



Update: Transitional Living Project for Children in State Care

February -April 2016



Photo: Transitional Living Project Ground-breaking ceremony

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have increased their support to the CCDC's Transitional Living Project for Children in State Care to the tune of USD\$5,281,736. The main objective of the project is to support the creation of safe neighbourhood spaces and services for protecting and addressing the social needs and concerns of marginalized populations.

The goals of the project are to (1) improve the transition to independent living outcomes of children leaving residential care at 18 years, and, (2) reduce the effects of risk factors associated with low skill development, inadequate life skills and poor self-image.

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Photo: Ms Kathi-Ann Thomas, Research Assistant interacting with participants at the Dunwoody camp.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- To assess the level of preparedness of the children aged 14 to 16 years who reside in residential care facilities to exit the facility.
- To develop an independent living protocol to prepare children to exit State care.
- To develop a standard operating procedure guide for preparing children aged 14 to 18 years for independent living.
- To equip through training, 900 children in State and private residential care facilities with the necessary life skills and 700 with vocational skills to reduce the effects of risk factors that affect safety and human rights.
- To build the capacity of 40 Trainers and 500 care staff with content and techniques in life skills development training.
- To establish a safe place for at least 92 female and male wards of the State, ages 18-21 years for a maximum of two years after leaving State care.
- To increase the opportunity for job/self-employment for 92 housed youth.

Update: Transitional Living Project cont'd....



Photo: Project team at Project Retreat - Transitional Living Project for Children in State Care
- February 19, 2016 at Social Welfare Training Centre

Amendments were made by USAID to the initial award for the project. The amendment includes the following:

- The period of performance is extended by thirty-six (36) months. The period of the cooperative agreement now spans from 27th August, 2014 through to August 26, 2020;
- The total estimated cost is increased by \$3,825,347 from \$1,456,389 to \$5,281,736.;
- Two additional transitional living facilities will be constructed under the expanded programme, one located in Mona, St. Andrew, the other in Southfield, St. Elizabeth;
- The number of staff members assigned to the project will be increased by three and the scope of the work packages will be expanded;
- The leadership and management capability of the CDA to successfully implement and sustain project activities will be strengthened through the provision of an improved Child Case Management System and three vehicles will be procured; two 15-seater buses for transportation needs and a 35-seater bus will be retrofitted to support the Mobile Mental Health Programme;
- The number of beneficiaries targeted for both the vocational skills component and the life skills component has been increased.



Photo: Dr. Priya Anaokar, Project Coordinator, CCDC actively discussing the Transitional Living project with a youth at the National Exiting Care Exposition held on 9th March, 2016 at the Jamaica Conference

Dr. Priya Anaokar, Project Coordinator, CCDC attended the CDA expo held under the themed '*Waves of Change...Oceans of Opportunities*'. This was a one-day event held on 9th March, 2016 at the Jamaica Conference Centre. The aim of this exposition was to guide children between 16-18 years in making a smooth transition from State care to independent living. The event focused on helping the youth sharpen their focus on career goals; provide with helpful tips on how to maximize their potential, and direct them to possibilities on how to tap into the vast opportunities that exist for their development. To further assist in this process, various organizations were invited to be a part of the day's activities, including businesses in the financial sector; government services, and educational institutions. Their representatives provided the youth with the practical guidance needed for everyday living and for future success. Display and information booths were also set up to facilitate the children to open bank accounts, conduct health check-ups, and begin the processing for documents such as passports, TRN, Birth Certificate etc.

CCDC received US\$16,500 from The American Friends of Jamaica (AFJ).



Photo: CCDC's Actg Head Ceceile Minoot (second from right) poses for a group photo with other representatives of recipient organisations of American Friends of Jamaica grants at the 2016 official grant ceremony at the United States Embassy in Kingston on April 26, 2016. A total of 21 organisations, including CCDC received grants totalling \$30 million

CCDC received a grant from The American Friends of Jamaica (AFJ). The grants, totalling US\$16,500 was presented at an official ceremony at the United States Embassy in Kingston. AFJ, which renders assistance in the areas of education, healthcare and economic development, comprises former American ambassadors to Jamaica who want to give back to the country. The American Friends of Jamaica is a not-for-profit 501 organization dedicated to supporting Jamaican charitable organizations and social initiatives working to improve the lives of Jamaicans through systemic development in the areas of education, health care and economic development. CCDC will use the money for training of parents, purchase of materials and books and the development of the website.

IASL International Association of Laboratory Schools Conference

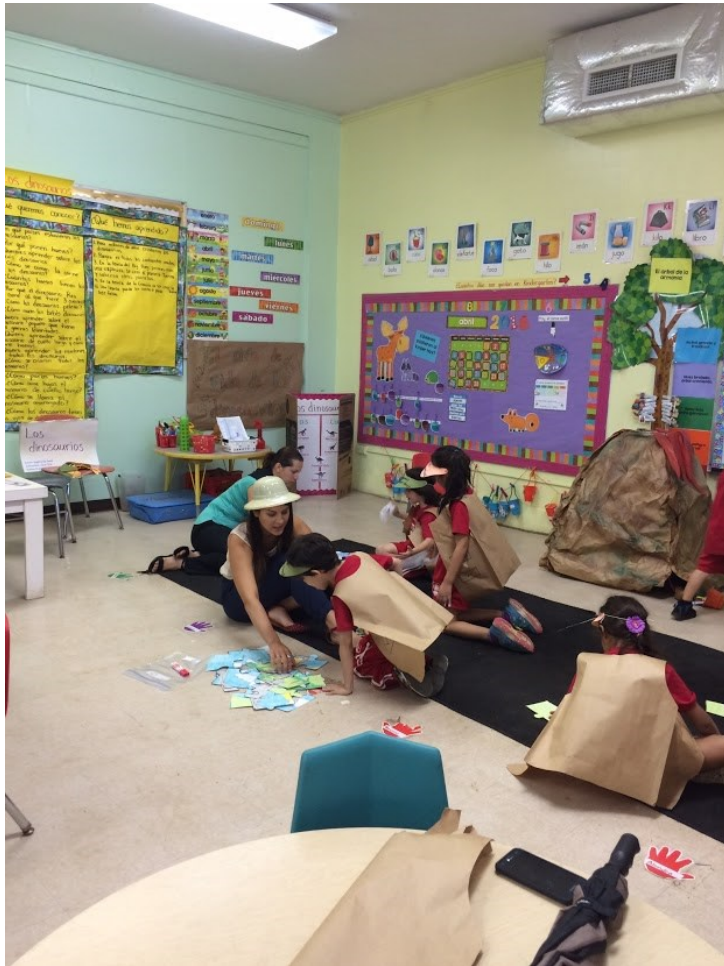


Photo: Laboratory school students at University of Puerto Rico Lab Schools

Ms. Cathryn O'Sullivan, Early Childhood Coordinator, CCDC and Nicole Romany, Early Childhood Coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago attended the IALS Annual Conference April 27, 2016 in Puerto Rico. The conference was entitled ***Beyond the Laboratory School: Transforming Lives.***

As the Early Childhood Coordinator for the Jamaican site of The UWI Open Campus Early Childhood Centres of Excellence, Cathryn O'Sullivan is responsible for developing and managing a university laboratory preschool for children between the ages of three months and five years at CCDC. Nicole Romany is the Early Childhood Coordinator for the early childhood care and education (ECCE) programme in Trinidad and Tobago. Her responsibilities include the coordinating of the ECCE teacher education programme as well as the overseeing of two university laboratory schools in Trinidad.

Cathryn and Nicole presented on the topic, "The Creation of a University Laboratory Preschool: The Vision, Intention & Reality. A Caribbean Perspective". Their presentation outlined the ongoing process of developing university laboratory preschools in three Caribbean countries – Jamaica, Trinidad and Antigua. Their presentation examined how to create a unique and recognizable brand that supports the development of high quality early childhood programming while respecting and addressing each country's culture and specific needs. Three laboratory preschools affiliated with the University of the West Indies Open Campus (UWI OC) will be established, one in Jamaica and two in Trinidad. These laboratory schools will model best practices in early childhood and are uniquely positioned to provide high quality early childhood development services for children, parents, in-service and pre-service teachers, teacher trainers and the wider community.