



# ST. PATRICK'S FOUNDATION

March 2020  
Quarterly Newsletter

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION



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## OVERVIEW

### OUR VISION

"We are a nonprofit Foundation of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Kingston, with devoted staff, serving to inspire and transform lives for positive societal change."

### OUR MISSION

"To alleviate human suffering to enable us to empower citizens in our care through early childhood education and development, skills training and entrepreneurial opportunities, as well as geriatric support to give hope and representation."

## HIGHLIGHTS

### JANUARY

Hearty welcome to our new General Manager Ms. Dian Beecher. She replaces Miss Sandrina Davis who left the Foundation November last. We thank Miss Davis for her hard work and commitment and wish her success in her new endeavours.

### FEBRUARY

Holy Cross Group from Kingston, Ontario, Canada spent a week with us, interacted with our students, donated school supplies and participated in cultural activities including "Jamaica Day" celebrations at St. Margaret's Human Resource Centre on Friday February 21.

### MARCH

Received news of COVID-19 in our country. Mandatory school closure by the government, creating changes to the mode of education delivery at the foundation. Virtual learning comes with its challenges such as students' limited access to internet, personal computers and personal phones. Despite the difficulties, our teachers who have proven themselves as innovators; remain quite committed and focused in their efforts of embracing our vision to inspire

and transform lives.

The responsiveness and efficiency of the team at St. Monica's Home for Abandoned Elderly in implementing COVID-19 safety protocols is highly commendable. These measures included:

- Immediate COVID-19 response staff training
- Speedy sensitization of residents about social distancing
- Identification and outfitting an 'isolation area' for use in the event of need

We are profoundly grateful for the donations we have received during the first quarter of this very challenging year. These donations include masks, hand sanitizer, hand soaps, bleach and disinfectant which have helped us during this pandemic and have truly made an impact on the Foundation and the communities we support.



## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

**Hermine Metcalfe, O.D, BH[M]**

*"The future depends on what you do today."* Mahatma Gandhi



The COVID-19 pandemic is adversely affecting people all over the world. Operations of the Foundation are severely impacted by necessary stay-at-home orders and curfews instituted by government.

Riverton Early Childhood, St. Margaret's (Olympic Gardens) and Christ The Redeemer (Seaview Gardens) skills training centres have all been closed to face-to-face classroom interactions since early March, pursuant to the directives from the government, for the safety of the students and staff.

Instructors, in collaboration with Centre Managers, have been tasked to provide on-line training for the students to enable them to keep abreast of their lessons. Challenges including lack of computers/smart phones, internet/data connectivity issues and insufficient funds for phone credit, impact the online training negatively. We seek contributions of equipment and/or funds to assist the students.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I commend Nurse Hermine Bascoe, Manager of St. Monica's Home and her team for their service, compassion and dedication in ensuring safety and wellbeing of the residents and everyone connected to the Home.

We recognize and commend the staff of our head office and our Human Resources Centres, for their faithful service to the Foundation over the years.

We take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Dian Beecher, who joined the St. Patrick's Foundation family in the capacity of General Manager, in January 2020. Welcome also to Miss Ruth-Ann Kellier, Administrative Assistant, who also recently joined the head office team. Sincere thanks to Miss Sandrina Davis, former General Manager for her service to the Foundation and her innovativeness.

Please pray for us at the Foundation, that we may continue to serve the undeserved and provide them with opportunities and hope in keeping with the Mission and Vision of Founder the late Monsignor Richard J. Albert. We are thankful for and look forward to our benefactors' continuing generous support of work of the Foundation.

*"Freely you have received; freely give". Matthew 10:8*



## MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW GENERAL MANAGER

**Dian Beecher**



*"He that giveth to the poor lendeth to God " Prov 19 v 17*

St. Patrick's Foundation Mission of "alleviating human suffering and empowering lives" resonate well with myself and my team. While Covid-19 has brought with it fresh sets of challenges, I am happy to be a part of a committed team of experienced staff who remain undaunted and fearless in these "times of uncertainties."

As we forge ahead in these difficult economic times, success remains our end game in preserving hope and dignity in the lives of others. We thrive on the benevolence of others and encourage those who wish to partner with us on this journey of "making a difference."



## SUCCESS STORY: NAKETA MAXAM-HOLLINGSWORTH



Naketa Maxam-Hollingsworth, who lived with her father in Riverton Meadows, started at the Riverton Meadows Early Childhood Centre at the age of two years old. She can remember from that tender age how the staff treated her like family. She stated that Mr. Rowe, the center manager, would ensure that the school was well equipped and all the children were safe. She believes that getting her foundation at Riverton Meadows Early Childhood Centre paved the way for her.

Now at Christ the Redeemer Resource Centre (CTR) pursuing a HEART NTA course in Cosmetology and in an environment which feels like family; her learning experience has been challenging yet enjoyable.

Mrs Maxam-Hollingsworth stated: "The trainers see to it that you understand what you're doing and if you don't understand they will take the time out to do extra classes to ensure you get it and go the extra mile with us to ensure we learn everything and know it."

Her goal after leaving CTR is to attend the HEART Beauty College to do level 3 in Cosmetology. She is open to working with others to experience more in the field; however, in the future, she would like to own her salon. Naketa is passionate about nails.

When asked what advice she would give to anyone who wants to become a nail technician or have a career in cosmetology, she shared "I would advise anyone to go ahead and become what they want to be, the sky is the limit, you are never too young or old to pursue your career, you can do it.

Naketa would recommend anyone to St. Patrick's Foundation. She believes that the sky is the limit here and "why wouldn't anyone want to be apart of this beautiful family!"