

St. Andrew Parish Church

St. Andrew Care Centre

Report for January-December 2008

1. Overview

The St. Andrew Care Centre is an outreach project of the St. Andrew Parish Church and a component of the Possibility Programme which is coordinated through the Ministry of Information, Culture Youth and Sports. The St. Andrew Care Centre is located at 2 Ambrook Lane, Kingston 10. In conjunction with the Possibility Programme the services offered to boys who are considered to be “at risk” are carried out at four levels.

- The St. Andrew Care Centre does the intake by assessing each client. They are subsequently offered a place at the Care Centre or they are referred to other relevant agencies which can better address their needs.
- Skills Training Centre which offers remedial education, the skill of leather craft and computer skills in collaboration with the Cyber Centre. This Centre is located at 4 Hope Road.
- A Behaviour Modification Camp which seeks to develop the social and other interactional skills of the boys, by bringing them together in a two week residential setting where they are taught to co-exist in a harmonious manner with others. Other life skills training are done.
- A hostel which offers living accommodation to boys who are assessed to be in need a place to live.

2. Governance

The St. Andrew Care Centre is governed by a Board which oversees its operations. The current Board members of the St. Andrew Care Centre are:

Mr. Milverton Reynolds	Chairman
Rev. Major Serrano Kitson	Rector, St. Andrew Parish Church
Mr. Hugh Gayle	Treasurer
Deslande McKenzie	Youth Rep. St. Andrew Parish Church.
Mrs. Carol Hagley	Possibility Programme
Mrs. Dorothea Williams	Psychologist
Mr. Garth Moodie	Half Tree Business Community
SSP G. Quallo	Half Way Tree Police Station

Mr. Hugh Williams

Little Brothers of St. Andrew

The current staff members who are involved in the day to day operation of the Centre are as follows:

Mrs. Marva Pickersgill- McKenzie Manager

Mrs. Doreen Lynch Social Worker

Miss Leonie Sullivan Remedial Teacher

Miss Donna Huie Administrator

Mr. Clifton Henry Orderly

Mr. Carl Duncan Orderly

Volunteers and professionals from other organizations offer their assistance with various aspects of the programme.

Programme Activities.

A wholistic approach was used to address the needs of the boys at the Care Centre. Their spiritual needs are met through daily devotional exercises. Their physical needs were met by the provision of two cooked meals per day, breakfast and lunch. They were also assisted with clothing and other personal effects. Medical care was provided through the development of a special arrangement with the Maxfield Park Health Centre. Their psychosocial needs were also met through our counseling programmes, motivational speeches, sports, field trips and other life skills programme. Their academic skills were also developed through the remedial education programme at the Centre. Unfortunately, due to inadequate funding all extra curricular activities had to be suspended.

Contact with Parents/Caregivers

Relentless efforts were made to reunite clients to responsible family members and or surrogate caregivers. We were successful in getting parents and care givers to play a more active role in the lives of their sons/wards.

A strong emphasis was placed on empowering the families to better nurture the boys we serve. As such two Parent Forums were held last year. At these forums several social agencies are invited to share information about the services they provide that can better equip them to take their children. Some of these agencies were Children and Community for Change (3C) and Dispute Resolution Foundations and others. Experience and experts in the field of child development were selected to be guest speakers at these forums.

Some of these persons were Mrs. Amoy Douse-Mullings Coordinator for the HIV Prevention Programme Ministry of Health South East Health Authority (SERHA). Mrs. Jennifer Simpson- James an Attorney at Law, Mrs. Patricia Steel a Probation Officer,

Corporal Hewitt, from the Community Safety and Security Branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force and Suzan Satchell from the victim Support Unit, Dr. Carolyn Taylor-Bryan a Paediatrician who also specializes in nutrition. All these speakers did an excellent job at challenging the parents to examine their parenting style and make positive changes that will help with their child's/children's development. Several individual counseling sessions were done with parents and guardians of boys.

Assessments and referrals

Continuous assessments were done of the boys and as soon as a boy's social, economic, and academic skill is improved then he is referred out to another institution which can further enhance his development. In 2008 several boys were assisted in apprenticeship programme at the Skills Training Programme. All the boys at the Care Centre were referred to the Child Guidance Clinic for long term psychological care. Others were referred to the Family Court and the Child Development Agency. Several boys were assisted to receive medical attention for various illnesses and injuries.

Sports Day

The young men at the Care Centre were given an opportunity to display their sporting talents on April 24, 2008. It was an exciting day with two houses competing for championship. They competed in events such as cup and water, maths, sack and potato race, foot- ball juggling, and penalty shoot- out, to name a few. The young men were rewarded with medals for their efforts and one young man received the Champion male trophy.

Savings account

In collaboration with City of Kingston (COK) Credit Union a savings programme commenced at the Centre. Several boys opened savings accounts. Personnel from COK visited the Centre on Thursdays to facilitate regular banking.

Grade Nine Achievement

Three young men sat the GNAP Examination May 2, 2008. Three boys sat this examination and they were all placed in High schools. One received placement at Tivoli Comprehensive High and the other two at St. Andrew High (formally known as Institute of Higher Learning). They all received school shoes from the Centre. In addition further assistance was offered to the boy who was placed at Tivoli Comprehensive High he received three white school shirts from the Centre; and with the help of Mr. Reynolds, Chairman of the Board, the Development Bank of Jamaica paid all the required fees to his school. His mother called and expressed her sincere gratitude.

Behavioural Change Programme

A series of behavioral change sessions started at both Centres. These sessions commenced April 18, 2008 and they are skewed towards educating the young men about

their sexuality and about making responsible sexual choices. These sessions are facilitated by personnel from the HIV Prevention and Treatment Programme out of the South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA)

Organizational Facilities

The facilities were improved and the following pieces of equipment were added.

- The Peach Tree Accounting System was installed. This was donated by the Developmental Bank of Jamaica. The cost of this system was \$72,725.00. This included training of personnel to use this system.
- A double sided chalk board was purchased for the class room. At times the students have to be separate based on their academic performance. This chalkboard serves as a partition to facilitate this.
- The office was refurbished with a complete computer and a new (computer processing unit) CPU. These were needed as the computers at the Centre are obsolete and were non-functional.
- A new bathroom set was installed in the staff bathroom. This included a face basin with cabinet and a mirror. This was donated to the Centre by Tools Hardware.

In addition the Centre was treated to eradicate termites during the Easter period.

Staffing

Mrs. Etta Barclay, Social Worker at the Centre resigned effective July 1, 2008. Her family migrated to another parish. Mrs. Dorren Lynch filled that vacancy in September. Mr Micheal Reynolds, assistant administrator requested emergency vacation leave, and was granted same; subsequently he did not resume his position. Mr. Austin, Male Orderly got married on April 12, 2008. The music teacher, Mrs. McKoy- Wright resigned because she is pregnant and has received strict orders from her doctor to curtail her activities.

Staff Development Seminar.

A staff development seminar was held on October 17, 2008. Miss Doreen Perry a motivational speaker challenged and motivated staff members to do their best for the boys and also do all they can to preserve themselves. It was a delightful and productive day. We are grateful to the Green House who donated a bouquet of flowers for the guest speaker and to Bishop Blair for allowing us to use one of his air- conditioned meeting rooms. All the staff members from the Care Centre participated. Mr. Campbell, Manager of the Skills Training Centre was invited but he did not attend because of family commitment

JSIF Summer Camp

Our summer camp ran from June 30- July 31, 2008. It was sponsored by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF). A special time table was set up for this and the activities were as follows. Breakfast, lunch and an evening snack was offered. Devotions were held each morning. Reading was the only academic subject offered during the camp. The other activities include art and craft, basket ball, football, swimming and music. Each week had a different theme and guest presenters were invited to do presentations to the boys in keeping with the theme. For example the first week was Career Week, a fireman, soldiers and a barber visited and did presentations to the boys about their Career paths. Conflict Resolution was the theme for the second and third week hence, a collaborative approach was forged with the Jamaica Youth For Christ who was conducting a camp for two weeks using this theme. They have facilitated the boys from the Care Centre participating in their camp. The theme for weeks four and five was Personal Development and Sexual and Reproductive Health, respectively. Presenters were invited to present to the boys on these themes. They were taken on a field trip to Holly Park towards the end of the camp. There was an Open Day and Award Ceremony along with sporting competition on the final day of camp, where there were displays of the art work and performance of musical pieces. They were awarded tangible prizes for participation, conduct and other sectional categories on this day.

JSIF Camp ended on July 31, 2008. It was successful and the boys were exposed to new places, e.g. Holly Well Park and the parish of St. Elizabeth and new activities, for example, swimming, first aid and career talks. Positive feedbacks were received from the coordinator who visited the Centre twice. Five boys were certified by the Jamaica Red Cross in basic First Aid. The Manager and staff of the Centre are thankful to the persons who contributed in one way or another to make the camp a success.

Other Activities

The boys were taken on a field trip to the Grace Kennedy Canning division. This experience was very enlightening for them. The boys attended a two week behaviour modification camp at Newcastle. This was held in September. The boys attended the Possibility Programme's Annual Christmas Dinner at the Peagus Hotel. In December the boys participated in several treats, dinners and received several gifts. These were namely the Possibility Programme annual Christmas dinner, this was held at the Peagus Hotel, the Prime Minister's treat held at the Office of the Prime Minister and others.

Practicum Students

The University of The West Indies and other tertiary institutions sent students to the Centre for their practicum.

Security

In February the services of Klint Security Services was discontinued. On February 4, 2008 Mr. Delroy Williams was employed to serve the Centre in this capacity. He had previously worked at the Centre for the company Klint. He works Mondays to Fridays from 7am to 5pm. Mr. George Lindsay continues to offer security services on the weekends and during the night time. King Alarm continues to offer response and monitoring services.

Donations

Several persons and organizations donated cash or kind to the centre throughout 2008. We are grateful to all our donors, however the persons or organizations which donated on a consistent basis will be mentioned.:

- Caribbean Boilers donated chicken and various parts of the chicken which assisted in feeding the boys.
- Yummy Bakery (They have subsequently closed their doors)
- Food for the Poor donated rice, oil, peas and books.
- Miss Valrie Nam
- The Development Bank of Jamaica
- Members of the St. Andrew Parish Church (coins and other toiletries).
- The Baptist Women's Federation (Their time, clothing, books and bread).

We are grateful to these donors and anticipate their continued support.

Conclusion

All the boys who were entrusted in our care manifested clear signs of improvement in their growth and development. Some obviously looked stronger, taller, showed signs of weight gain and looked generally healthier. Others showed improvement in their social and relational skills. They expressed themselves better and showed better control of their emotions. Some who were only accustomed to negative attention and craved for it started to respond better to positive attention instead. All the boys were moved at least two scales up on the academic scale every term. This has helped to improve their self esteem and their out- look on life in general.

Although the work is difficult and daunting at times the staff members of the Care Centre are committed to the task and continue to do their best with the boys. The monetary rewards are poor but no money can pay for the opportunity to teach a fifteen year old to read for the first time in his life and see the joy and hope in his eyes that it brings; or to know that a boy is saved from death or prison just by being in the programme. The St. Andrew Care Centre continues to serve as a safe

haven for these boys, a place where they can find solace in the knowledge that persons are there who care what happens to them, who are willing to help them if they are in trouble or are ill. A place that gives them new meaning to life and reason for living. It is sincerely hoped that the Centre will be able to attract more persons to offer funding to continue its operations.

Prepared by Marva Pickersgill-McKenzie