



Ninety-two (92) wards to benefit from transitional housing project

May - July 2016



JIS Photo: Floyd Green (centre), looks on as Mission Director, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Denise Herbol (left); and Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus, Dr Luz Longworth, shake hands after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Transitional Living Programme for Children in State Care Project (TLP-CSC)

Ninety-two wards of the State are to benefit from transitional living arrangements after exiting the formal system. The 46 males and 46 females will be provided with two years of independent housing once they reach the age of 18. Three facilities are to be built in St Andrew and St Elizabeth under the Transitional Living Programme for Children in State Care Project (TLP-CSC), which is being funded through a US\$5,281,736 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Inside this issue:

Ninety-two (92) wards to benefit from transitional housing project	1-2
The TLP-CSC Project Team welcomes new staff	3
Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) Child Rights Sustainability Initiative (CRSI)	4-5
CCDC's Librarian selected for Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians.	6
Residential Child and Youth Care in a Developing World	7



Ninety-two (92) wards to benefit

It is being implemented through collaboration between the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) of the University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus, and the Child Development Agency (CDA). The entities signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the sustainability of the project, during a ceremony at the Courtleigh Hotel in New Kingston.

State Minister for Education, Youth and Information, Floyd Green, who participated in the signing ceremony, said the project is a practical intervention for children leaving State care. He noted that many of them have no family ties and they are not yet in a position to earn a significant income to provide for their needs. "At the end of the day, we need a place for them," he said. Green expressed pleasure that under the arrangement, wards will benefit from life and vocational skills training. "At the end of the day, we will equip them with the skills so they can make a life of their own," he said. "We are making sure that any child that interacts with the State is able to lead a (successful) and strong life...and regardless of their past, that they can be productive members of our society," he added.

"Mission Director of the USAID, Denise Herbol, said the project, which is "near and dear to my heart," will ensure that Jamaica's children in State care have access to more resources and increased opportunities for seamless transition into the adult world. Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UWI Open Campus, Dr Luz Longworth; and Chief Executive Officer of the CDA, Rosalee Gage-Grey, said the MoU will strengthen child care services in Jamaica. The TLP-CSC project is the first of its kind in Jamaica and involves a multi-dimensional approach to preparing wards of the State leaving care, to transition into independence.

The project was launched in 2014 to provide housing for 40 girls at 24 Lady Musgrave Drive in New Kingston for which ground was broken in November 2015. The initiative has since been expanded and a facility for young men is to be built in Manning, St Elizabeth. In addition, self-contained apartments are to be constructed in Mona, St Andrew to accommodate girls. Participants will also benefit from an "exit-readiness" programme, which focuses on job and life skills training and mentorship. This aspect will also cover areas such as lifestyle choices, health, family, employability, the environment, and secure public-private partnership for employment opportunities.

THE TLP-CSC Project Team welcomes new staff

Under the realigned TLP-CSC project, 3 additional staff members were employed in June and July 2016; Andrien Perkins, Admin Assistant; Jessica Thompson, Project Officer and Marsha-Gaye Wright, Construction Technologist.



A graduate of Mona High School and Knox Community College, Andrien Perkins attended The University of Technology, Jamaica, where she obtained a Bachelor of Education, in Technical, Vocational Education and Training majoring in Industrial Technology.

Following a brief stint in the real estate development industry, Andrien segued into various administrative roles in the educational industry including Office Manager, Principal, and Examination Secretary before being selected for her current role as Administrative Assistant to the TLP-CSC project.

Andrien remains humble, likening life to a game of Monopoly: you may own hotels on Boardwalk and Park Place but, when the game is over, all those pieces are going back in the box. To Andrien, this means that even at work, despite the



Marsha-Gaye Wright's introduction to construction started at Manchester High School having pursued, amongst others, courses in Art and Design, Geography and Geometric and Mechanical Engineering Drawing at the Cape level. Marsha-Gaye's passion for the field drove her to complete a Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies from the Caribbean School of Architecture, University of Technology, Jamaica in 2012.

Ms Wright has worked on various projects that have allowed her to fuse her creativity and technical skills to produce architectural solutions.

Miss Wright believes in volunteerism and that service to the community is vital. She serves in various capacities in local organizations geared towards youth development.



Miss Jessica Thompson is a past student of Campion College and holds a Master of Science in Counselling Psychology from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Prior to pursuing her MSc, Jessica attended Rollins College where she attained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

Miss Thompson has three years of clinical experience and most recently worked as a Counselling Psychologist for the St. Catherine Health Department. Jessica believes in a multidimensional approach to care, and is excited to join the Transitional Living Programme for Children in State Care (TLP-CSC) project.

In her spare time Jessica tries to maintain a regular yoga practice, reads fiction novels, and enjoys the outdoors as much as possible.

Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) Child Rights Sustainability Initiative (CRSI)



Photo: Area 1 Trainers in-Training

UNICEF continues to provide support for JCF's rights-based capacity building, entitled JCF Child Rights Sustainability Initiative (CRSI). This provides for CCDC's technical input in the design and development of a sustainable Child Rights Education and Training program.

Pilot Child Interaction Policy and Procedures (CIPP) sensitization sessions, co-facilitated by senior officers (SP Michael Morris and DSP Michael Lawrence) engaged 32 middle managers from Areas 1 and 13 from Area 2. Participants provided feedback that informed the policy revision process.

They identified child-focused inputs required to build the Constabulary's competency to effectively serve children and explored how to measure the policy's impact and to strengthen accountability.

Trainers also participated in a one-day E-Content development session led by Ms. Claudette Pious of Children First. This rich engagement facilitated their introduction to the E-Content component, solicitation of their feedback on content and plans, and mobilization of pilot learners.



Photo: Sgt. Wallace at Falmouth Headquarters (Area 1) coordinated a consultation with 12 students, ages 14 to 18 yrs, on the CIPP; to share on its purpose and to get their suggestions on how best to measure its impact. The group, from William Knibb and Holland High Schools, escorted by teachers, engaged in an informative discussion with the Consultant and DSP Lawrence.



Photo: The Trainers received a surprise visit and song treat from a group of young students.

CCDC's Librarian selected for Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians



Photo:
Kisha Sawyers
(third from left),
Librarian CCDC
at the Gutman
Library, Harvard
Graduate School
of Education -July
31, 2016

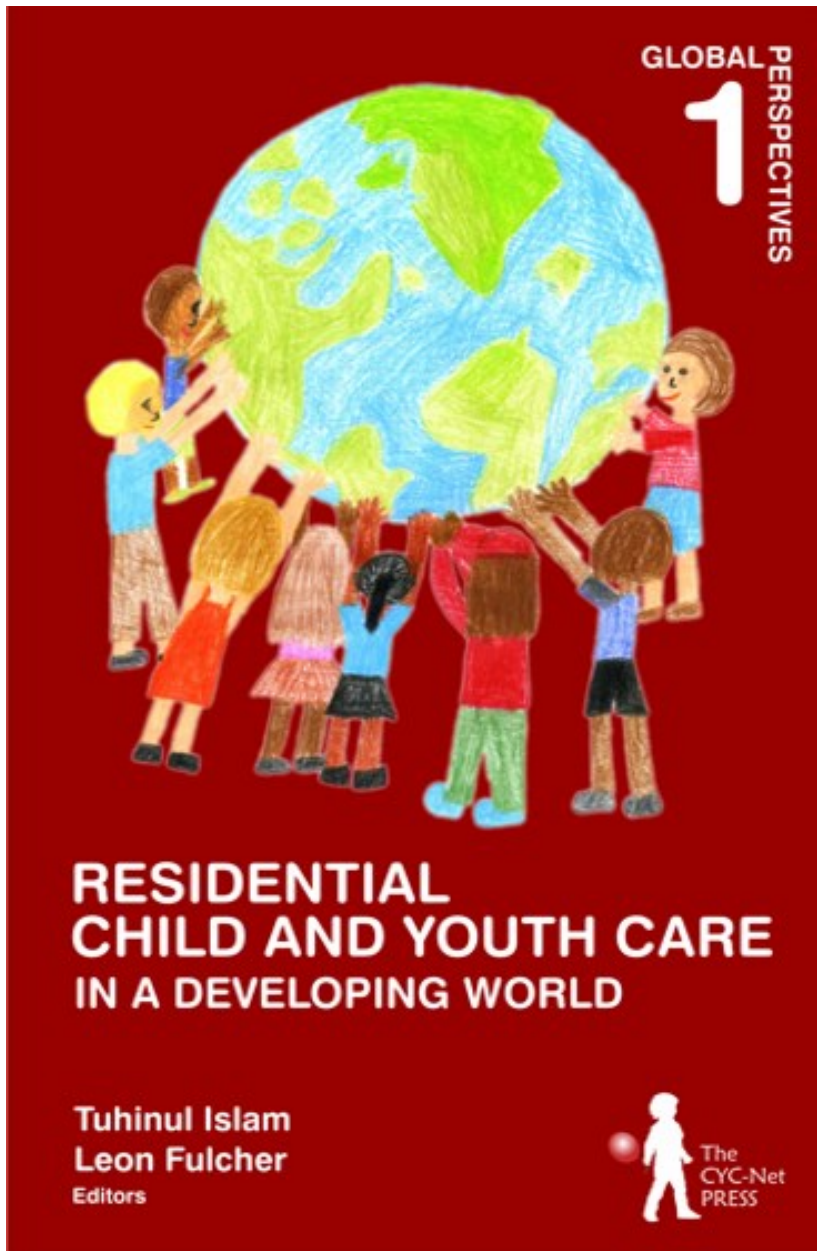
Kisha Sawyers, Librarian at the Caribbean Child Development Centre participated in the Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians (LIAL) program. The week long program ran from July 31 – August 6, 2016 at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Mass.

The LIAL program applies leadership tools and insights of managing the contemporary academic library. It is designed for librarians with leadership and/or management responsibilities and uses different library case studies to facilitate exploration of different approaches to leadership. LIAL is designed for those who must think strategically about emerging institutional and informational needs, new technologies, and long-range plans for the library.

Kisha has served in her current role since 2012 in which she provides support to the CCDC's Library and the University of the West Indies Open Campus Library network. Prior to her appointment at UWI she worked at the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, a specialized agency of the Pan American Health Organization and The World Health Organization. She is actively engaged in professional activities, serving on a number of associations locally and internationally. .

Every session at LIAL involved sharing and discussing with someone, small group discussions, large group discussions, triad meetings, pair group meetings, working on cases, attending campus tours, library tours, focus group discussions, or getting together at lunchtime Affinity Groups to talk about various professional issues. Follow up meetings will be held online starting in December 2016.

Residential Child and Youth Care in a Developing World



The e-book “Residential Child and Youth Care in a Developing World: Global Perspectives” was released for sale at a cost of USD\$25.

CCDC’s chapter in the book is entitled “Preparing Jamaican Children in State Care for Independent Living: A Situation Analysis”. This was written by Priya Anaokar, Kathi-Ann Thomas, Joan Thomas, Ceceile Minott, Marva Campbell and Julie Meeks Gardner.

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