

SPECIAL
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Grace & Staff

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GraceKennedy Education Run



Volunteers at this year's GKER: Community volunteer Angella Wade—left and Christine Francis, Grace & Staff Field Officer

Education Creates Winners....Make A Run For It..

This year marked the seventh staging of the GraceKennedy Education Run. The GKER took place on Sunday 12th July amidst the scenic downtown waterfront back-drop.

The Run saw an increase in sponsorship over last year's event. This year there were 3985 persons registered to run/walk/ride and we are grateful for the near \$7mil surplus achieved.

Thanks to all who participated, contributed or supported in any small or large way. As a result of your input we were able to assist 88 new students to continue on their academic journey by financing another year of school. This marks a significant achievement for these students who face such tremendous challenges on a daily basis.

The next staging of the GKER is scheduled for Sunday July 12, 2016. We look forward to seeing you and receiving your support. We ask you to continue to create opportunities for our young people to unleash their potential.

“ I am particularly proud of what the team members at Grace and Staff have been able to achieve this year. Their work is a labour of love and sacrifice and I thank them for doing that work with the passion they display.”

“Did you know our very own Governor General Sir Patrick Allen along with Lady Allen have established their own “I Believe” Foundation?”

Message, Don Wehby, Group CEO



Colleagues:

It is really hard to believe that we are approaching the end of another year. Time has certainly flown, and a lot has happened throughout GK.

I am particularly proud of what the team members at Grace and Staff have been able to achieve this year. Although small in number, they have made a huge difference to the communities we serve, and in the lives of the individuals in and around those communities. Their work is a labour of love and sacrifice and I thank them for doing that work with the passion they display.

As they outline in this newsletter the activities, happenings and achievements thus far, I encourage you to support them in whatever way you can so that we can

continue to make a difference. You can donate via salary deduction, tutor at one of Grace and Staff’s five homework centres or volunteer in any other way you may be called upon to.

I take this opportunity to remind you that the Grace and Staff Christmas Treats are just around the corner. We will need your support to make them successful!

Congratulations again to the Grace and Staff team, and thank you for giving in whatever way you have. Let’s continue to work together to show that we care.

GG’s Visit

During their visit to GraceKennedy’s Corporate Office on July 9, Sir Patrick Allen and Lady Allen shared some of the wonderful things that have been happening with their foundation and took the time to experience some of what Grace & Staff does in our communities.

A special visit was made to the GK/ Parade Gardens STEM Centre where they participated in a tour of the facility and met some of the wonderful volunteers giving of their time and expertise.



GraceKennedy Foundation

Birthright Intern

This Summer we were happy to host one of the GK Birthright Interns, Jamila Dell’Acqua. Jamila was able to utilize her dance skills and early childhood/special needs training during her time with us. She started out assisting with the customer service and registration at the GKER and her strong English accent and British charm proved to be beneficial in soothing the anxious participants as they waited to collect their race bibs.

Jamila spent some time working with the Parade Gardens CDC in hosting its summer camp. She taught a bit of dance and drama

and even helped to put together a show for the closing of the camp.



Through this interaction Jamila was able to experience the rich dynamics of the local communities through the children and the volunteers at the Community Centre.

“This Summer we were happy to host one of the GKF Birthright Interns, Jamila Dell’Acqua. Jamila was able to experience the rich dynamic of the local communities through the children and the volunteers at the Community Centre. “

STEM Centre Summer Camp & Activities

July and August 2015 proved to be two very eventful months for the STEM Centre. June 27-July 15 marked the beginning of the exciting STEM summer experience. The first camp hosted in partnership with JPS started out with 21 students grades 7-11. They were exposed to activities in the areas of civil and environmental engineering, computer aided designs, techniques and principles in 3D printing and energy and conservation. Students further benefitted from a field trip to the Hunts Bay Power Plant, presentations and discussions and designing and printing objects.



Overseas Volunteers / G&S/JPS Summer

The second camp where we partnered with the SRC focused on Flora and Fauna. There were 35 participants from grades 4-6.

The children all participated in field trips to Holywell and to Life Yard here in Central Kingston. Students learnt about the environment, protecting our natural space, the importance of recycling and conserving energy. One of the pertinent features of STEM learning is that the sciences are taught in a project based environment. This allows students to learn how the sciences apply to real life situations and uses.

The different experiments showed the students how science works in their lives on a daily basis. The most exciting experiment for the students was using solar energy to cook a pot of rice.



Computer Camp Activities

Each year Grace & Staff hosts a computer camp at our homework centres. This year we had over 40 students participating in the camps. The one-week sessions were held at Barbican, Spanish Town and Majesty Gardens.

Students entering high schools were given an introduction to computers. This included a general introduction as well working with Microsoft Office Suite. Participants all created documents using Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point.

At the end of the week, each child received a certificate of participation.

Over the years, this camp has proven to be of significant help to the students as they enter high school.

Many have their first introduction to computers at this camp and at the end of the sessions are able to complete assignments when they start high school.

Stay tuned for details on next year's camp, maybe you can share with the students by volunteering to teach one of the topics covered in the lesson plan.



2015 Computer Camp Graduates

Essential Learning Programme

We are happy to report that our Spanish Town Centre now hosts a remedial learning programme. This programme has been titled the Essential Learning Programme. It was originally conceptualized to target the unattached males between the ages of 13-35 years. We however recognized that there were

high school students attending the centre who were unable to read well and this affected their ability to function at the required level both at school and at the homework centre. Currently we have 23 students registered in the Programme. These students originate from March Pen Road, Corletts Road and Dela Vega City.

The Essential Learning Programme was launched in July and has the support and input of various stakeholders. In fact, the genesis of the programme lies with the Dela Vega City Benevolent Society.

This group recognized the need in their immediate community and equipped with the tools provided by Grace & Staff under the recently concluded USAID Corporate agreement, they sought training and additional resources and kick-started the programme.

New Applicants

We received nearly 200 applications for assistance for the 2015/2016 school year. Over 50 parents were interviewed and were eventually recipients of bursaries from the Foundation. We wish all beneficiaries all the very best in their studies and ask that you continue to support the activities of Grace & Staff so that we can continue to positively affect young lives.

SAT Classes Begin

SAT classes began on Saturday 5th September. Students are hoping to achieve significant scores in their SAT exams in order that they may qualify for scholarships to attend universities overseas. Among presenters so far are past beneficiary Kemoy Smith and Eva Barnes from the US Embassy. **Look out for notices of other special presentations.**



Galleon Foundation Scholarship



For the second year in a row, two Kingston College Students are benefiting from Galleon Foundation Scholarships. Beneficiaries Tyreese Spaulding and Kareem Barrett expressed thanks to the KC old boys who have shown significant interest in the future of the school and the community by implementing this scholarship.

Centres Re-Open UTech Collaboration Upcoming Activities:

It's back to school again!!!!

In September all five homework centres reopened with a bang. The STEM Centre was not to be left out as it too opened its doors to nearly 100 primary and high school students.



Thanks to our volunteers—new and returning - who give of their time and knowledge to contribute to nation building one lesson at a time. Your efforts are truly appreciated!

The Department of Industrial and Mechanical Engineering invited the GraceKennedy/Parade Gardens STEM Centre to be a part of the University of Technology's Open Day.



Participation in the event meant great exposure for the centre and its many activities.



The team had an exciting day sharing with current and prospective students of the university.

- **Grace & Staff Pizza & Salad Deal**
- **Quarry Hill Homework Centre Completion**
- **Christmas Outreach**



STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER UPDATES....