



JAMAICAN NEWSLETTER VIBES

MARCH 2015



JSH Celebrates 35 Years!

Together with our partners in Jamaica, our donors and supporters have made a difference. We have changed lives and we have impacted the future. So join the celebration! JSH is holding several key events and activities, and we want YOU to participate!

Come and join us for a bigger and better *Jamaican' Me Shine* fundraising event in April, or hear about our latest achievements and our vision for the future at our Annual General Meeting in June. In the Fall, we hope you will be among hundreds of volunteers, participants and supporters who will come together at our *JSH Reunion*.

We have also produced a *special 35th Anniversary photo-book*, "Visions of Jamaica," that highlights the Jamaica that JSH has come to know. These books are available for just \$40.

What has JSH meant to you?

Share your stories of JSH with us.

If you have a photo or story from your time with JSH – in Jamaica or in Canada – please send it to us today so that we can create a dynamic picture of people, experiences and connections that have formed and guided our organization over the years.

To find out more and to be part of this special year, go online to our website www.jshcanada.org or facebook page "Jamaican Self-Help" or contact us at the office at info@jshcanada.org or 705-743-1671.



For 35 years, Canadians and Jamaicans have worked together to address the issues of inequality and social justice locally and globally.

Through the efforts of our partners in Jamaica, our volunteers and staff in Canada, and our generous donors and funders, we have been able to impact thousands of lives. We are proud of our record of success.

In Jamaica, we have worked with numerous partners and communities in Kingston and on the north coast, always with a view to building individual, organizational and community capacity to overcome the challenges of poverty. We support our Jamaican partners who are on the ground changing lives every day.

And in Canada, we have been part of a broader community of globally-minded Canadians learning and acting for positive change.

Thank you for being part of our success!

Jamaican Self-Help is an organization of Canadians working in solidarity to foster the development of healthy Jamaican communities through partnership based on mutual respect, understanding and a shared vision of self-determination; and to foster an understanding of global forces (North and South) and their interconnectedness.



A Better Jamaica starts at St. Anne's Primary



Children participating in choir.



Students at dance rehearsal.



Promoting peace at St. Anne's Primary.

In Jamaica, the month of March begins with National Peace Day. This year's theme was *"A Better Jamaica – Peace by Peace"* and the Jamaican newspapers featured children in inner city communities coming together to express their hope for peace. Yet, just a few days later, the same newspapers headlined that 15 children had been murdered in just the first few months of the year.

Dr. Kim Scott is part of the Child Resiliency Project in Jamaica, and she wrote about an effective model for supporting children in Jamaica that focuses on the partnership of church, school, family and community over a long development process that *"gives our children a chance to thrive versus just survive."* This is the approach that JSH has always supported with our partners in Jamaica. And clearly it's an approach that is needed now more than ever.

One of JSH's partners, St. Anne's Primary School, is located in a Kingston neighbourhood that has suffered from ongoing tension and violence. While the school itself is a safe zone for children and teachers, the school community has been touched by the violence in the surrounding neighbourhoods. When the situation is particularly difficult, parents are afraid to send their children to school. Last year, two students were caught up in a shooting directly – one was injured and one was killed. This situation has taken its toll on the staff and students at the school, as it has for the broader community. Yet it was in this same neighbourhood that children came together on National Peace Day in a rally to express their hope for peace.

JSH has supported a dance programme at St. Anne's for a number of years, and this year has added a music programme at the school. The principal, Mrs. Forrester, requested this programme as part of her ongoing efforts to address the underlying emotional challenges that the children face, while hoping to build the children's academic success.

In early March Mrs. Forrester wrote to JSH, *"So far, this program has taught me the importance and value of the types of music our children are exposed to, as children learn through music very quickly. It is therefore important that this program continues for our students as it enhances their creativity and can aid in their academic performance."*

"I have also learnt that, as with any adult, through music our children relieve stresses and levels of depression that they may be facing."

Through dance and music the school reaches out to the broader community and invites everyone to come together. This is just one way that St. Anne's Primary School is doing its part to help children to thrive, and create a better Jamaica.

WITH THANKS TO THE ELEMENTARY TEACHERS' FEDERATION OF ONTARIO (ETFO) FOR FUNDING THIS PROGRAMME.



Visions of Jamaica

at the 2015 SPARK Photo Festival in April

We are Canadians working in solidarity and partnership with Jamaicans to foster the development of dynamic Jamaican communities and promote an understanding of global interconnection and social justice.

2015 marks the 35th Anniversary of Jamaican Self-Help (JSH) and to celebrate, members of our Board of Directors have selected a series of photos taken by JSH volunteers that reflect their perspectives on Jamaica.

We hope the photos will both challenge and inspire you to see many facets of Jamaican life, particularly for the young and those who live in poverty: the struggle and uncertainty, and also the resilience, joy, and determination.

JSH supports grassroots organizations and schools to carry out programs that *empower people and build community*. Empowered people are the foundation of strong and vibrant communities, and whether abroad in Jamaica or here in Canada, connections between people and cultures also build resilient communities and a better world.

The support and active participation of Canadian donors and volunteers, and the dedication of the Jamaican organizations with which we work, ensure that together we can continue to take action to break the cycle of poverty and offer opportunities to reflect, to learn, and ultimately find new ways to do our part towards creating a just and equitable world.

The JSH Exhibit will be open to the public for the month of April. Join us at our Opening Reception, or drop by Naked Chocolate anytime to view the photo exhibit. The JSH office is located at 129 ½ Hunter Street across the street from the Exhibit venue, so please come by if you have any questions or if you would like to get involved.

For details visit the SPARK Photo Festival website:
www.sparkphotofestival.com or www.jshcanada.org

OPENING RECEPTION

Tuesday, April 7: 5-7pm

LOCATION

Naked Chocolate
142 Hunter Street W., Ptbo

View the exhibit at Naked Chocolate, then walk across the street to the Sapphire Room for refreshments and discussion.

MARCH 2015

JSH Annual Fundraiser

returns Sat. April 18 with a new day and time!



Saturday April 18

3:30pm-6:30pm
Princess Gardens



**Tickets are
now on sale!**

\$40 (with a tax receipt)
and \$20 for students
(without a tax receipt).

They can be purchased
through JSH volunteers, online
at www.jms2015.eventbrite.ca
or call 705-743-1671.

The eagerly anticipated Jamaican' Me Shine Cocktail and Auction fundraiser for Jamaican Self-Help is scheduled to return next month for its 26th year! It will take place on **Saturday April 18th, 2015** from **3:30pm-6:30pm** at Princess Gardens, located at 100 Charlotte Street in Peterborough. This is Jamaican Self-Help's biggest fundraiser of the year, with a fundraising target of \$18,000 to be raised in just under 3 hours! Tickets must be purchased in advance and sell quickly!

There will be exciting live and silent auction items to bid on throughout the afternoon including VIA Rail tickets to Quebec City, a Jamaican Dinner for four, an iPad Mini, gift certificates to local restaurants and over 100 other items! There will also be live entertainment, Caribbean Rum Punch and gourmet hors d'oeuvres served by Hobart's Steakhouse, BE Catering and Brio Gusto. The proceeds from this event support education and youth programs in Jamaica and global education programs in Canada.

Cathie Morrissey, Chair of the Jamaican' Me Shine Committee says, "the organization is commemorating its 35th Anniversary this year and to celebrate, we are bringing new additions to the event including partnering with two local restaurants. This year's event is going to be extra special and we are all really excited!"

The organization has teamed up with Brio Gusto and Hobart's Steakhouse and is encouraging members of the community to continue their support after the auction. The restaurants are donating 10% of Jamaican Self-Help patrons' bills between 6pm-9pm on April 18th to the organization.

And for those who can't attend Jamaican' Me Shine, consider reserving a table at these restaurants for the evening of April 18th – 10% of your bill will still be donated to JSH!

EVENT SPONSORS



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