

AFJ HAPPENINGS

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF JAMAICA, INC. NEWSLETTER

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Message From the President



Amb. Glen Holden

With this first edition of our Newsletter, the AFJ is breaking new ground in the effort to keep our supporters informed of our activities. We hope you find it worth reading.

The American Friends of Jamaica continues to grow. Our gala benefit dinner last fall in New York was the best-attended ever. Our inaugural South Florida gala in June was an even bigger success than anticipated, winning us new friends and extending our base of support. At our upcoming New York gala on Nov. 5, to be held for the first time at the historic Copacabana, we will have new auction donors and new advertisers alongside our loyal supporters of many years.

On the personnel side, we have expanded our Board of

Directors with excellent additions, and, in July, we hired a new Chief Operating Officer who is already making her own mark on our organization.

Most importantly, we find ourselves able to assist an expanding number of worthy Jamaican non-profits. We made grants last April to 17 of them, including long-established institutions such as the Mona Rehabilitation Foundation, the Jamaica Society for the Blind, and Mustard Seed Communities (see separate article) as well as relatively new ones like the MoBay Hope Medical Center, Tools for Development and the Bluefields Environmental Protection Association. Funds and goods-in-kind that we granted this past year amount to almost \$800,000.

With your support, we will do a lot more. Come to our 24th annual gala benefit dinner at the Copacabana Nov. 5. Meet kindred spirits, have a great time, and help Jamaica.

Sincerely,
Amb. Glen A. Holden, ret.

Creating Synergies *linking donors*

The AFJ is trying increasingly to leverage our assistance to our Jamaican grantee organizations and help them achieve results that are bigger than our own contribution alone could produce.

MUSTARD SEED COMMUNITIES

One recent example: our support for **Mustard Seed Communities'** home for AIDS-affected children near Montego Bay. When AFJ Executive Director Lacy Wright visited the site along with Louis Slesin and Lesli Rice of New York City and long-time visitors to Jamaica,

all were impressed by what Mustard Seed's Fr. Gregory Ramkissoon wanted to accomplish.

We each pledged a given amount to the U.S. \$475,000 project, and decided to appeal to AFJ supporters for more, offering to match their



Amb. Glen Holden present grant check to Fr. Gregory Ramkissoon

(contd. on Page 3)

Join Us !!!

The American Friends of Jamaica

BENEFIT GALA & AUCTION

Saturday
November 5, 2005

The Copacabana
New York City, NY

For more information:

<http://www.theafj.org/gala>

Tickets available online.
See you there!

2005 has proven to be an exciting year for the American Friends of Jamaica. On all fronts the organization has made significant strides in its growth plans, including the recent expansion to South Florida and the addition of a COO to the team. With our 25th Anniversary, just around the corner, the future looks very bright. Thank you to all our donors, supporters and friends of Jamaica for your active engagement.

We have seen the growth of public/ private partnerships, donations and look forward to increased participation, widening the network and extending the reach. In the coming years we will bring even more focus to our mission of assisting non-profits in the areas of education, healthcare and economic development.

This inaugural issue of *AFJ Happenings* showcases the work of the organization. It is our way of formalizing our communication with you. We will highlight the initiatives that collectively will lead to significant change. I hope you enjoy reading it and plan to stay with us as we move forward.

Your investment is making a difference and is vital to our mission. Stay connected!

Keisha A. Phipps

2005 Grantee Organizations

The AFJ awarded 17 grants in the areas of education, healthcare and economic development

1. Project Help Jamaica

Jockey International donates clothing that is distributed to schools, orphanages, and prisons across Jamaica with the assistance of Project Help Jamaica.

2. Hanover Charities

Ralph and Ricky Lauren and the Gatewood Family Foundation helped fund a grant to enable the organization to continue to assist schools and other local institutions in the parish of Hanover.

3. Friends of Hopewell School

A Ralph and Ricky Lauren donation allows the organization to continue the remedial reading work of the Literacy Resource Centre at the Bethel and Success Primary and Junior High Schools.

4. MoBay Hope Medical Center

A grant was provided to purchase hospital equipment needed by MoBay Hope. This state-of-the-art hospital was founded by two of our Board members, Sydney and Sylvia Engel.

5. University of the West Indies

UWI received grants from four endowments - The Ralph and Ricky Lauren Bursaries, Amb. J. Gary Cooper Bursary, the Amb. Glen Holden Bursary, and the AFJ Cobb Family Lecture Series.

6. Montego Bay Marine Park

The Grodzins Fund of New York provides funds to support the environmental work of the Montego Bay Marine Park supporting Jamaica's tourism, and benefiting the whole country.

7. The Foundation for International Self-Help Development (F.I.S.H)

FISH is a medical-services provider of eye care and dental care for the needy.

8. Social Support Fund

Providing immediate assistance to victims of violence, including food, medication, and prosthetic devices where these are needed.

9. Jamaica Society for the Blind

The grant will go to provide adaptive aids

and income-generation instruction for blind and visually-impaired persons.

10. Tools for Development

AFJ's grant will go to fund a project entitled "Skills Training for Micro- and Small Businesspersons" to support microentrepreneurs.

11. Bluefields Environmental Protection Association

The grant is to fund a community environmental program.

12. The Mona Rehabilitation Foundation and Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre

Mona Rehab, which is now over 50 years old, does orthopedic rehabilitation and is one of Jamaica's most respected institutions. The grant was used for the repair of the roof of the Children's Ward.

13. Mustard Seed Communities

A grant to support the creation of a children's home near Montego Bay for AIDS-affected children and mothers and disabled children.

14. Trench Town Development Association

AFJ's grant will be used to re-do the Trench Town Reading Centre to make it a modern facility that will serve all parts of the community.

15. The Jamaica Golf Association

The Tiger Woods Foundation provides funds to be used to promote the sport of golf to young Jamaicans.

16. Jamaican Ministry of Education

As part of Amb. Sue Cobb's "I Pledge" initiative, Grace Kennedy and Western Union each contributed \$100,000 to the purchase of math workbooks for every schoolchild in Jamaica.

17. Past Students Association of Bull Savannah Primary School

Due to the generosity of Mr. Jeffrey Thompson of Washington DC, the grant will go to repairs to the school.

Creating Synergies contd...

donations. That brought in additional funds. Finally, we introduced the project to the U.S. Embassy in Kingston, where the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) took an interest.

Now USAID is not only offering technical assistance to the new children's home (in the areas of education and treatment), but is also considering funding other segments of Mustard Seed's overall work with HIV/AIDS and with disabled children.

Thus, the AFJ brought together two private foundations and the U.S. government to shoulder a significant part of the cost of a badly-needed facility for Jamaican children and to advance the work of a respected Jamaican NGO.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

A second example involves the two companies we are honoring at our New York Gala Nov. 5. Last year **Grace, Kennedy & Co.** and **Western Union International**

joined forces with The American Friends of Jamaica and **USAID** to provide mathematics textbooks to Jamaican children island-wide — a donation estimated to have touched over 300,000 elementary-school pupils. The initiative was part of then-U.S. Ambassador Sue Cobb's "I Pledge" program, and we were delighted to play a role.



This year once more Western Union International and Grace, Kennedy Remittance Services have pledged US\$100,000 each toward a similar objective. Again, USAID and The American Friends of Jamaica will participate in the program.

OTHERS

Jockey International, the **Tiger Woods Foundation**, and the **University of the West Indies** are three more entities with whom we are collaborating with a view to magnifying both our efforts and theirs. Our goal is to help individual organizations, in both the public and private sectors, enlarge and extend the good they are doing.

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Become a Friend Today

South Florida Expansion

A Successful Launch

On June 25, 2005 the American Friends of Jamaica held its Inaugural South Florida Gala Dinner. The event was a success in attracting over 230 patrons and friends of Jamaica and raising in excess of \$35,000.

The event brought together Jamaicans and Americans in South Florida to highlight the island's needs and raise funds to meet them.

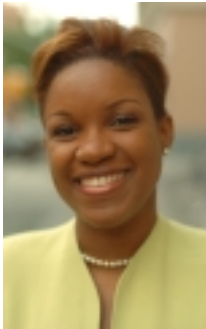
The gala dinner honored **Monsignor Richard Albert** and South Florida-based **Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.** with the AFJ's International Humanitarian Award for their contributions to Jamaica and its people. The two Platinum-level sponsors were Baptist Health International, which runs the highly-

“ Your contributions allow us to further the hopes of a better future for the poor
-- MSGR. RICHARD ALBERT

regarded **South Miami Hospital**, and **Deutsche Bank Alex. Brown**, the arm of the German financial giant with a strong concentration on the Caribbean.

” The AFJ would like to thank all who attended and contributed to the success of the event, especially the host committee.

Chief Operating Officer Named at the AFJ



Keisha A. Phipps

Starting July 1, 2005, Keisha A. Phipps assumed the position of Chief Operating Officer for The American Friends of Jamaica, Inc.

“I am honored to work with The American Friends of Jamaica team to further our mission of development in areas of education, healthcare and economic development. I was

interested in joining an organization with high growth potential,” she said. Keisha Phipps, an engineer, entrepreneur and social activist has served as President of JAMPACT, Jamaica Impact, Inc., Board member for Doctors On Call and Director of Networking for CARIBIZ, which promotes development through entrepreneurship. She has volunteered for numerous other causes related to social and economic development and empowerment.

“We are so pleased to have Keisha Phipps assume the role of Chief Operating Officer,” said Lacy Wright, AFJ Executive Director. “We are proud that she has accepted such a challenging opportunity and look forward to working with her to take The American Friends of Jamaica to the next level,” added Ambassador Glen Holden, the AFJ’s President.

Ms. Phipps also brings experience from the private sector, having worked with companies such as Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Accenture, Eli Lilly and Co., and Unilever. She holds an MBA from Columbia Business School, a Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs, and a Masters in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan. She currently resides in New York City.

*Philanthropy
benefiting the people
of Jamaica.*

Become an American Friend !

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SMARTER

PHILANTHROPY

Accountability and Trust