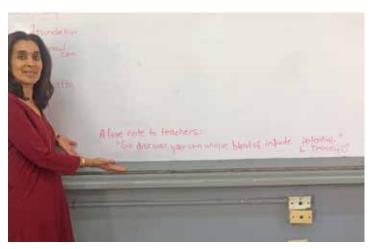


Legacy Learning Fdn Inc

"Reaching & Teaching All Students in the Differentiated Classroom"

KINGSTON & ST ANDREW

any students in the average classroom are physically present but psychologically absent and academically disengaged. Often times, they are bored, lost, rejected, labelled, truant, and at risk for failure. Professor Lorraine Tracey from the Legacy Learning Foundation explored with approx. 42 teachers, how the dynamics of personality types can affect learning and how educators can engage students to own their own learning by using effective and proven strategies to teach with purpose and intent.











TESTIMONIALS FROM PROJECT LEADERS & BENEFICIARIES



I would like to attend another GLOWpower seminar. I felt at home and understood.

Participant @ Give Me Dignity Workshop



I am going into upper sixth [form] and I am glad to learn from now how to market myself in places like Japan, Dubai and UAE.

17 yr old Danielle Carter @ Youth for Global Market Workshop



We can't change children unless we love them first - that is my big big takeaway

Vivene Clarke @ Reaching All Students in the Differentiated Classroom Workshop



We came to give and yet received so much from the Padmore Primary success - we are left with the question of how to replicate it and scale it up.

Claudia and Audrey, JET UK Workshop Team



The project's impact, even on one individual, means that we have helped to change the destiny of at least one generation, which may influence others.

Michelle Urquhart Project Leader @ Collaborative Mentoring Workshop



I learnt not to cuss their father in front of them. I cuss the one that gone, I cuss the one that died....I need to stop, its hurting them.

AnaMarie Lindsay (Mother of 7) @ Connecting School & Community Workshop

"SHARING DI VIBES"

Dr. Mariama Williams

Was this your first time doing this?

Yes, it was. Something I have been aiming at for a while.

So happy to have made it. Thank you and Rosalea for helping to make it happen.

How long have you been living overseas?

It seems like half of my life, well over 40 years. I left Jamaica when I was about 16 and I have lived in the US, Brussels, Belgium and now Switzerland (since 2010). During that time I returned lived and worked in Jamaica for about 2-3 year period on a consistent basis, then on-and-off periodically in late 1990s-early 2000's. I led the team that produced the first National Human Development Report for Jamaica and I have remained engaged with the NGO sector, mainly the gender advocates and the Institute of Law & Economics.

What Did Day of Service Mean For You?

The Day of Service was a wonderful experience. I felt that I contributed and even though it was a very short intervention, I felt that it made a difference as the young women gained some vital techniques for uplifting their energy and promoting healthy mind-body-spirit. They now have some more useful tools for motivating them forward through difficult days and for enhancing their creativity and gifts on a regular basis.

In my experience as a yoga and meditation teacher and life-skills/empowerment coach, I know how powerful these techniques and strategies are for helping to make life altering shifts in people's life's. Even from one sitting, sometimes this is realised much later on.



President, Cynthia G Ebanks Foundation for the Diaspora Day of Service Strong Stretched & Centred Workshop

I supported the 'Drums Fi Life' project and found the day trip with the other DDOS volunteers for the from Kingston to MoBay very nurturing and empowering. We got to know each other better and made good connections towards even more deeper engagement in the coming years of the DDOS, as well as on-going. The discussion with the Maroons on sustainable violence prevention through drumming/culture and grounding the sense of history and identity was quite powerful.

Once again, many thanks.

DIASPORA DAY OF SERVICE 2017 REPORT

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