



Jamaican Self-Help

Empowering people. Building community.

Jamaican Self-Help Newsletter

September 2016

MUSIC HELPS IN HARD TIMES

A friend of mine, a teacher in Jamaica, just told me a story that I had to share with you. The story had to do with a recent article in the Jamaica Gleaner newspaper on September 4th, the day before children returned for a new school year at St Anne's Primary School.

"Back to school preparations at St Anne's Primary School in Kingston not only includes cleaning desks, chairs and ensuring that the school is ready for the new school year, it also involves teaching new staff and students the drill of getting flat when recurring gunshots ring out in the surrounding community". The Principal described the routine: "They know that they are to hit the floor; the lowest point is the safest point. Then what we do is ask them to sing calming soothing songs and that helps".

So it's not surprising that the principal asked Jamaican Self-Help to continue funding the music and dance programme for this school year.

But those programmes are so much more than just a refuge in moment of crisis. We want to share with you highlights of the teacher's report on last year's JSH funded music programme...



*“Children of Grade 2 have learnt songs about peace, kindness, the family.”
Grade 3 students are so enthusiastic about the music classes that “they are always enquiring about having Music class on days they know are not scheduled for them.”*

“The grade 3 children are faced with many challenges, and music has helped many of them make better decisions, especially the boys who are seen as the normal ‘trouble makers’. Major improvement is noted in these students’ behaviour and how they use their leisure time.”

“Mostly traditional folk was taught to the fourth graders as this was a way of letting them know the rich heritage and culture of Jamaica. Many of the songs taught were songs of inspiration which help to calm the spirits of the entire school population.”

“Grade 5 students are the most receptive; this is because they would have been in the programme from the Grade 3 level.”

The students are enthusiastic too:

Lessandra (Grade 5) reports that music is *“very nice, I always learn a new song!”*

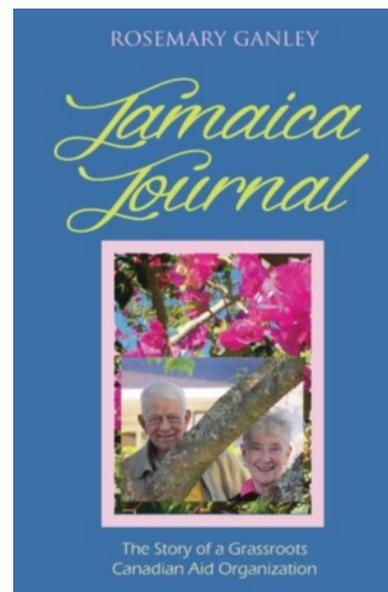
Bradley (Grade 3) likes *“to play the tambourine and the drums”* and, for his best friend, music *“is a way of telling stories and having fun”*.

ROSEMARY’S NEW JAMAICAN LITERARY ADVENTURE

Jamaica Journal: the Story of a Grassroots Canadian Aid Organization is a new book by JSH co-founder, Rosemary Ganley. It has just come out and is available from her or at www.amazon.com .

We are delighted to see this 40 year old story told through a collection of Rosemary’s on-the-spot columns published in various newspapers over the years.

With her sharp eye and compassionate heart for all things Jamaican, Rosemary’s book promises to be a real treasure for everyone ever drawn to the work and for the international community as a whole. And friends of Jamaican Self Help can be pleased and proud that Rosemary has chosen to share our story along with hers’ and John’s.



JSH SUPPORTERS AND THEIR FRIENDS: RAISING MONEY FOR JAMAICAN SCHOOLS

What do a dinner party, barbeque, wine tasting, and yard sale all have in common? Well, yes, they all happen every summer across Canada. But this summer all these events also became places where JSH supporters gathered friends and told them the stories of our partners.

Dinner party guests in Lindsay watched a video about JSH and enjoyed Jamaican food.

A wine tasting in Peterborough paired wines from a supporter's vineyard in Prince Edward County with hors d'oeuvres from Peterborough caterers.

Family and friends of one JSH supporter always make donations to a charity of their hosts' choice at their annual August barbeque. This year it was for JSH. But that's not all!... The hosts' 12 year old granddaughter had been moved and excited by her grandmother's stories of Jamaica, which was her home before she came to Canada. So during the summer the granddaughter decided to put on a yard sale to raise money. She worked very hard to solicit donated items, to collect and clean everything, to advertise and hold the yard sale, and to donate unsold items. As a result, her family said, "We are pleased to donate \$1,100 to JSH!"

Our JSH supporters found it utterly heartwarming to see these kinds of responses from their friends and family - to see so many people asking us how *they* could help and what *they* could do for the children of St Anne's and St Margaret's in Jamaica.

Our thanks to the organizers of these events and all their generous guests and customers!

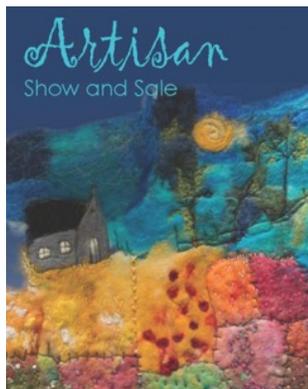
Could you do something similar? Will you?

PLACES TO SUPPORT JAMAICAN SELF-HELP THIS FALL

Dinner donations...

On Saturday, November 5 you can enjoy **dinner with a Jamaican theme and music by Beau Dixon**, presented by the Lakefield United Church AOTS Men's Club and Jamaican Self-Help. Half of all proceeds will go to JSH.

Dinner at 5.30 p.m. and concert at 7.30 p.m. Contact Cathie Morrissey at 705 799-6847 to order tickets. Bring a group of friends and reserve a table! Tickets are \$40.



JSH's Annual Artisan Show...

The 10th Annual **Artisan Show and Sale** will be held at Mark St. United Church, 90 Hunter St. East, Peterborough, on Saturday Nov 12, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday Nov. 13, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Many of the most talented artisans in the Peterborough region will be there. You can do your Christmas shopping while supporting JSH partners: the artisans generously donate **15% of their sales** for our programmes. There will be a big selection of crafts - jewellery, textiles, pottery, photography and more!

SNEAK PREVIEW...

Over the years the annual Ganley lectures have provided insights into issues of international development and reports directly from Jamaica. Watch for the Ganley lecture **with Special Guest Speaker Rosemary Ganley** in early 2017 and plan to come!

WHAT NOW?

News from our Jamaican partners, the proven value of their programmes and the enthusiastic support of so many donors and friends like you makes us believe that the decision to continue Jamaican Self-Help as a purely voluntary organization has been the right one. After all, that's how we started many years ago, before government funding and staff came along.

We're looking for more **volunteers** -ranging from people who enjoy using social media in creative ways to those who would help with organizing the Ganley lecture..... and a whole range of things in between.

Can you lend a hand? Will you? We'd love to hear from you!

Jamaican Self Help, P. O. Box 1992, Peterborough, On. K9H 2K7

Check out our Facebook pages or our website at www.jshcanada.org

Send us a message: info@jshcanada.org or call us 705 743-1671