



INTERNATIONAL PROXY PARENTS

Celebrating 35 years Serving Jamaica's Children

"Children Are Our Future"



B. Pauline Lindo
President

The International Proxy Parents (IPP), is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, and I am happy to report that its Mission remains the same today, as it was 35 years ago, when the club was formed, and that is "to give assistance to the less fortunate children in our society who need help". We achieve this in two ways.

Firstly through education, by giving scholarships to bright, but needy students in secondary schools, who are doing well at school, but for one reason or another, need help with payment of the various fees, including examination fees. Secondly, by our association with children who are Wards of the State, and reside in Children's Homes or Places of Safety. Some of them might be orphans, while others suffer from either sexual, physical or emotional abuse, and are in need of care and protection.

This achievement is evident from the testimonials in this Newsletter from some of the past students whom we have assisted. This is also shown, from the happiness seen on the faces of the children when we visit them at the Children's Homes, or take them on outings to the beach or to the theatre to see plays performed by the Jamaica Junior Theatre Company. I understand that those who attended the performance of NESTA's Rock in January this year, were more than thrilled, when they met and interacted with the cast of the play..

The longevity of the club could not have been achieved without the dedication and hard work of our members. To them, past and present, words are inadequate to convey the appreciation and thanks for keeping the IPP flag flying high. To the founding members, be assured that the seed you have sown, continues to grow and bear fruit.

Thanks are due also, to our Patron, the Most Honourable Lady Allen, whose support we can always rely on. To the Honourable Lisa Hanna, Minister of Youth and Culture, and the Executive Director of the Child Development Agency (CDA), Mrs. Gage-Grey, we thank you both for accepting us as Proxy Parents for the Children in State Care.

As everyone knows, without adequate funds, it would be well nigh impossible for us to achieve our Mission. To this end, our undying gratitude goes to members of the Diplomatic Community and Corporate Jamaica, who have supported us over the years, and continue to do so today. The success of our Annual International Bazaar, which is the major source of funding for our projects, is without doubt, due to your continued support and sponsorship.

As IPP turns 35, we are looking at new and better ways to achieve our Mission. We intend to work closely with the Child Development Agency (CDA), and link with organisations which have similar goals to ours, to see how we can improve the parenting skills of mothers and fathers. The aim of this collaboration is intended to change the behaviour of both parents and children, and thereby reducing the number of children in state care, as well as all the other attendant problems that come with bad parenting habits.

Children are our future, it is everyone's responsibility to love, care and protect them. We in IPP believe that, we do what we do out of love for children, and that is the first qualification to become a member of IPP, love for children.

B. Pauline Lindo, LVO.

President

International Proxy Parents

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014- 2015

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Message from
THE PATRON
 Her Excellency
 The Most Hon. Lady Allen



The African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," has indeed remained relevant even in this constantly evolving world. Its potency cannot be denied when one examines the partnerships that must be forged in our communities in order for our children to be trained in the way they should go.

We believe that our "village" has an integral role to play in molding the minds of our children so that they will influence stable families, communities and nations of tomorrow. Thirty-five (35) years ago, The International Proxy Parents (IPP) recognized this and ever since, you have been effectively executing your role as a partner that embodies the true "village" approach to shape the minds of our children.

Through your heightened interest in funding the wholistic development for the most vulnerable, you have been successfully fulfilling your mandate. Your commitment to joining hands in solidarity regardless of your diverse nationalities is commendable. You have shown that through people, performances and sincere partnerships our "village" can raise Jamaica in attaining its goal contained in Vision 2030 to empower children and youth to achieve their fullest potential.

We are encouraged by and thank you for your devotion to our children and the positive influence which the IPP has had on so many, including those in state homes.

Continue fulfilling your role as a partner in this "village" in which we exist.

Happy 35th Anniversary!

Her Excellency the Most Honourable Lady Allen
Patron

Message from
MINSTER OF YOUTH AND CULTURE
 Hon. Lisa Hanna



The Ministry of Youth and Culture is supportive of the International Proxy Parents an organization whose activities are aimed at caring for children and their protection. Your organization's mission and commitment to help and support children in Jamaica is commended and applauded by the Ministry of Youth and Culture.

In our society today, we all must recognize that parenting is not only dependent on the support offered by biological parents but we need other members of the community and support groups like international Proxy Parents, to offer guidance and support through programmes which strengthen the growth and development of our children.

Children need extra care and protection from adults and community groups to keep them safe and ensure that violence and abuse is not a part of their daily lives. Special attention must be given to those children who are most vulnerable; from broken homes, those who are in need of financial assistance and those at risk of being hurt or injured. Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility.

We encourage all stakeholders to adopt this mantra and partner with us to motivate our children towards being their best selves and developing into successful adolescents and teenagers. This will form the positive foundation that influences how a child views and embraces his community, environment and surroundings.

So I applaud the International Proxy Parents in their mission to relieve poverty, suffering and distress among the less privileged children in Jamaica and to provide financial assistance for their education and well being. We are grateful for your effort and activities which epitomize the tenets of goodwill and selflessness towards nation building.

Hon. Lisa Hanna
Minister of Youth and Culture



The International Proxy Parents (IPP) is a non-profit charitable organization, registered in Kingston, Jamaica in 1980 for the primary purpose of helping less fortunate children in Jamaica. Membership is comprised of Jamaicans, expatriates and persons from diplomatic missions who volunteer their services. IPP gives scholarships to bright but needy students, provides enrichment programmes, such as monthly birthday parties, annual trips to the beach and theatre and drumming lessons for the children resident in state homes. Last year IPP spent over \$2 million Jamaican dollars on its various projects.

For more information see www.internationalproxyparents.com.

History of IPP

How IPP started.....

The early 1980's was a period of many changes in the Diplomatic circle in Jamaica. Some Ambassadors had completed their tour of duty and were being replaced by new personnel. Wives of the new Ambassadors were busy getting their children settled in a new environment including selecting schools for their children. It was also a period of austerity and there were a lot of social needs. Employers had to look beyond the weekly wages and offer assistance in other areas of need for their employees.

One loyal gardener was bold enough to approach the wife of the newly appointed Ambassador of Spain to Jamaica, HH Senora Cervino to assist with school fees for his son. Being sympathetic but new to Jamaica, she was very cautious and decided to discuss the request with two friends she had recently met. These two ladies were Mrs Dottie Alonzo (wife of an expatriate) and Mrs Serita Matalon. It was decided to involve other wives of the Diplomatic Corps in the discussion with a view to helping needy children. The group of three also envisaged that sooner or later it could be perceived that the Spanish Embassy was offering more and better incentives to their employees which might create some diplomatic jealousies. So, all the wives of the Ambassadors and High Commissioners were invited to the next meeting. They also decided to invite the wife of the then Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Mrs Marigold Harding to join the group for further discussion.

At that time the Latin American Women's Club (LAWC) was well known and included most if not all the wives of Latin American Ambassadors to Jamaica. Maria Pin Chin, the then President of the Latin American Women's Club was invited to join the group. The constitution of the LAWC was used as a guide to formulate a constitution for "Foster Parents" the name of the new group.

A Group is formed...

The group immediately started a "bring & buy" sale among themselves and the proceeds used to help needy children. In a very short time the organization grew rapidly and attracted wives of expatriates living in Jamaica as well as well thinking Jamaican women who had a great zeal for volunteering. Meetings were held at the ambassadors' residences on rotation. Graiella Urrucchia, the wife of the Mexican Ambassador, a very dynamic personality and then President of "Foster Parents" grew the "Bring & Buy" sales into a Bazaar held at Devon House.



IPP members pay courtesy call on Mitzi Seaga, wife of the Prime Minister. (1982)

A New Name....

We soon learnt that "Foster Parents" was already a registered name therefore we had to find a new name for the organisation. International Proxy Parents (IPP) was chosen as the new name and registered in 1980. After enjoying three years of having our annual Bazaar at Devon House, we were graciously accommodated by the Wyndham Hotel as Devon House was due for refurbishment. In fact, the wife of the manager of Wyndham Hotel was an IPP member and it became the venue for all bazaars until the hotel's closure in 2013. Currently the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel hosts our annual International Bazaar held in November.

Beneficiaries...

Best Care Lodge founded by the St Andrew Jaycees and home for both physically and mentally handicapped children became the primary beneficiary of IPP when we first started. Today, Glenhope Nursery, Best Care Children's Home, Maxfield Park Nursery, Maxfield Park Unit 1, St Andrew Settlement, Homestead Place of Safety for Girls and Top Hill Basic School are all beneficiaries of IPP funds.

IPP has also given millions of dollars in scholarships to needy students from primary to tertiary levels.

Schools which have benefitted include, Shortwood Practising School, Wolmers Boys and Girls Schools, St. Andrew Technical School, Rousseau's High School, Manchester High School, Happy Grove High School, Merle Grove High School, St Andrew High School, Jamaica College, Kingston College, UWI and UTECH.

IPP - The Organization...

The International Proxy Parents is a well established organization with a Board of Directors that can boast of many achievements over the past 35 years. It continues to work very closely with the Children's Development Agency (CDA) under the Ministry of Youth to improve facilities and activities in the homes and with guidance counsellors and principals to assist needy high school students with scholarships.

The Future....

In the future, our mantra of "serving Jamaican children" may well need to adapt to meet the many new challenges that children face as we approach the 2020's and beyond. Hopefully IPP will be able to partner with the private sector and other childrens' organisations so as to have an even greater impact on the lives of Jamaican children. IPP will continue to provide an opportunity for qualified and trained diplomatic wives, wives of expatriates and professional Jamaican women to volunteer their services and skills to help needy children all over the island...for these needs will not go away.

Contributed by
Hon. Marigold Harding CD, JP.

*Donation of towels to
Bustamante Children's
Hospital in 1998.
President Motiwalla
with Matron of BCH.*



President Serita Matalon makes presentation to the Principal Lauriston Lindsay of Happy Grove High School in Portland. (1990)



Pauline Lindo, Odette Hannah and Seya Parboosingh (circa 2000)



IPP Memories



It was June 1944 when Doreen Jones, now Rickards, boarded a Royal Air Force bomber in the Bahamas en route to Jamaica, destined to start a new life. Several years later, a mother of 4, grandmother of 7 and great grandmother of 3, Doreen has been associated with a number of charitable organisations, and church activities in her adopted country.

These are member of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Hon Secretary of the Women's Club, Treasurer of the Women's Club Home, member of the International Proxy Parents (IPP), member of the Church Committee at St. Margaret's Anglican Church in Liguanea, and usher/senior usher in the church. Incidentally she was one of the first women to become an usher, a position which was previously reserved for men. She recalls it was Father McPherson who introduced women to that post, and today she remains one of the senior ushers at that Church.

It is not surprising therefore, that Doreen is one of the early members of the International Proxy Parents, joining that organization in October 1990. At that time the organization comprised mainly of expatriate ladies, several Spanish speaking, and a few Jamaican ladies. It was her desire to contribute to the

well being of Jamaican children, as well as a desire to give back to a society which she now calls home. Doreen said she is very pleased with the work of IPP over the years, as it continues to make a considerable contribution to the education of several children both financially and socially. She adds that the members participate in many developmental and social events with the children in various Children's Homes throughout the city.

Doreen recalls the group's two main fundraisers of the 90's; they were the International Bazaar and the Spring Ball, which was held at the Sheraton Hotel. The Ball she said was very well attended, and popular in the early years, however it was discontinued leaving the Bazaar as the main fundraiser. The Bazaar initially was supported by all the Foreign Embassies showcasing the culinary skills of the various countries, with the Bahamian stall offering the very popular 'Conch fritters' and 'okra soup with Conch'.

On the occasion of IPP's 35th Anniversary, Doreen who remains an active member of the organization, congratulates IPP and wishes it well in its future endeavours.

*Doreen Rickards
was interviewed by Angela Goodin, IPP Member*



¡Felicitaciones!

Congratulations are very much in order for the International Proxy Parents (IPP) on reaching this important milestone. The Jamaican educational landscape has been greatly improved by your presence.

My story may not necessarily be unique or very different from that of the countless number of students who benefited from the remarkable work that the IPP has been doing and the significant impact that this organization has made in the lives of youths of Jamaica over the years.

I hail from a large family of fourteen children and though I excelled in school, my family experienced tremendous financial challenges. I recall that my mother had to skillfully manage the family budget to buy our texts from the little amount designated for groceries and ground provisions. She always felt that having our resources for school was important, therefore, we were yearly customers of the two second-hand book stores in Spanish Town, St. Catherine.

While I had my books, there were other pressing needs, some of which were identified by my teachers at Merl Grove High School. Thus, in 1993, I was referred to the IPP in my fifth form

year by the then principal, Mrs. Barbara Martin. I became a recipient of the generous support of the Proxy Parents who undertook the payment of my CXC examination fees that year. This was a tremendous relief to me and my parents as the possibility loomed that though I was an achiever in school, there was a great chance that I would not have been able to sit these exams because of the financial difficulties. Mrs. Monica Wells, our School's liaison, became my second mother. She ensured that after I was successful at the CXC examinations that the IPP's support was continued for my tenure at sixth form.

After sixth, I matriculated to The University of the West Indies in 1995, a feat which had been alien to my family. My understanding at the time was that the IPP sponsorship should have been terminated at fifth form, but my fellow recipients and I had done so well that year in gaining spaces at UWI, that the IPP sponsorship was extended to cover these years.

To finish this story, I graduated with a BSc. degree in International Relations with honours. Then, in 2000 I returned to my alma mater as a member of the academic staff. There were other studies along the way, however, my most recent accomplishment is being called to the Bar in 2014 to practice as an attorney-at-law. For me, thanks to you, the sky is the limit.

It is amazing what time, dedication, vision and monetary investment can do in the life of a person. So, I dare say, gratitude is an understatement of the sentiment that could be expressed to the hard working and self-sacrificing members of the IPP who have made such a profound impact and investment in my life.

*Thank you!
Nicola Earle
Former IPP Awardee*

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT



President Pauline Lindo (2nd left) and past President Peju Wilson (centre) with students and teacher at the Student Social 2015



Maxfield Park Children's Home drummers playing at the Students' Social

Each school is assigned a Liaison Proxy Parent Member, who communicates with the Guidance Counsellor at their respective school, and gets a list of students who are bright, but in need of financial assistance. Up to Four students can be selected per school, and their Auxiliary Fees, and when needed, Examination Fees are paid until they graduate. The Liaison Members keep in contact with both the student and Guidance Counsellor to monitor the student's progress, and to give any further assistance that might be necessary.

Each year in March, the students are invited to a Student's Social arranged by the Committee, which gives both student and Liaison the opportunity to socialise. This event is held either at the Residence or Office of an Ambassador or High Commissioner, the idea being to expose the students to other cultures and broaden their horizons. This year the Social was held at Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) Headquarters on South Camp Road. The students and IPP members were provided with refreshments and tours to the Military museum and Air Wing. They were welcomed by IPP President Mrs Pauline Lindo and addressed by Sergeant Sean Huxtable on behalf of the JDF.

The funds raised by the International Proxy Parents come mainly from our Annual International Bazaar, which takes place in November each year. This used to be held at the Wyndham Hotel, but has now moved to the Pegasus Hotel. We are well supported by the Diplomatic Missions which sell items from their various countries and donate the proceeds to IPP's projects. We also hold small fundraising events throughout the year.

The budget spent for the academic year 2014/2015 was \$1,093,700.

We supported 44 students from 15 schools

LIASON PERSON/PROXY PARENT	SCHOOLS
Norma Anderson	Dunoon Technical High School St. Hilda's Diocesan High School
Jackie Clarke	Kingston Technical High College St. George's High School
Catherine Craig	St. Hugh's High School
Sheerin Eyre	Convent of Mercy Academy-Alpha
Catherine Craig	Kingston Technical High School
Joy McHugh	Knox College Queen's School for Girls
Karen E Smith Eleanor Thompson	Jamaica College Ardenne High School
Joan Lue	Ruseas High School Wolmer's Girls High School
Sheila West	Calabar High School St. Andrew High School
Peju Wilson	Holy Childhood High School Merl Grove High School

Ladies you were a pleasure to work with, you have been my angels. In thanking you I will share what Khalil Gibran said "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."

Keep giving!

*Sheerin Eyre
Chair, Education Committee*

STUDENTS' SOCIALS



....at the Nigerian High Commission 2013



... at King's House 2014

....at JDF
Headquarters
2015



IPP INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR



Hon. Marigold Harding then Custos of St. Andrew opening the Bazaar



Delicious food at China's booth



Lisa Gordon in the popular White Elephant booth



Drummers from St. Andrew High School performing.



Chinese folk dancers



Face painting at the Children's Corner.



Curious visitors at Japan's booth



H.E Mathu Joyini, South African High Commissioner(left) selling South African wines.



Sayoko Takase, wife of the Japanese ambassador.



Costumes from Pakistan (centre) and Japan.



Nigerian dress on parade.



Wife of Mexican Ambassador showing the colourful craft items at Mexico's booth



The Custos admiring Mexican crafts.



Charge d'Affaires, USA Embassy Ms. Elizabeth Lee Martinez with Marie Clarke, PR Officer and Pauline Lindo, President.



Elena Girvan (centre) selling wines from Chile



Larisa Tarasova of the Russian Embassy attending to patrons.



Karen E and customer at the Jamaica booth



Some of the IPP Bazaar Committee members in front of the IPP booth.



Dagmar Bernard (R) and Jennifer Ridley (Centre) in the White Elephant Stall



Japanese performer



Charmaine Lemonius performing



Venezuelan Guitarist



The Tombola stall



New Friends at the Bazaar



The Raffle stall

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Our major thrust for 2014/2015 was establishing and maintaining meaningful contacts with diplomatic missions in Kingston. To this end, the President and Vice Presidents paid courtesy calls on several embassies to inform them of our work and to encourage their active participation in IPP's work of helping less fortunate children in Jamaica. Other public relations and marketing activities continued throughout 2014/2015 for all of IPP's events. As we prepared for our 35th anniversary celebrations, press releases were sent to the media and TV and radio interviews conducted by the President and other members of the Board. Numerous photographs of key events were also sent e.g. the Easter Beach Outing for over 100 children from state run homes across Jamaica, the Student's Social at Up Park Camp, for bright but needy high school students and our major fundraiser - the International Bazaar held every November in the Gardens of the Pegasus Hotel.

During Child's Month in May 2015, we launched our 35th Anniversary year of celebrations with a Church Service at St Margaret's Church in Kingston. 35th anniversary events will feature a series of Public Talks by key influencers in the area of Child Protection, Child Abuse, Parenting & Violence Prevention: Outings for over 100 children living in state run homes to a Junior Theatre performance in January and our annual Fort Clarence Beach trip at Easter.

Marie Clarke
Public Relations Officer

Former IPP Presidents

(in alphabetical order- last name)

Cutie Bocanegra (Peru)
Myrtle Cross (Jamaica)
Hon. Marigold Harding CD, JP. (Jamaica)
Lawayne Kolbusch (Jamaica)
Cynthia Klipp (Netherlands)
Teresa Lugo (Spain)
Serita Matalon (Jamaica)
Joy McHugh (Jamaica)
Sophi Min Soo Park (South Korea)
Motinska Motiwella (Pakistan)
Jane Reid (U.K.)
Vered Saldinger (Israel)
Belinda Sylvester (Barbados/ U.K.)
Sonia Tomlinson (Jamaica)
Alicia de Vallarta (Mexico)
Peju Wilson (Nigeria)
Graiella Urrucchia (Mexico)
Rita Zachariah (India)

'Thank you' party for Bazaar Participants



Embassy officials Jean Vukota (USA) (left), Maria Alcaraz and Raul Mendoza (Mexico) (right).



Embassy officials from Russia (centre) and Japan (right) talking to Andrew Gordon of Jamaica



(left - right) Elena Girvan (Chile), Sheerin Eyre (IPP) and Larisa Tarasova (Russia)



IPP Members and friends

ADMINISTRATION/HOSPITALITY REPORT



IPP Board Members 2014/2015

2015 is the 35th anniversary of the founding of the International Proxy Parents (IPP) group, and we are proud that we have remained true to the Mission, conceived 35 years ago, "to help the less fortunate children in our society" ..

Our first General meeting, for the 2014/2015 administrative year, was held at the residence of Past President Peju Wilson on September 10, 2014. The incoming President, Pauline Lindo, welcomed the gathering and introduced the new Board of Directors. She outlined her mandate for the year, which was to increase the membership of IPP to include a greater representation from the Diplomatic Community, thus ensuring that IPP remains a relevant and vibrant organisation reflecting its internationality. She chose as her theme, the Yoga Universal Prayer: "Let us be together, Let us eat together, Let us produce the energy together, Let there be no limit to our energies, Let there be no ill feeling among us, Peace, Peace", and her addition, "Love, Love"

Special welcome was given to Joanne Ready, wife of the new Canadian High Commissioner, and Emiko Tobita, whose husband is the Resident Representative for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). An even more special welcome was given to baby Ashwin Buxani, who attended the meeting with his mother Tanya, former Public Relations Chairperson. Throughout the year, we welcomed a number of new members, and said farewell to others who returned to their homelands, namely Gudrun Beck (Germany), Vered Maoz (Israel) and Hatsumi Shukunobe. (Japan)

Thanks are due to those members, who so generously opened their homes to host our monthly general meet-

ings. These are, Past Presidents Joy McHugh and Peju Wilson, Gbemisola Kamson, wife of the Nigerian High Commissioner, June Hughes, Jan Lawe, Eleanor Thompson, Cynthia Hanna, and Ann Nam. However, in recent times, it has not always been convenient for some members to host the meetings at a particular time, and we had to look for a more permanent meeting place. From June 2015, we started to hold our meetings at the Spanish Court Hotel in New Kingston, and we are most grateful to Mr. Christopher Issa for accommodating us.

Our major fundraiser, the International Bazaar, which is held in November, is a tribute to the hard work of our members, and credit is due to the Bazaar Committee under the Chairmanship of Roma Greenaway, The Jamaica stall, with Karen, Eleanor and Cynthia, the White Elephant Stall with Dagmar, Lisa, Mavis, Jennifer, the Raffle with Sheerin and Sheila, Valerie Chuck and Marie handling entertainment, all did a wonderful job. One cannot forget to say thanks to our 'Greeter', Doreen Rickards and her assistant Sheila West, who ensure that our members are properly welcomed and registered.

To the Diplomatic Missions, and Corporate Jamaica, without whose participation in the bazaar, we would not be able to carry out our Mission of "helping the less fortunate children in our society", we are eternally grateful and look forward to your continued support. Our 2014 Christmas party, combined with our thank you to the Missions for their contributions from their Bazaar sales, was held at the Pegasus Hotel on December 4, and a good time was had by all.



IPP members after a monthly meeting

Administration report continued....

As another means of fund raising, the President introduced the concept of dividing members into three month birthday groups, with each group planning an event to raise funds for our projects. To date, the January to March group had a Fish Fry, while the April to June group had Spring Birthday Shindig Party. The July to September group is yet to plan its event. Another innovation introduced by the President, is a "getting to know members exercise", in which each member talks about her life, career and achievements, things which others might not have known about her.

Dr. Elizabeth Ward, Chairman of the Violence Prevention Alliance, was the Guest speaker at our meeting in January 2015. She addressed us on the topic – 'Violence Prevention'. She said that research has revealed that violence is undoubtedly linked to illiteracy, poor conflict resolution, unemployment and poverty, and one of the aims of her association is to help young persons to become literate and numerate, with a view to them becoming less violent. As a result of her talk, we are considering funding the introduc-

tion of such a programme in one of our Children's Homes, in consultation with the Child Development Agency.

On May 6, 2015, our annual members' outing took us to Accompong, a Maroon village in St. Elizabeth. This was a very enjoyable and educational trip from the point of view of Maroon History. All in all, I can truly say that IPP members work hard, but also enjoy themselves.

Sadly, a number of our members lost close relatives during the year, and our collective sympathies and condolences are again offered to them. Our Administration / Hospitality Chairperson, Ann Nam, had to take a leave of absence during the year, due to the ill health of her husband Wallace. Unfortunately he passed away in early June. Vered Maoz's husband, Yuval died rather suddenly, Norma Anderson, our Education Chairperson lost her daughter Ita Suzanne, and both Dahlia Taylor and Jeanette Hutchinson lost their mothers. May their souls rest in peace.

....Trip to Accompong, St. Elizabeth



..... at Accompong *continued*



Folk dancing



IPP Members enjoying the presentations in the Community Centre.



Artwork depicting National Hero, Nanny of the Maroons.

IPP *Memories*

continued...

I lost my dad at the tender age of 13 years old to a motor vehicle accident which resulted in my mom being left as the sole provider for the family. It was very difficult as she was unemployed and was not able to give lunch money on a daily basis to me and my other two siblings. However, bus fare was not an issue as I lived in walking distance from school. My friends often brought me lunch and at times I was assisted by some of my teachers. However, my mom always instilled in us the importance of sacrificing and satisfying which she said were key ingredients for success.

I was selected to sit three subjects in fourth form where I obtained Grades 2 in History and Literature and a one in POB. In fifth form, I was recommended to sit seven additional subjects however, my mom had difficulties paying for them. Some of my teachers were aware of my plight and brought my case to the school administration who then leveraged support from International Proxy Parents on my behalf.

The support was timely and much appreciated as it gave me the chance to realize my dreams of going to sixth form. Thanks be to God, I obtained all seven subjects (four ones and three twos). However, my heart was shattered when my mom suggested that I should seek a job as she would not be able to afford the fees for sixth form.

However, one of my teachers indicated that he would intervene on my behalf and as a result I was again supported by International Proxy Parents throughout sixth form.

How can I not say thanks as this investment in my education inspired me to go on to higher studies. Again Proxy Parents stepped in and gave me a grant for three years which assisted with my fees while studying at the University of the West Indies.

Today, I stand as a proud graduate of the University of the West Indies with a BSc in Political Science and Management Studies (Double Major) and a MSc in Government. I am also an ordained Minister of Religion.

Today I say thanks to International Proxy Parents for the investment made and because of the investment made in me, my sister and I have started a scholarship foundation in memory of my dad and my mom (who passed four years ago) to assist needy students in schools from our personal funds.

Denise Adams
Past IPP Awardee

My name is Jahmai O'Sullivan. I was a recipient of Educational assistance from the IPP from 1995 - 2001. I went to Jamaica College at the time.

Right now I work for Microsoft in Redmond, WA.

Without you guys I am not sure where I would've ended up. Thanks for believing in me and giving me an opportunity to be more even I thought I would be.

I would love to find out how I can make a donation to your organization from here in the US.

Thanks
Jahmai O'Sullivan

COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Community Projects Committee would first like to thank the management of the Constant Spring Golf Club for allowing us to continue holding our monthly meetings at the club. We had eight (8) meetings during the year, and paid regular visits to the Homes with which we are involved, with a view to bringing cheer and improving the quality of life for these children. These Homes are Glenhope Nursery, Maxfield Park Children's Home, Homestead Place of Safety and Best Care Children's Home. We also assist on a more limited basis two basic schools, one at St. Andrew Settlement in Majesty Gardens, and the other at Point Hill in St. Catherine.



Over 100 children are taken to Fort Clarence beach every year

Our monthly birthday parties at Glenhope Nursery, which is located on Maxfield Avenue, Kingston 13, are eagerly looked forward to by the children. We read stories to them and Valerie Chuck, our resident musician, entertains them by playing the key board. Of course the refreshment is the most enjoyable part for them. I must add, that these parties are held in the play area, under the recently constructed roof, which was built with assistance from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Corporate Jamaica, and of course, the International Proxy Parents.

Our relationship with Maxfield Park Children's Home, also located on Maxfield Avenue, Kingston 13, has progressed from just being associated with Unit 1 for Boys, which is one of the four units at the Home, to include girls in Unit 2, and the older boys who remain at the Home beyond the eligible age for leaving. In addition to buying school books and other items requested for the boys in Unit 1, we have introduced a music programme for all the children. We purchased a set of drums for them, and under the guidance of Valerie and Marie Clarke, with the help of a music teacher, the drummers entertain us at our Students' socials and at our Annual Bazaars, see pictures.

In association with Mr. Bowen, the current Manager of the Home, we have been exploring other ways of trying to give the older children some life skills, to help them in the future. One is the introduction of a 'chicken egg layer project', in which IPP would purchase the first batch of chickens and make arrangements for the children to manage the project. The second one is the introduction of 'hydroponic farming', a project which members learnt about when they visited the Waterford High School in Portmore, St. Catherine, which has such a project, and which would be ideal given the drought situation.

Homestead Place of Safety for Girls is located in Stony Hill, Kingston 8, and the challenges facing the Home are myriad. The girls who are between the ages of 12-18, are for the most part, victims of sexual, physical or mental abuse, and therefore display various forms of misbehaviour. On our visits to this Home, we try to engage the girls in activities that would stimulate them, such as art, dancing, singing and cooking. Thanks to Bettina Messereli for taking up the cooking lessons where Vered Maoz left off, when she returned to Israel. We also take items of clothing and toiletries for the children, and we recently purchased some concrete benches and tables, so they can sit outside and relax.

We are in the process of introducing a net ball programme for the girls, so they can get some form of exercise. Another programme we are contemplating for the girls, subject to approval of the Child Development Agency (CDA), is a 'Violence Prevention Project'. This will not only give them the skills to cope with violent situations, with a view to becoming less violent, but also improve their literacy and numeracy skills, which is an integral part of the programme. The Home has benefitted from donations of computers by IPP, computer tables by the Chilean Embassy, and a printer by one of our members, Marsha Nicholson.



Best Care Children's home, which caters to the physically and mentally challenged children, is situated at 11 Trevennion Road, Kingston 5. Our assistance to this Home consists of an annual contribution of \$80,000.00, which covers payment for Horse Back Riding for the autistic children, Music and Art and Craft lessons. Regrettably, this Home is scheduled to be closed some-

Community Projects Committee Report continued....

time this year, due to lack of funds to maintain it. However, the school which is attached to the Home will continue to operate.

St. Andrew Settlement, which is located in Majesty gardens, Kingston 11, is an inner city basic school, with about 80 students, ages 3-5. We visit this school occasionally, and give assistance based on requests. such as for a computer and printer.

The Point Hill Basic School is located in Point Hill, St. Catherine, and we try to visit at least once per year. Our donations are based on requests to improve the quality of education for the students, as well as the physical plant of the school. Our most recent donation was to provide paint for sprucing up the school, which was part of a Labour Day project.

As part of our mandate of bringing cheer to the children, we took 100 children on our annual January visit to the theatre, to see the play Nesta's Rock, which was performed by the Jamaica Junior Theatre Company. We also invited children from the Hanbury Home in Mandeville, which is run by the Salvation Army. On this occasion, the children met the cast of the play, and were ever so happy.

At Easter, we took another 100 children on the annual outing to Fort Clarence Beach. We were joined on this occasion by children from the SOS village in Stony Hill. From the pictures you can see that a good time was had by all. I would like to express our thanks to the management of the Urban Development Corporation (UDC), for waiving entrance fees for the children and their care givers.

Our CPC members are committed to finding ways to improve the lives of these children in State Care, and we will continue on this path. Thanks to all who supported us financially or in kind, to help us achieve this goal.

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT - 2014/2015		
INCOME		
International Bazaar November 2014 (Net)		1,163,002.00
Membership		203,000.00
Theatre Evening (net)		231,502.00
Donations		33,000.00
Sundry Sales		20,800.00
Fund-Raising		117,850.00
Sale of directories (net)		174.00
		1,769,328.00
EXPENSES		
Education - Schools	1,093,700.00	
Education - Student Social	33,098.00	
Beach Outing	123,406.00	
Community Projects	263,071.00	
Hospitality	122,058.00	
Administration - Web site	9,650.00	
- P.A.System	45,493.00	
- Stationery etc.	47,533.00	
- P.O.Box rental	2,000.00	
- Bank charges	1,399.00	
Accrued C.O.J. filing fees	15,700.00	
Accrued audit fee	30,000.00	
35th Anniversary Celebrations	36,000.00	
	1,823,108	(1,823,108)
Net deficit for period		(53,780)
Bank balance 1 June 2014 (J\$)		2,575
Net transfers from Investments		634,380
		583,175
Bank balance 30 June 2015 (J\$)	495,250	
US\$ receipts	133,625	
Accrued expenses	(45,700)	
	583,175	



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