



Jamaican Self-Help

Annual Report 2007-2008

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Message from the President

Jamaican Self-Help has had another outstanding year both in our projects in Jamaica and here in Canada working to increase awareness of third world issues.

Members of the program committee have travelled to Jamaica two times to closely monitor the work in education, training and community development. During these visits, we also make connections with the Jamaican government and with people working in the aid sector in Jamaica.

Our global education committee in Peterborough continues its work sending youth to Jamaica for volunteer experience, bringing guest speakers, and linking with local agencies working on like-minded issues. A vibrant link with youth was established this year with the Make Poverty History project. A conference linking Canadian, Jamaican and Nicaraguan youth is also in the planning stages.

Our 15-member board oversees the organization and its four standing committees. Faithful donors also support our appeals and the annual Brunch and Auction. Funds for the work are always needed and new fundraising initiatives are being developed.

I would like to thank our many donors, our tireless staff, volunteers, committees and board members for their diligence and generosity.

Joyce Mackenzie,
President



Yanique & her mother Michele
from Bennet Lands



Photo by Dawn Straka

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JAMAICAN PROGRAMME

“Youth, Education & Leadership” - April 2007 ~ March 2008

The past year was marked with a variety of challenges to development work in Jamaica. Highlights of the year included:

- ❖ National Elections: the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) became the minority government in September 2007, defeating the People’s National Party (PNP) for the first time since 1989. The change in government appeared to have brought a sense of hope to the country.
- ❖ Hurricane Dean – a Category 4 hurricane caused destruction in many parts of the country in September – notably in the rural area of St. Mary where the banana and vegetable crops were most affected. Banana production resumed by spring 2008, but only for the domestic market.
- ❖ The national Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT) results in June 2007 indicated that 40% of Grade 6 students who sat the exam were below the required level. The Transformation Team of the Ministry of Education continued to work on various strategies to improve literacy.
- ❖ Violence in the schools was a problem across Jamaica, and also in some JSH communities. Partners indicated that violence has never been so high, and particularly worrisome is the random nature of the attacks – now during the daytime, against women and children and “informants” (perceived or real).
- ❖ The global rise in oil and food prices affected Jamaica as well; poor Jamaicans in particular suffered from rising prices in fuel, food, electricity, transportation.

Over the year, Jamaican Self-Help continued to support programmes of six Jamaican partner organizations, and explored new partnerships.

St. Peter Claver Primary School upheld its excellent reputation through its literacy and extra-curricular activities. In addition to the sports teams and music programme, the school extended its programme to include a wider range of clubs such as brownies, cub scouts and arts & crafts in order to include more children. Parents were included through workshops, parent-

teacher meetings and other activities. The school offered a secure and positive environment for all the students despite instability in the community. The entire school population of close to 1000 students benefited from the various activities this past year.

Down the street **S-Corner Clinic and Community Development Organization** encountered a number of challenges over the year as they coped with several outbreaks of violence in the community. They shifted some programmes to better address community needs and to keep staff and volunteers safe. They continued to offer innovative activities that defied the fear created by gang activity, and maintained hope for the larger community. Health education, youth programmes, peace building activities and grief counselling, and parenting sessions assisted over 3000 people in the Bennet Lands area.



S-Corner Clinic assists women & children

St. Margaret’s Human Resources Centre encountered different challenges this year. While Hurricane Dean did not have a direct impact on Jamaica, there was a great deal of damage in pockets throughout the island including in Kingston. At St. Margaret’s, a huge tree was knocked over onto the Community Library. The clean up and repair work was done quickly however, and the library was again used by students and community members for homework assignments or reading. JSH supported the library, and two vocational training programmes – the garment construction course and the woodworking course. Altogether, over 300 students benefited from these activities this year.

A second Vocational Training project, **St. Pius X Training Centre**, saw 24 young women and men graduate in June 2007 from one of three skills training courses – garment

JAMAICAN PROGRAMME

“Youth, Education & Leadership” - April 2007 ~ March 2008



Woodworking at St. Margaret's Centre

construction, cosmetology, or catering, as well as literacy and life skills sessions. Another 20 students enrolled in the 2007-08 school year. The Centre faced some management challenges over the year, yet the courses maintained their high standards as evidenced by the quality of the work produced.

St. Theresa's Literacy Project located in St. Mary parish was originally established by two Canadian nuns. This project was made the responsibility of a Board of local Jamaican teachers and community leaders during this past year. With their leadership, the programme continued to flourish, providing remedial reading classes to primary school children in three rural schools. Over 300 children benefitted from these activities. The Board attempted to offer a literacy programme to students at the Annotto Bay High School as well. Although a few students did benefit, it was decided to move this project to another school – the Enfield Primary and Junior High School - in the fall of 2008.

St. Anne's Community of Concern undertook a variety of activities – from youth-at-risk programmes to a women's sewing project to a community social concerns group. Over this past year, the Co-ordinator of the project worked on a proposal to the government to shift the high school to an innovative new model for identified at-risk students. After the national elections, his efforts were successful and a new high school model will be phased in over the next few years. Consequently, JSH support for youth programmes in that community will be phased out, as they are integrated into the new high

school curriculum.

Through the “replication project,” JSH extended its support at St. Anne's Primary School from the dance programme and after-school remedial reading project, to a co-operative play programme and the addition of a social worker for the school to assist with identified at-risk children. There was good progress in all these areas over the year, benefiting all 539 students.

Also through the “replication project”, JSH approached another school, **Whitfield All Ages School** and instituted a cooperative play programme at that school. JSH then approached **Tavares Gardens Primary School**, and worked with the principal to identify a suitable programme to improve attendance of its student population of 250. Using the successful model of St. Peter Claver Primary School, JSH agreed to fund a small music project: recorder classes for students in Grades 3 to 5. The programme was initiated in early 2008, and to date appears to be a positive addition to the school.



Dance programme at St. Anne's Primary School

Since this is the second year of a three-year funded programme with CIDA, JSH began its evaluation process with its partners as a first step towards developing its plans for 2009 and beyond. A meeting was held with representatives of all six partner organizations in November to gather information about successes and challenges, current issues in Jamaica, and recommendations for future directions for JSH. This information, together with ongoing dialogue with the partners and other key Jamaican resources, will be incorporated into the plan for JSH programmes to 2012.

Photos by Dawn Straka & Christine Post

CANADIAN PROGRAMME

“Youth, Education & Leadership” - April 2007 ~ March 2008

Jamaican Self-Help has been busy with youth engagement and public education this year.

The JSH Make Poverty History Youth Committee was involved in several activities such as:

- Participating in the provincial Global Citizen’s Forum organized by the Ontario Council for International Cooperation
- Meeting with MP Dean Del Mastro to discuss Bill C-293 (More and Better Aid)
- Organization of workshops for other youth
- Involvement in JSH’s strategic planning process.

The committee has become an important of the organization and JSH is proud of its accomplishments.

The Ganley Lecture this year featured Fabian Brown from Jamaica. Fabian is the CEO of St. Joseph’s Hospital in Kingston, Jamaica and the Director of Development at St. Patrick’s Foundation, one of Jamaican Self-Help’s long-time Jamaican partners. In his presentation, Fabian made

an impassioned plea for Canadians and Jamaicans alike to use their talents to create a better world. Fabian also travelled to Ottawa to meet with CIDA and make a public presentation on youth and development.

JSH was active with the Ontario Council for International Co-operation and the Canadian Council for International Co-operation. Both councils offer many opportunities for NGOs to share their experiences and contribute to the provincial and national discussions on global development. JSH was selected as one of four organizations across Canada to participate in a Public Engagement Evaluation Project. A special committee of JSH youth and youth leaders learned how to apply participatory evaluation to its youth programmes.

Other activities:

- Authors Pamela Mordecai and Nan Peacocke did a presentation in May 2007
- Jamaican Consul General Anne-Marie Bonner spoke at the Annual General Meeting in June
- Canada Day Parade in Peterborough
- Co-sponsorships of the Person’s Day Breakfast, Annual Travelling World Film Festival, the One World Dinner and the Dub Trinity Concert in recognition of International Development Week
- Inclusion workshop for JSH volunteers and Board
- Youth Awareness trip in March 2008
- Outreach to youth in Norwood and Lindsay



Canada Day Parade in Peterborough



Special Thanks

Jamaican Self-Help would like to thank
Community Living Peterborough and
Community Service Orders Peterborough for
their help with the mailouts through the year.

FUNDRAISING & VOLUNTEERS

April 2007 ~ March 2008

The projects and activities of Jamaican Self-Help are only possible because of the immense volunteer and financial contributions of the community.

Standing Committees:

- **Executive** – Joyce Mackenzie (President), Dawn Straka, Christine Boriss
- **Jamaican Programme** – Paula Wagar, Dawn Straka, Liz Sine, Peter Mullins, Christine Post, Chris Boriss, Marg Hundt, Rosemary Ganley
- **Global Education** – John Ganley, Caleigh McKnight, Nancy Chesher, Gail Payne, Tucker Barton, Liz Mann, Paula Wagar, members of the Make Poverty History Youth Committee
- **Fundraising** – Kate Johnston, Kim Kasperski, Patricia Johnston, Emily Downie, Gillian Sandeman
- **Finance** – Chris Boriss, Irvin Stewart, Nancy Chesher, David Hall

Other Committees:

- **Brunch & Auction** – Elaine Orgill, Emily Downie, Pamela St. Onge, Beverley Ralston, Linda Conway, Sheila Nabigon-Howlett, Gillian Sandeman
- **Nominating** – Dawn Straka, Peter Mullins
- **Make Poverty History Youth Committee/South North Youth Policy Project** – Rob Buchkowski, Natalie Istead, Jean-Christophe Lanoue, Peter McMurtry, Tyler Banderob, Abbey Menendez, Kristen Matsumoto, Ashleigh Swerdfeger, Johnald Prentice, Amber Maynard, Lucy Marshall-Kiparissis, Melina Found, Rob Sangster-Poole, Allison Bunting, Helen Stopps, Marcela Calderon, Corey Fortier
- **Ottawa** – Uté Gerbrandt, Irvin Stewart, Sarah Flyng
- **Toronto** – Rose MacFarlane, Joan Davidson, Sheila McLeod, Shirley Haughton, Elsa Jones

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Brunch & Auction 2007 Supporters: 4th Line Theatre, A Moveable Feast, Avant Garden Shop, Bennett's Home Furnishings, Black Horse Pub, Black's Photography, Bowlerama Peterborough, Brant Office Supply, Broadview Press, Canada Trust, Canadian Tire, Cervantes Restaurant, Champagne's Creative Hair, City of Peterborough Waste Management, Color Your World, Community Service Orders, Cottage Toys, Dan Joyce's, Dreams of Beans Café, Evening Out, Fandango, First Choice Haircutters, Galaxy Entertainment, Gooderham Coffee, Goodlife Fitness, Grady's Feet Essentials, Grainger's Dry Cleaning, Greg & Family Shoe Repair, Griffin's Greenhouses, Happenstance, Hodgetts & Wilson Studios, Hot Diggity Dog, Indian River Reptile Zoo, Irwin Inn, Island Cream Caribbean Cuisine, J. Davis Hair Studio, Kelcey's Nutrition Centre, King Bethune House, Kristi's Cleaning Service, Lakefield Lanes & Links, Liftlock and the Riverboat Cruise, Mackenzie Design, Maggie's Eatery, Mark's Work Warehouse, Mexicali Rosa's, Midas, Minutes Maid Company Canada, National Ballet of Canada, Pappas Billiards, Pasta Plus, Pet Supply Warehouse, Peterborough Downtown Business Improvement Association, Peterborough Theatre Guild, Pizza Hut, Rocky Ridge Drinking Water, Runner's Life, Scotsman Point Resort, Spa Euphoria, St. Peter's High School, St. Pius Vocational Centre, St. Veronus Tap and Café Room, Stickling's Bakery, Stoney Lake Cruises, Sunshine Carpet Cleaning, The Main Ingredient, The Night Kitchen, Title Book Store, Trans Canada Nissan, Trent Photographics, Tribal Voices, Tweed & Hickory, Wilderness Tours.

One World Dinner 2008: 4th Line Theatre, Between the Lines, Black Honey, City of Peterborough, Dreams of Beans Café, Firehouse Gourmet, Grady's Feet Essentials, Happenstance, Island Cream Caribbean Cuisine, Joanne's Place, Juniper Imports, Knock on Wood, Michael Goldenberg, Natas Café, Nutty Chocolatier, Parkhill on Hunter, Peterborough Singers, Peterborough Green-Up, Planet Bakery, Prince of Wales Elementary School, Rocky Ridge Drinking Water, Shish Kabob Hut, Simple, Sol Food, Sticklings Bakery & Bistro, The Main Ingredient, TISA, Title's Bookstore, Tribal Voices.

Board Members

April-June 2007

Dawn Straka

President

Liz Sine

Past President

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Vice-President

Nancy Chesher

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Kim Kasperski

Secretary

Directors

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Tucker Barton

Joyce Mackenzie

Peter Mullins

Gail Payne

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Irvin Stewart

2007-2008

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Nancy Chesher

Emily Downie

Rosemary Ganley

Kim Kasperski

Kate Johnston

Patricia Johnston

Caleigh McKnight

David Morrison (until Sept. 2007)

Peter Mullins

Gail Payne

Gillian Sandeman

(appointed Dec. 2007)

Irvin Stewart

Staff

Permanent

Marisa Kaczmarczyk

Carole Pineau

Contract

Julia Anderson

Coop Students

Amy Bowen