



Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Transitional Living Project for Children in State Care

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Photo: Prime Minister of Jamaica the Hon Portia Simpson-Miller with Dr. Luz Longworth Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal (Ag.) of The University of the West Indies Open Campus at the Ground Breaking Ceremony, November 20,

A total of 40 young ladies, age 18 to 21, who have reached the required age to leave State care, will be accommodated in Jamaica's first transitional apartment complex, for which ground was broken on Friday, November 20, 2015 at 24 Lady Musgrave Road in Kingston.

Speaking during the Ground Breaking Ceremony, the Prime Minister, the Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller, said that the project is intended to help female wards of the State transition smoothly from State care to managing successfully on their own. "We have to ensure that we do all we can to assist our children to transition from innocent, secure childhood into wholesome, fulfilling teenage years".

Inside this issue:

Ground Breaking Ceremony	1-2
JCF Child Rights Sustainability Initiative, with UNICEF support	3
Caribbean Leadership Project.	4
SECIN 35th Anniversary Working Luncheon	4
USAID Training in Photography	5
Caribbean Child Research Conference	6
Pictorial Highlights	7

Ground Breaking Ceremony cont'd....



Photo: Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Hon Portia Simpson Miller taking a selfie with a young adult at the recent Ground Breaking Ceremony held November 20 at Lady Musgrave Road

“We also have to facilitate their progress into becoming responsible successful adults,” the Prime Minister said. Mrs. Simpson-Miller announced that a second transitional facility will be built in St. Elizabeth to house 40 young men at the same stage of development also funded by USAID.

In addition to accommodation, the Transitional Living Programme for Children in State Care will provide skills training, mentorship and employment opportunities. The University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus has pledged 30 scholarships for skills enriching courses for females and 15 for males. This was disclosed by UWI Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Open Campus Acting Principal, Dr Luz Longworth. Dr Longworth said the scholarships will enable the recipients to pursue Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) classes and certificate courses. The scholarship will be named in honour of late UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor Rex Nettleford.

The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development under the Development Grants Programme in the total amount of US\$1.456,389M and is being implemented through the collaborative efforts of the Caribbean Child Development Centre, the Child Development Agency, the Social Welfare Training Centre and the UWI Project Management Office.

In his remarks, Ambassador of the United States of America to Jamaica, Mr. Luis Moreno welcomed the Programme, noting that wards of the State must be prepared for independent living and empowered to fulfill their dreams and potential.



Photo: Project Leader, Ms. Heather Gallimore, with Police Youth Club Representative, Mr. Garfield Wallace, Jr.; and Lasco Top Cop, D/Sgt. Ava Lindo

The Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) has cause to celebrate International Human Rights Day this year as its ground-breaking Child Rights Sustainability with the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) is making significant strides.

One noteworthy recent achievement was the promulgation of the Child Interaction Policy and Procedures (CIPP) during Police Week (Force Order 3573, dated November 26, 2015). Dr. Carl Williams, Commissioner of Police, in reaffirming JCF's commitment to honour and protect the rights of all persons in Jamaica, noted that, "... we deem it particularly important to develop a policy framework that supports the best interest of our children... this policy is aimed at making every police encounter with a child a positive one." Dr. Williams was addressing stakeholders at a consultation seminar, in which over 40 stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental child protection agencies were given an opportunity to review and inform the finalization of the policy. JCF members also had opportunities to inform the finalization of the policy, via an inclusive development process and the UWI Open Campus teleconferencing facilities which allowed island-wide internal consultation (contributions from all ranks) in finalizing this ground-breaking protocol. This timely project output indeed supports JCF's strategic priority; "Enhance respect for human rights and human dignity".

Project leader, Heather Gallimore, noted CCDC's work with police over the last five years has evolved from a child rights education and training intervention into an institutional capacity building partnership, and was made possible by continued UNICEF investment. This project is laying necessary foundations in other areas too, such as Police Training, Internal and External Communications, and Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, to ensure that child rights and responsibilities are strongly rooted throughout the JCF.

Caribbean Leadership Project



Congratulations to Professor Julie Meeks on being selected for the Caribbean Leadership Project.

Deputy Principal of the UWI Open Campus and former Head of the CCDC, Professor Julie Meeks, is currently attending modules as part of the fifth cohort of the Caribbean Leadership Project (CLP). She is the first person from The UWI to be selected to participate in this programme.

The CLP is a seven-year, \$20 million (CAD) Project, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada (DFATD) (formerly known as CIDA) to support the leadership and economic development training needs of regional and national public sectors in twelve (12) CARICOM countries. The countries participating in the project are Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago.

The Project also targets key regional institutions which play a pivotal role in advancing regional integration and economic development.

Photo: Prof. Julie Meeks

SECIN 35th Anniversary Working Luncheon



Ms. Kisha Sawyers, Librarian, CCDC attended the SECIN 35th Anniversary Working Luncheon on Dec 10 at the PIOJ. The Socio-Economic Information Network (SECIN) comprises approximately 70 special libraries and information units in private and public organisations, which are repositories of data incorporating a wide range of sectors. These include: business, communication, culture, development planning, economics, education, finance, health, international relations, and trade. The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) has oversight for SECIN's administration, through its Wesley Hughes Documentation Centre.

Photo: Ms. Kisha Sawyers, Librarian, CCDC at SECIN 35th Anniversary Working Luncheon

USAID Training in Photography



Photo: Ms. Kisha Sawyers, CCDC's Librarian at the USAID Photography workshop at the Knutsford Court Hotel on November 17.

Ms. Kisha Sawyers, Librarian and Ms. Kathi-Ann Thomas, Research Assistant attended the USAID Photography workshop at the Knutsford Court Hotel on November 17.

USAID/Jamaica hosted its first Development Outreach & Communications training in Photography for implementing partners (IPs). The training assisted IPs how to better communicate their success stories via the medium of photography.

The Lead Facilitator, was Ms. Ellie Van Houtte, from USAID/Washington. Ms. Van Houtte brings a wealth of knowledge in the field of photo journalism.

Working to bring an end to extreme poverty through USAID, Ellie Van Houtte edits and curates stories collected by staff from around the world for distribution on web and social media channels.

Additionally, Ellie is involved in the production of photo and multimedia content for the agency. Ellie weaves together her professional experiences in communications, grassroots advocacy and journalism to connect the global community together.

You can see some of Ellie's recent professional and personal projects on her website (<http://www.ellievanhoutte.com>) and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Photo: Ms. Kathi-An Thomas (seated), CCDC's Research Assistant at the USAID Photography workshop at the Knutsford Court Hotel on November 17.



Photo: Ms. Joan Thomas, Research Fellow, CCDC: Chairperson Ms. Meca-Gaye Francis, CDA Children Advisory Panel; Mr. Godfrey St. Bernard, Senior Fellow at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, The University of the West Indies; Ms. Heather Gallimore, Child Right Advocate CCDC and Dr. Priya Anakoar, Project Officer CCDC at Caribbean Child Research Conference, Jamaica Conference Centre, November 5, 2015

The Caribbean Child Research Conference is a regional event, covering a range of child related themes. The conference aims to share research on children, strengthen the network of researchers on children issues, and encourage research in areas that are often “under-researched.” The conference presents an opportunity for children and adults to examine the status of children and child rights in the Caribbean.

CCDC staff presented under the session on “Society’s Treatment of our children” Heaher Gallimore’s paper was entitled “Capacity Building to uphold child rights beyond 2015”. Joan Thomas’s paper was on “Implementing a Transitional Living Programme for Youth Exiting State Care in Jamaica” and Priya Anakor’s paper on, “Lessons from Transitional Living Programme for Youth Exiting State Care from Two US Facilities”

Pictorial Highlights



Photo: Staff of the UWI Open Campus Jamaica (including staff from the Caribbean Child Development Centre) attended the staff fun day at Strawberry Fields in St. Mary on December 18, 2015



Photo: Visitors from Manchester University, Indiana USA visited with Mrs, Ceceile Minott, Actg. Head and Ms. Marva Campbell, Programme Officer of the Caribbean Child Development Centre, January 18, 2016