





#### CREATIVE LEASING & FUNDING CO., INC.

It is our pleasure to extend congratulations to
The Executive Board and Members of the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations on your accomplishments in 2020 despite the COVID-19 pandemic



Ralston E. Dunn
President

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# President's Message \*\*Lesleyann Samuel\*\*

The only constant in life is Change. "Our ability to adapt to change is what determines our success." - the famous words of Benjamin Franklin. When we began 2020, who knew what was in store for us? But here we are at the close of the year that was filled with unexpected turns to which we had to adapt. And adapt we did!

UJAA began the year with optimism and fervor as we completed our 2019 Year In Review project, and collaborated with The Math Club for the annual Martin Luther King Mathematics Competition. We welcomed our newly elected Global Jamaica Diaspora Council Northeast representative, Dr. Karren Dunkley and attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> *FIRST* Technology Challenge – Jamaica Robotics Competition, which was held in Kingston, Jamaica, as a sponsor of the FTC Dean's List Awards.

And then our world changed as the COVID-19 Pandemic became a reality! We saw ourselves listening intently to the daily briefings of government officials, heeded the advise of our health professionals to stay at home, washed our hands frequently and for 20 seconds, and limited our interactions with others. We watched with sadness as the virus waged war against our healthcare and essential workers as well as our fellow citizens as we wondered if our world would ever be the same. Our schools closed which caused a whole other chain of events for students, teachers, administrators and parents who now grappled with online learning in conjunction with working from home - for those who were still employed and could work remotely. This global pandemic saw unprecedented impact on each of us personally, to our families and communities as well as to our fellow Jamaicans – both here and in Jamaica. As a result, we cancelled or postponed events, held online meetings and hunkered down to see this pandemic through as safely as possible.

As we've documented in our UJAA Story, by April, we found Zoom! We hosted our first (and surely not last) virtual High School Graduate Awards Program to record viewers all over the globe. We hosted our Mega Raffle Drawing safely by doing it outdoors with a limited number of persons, and we held a virtual Annual Service of Thanksgiving. In collaboration with Dr. Karren Dunkley and Consul General Alsion Wilson, we assisted 27 Jamaican students who were stranded in the USA, and with the Lasco Chin Foundation and the Jamaica Alumni Associations of High Schools in Jamaica, our members donated 2,526 care packages to 47 schools. But more importantly, we stayed connected and supported each other, our students and our schools.

We concluded our year by looking once again to the future. The Board of Directors established an UJAA Advisory Committee for 2020 – 2021. With this team, we hope to return to the development of UJAA Strategic Plans as we look forward to our next 30 years.

My sincere thanks to the phenomenal 61 member organizations of UJAA, the Board of Directors and Advisory Committee who pulled together and "flexed" as we strived to support each other. Despite the challenges, we continued the business of UJAA – to make a difference in the lives of our students and schools in Jamaica as well as our fellow Jamaicans and communities here. We close the year with a continued record of achievement and look forward with confidence and the knowledge that we <u>will</u> endure and indeed thrive.

In 2021, we hope to celebrate – finally – our 30+ birthday and to being more, doing more, working smarter, making an even bigger impact, and to continuing to promote excellence and growth for our organizations, our schools, our Jamaica. In these ever-changing times, it is even more important that we affirm and stand firmly by our belief that:

"Education is Empowerment; Only the Educated are Free."



#### 2020-2021

#### **Officers**

Lesleyann Samuel

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**Melanie Forrest** 

Recording Secretary

**Karlene Largie** 

**Corresponding Secretary** 

**Clair Menzies** 

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Ralston Dunn Janice Julian Gavin Ndabahaliye

## UNION of JAMAICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS U.S.A., Inc.

#### Education is Empowerment, only the Educated are Free

#### **MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS 2020**

Alpha Academy AA TriState Chapter American Foundation for the UWI Anchovy HS AA International Chapter

Ardenne HS AA

Bethany Past Students Association Bethlehem Teachers College AA

Calabar AA

Campion College AA

Camperdown Past Students' Association

Charlemont HS Foundation

Clarendon College AA

Cornwall College Old Boys' Assn.

Denham Town HS AA
Dinthill Technical HS AA

Eastern Hanover AA

Edwin Allen HS AA MidAtlantic Chapter

**Excelsior HS AA** 

Friends of Charlemont HS Inc.

Friends of Port Maria

Glenmuir AA

Godfrey Stewart HS AA

Herbert Morrison Technical HS AA Holy Childhood HS AA Northeast USA Immaculate Conception HS AA NY Chapter Inverness Primary Past Students and Friends

Association International Chapter Jamaica College Old Boys' Association Jamaica Civic and Cultural Assn. of Rockland

Jose Marti AA New York

Kingston College Old Boys' Association

Kingston Technical HS AA

**Knox Association of Past Students** 

Lime Hall Primary AA

Manchester HS AA

**Mannings Past Students Association** 

Meadowbrook HS AA

Merl Grove Past Students' Association Mico Old Students Association NY Chapter Montego Bay HS Alumnae Association of NY Inc.

Morant Bay HS AA

Munroe Hampton Alumni US NE

New Day Primary AA

Northeast Alumni and Friends of GSHS Inc. Ole Farmers Association North America, Inc.

Pike Past Students Association Rosemount Alumni Association Rusea's Old Students Association

St. Andrew Technical HS AA

St. Catherine HS AA

St. Elizabeth Technical HS AA

St. George's College Old Boys Assn. of the NE

St. Hugh's Alumnae Association St. Jago Past Students' Association Shortwood Past Students Association

Titchfield Past Students Sports Association Inc.

Tivoli Gardens High School Alumni Track

Corporation

University of Technology Alumni Association Westwood Old Girls' Association NY Chapter Wolmer's Alumni Association NY Chapter York Castle HS Alumni Association NY Chapter York Street Past Students Assn.

#### FOUNDING MEMBERS

Alpha Academy Alumni Association Cornwall College Old Boys Association Excelsior Alumni Association

Kingston College Old Boys Association

Mannings PSA St. Hugh's HS AA

Shortwood Teachers College AA Wolmer's Alumni Association

Clarendon College Alumni Association Dinthill Technical HS Alumni Association Jamaica College Old Boys Association Kingsway HS Alumni Association Mico Old Students' Association St. Andrew Alumnae Association West Indies College Alumni Association York Castle HS Alumni Association

#### **PAST PRESIDENTS**

George Hill (MOSA)

Barrington Wright (Kingsway HS AA)

Anton Tomlinson (Mannings PSA)

Barbara Richards (Wolmer's AA)

Karlene Largie (Immaculate Conception HS AA NY)

# CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS OF **JAMAICAN HERITAGE!**



# THE UNION OF JAMAICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS (USA) INC.

# 31st Annual High School Graduate Awards and Essay Competition

Open to All U.S. High School Seniors of Jamaican Heritage

Awards Ceremony

Monday 28 June 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

**Essay Competition is OPTIONAL** but ... **GRAND PRIZE is a** TRIP to JAMAICA!

#### Deadline for Achievement Awards and Essay Competition is June 1st

#### Join us as a Sponsor!

Organizations or individuals who donate \$250 or more (and received by May 28th) will be invited to recommend the criteria for awardees and invited to the Awards Ceremony to present to the selected student.

For Applications Forms, Sponsorship and Additional Information:

917-523-5887, HSGAwards@ujaausa.org https://ujaausa.org/high-school-graduates-awards/

The Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (USA), Inc., formed in 1990, is a non-profit umbrella organization of over 60 alumni associations of Jamaican Schools and other educational institutions. The Annual High School Graduate Awards Program provides a forum for the recognition of students of Jamaican parentage who graduate from high schools in the USA. The ceremony takes place in the presence of their peers, parents, teachers, business, and community leaders, and recognizes their academic and extra-curricular achievements.

# UNION OF JAMAICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS (USA) Inc.

Lesleyann Samuel, President



"We must be willing to let go of the life we've planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us." ~Joseph Campbell.

We began 2020 with plans to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, to build on our programs and execute the mandates from our strategic planning meeting outlined at our Annual Retreat in 2019. We began as we have for several years with our support, in January, of the Math Club's Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Math Competition by contributing \$4,500 and with the support of over 30 member volunteers. In February, we attended and supported the *FIRST* Technology Challenge in Kingston, Jamaica where we sponsored two Dean's List Awards for attendance at the Final Competition planned in Houston, Texas.

And then, in March, the Coronavirus Pandemic stopped us all in our tracks. The impact was profound as we all obtained masks, re-learned how to wash our hands and observed social distancing. In-person events were postponed or canceled. However, amongst all the pain and chaos, there was a silver lining: we were all united regardless of where we were, working together to help each other. We seized the opportunity to reflect on our gifts of family and friends, and understood the power of love and community.

By April, we were in lockdown and Zoom became the method of meetings as the Union began to make lemonade with the lemons of COVID-19. Opportunities for improvement and personal growth were seized by the leadership and the membership.

- \* We conducted a Virtual Pass-The-Hat as we supported our Jamaican students who were stranded in the USA. Our Emergency Assistance Fund saw 31 contributions that totaled \$6,450 which allowed us to support 27 students with donations including rent, food and/or pocket money.
- \* In collaboration with Lasco Chin Foundation and the Jamaica Alumni Association of High Schools in Jamaica, UJAA members provided 2,526 COVID-19 Care Packages Project to 46 schools over the three months of summer.
- \* In June, we hosted our 30th Annual and first Virtual High School Graduate Awards Program. Determined to be faithful to our signature program to provide high school students of Jamaican parentage with stipends, we distributed, with the support of our members and partners, over \$10,000 to 19 students in the Class of 2020. Conducted via Zoom, the platform afforded participation by students across the country as well as viewing by over 3000 friends and family members.
- \* The 24th Annual Mega Raffle Drawing was delayed four months, finally taking place outdoors on a very warm Saturday in late July with limited attendance and adherence to strict New York City pandemic protocols.
- \* In June, UJAA celebrated Diaspora Day with the Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN) in a global Virtual 10-hour presentation. In July, the Jamaica Diaspora Education Taskforce (JDETF) held its 5<sup>th</sup> Education Summit, the first virtual one, over 3 days and with attendance by over 700 teachers. UJAA has also supported free Jaminars from presenters across the global Diaspora who shared their expertise on maneuvering the digital classroom as teachers and administrators struggled with remote teaching.

#### JJAA 🧳 YEAR IN REUIEW 2020

- \* Over the summer months, with UJAA's support, over 16 high schools participated in the *FIRST* Global Challenge virtual challenges aimed at increasing teamwork and collaboration by the students as they explored solutions to our new virtual world. The Jamaica High School Team placed 45th among 175 countries.
- \* Our 2020 Nominations and Election of Officers in September was a virtual event. Research and testing began in the summer months allowing for a new virtual experience that was successful.
- \* Under the theme "Celebrating 30 Years Moving Forward as One in Service of Others", the UJAA family of members, friends and supporters attended our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual and 1<sup>st</sup> Virtual Service of Thanksgiving. It was a family affair with member participation including our 2015 High School Graduate Essay Winner who opened the program in song.
- \* We provided support to our adopted school Operation Restoration Christian School (ORCS) in Trench Town with a barrel of supplies for the students and families. ORCS and our Industry Cove Basic School received COVID-19 Care Packages in the summer and during the Christmas holidays.
- \* The Board of Directors held their Annual Retreat where the strategic planning agenda included a review of the past 30 years in order to consider strategies to expand the awareness of our programs and projects in both Jamaica and the Diaspora.
- \* In the final quarter of 2020, we finally formed our Advisory Committee with three dynamic community leaders whose own significant work in their respective areas reflect and recognize the work, the standards, and the commitment of the Union.
- \* To assist our schools, we signed a MOU with SmartTerm to provide an option for school management and on-line learning. In addition, in early fall, we began steps to launch our LAPTOPnTABLET PROGRAM to procure devices for our member schools. By December, two orders totaling over 500 devices were placed.

With love and respect, UJAA's sixty-one (61) member associations are acknowledged. They <u>are</u> UJAA, the Union's greatest resource, who have held fast to our vision and who continue to ensure that we stay grounded to our mission.

Our future remains optimistic and bright. As we bask in the glow of these past thirty years, we recognize that there is so much more ahead of us. So, we go forward to expand our vision, setting goals for greater impact, collaborating with others so that our young persons, schools, communities, and our nation will be enhanced by our work.

The house of UJAA is strong and secure. We have weathered those storms that are endemic to organizations of talented, ambitious, and committed members, and now to a global virus that has resulted in us learning to continue the work creatively with all the available tools at hand.

In 2020 we came to realize that our lives, and the lives of our schools, teachers and students are forever changed. We seized the moment to turn challenges to opportunities, and took advantage of the technology that was always there and zoomed.

To echo the words of our youngest Presidential Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman: "For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."



#### ALPHA ACADEMY ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION TRISTATE CHAPTER

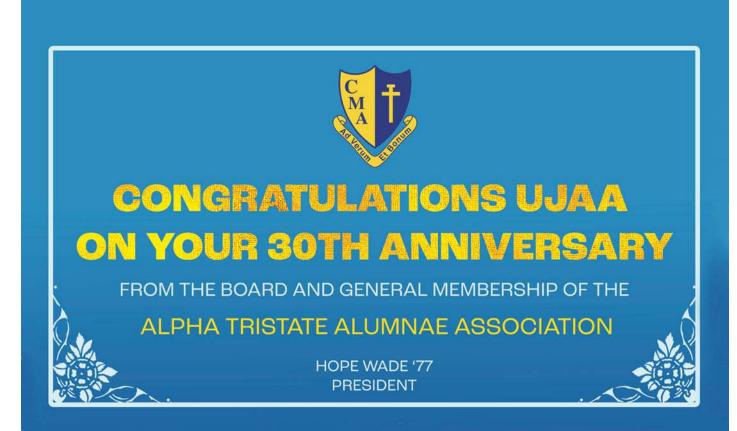
Hope Wade, President



The year 2020 has been quite an epic year - historical, pandemic and innovative in every way. Alpha Tristate had to find ways to keep our organization relevant in a time of fear and chaos. As the new president with less than 9 months in office, the new Executive Board had to keep a level head and think outside of the box in order to keep the interest of our organization and goals for Alpha Academy foremost in our action plan.

- January We hosted the Alpha Academy United Nations Club. We paid for their accommodation and hosted them at a dinner at Toni's Restaurant in New York City. The President hosted a breakfast at her home for the girls with Patsy Stephenson. Lunch was sponsored by Miss Lily's Restaurant in SoHo.
- February We sent US\$5000 to Alpha Academy as part of our commitment to the campaign
- March Our quarterly general membership meeting set to be held at a church in New York City, was abruptly cancelled because of early concerns with COVID-19.
- April Penn Relays was cancelled. The Jamaican government out of an abundance of caution announced that Jamaica would not be participating including the Alpha athletic team.
- June A Zoom meeting was held by Kali McMorris, Principal of Alpha Academy, for the 4 Presidents of the Alumnae Associations in Florida, New York, Canada, and Jamaica. The meeting was to inform us of the urgency and lack of full funding for WiFi, zoom account, tablets and training for the students and teachers. She requested that a fundraising goal be established for the school.
- A new website was created for the Alpha Alumnae Association by Hanna Campbell.
- July The President celebrated her birthday in the form of fundraiser on Facebook with Alpha as the recipient and raised US\$2,050.
- The Board voted for Hope Wade Designs to create 100 masks in yellow and blue with the Alpha Academy logo for sale on the new Alpha Alumnae Association website.
- September The Board met through zoom and decided to have a general meeting. Different fundraiser ideas were put forward. We had a general membership meeting where Cynthia Cozart conducted a virtual Zumba class. This meeting was well attended. Gifts were given out to attendees.
- December The Board and members collaborated to create a very successful virtual Fundraiser concert with popular performing artists including JC Lodge, Paul Blake, Paul Campbell and Blakka, to name a few. We extend thanks to Paul Wade, Roderick Smith and Elder Mike Riley for their technological assistance in pulling this international livestream together. The ticket price was \$25. We made over \$6,000 in profit. This money will now enable the school to install WiFi, purchase tablets for students, laptops for teachers as well as pay for internet service in the students' homes. This will ensure that Alpha Academy and its students will continue to thrive in the years ahead.
- A check for \$8,000 will be sent to Alpha Academy in January 2021.

What have we learnt? Despite a deadly pandemic that has affected the whole world, with numerous restrictions, death, loss of jobs, virtual learning, mask wearing and political upheavals, we have found our strength and vision to create a space that will continue to help our little sisters in Jamaica to blossom and learn.



## ANCHOVY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER



Nyron Cameron, President

Anchovy High School Alumni Association International Chapter officially began operating as a non-profit organization in January 2020.

The Chapter stays true to the school's motto to "Reflect, Transform, and Motivate". We replicated that ethos in taking initiatives to impact our school community and did a phenomenal job. We are a group of committed alumni with overwhelming passion who are motivated to effect changes in our community.

Anchovy High School Alumni Association will continue to impact change in its community and will continue to work with the school and assist in bringing Principal Stewart's dreams to fruition.

Wishing our school community all the best for 2021.

We would be honored to have you join us VIRTUALLY for our

# 24 Annual Awards Gala

"The Legacy Continues"

Sunday, February 21, 2021 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (EST)

This event will be held in the digital space due to the prevailing constraints of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

For 23 years our annual Gala has been the venue where coveted awards are presented to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the national and global community and exceeded international standards of ethics, outreach and service.

Gala 2021 promises to be another stellar event.

Proceeds of Gala 2021 will fund the Scholarship Program for needy students at The University of the West Indies.



Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, QC, MP Prime Minister of Barbados The Legacy Award

Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, CPA, CFA

Global Head of CSR
President, Moody's Foundation
Vice Chancellor's Achievement Award

Derrick 'D-Nice' Jones

Activist, DJ, Humanitarian & Producer

Beacon Award

Cedella Marley, OD

CEC

Tuff Gong International Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Global Leadership

Jermaine Omar McCalpin, PhD

Genocide Scholar & Assistant Professor African and African-American Studies Program New Jersey City University The Pelican Award

**David Mullings** 

Founder, Chairman and CEO
Blue Mahoe Capital Partners
Chancellor's Award for Excellence in
Business Leadership

Amanda Seales

Actress, Activist, Artist and Media Personality

Caribbean Luminary Award

WBLS & Dahved Levy
Trailblazer Award for Excellence
in Community Engagement

Gala 2021 is dedicated to the memory of The Late, Honorable David N. Dinkins, the 106<sup>th</sup> Mayor of the City of New York and 1st African-American to hold this position.

Please log on to www.afuwi.org for details about event access and donations.



# AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

afuwi

Ann-Marie Grant, Executive Director

#### Greetings Friends and Supporters. Best wishes for Good Health and Well-being for 2021!

2020 presented untold challenges for so many, largely because of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Like elsewhere, many in our community lost family and friends ,lost business ,had their livelihood as they knew it turned upside down, had hopes dashed and dreams deferred. We extend our hearts in communion and our thoughts and prayers in support .

However, despite these circumstances and other setbacks, the determination and resilience to forge ahead by so many of our young scholars was resolute, steadfast and entrenched. Against this background, we also renewed our commitment to supporting these talented and ambitious minds seeking to breach new frontiers. Their expressed desire to become:

medical researchers; medical engineers; food scientists; social entrepreneurs; mental health specialists who will deliver well needed services to our people.

Gala 2021 is VIRTUAL event being held on Sunday Feb 21,2021 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Everyone is invited to join this movement. Log on to <a href="https://www.afuwi.org">www.afuwi.org</a> . Donate to Educate.

Your help today can guarantee a better tomorrow for all..... NO contribution is too small!!

# BETHANY PRIMARY PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION



Ansell Williams, President

In the cool hills of Manchester, Bethany Primary and Infant School has served their community for over 180 years. The Bethany Primary Past Students Association has proudly served this school community for the past 5 years.

Although 2020 was a challenging year for us all, we were successful in providing:

- COVID-19 Care Packages
- Portable Hand Sinks
- Face masks and thermometers
- Security gates for several classrooms
- Six IPADs

We currently have 1000 face masks for the school and community which we plan to ship in early 2021.

In 2021, we hope to assist with the requirements identified by the Ministry of Health, and to reinstate our support of the school's graduation program and to supporting the completion of the computer lab.

We join our UJAA family in praying for a better 2021 as we encourage everyone to wear masks, practice social distancing and stay safe and well.

# ARDENNE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NY Chapter

Elsa Burke, RN, MSN, President



# CONGRATULATIONS TO UJAA ON 30 YEARS OF COMMITMENT, DEDICATION AND SERVICE!

The year dawned with the usual anticipation that it was going to be much better than the one we were leaving behind: a new year in a new decade with the opportunity to turn a new page! It was a new year alright, but certainly nothing about this year has been "usual" or "anticipated". As everyone knows, only a couple months into the year a fierce, unknown enemy known as COVID-19 struck, and everything changed! We extend our deep sympathy and sincere condolences to all who have experienced illness or loss from this unprecedented attack.

The New York Chapter, like other colleagues, has been innovative in adjusting to the challenges of this global pandemic. When we couldn't meet in person for our activities, we turned to Zoom and other social media platforms. Actually, some members now prefer walking to their computer instead of traveling across town, or from out of the area, in heavy traffic. When we couldn't have our annual boat ride and fish fry for fellowship and fundraising, we organized a Virtual Concert which was a blast.

Fulfilling the mission to assist our alma mater continues to be our main focus. One of the major avenues is through the ongoing scholarship program, providing tuition and alleviating other related expenses for the students selected. Other needs are addressed as they arise.

A new icemaker was particularly useful to the athletics department. Support was also given to projects in the USA as shown below:

- Contributed to UJAA's Emergency Assistance Fund for international students without housing due to college shutdowns from COVID-19.
- Awarded USA scholarship to a high school graduate for freshman year in college.
- Donating for Christmas to three social service agencies in New York.

We invite all Ardenne alumni to join us in helping to make a difference. For more information, please visit our website: <a href="www.ardennealumniny.org">www.ardennealumniny.org</a> or email: ardennealumniny@gmail.com.

Donations to assist with our mission are welcome and may be made through the "DONATE" feature on the website.



# BETHLEHEM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, NEW YORK

Leighton Jackson, President



Bethlehem Moravian College, which is situated in the parish of St. Elizabeth, in the cool hills of Malvern at the peak of the Santa Cruz Mountain, was established in 1861 under the auspices of the Moravian Church in Jamaica.

Over the years, Bethlehem has been one of the foremost tertiary institutions offering quality teacher education programs to young Jamaicans. Bethlehem started as a female institution and has since become a coeducational one with a rapidly growing population.

The COVID-19 Virus limited the alumni association's activities during 2020. Meetings were few and virtual. This medium, however, saw the attendance increase at the meetings as several new members joined. There were a few losses as well, as a few of the very faithful and dedicated members passed.

Those members who are still with us remain committed and we are hopeful that we can contribute \$10,000.00 to the College and resume our activities in 2021.

We want to remind our UJAA family to stay safe during this COVID-19 crisis.

# CALABAR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION of NEW YORK

Dr. Donald Phillibert, President



#### Prior to Covid19 and School closing in 2020

- 1. Supported the 3rd Annual McKinley/Wint Track & Field Classics
- 2. Sponsors of the Breakfast Program, Tutoring and Robotics program at the school.
- 3. Continued assistance for several programs in academia, athletics, chess, football, mentorship, lacrosse, ruby, table tennis, and schools challenge quiz.

#### During Covid19 with School closing in 2020

- 1. Chapter participation in UJAA Scholarship Program; the Chapter donated \$200 to sponsor individuals, the event was held virtually due to Corvid 19, the Chapter awarded (2) scholarship.
- 2. Zelle Activation for the New York Chapter via email (<u>Calabar.alumni@gmail.com</u>)
- 3. Launched new web page for our chapter at <a href="https://calabaralumniny.com/">https://calabaralumniny.com/</a>
- 4. Started the Calabar New York Chapter Mentorship program for students arriving in the US on academic and sports scholarships. COBA NY Mentee Class of 2024 Students included: K. Farquahson, J. Williams, N. Williams, S. Ried.

#### Plans for 2021

- 1. Continued sponsorship for the Tutoring program at Calabar.
- 2. Fund raising initiatives towards the network and infrastructure improvement plans required for remote and hybrid education within the era of Covid19.
- 3. Annual Fundraisers Projections -> Penn Relays, Founders Day, Year-end.

# CAMPERDOWN PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION NY Chapter

Valerie Owen, President



Camperdown Past Students Association, New York Chapter, wishes all our supporters and all member organizations of the Union of Jamaica Alumni Association (USA) Inc. (UJAA), a vision of 2021 to be a year of hope, good health, prosperity, happiness, peace and love.

My wish for 2020 had been "that we look forward to a rewarding and fruitful 2020, with active participation and collaboration by all involved. We look ahead to the year 2020 with promise." Well, 2020 was the year that was. The year of COVID-19. Despite the pain, sorrow and desolation of 2020 - a kind of a "Phoenix" rose from the ashes giving birth to the - virtual way. Virtual fundraisers, virtual services, virtual concerts not to mention virtual meetings. We zoomed in and out.

Camperdown PSA supported the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Mathematics Competition, as well as UJAA's High School Graduate Awards which was held virtually. We also contributed to UJAA's virtual "Pass the Hat" to support Feeding America.

For Camperdown PSA, collaboration came into play when all three (3) Chapters - Jamaica, Florida and New York, on November 14, 2020 did a collaborative "Yes We Can" virtual fundraiser, in an effort to provide needy students with tablets. As a result of this fundraiser, contributions of over \$22,000.00 were realized. Blessings to all who contributed. At least 100 needy students will have the use of a tablet.

Kudos to UJAA and the hardworking officers as we celebrate 30 years of Commitment, Dedication & Service. Continued blessings as UJAA goes from strength to strength.

Blessings.

Solum Optima Petenda Sunt



# CAMPION COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Northeast USA

Cherika Wilson, President



I'm sure there are many words and phrases that we would like to retire in 2020: "unprecedented", "new normal", "pandemic" and "COVID-19", among others. Like so many other associations we had to revisit our plans for the year and move our activities online. But our unofficial motto rang true - *Red is strong.* 'Campionites' showed up and showed out.

Over the course of 2020, the Campion College Alumni Association Northeast USA (CCAANE) donated over 120 COVID care packages and four (4) laptops to students in need. Through a partnership with NovaMed, we presented 1,000 masks to the school to augment the inventory of PPE for students and staff - a necessity in these COVID times. We also took the opportunity to remind our alumni that although COVID-19 necessitates physical distance, we must remain connected to our community.

We held our first Annual General Meeting to set our plans for the year. Additionally, we held a 'Fireside Chat' where present students and our members had the chance to hear directly from Principal Grace Baston on her current successes and vision for the school, especially given that Campion is celebrating the big 60 since our founding. We launched our mentorship program, *Fortes Connection*, for recent Campion College graduates who are pursuing college in the United States, which we hope to reboot with better support next summer.

# CLARENDON COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEW YORK

Peggy Purchase, President





#### Year In Review 2020

- We supported a past student in furthering his college education in Syracuse New York.
- We provided transportation and lunch for the school year for two students.
- We paid tuition for a sixth former.
- We provided 20 care packages for CCAANY families in need.
- We participated in the UJAA Mega Raffle.
- Assisted in paying the final year tuition for CC alum attending UC nursing school.
- We are currently selling Clarendon College branded masks to show CC spirit pride during the pandemic, which resulted in us being able to donate 4 Chromebooks to our alma mater.

# DINTHILL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NY Inc.

Clinton Phillips, President



On the behalf of the board and membership of the Dinthill Technical High School Alumni Association, NY chapter, many thanks to the UJAA Board of Directors for being a beacon of light during 2020. For many, 2020 will forever resonate in our history books as the year of the Coronavirus pandemic. In February 2020, Dinthill elected Clinton Phillips as the President for the term 2020-2022. Although our commitment to our alma mater is strong, we successfully participated in only 2 fundraisers: the UJAA Mega Raffle and a Virtual Gospel Concert – a first within the UJAA family.

In January, President Phillips was a UJAA volunteer at the Math's Club Martin Luther King Day Mathematics Competition. In June, the New York chapter partnered with the Florida Chapter to donate 220 COVID-19 Care Packages, in collaboration with UJAA, to students at the school, and added a small stipend to the students or parents who received a care package. Individual members of the NY chapter donated tablets to a tablet drive that was spearheaded by the local body and the first donation was 100 tablets. This tablet drive continues as we are committed to assist with the Elearning platform at the school. We also donated tables to members of the School Challenge Quiz team.

As we continue to navigate these uncharted waters, we have to find new ways to maintain our support to the school and keep our members engaged. "The secret of change is to focus all of our energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new." (Socrates)

Please join us ... "Together We Achieve More."

#### EASTERN HANOVER ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

Michael Mullings, President



Eastern Hanover Alumni Associations is comprised of four schools in Eastern Hanover – Mount Ward Primary, Mount Peto Primary, Knockalver High School, and Knockalver Agricultural Institute.

Started in 2014, EHAA joined UJAA in 2015 with the intent to make a difference in the lives of Jamaicans beginning with the youth.

In 2020 COVID-19 halted almost of the activities of EHAA. During the pause that was forced on President Mike Mullings, he wrote a book about his family's cat, Checkers, who appeared on their front doorstep 3 years ago. Wondering what life was like for her, he created a past full of adventure that included adventures with his own family.

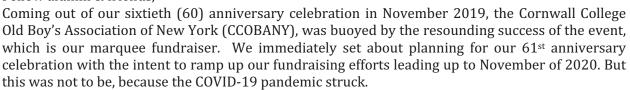
The *Adventures of CTC* includes 8 series, coloring books and a board game, is a series (*Checkers the Cat*). A portion of the proceeds is being donated to EHAA to support the schools.

mmproduction2000@vahoo.com

# CORNWALL COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

Barry Harvey Sr., President

Fellow alumni & friends,



The pandemic derailed some and curtailed other fundraising efforts. We were able to participate in the **Mega Raffle 2020**, but we did not achieve our intended target. The annual **Twilight Dinner Cruise** was cancelled and so was the **Annual Fundraiser and Awards Banquet**.

Cornwall College is 124 years old this year and it is well established that our alumni have served Jamaica and indeed the world at large, in nearly every facet of life, but we are mindful of the fact that Cornwall College cannot rest on its laurels. Given the changing education landscape and now a pandemic, the school must embrace the concept of re-engineering itself to stay relevant and attractive, and as such, CCOBANY is engaged in discussion with the principal to see how we can best assist.

The school is planning to develop a fully integrated food science program, building out space, equipping a laboratory, and upgrading the curriculum. CCOBANY is positioning itself to support these initiatives.

Time and space do not allow for detailing every mode of assistance and collaboration we have ventured into with other CC chapters over the past six decades, but in the year ending 2020, we can report that we:

- continue to fund scholarships (\$3,800) for twelve (12) students
- have funding in place and plan to offer three (3) more scholarships with an increase in disbursement per scholarship award
- are in the process of acquiring three hundred (300) laptops to facilitate remote instructional capabilities at the school
- provided care packages for students and staff at the school during the early days of the pandemic
- participated in and raised funds from the annual UJAA (USA), Inc., Mega Raffle
- donated generously towards the High School Graduate Awards program conducted by UJAA
- continue to contribute to fundraising efforts of other alumni associations and civic organizations
- contributed \$1,000 to the 'Together We Stand' fundraising initiative to purchase PPE for frontline medical personnel in Jamaica,

As we go forward in the New Year, we wish for you, our patrons, good health and prosperity. 'Old Boys' wishing to connect, may do so at; <a href="mailto:info.cornwallcollege.nyc@gmail.com">info.cornwallcollege.nyc@gmail.com</a>. We continue to meet, virtually (Zoom), on the first Sunday of each month, at 4.30 PM.

MOTTO: "Disce aut Discede" (Learn or Leave) Cornwall College, Founded 1896

# **EDWIN ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Mid-Atlantic Chapter**

Collin Burrell, President



The Edwin Allen High School Alumni Association (EAHSAA), Mid-Atlantic Chapter started 2020 with a sense of utmost optimism having just experienced one of the Association's most successful year to date, in the life of this Chapter in 2019. Our 2020 Calendar was jam packed with activities, including our Annual Spring Dinner Dance Gala. The Association selected the theme "Achieve Success through transformational leadership" and named Diana Rankin and Lesleyann Samuel, UJAA President, as this year's honorees. By March the stage was set to have a Mega event before COVID-19, the historic pandemic resulted in the cancelation of all our fundraising activities except the drawing of the UJAA Raffle which was eventually held in July, virtually of course.

At our September General Meeting held via the Zoom platform, Mr. Robert Green, the new School Board Chairman, gave his vision for the school and participated in a dialogue with Association members as well as other past-students, including the DMV Chapter.

During 2020, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter persevered and accomplished several important goals. The UJAA Raffle, our only fundraising event, was our most successful to date. Indeed, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter continues its commitment to provide assistance to ensure the continued success of our alma mater. Some of our accomplishments for this past year include awarding 52 scholarships to student athletes; donating over \$1,000 to the coaches to show our appreciation for the team's continued success; and making a commitment to help the school purchase a mass copier/printer to replace the existing one.

# EXCELSIOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION New York Chapter

Donarie Fenton, President



This year the Excelsior Alumni Association is in our 51<sup>st</sup> year. The Association continues to focus on it's primary vision of cultivating the academic, material, social, emotional and psychological development of our youth and to remain a sterling example of excellence among other Alumni Association.

Our contributors' participation in and financial support of the Association continues to enhance lives. Their donations have been distributed in the following ways:

- ❖ Although we were not able to have our annual gala fund raiser in person, we held our first virtual event. This event was coordinated with our sister chapters in Jamaica, Canada and Florida. The four-hour event was filled with all ranges of performance as well as music from four DJs. The proceeds raised by the New York chapter was able to purchase 30 laptops for students without devices to facilitate distance learning. These laptops were bought through the UIAA Initiative with Dell.
- To ensure that the students at our alma mater had data services for learning from home we contributed funds to support the initiative to provide data services.
- Our alumni association brought Holiday Cheers locally by sponsoring a toy drive for seventy children at P.S. 25 the Eubie Blake school in Bedford Stuyvesant Brooklyn.

Past students and alumni members continue to support scholarships to individual students while attending Excelsior or while moving on to higher educational institutions.

The Association continues to work with the Principal and members of the executive body of the school to identify it's most crucial needs.

Once again, we say a heart felt "THANK YOU" to all our supporters.

# FRIENDS OF CHARLEMONT HIGH SCHOOL, Inc.

David Marshall, President



It is a privilege to be able to add our voice to UJAA's year in review. We are probably the newest member of the UJAA family, and we are proud to be a part of this worthwhile and noble organization.

The Friends of Charlemont High School, New York is less than a year old, but we have made great strides. We are pleased to say that we are registered as not-for-profit organization in the state of New York and we recently filed for our Section 501 (c)(3) designation. We were formed with the purpose of helping our alma mater, Charlemont High School (CHS), and its students.

In our short period of existence, we have managed to provide twenty (20) tablets and cases to needy students at CHS. We have also provided shoes, clothing, and school supplies to the students as well as gifts for hard working staff members at the institution

Many of the activities that were planned for 2020, including a Bingo party, had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. However, we continued to solicit funds from willing donors and members alike. We are still finalizing our list of artists for our planned virtual concert to be held on February 6, 2021, where we will offer entertainment and also raise critically needed funds to continue the effort to equip students at our alma mater.

Despite the challenges of this year, we find hope in the willingness and enthusiasm of our members who make the extra effort to assist when called upon. We are a small but like-minded group with big dreams and bold ideas that are matched with an even bigger willingness to help others. These attributes make us strong and give us hope for a brighter future. We look forward to greater collaboration with our alma mater and with UJAA.

# FRIENDS OF PORT MARIA New York Chapter Inc.

Kay Flowers, President



Celebrating **25 years with your support Annual Awards Dinner and Dance Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, (COVID permitting)** 

Time: 9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

St. Laurence R.C. Church Hall, 122-65 Flatlands Ave., (corner of Van Siclen Ave.), Brooklyn, NY 11207

Contacts: Guyline: tatewitter@gmail.com Kay: (917) 474-4411 Angella: (917) 886-5712

Fund development is critical to support the mission of the organization. We will partner with Union of Jamaican Alumni Association in the Mega Raffle, 2021. For more information see <a href="https://www.ujaausa.org">www.ujaausa.org</a> or call the contact numbers listed above.

In fulfilling our mission, Friends of Port Maria (FoPM) continues to "build partnerships for a brighter tomorrow". We are pleased to report the following accomplishments in 2020:

- In preparation for the Medical Mission in August of 2021 (COVID permitting), the team has begun gathering items to serve approximately 300 persons from several local communities; The Mission is being coordinated by Dr. Dawn Silvera-Ndure;
- Sponsored the Top Girl and Boy at the Port Maria Primary School Leaving Ceremony with a donation of JA\$40,000 each;
- Partnered with community residents in Port Maria and distributed twenty-four holiday baskets to very needy families this past Christmas; and
- For the first time, partnered with UJAA in purchasing 6 computers and 18 tablets to be allocated to 5 primary/infant schools in and around Port Maria, St. Mary. Distribution will be in January 2021.

Thanks for your continued support which enables us to fund these community projects.

Proud member of UJAA

# GLENMUIR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION New York Chapter Inc.

André Wallas, President



- On June 16, 2020 there was a donation of US \$1000 to aid with the purchase of electronic devices for students and faculty as they adjust to distance learning.
- Financial support for a particular student in the amount of USD\$300 to purchase textbooks and stationery needed for the new school year.
- ❖ 'Welfare' Student Fund (2019-2020): Continued commitment, amount of USD\$2400 (for the January 2020 June 2020 Semester) was donated for distribution to the 16 recipients chosen by faculty and staff at the school. Each student received USD\$150.
- ❖ September 2020 the FL Chapter with assistance from NY, UK, Canada, and Jamaica Chapters, spearheaded and hosted a Global Telethon which raised over USD \$17,000 for Glenmuir High School which will be used towards care packages and devices necessary for e-learning.

#### GODFREY STEWART HS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION International

Derrick Allen, President



We ended 2019 challenged to do great things for our school in Westmoreland. However, no sooner than the year began the pandemic hit us. We had contributed \$3000.00 in 2019 towards the renovation of the boys' bathroom. That was completed and here is a photo.



The rest of the year, the members stayed in touch with each other and with the school. It is hoped that all the chapters will work together this year to benefit the school. Sincere thanks to UJAA for their understanding and support during this challenging year. We look forward to a less challenging 2021 and the continued support of our members.

# HERBERT MORRISON TECHNICAL HS ALUMNI TRISTATE CHAPTER ASSOCIATION Inc.

**Constance Finlayson, President** 



As it was for many of us, 2020 was an unexpected challenge for Herbert Morrison Technical High School Alumni Association.

The year began as a year of recovery with an interim leadership team as we reorganized and recalibrated for what we hoped would be a productive year.

Given the pandemic, our only fundraiser was our participation in the UJAA 2020 Mega Raffle. That successful endeavor allowed us to provide Personal Protective Equipment (masks) for all faculty, staff at students, as well as hand sanitizers, soap dispensers and thermometers.

We are working closely with Principal Paul Adams to do more for the school particularly in the area of distance learning.

We look forward to a more prosperous 2021 and welcome the support of alumni everywhere.

"STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE"

# HOLY CHILDHOOD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION NE USA Inc.

Akelia Lawrence Maitland, President



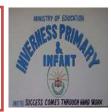
While the Holy Childhood High School Alumnae Association, NE USA, Inc. is still in the embryonic stage of building our organization, we did accomplish the below items in 2020:

- Successfully completed our organization's Incorporation in the State of New York and have attained our Employer Identification Number (EIN). We are currently in the process of completing the process for satisfying the requirements as a nonprofit Section 501(c) (3) organization.
- Participated in UJAA's COVID-19 Care Packages Project and distributed 24 care packages to Holy Childhood High School.
- In November we had our first launch event titled 'Sip & Chat'. We were able to raise over US\$600 in donations for our school.
- We continued to partner with and support our fellow alumni organizations on their initiatives.



# INVERNESS PRIMARY PAST STUDENTS and FRIENDS ASSOCIATION International

Dr. Dalvin Hill, President



The Inverness Primary Past Student and Friends Association International Chapter is comprised of members located in Jamaica and across the diaspora. We are a group committed to the upliftment and enrichment of the Inverness Primary and Infant School located in Inverness District, St. Ann, Jamaica. Our chapter is in its reimaging stage and we are continually prepared to make a positive impact to the institution and the greater community. We are in our inaugural year with UJAA and look forward to capitalizing on the various partnership opportunities to give back to Inverness.

The Inverness Primary and Infant school was founded in 1963 and has served as a beacon in the neighborhood and surrounding communities. Recently, the school has seen a growth in enrollment and this has inspired our group to make a greater impact. The pandemic adversely affected our mode of learning since a majority of our students do not have access to the Internet. Nonetheless, we have been known for adhering to our motto "Success Comes Through Hard Work" and our teachers and students are resilient!

For more information, please contact President, Dr, Dalvin Hill @ <a href="mailto:dalvinhill@hotmail.com">dalvinhill@hotmail.com</a> or Deborah Mercer-Miller @ <a href="mailto:dmill27@aol.com">dmill27@aol.com</a>

# JAMAICA CIVIC & CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF ROCKLAND



Millicent Johnson, President

The Jamaican Civic & Cultural Association of Rockland, Inc. is a non-profit, community organization whose primary mission is to foster good relations and close association with Jamaicans and friends in Rockland County and its environs, with the purpose of promoting the civic, economic, and cultural aspects of the Jamaican, Caribbean, and Pan-African cultures.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, JAMCCAR was able to have its monthly meetings through conference calls and virtually. In 2020 we were able to conduct or participate in various activities as highlighted below:

- ❖ January 10 Commemoration of the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the assassination of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ❖ February 21 JAMCCAR celebrated Black History Month in the 21st century
- March 13 Formal discussion on why the call to 'Have a Seat' at the table is important now more than ever
- ❖ June 12 COVID-19 Updates; Action Taken and Lessons Learned
- ❖ August 14 JAMCCAR 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Gala virtual celebration
- September 11 Focus on Education
- October 9 Your Vote, Your Voice, Your Power Virtually
- ❖ November 13 World Kindness Day virtual celebration
- ❖ December 11 We will celebrate A Soulful Christmas/Kwanzaa celebration

JAMCCAR is proud to be a member of UJAA. We congratulate UJAA on its more than 30 years of Commitment, Dedication, and Service.

JAMAICANS AND FRIENDS WORKING TOGETHER!

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION New York Chapter



Karen Wilson Robinson, President

Our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year began with high hopes and excitement as we had made definitive plans to celebrate with an Awards Luncheon on the first Sunday in December!

Then, the Corona Virus arrived. The restrictions on behavior curtailed gatherings and we were in "lockdown"! Like so many others, we quickly pivoted and took advantage of technology while reaching out to each other, our school, and students to find out how they were faring. As we got accustomed to living with COVID-19, we realized that we, the phenomenal women of the alumnae chapter, had a phenomenal task ahead of us.

Then, in May our beloved retired principal succumbed to her illness. Rest in peace Sr. Angella.

Through the extraordinary largesse of friends and members, their donations provided resources that enabled the chapter to support, pay forward, and allow so many of the young ladies to respond with high academics and gracious thanks. We are proud of the following:

- With the support of the other chapters around the USA, we provided COVID-19 Care Packages to 19 girls and their families every week from April through October through UJAA's collaboration with Lasco Chin Foundation and the Jamaica Alumni Associations of High Schools.
- Our girls also supported the Lasco Chin Foundation Christmas Care Packages to students.
- Contributed to UJAA's Emergency Assistance Fund for Jamaican Students stranded in the USA.
- Moved forward with the Third Annual Sheila Holtham Murray Scholarship 2020 and in addition to providing required fees, we provided a laptop to the recipient matriculating into Grades 12 and 13
- Performed very well in the Annual UJAA MEGA Raffle by selling the most tickets.

Following the eventual opening of schools in Jamaica after summer, the Board decided that we had to re-visit our focus to the human element of our school and that resulted in:

- committing 35 laptops to the school
- providing two 35th Anniversary Awards (1) the 35th Anniversary Scholarship a full 5-year scholarship to a 7th Grade student entering the school and (2) a 35th Anniversary Teacher Award
- hosting a 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Virtual Celebration to show off our school and students.

So, we missed hosting and cheering our girls at the Penn Relays; we missed our Annual Twilight Dinner Cruise; and, we had to cancel our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Luncheon and Awards, but there was no way that we were going to allow the pandemic to postpone or cancel our celebrating this anniversary. We took the opportunity to include many others outside of our immediate community to celebrate with our school and with others wherever they were located.

We embraced the virtual challenges of zoom, videos, teleprompters, wheel clocks, audio and visual rehearsals and created WhatsApp chat to communicate! We celebrated and rejoiced in our 35th Anniversary Virtual Celebration! Our ladies, our families, our donors, and our UJAA family have been supportive and we have tried to reciprocate. Despite social distancing, the pandemic has brought us closer to each other and to our members and school. We welcomed our new principal. And...we had FUN! Our sincere thanks to ALL of you!

Immaculate Conception High School Alumnae Association New York Chapter is on a roll! We are rolling into 2021 as we begin our next 35 years, phenomenal women supporting our school and students, UJAA initiatives, and the UJAA family. *Ad Astra Per Aspera* 



As we reflect on 2020, and our past 35 years, we are grateful to the ICHS community for your sustained support throughout these challenging times. Your generosity of time, resources, and spirit helped us embrace innovation and adapt in an ever-changing climate to continue to provide critical support to our alma mater and the students.

~\*

Our chapter joined the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (USA) Inc. family 25 years ago and have benefitted from all "things" family – love, support, resources, camaraderie, and fellowship during the years. We join in congratulating and celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of commitment, dedication, and service. It has given us joy and pride in serving our beloved Jamaica and the Diaspora!

~\*~

Our sincere thanks to all our families for supporting our Virtual Celebration!

We were thrilled to share a glimpse into Immaculate Conception High School, the work we do, and the perspectives of the students.



The Phenomenal Women Of IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION, NEW YORK CHAPTER

> 229-19 Merrick Blvd., PMB 309 Laurelton, NY 11413

www.ichsaa-nychapter.com; ichsaanewyorkchapter@gmail.com;

Ad Astra Aspera



# KINGSTON COLLEGE OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION USA Inc.

R. Perry Bloomfield, President

Happy Holidays and New Year Blessings, friends of the Diaspora! May your organizations have a greater mission impact in 2021!

We are grateful to our volunteer Board of Directors, members, sponsors, and friends for their support throughout this unusually challenging year. Thanks to you, however, we celebrated these highlights:

- Kingston College Old Boys Association (KCOBA), International (All KC Old Boys Associations) launched an online town hall series "Fortis Primetime COVID-19 Relief Effort" and raised an unprecedented amount of funds.
- Kingston College celebrated record academic excellence in CXC (CSEC & CAPE) examination results.
- Laptop and internet access for students to participate in the new remote learning environment.
- Kingston College Library & Technology Capital Campaign, Phase 2 (The Douglas Forrest Building Upgrade) Bill of Quantities approved and eLearning equipment order in progress.
- The Scholarship Program continues to invest in over 125 youths' education: our 'future leaders'.

As we move into 2021, we look forward to partnering with you to deliver on our mission of supporting and promoting our alma mater and our local community. Your support and that of the entire Fortis network make us a stronger KCOBA USA Inc.

Here's to Health and Prosperity in 2021. Fortis Forever!

#### LIME HALL PRIMARY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



#### Arturo Fisher, President

There were many changes in 2020. Many of them supported our commitment to our school, Lime Hall Primary School in St. Ann. Then there was COVID-19. As we reflect on the year, we must begin by first extending thanks to our supporters, well-wishers and of course our loyal members for their continued hard work for our school on the hill.

We began with a change in leadership and welcomed our new president, Mr. Arturo Fisher. While there were no formal fundraisers, the members and supporters assisted us in the following:

- We completed three (3) linkways from one building to another at the school.
- A past student in Florida completed another two (2) linkways, repaired and painted a classroom and a teacher's bathroom.
- We participated in UJAA's Collaboration with the Lasco Chin Foundation to provide COVID Care packages for the school community.
- o Created our website Lime Hall Primary and Friends.

As there were no in person events among the UJAA family, we supported several virtual events by other members of the UJAA family and stayed in touch with each via Zoom.

Thanks to the UJAA family and the Lime Hall family and friends as we look forward to 2021!

\*\*TOGETHER WE STRIVE TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE\*\*



# JAMAICA COLLEGE OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION of NEW YORK



Carl Bennett, President

Greetings from the Jamaica College Old Boys Association of New York (JCOBA-NY).

In 2020, despite a challenging operating environment reeling from the knock-on effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, JCOBA-NY again made excellent progress in advancing its primary mission of providing assistance and creating opportunities for the students at Jamaica College (JC) and the under-resourced and under-served youths in the extended communities.

Buoyed by the reliable and unrelenting support of our perennial sponsors, partners, well-wishers and our unmatched Old Boys network across the globe, JCOBA-NY successfully accomplished several significant tactical and strategic imperatives in 2020, including:

- Supported the launch of one of JCOBA-NY's primary benefactor's, Dr. Joseph L. Tait, signature Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Initiative, *Going Beyond Borders*, marking a watershed in technology advancement targeted at infusing an academic culture of STEAM into Jamaica College (JC).
- Coordinated the funding, through JCOBA-NY's *Blue Mahoe Fund*, of the remaining US\$300,000 (JM\$40 million) of the aggregate US\$500,000 (JM\$70 million), underpinning the fulfillment of the *Going Beyond Borders* initiative, and enabling the subsequent launch of another historic technology achievement, Jamaica's first Information Communication Technology (ICT) Ecosystem at JC.
- Coordinated and funded onsite visits to STEAM facilities in the U.S. enabling personnel involved in the *Going Beyond Borders* infrastructure build-out to conduct research as well as utility benchmarking to ensure best-in-class adoptions and long-term program sustainability.
- Executed the *JCOBA Big Brother COVID-19 Rescue Plan* consolidating efforts across the global JCOBA network in Jamaica, New York, Florida, Canada and beyond to meet unique challenges presented by the coronavirus crisis, providing funding of ~US\$8,000 (JM\$1 million) per month throughout the pandemic to offset critical financial shortfalls in JC's operating budget attributable to COVID-19-driven campus closures.
- Procured US\$30,000 in supplemental funding, outside of the traditional True-Blue community sources, to invest in online classroom and teaching technology solutions such as hardware (tablets and laptops) and software in addition to enabling WiFi data access for financially challenged students.
- Supported targeted incremental initiatives undertaken by the Classes of 1978 and 1985 to provide urgently needed assistance to meet the evolving needs of students adversely impacted by COVID-19.
- Provided resources to support the United Nations Club Debate teams' participation in the annual 1Q20 (pre-COVID) exercises at the United Nations; as well as supported the feeding program and preparation of the Track and Field team for age group competition.
- Partnered with prominent JC alumni and a Jamaican-based philanthropic Foundation in an innovative back-to-school initiative to support the extended True-Blue communities of Tavern and Kintyre located in Papine, Jamaica; providing care packages inclusive of book vouchers for more than 100 students and/or families impacted by COVID-19. The Tavern and Kintyre communities, which are located within close proximity of the JC campus, have produced several prominent JC alumni and have been very supportive constituents within the True-Blue community over the years.

#### Going Beyond Borders Initiative

- Retrofit the science laboratories
- Create an AutoCAD lab
- Create Mathematics rooms
- Upgrade the Auto Mechanics workshop
- Create an interactive audio visual (A/V) room
- Commission drones for experiential learning
- Introduce Robotics into the academic curriculum
- Integrate Creative Planning, Design and Performing Arts modules
- Provide resources for the STEAM club
- Prepare classrooms for interactive, internet-based learning
- Upgrade the Information and Computing Technologies (ICT) infrastructure to underpin STEAM
- Support incremental STEAM initiatives relevant to the broader school community







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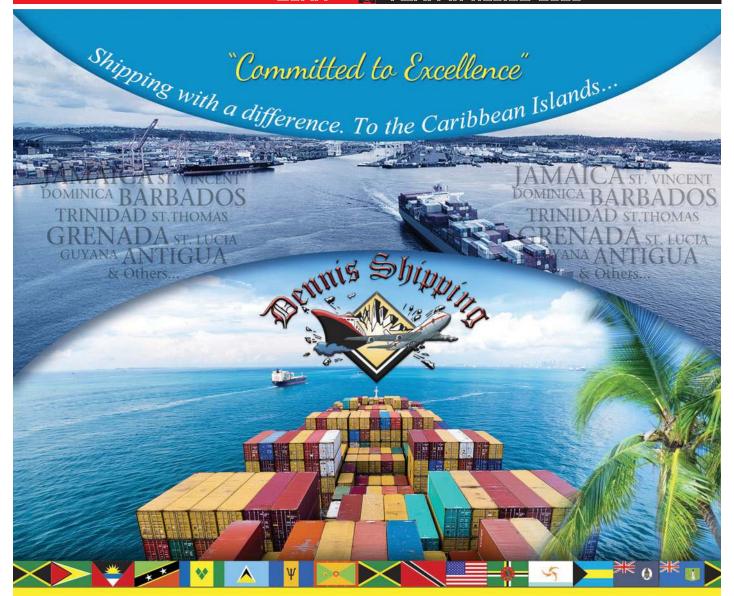
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# Congratulations

The JAHJAH Foundation congratulates the Union of Jamaica Alumni Association on your 30th Anniversary. We celebrate with you and salute you on 30 years of sterling service and dedication to the improvement of education for students in Jamaica.

#### The Jamaicans Abroad Helping Jamaicans At Home (JAHJAH) Foundation

A registered non-profit organization in both the USA and Jamaica. The JAHJAH Foundation has been participating in the upliftment of Jamaica since 2007. The foundation seeks support from the Jamaican Diaspora and friends of Jamaica all around the world. We concentrate our philanthropic efforts in the areas of health and education.

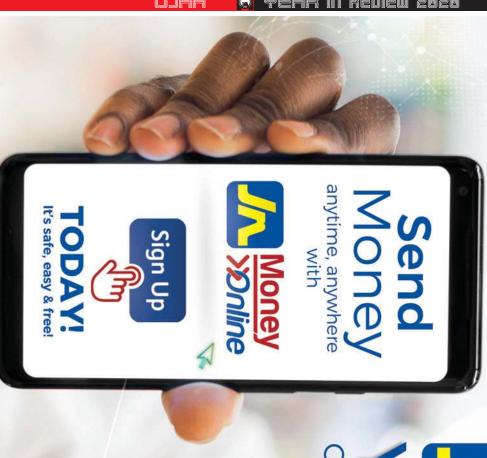
#### Contact:

Email: info@jahjahfoundation.org Tel: (917)-531-3699

# Saturday, Aug 28 2021 Fundraising Summer Cruise in NYC











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"Thirty-One Years of Helping Others to Help Themselves"



Roy Streete, DDS, MPH - Chairman & Michelle Malcolm-James, DNP, FNP - President The Organization for International Development, Inc. (OID).

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## JOSE MARTI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEW YORK

#### Kevin Jellow, President



We first must thank God for being on our side and providing wonderful opportunities for us as a body. The year 2020 surely tested us in preparedness and resilience in pandemic proportions. This year is certainly one for the books, both from a worldwide perspective and JMAANY as well. While we faced some challenges this year, JMAANY continued its efforts with support from its supporters and contributors. We were able to assist many students and help to improve the conditions at our alma mater, Jose Marti Technical High School. We could not have foreseen that there would be a global health crisis this year with COVID-19 that resulted in lives lost, jobs lost, changed circumstances, closed businesses, healthcare issues, alternate work and school environments. But JMAANY was able to pull together and step up to provide well needed resources to our alma mater.

The year started out with a bang as on January 10, 2020. We issued 34 scholarships to students facing hardship to pay their 2019-2020 tuition fees. For the school's 43rd anniversary, JMAANY donated 34 PCs to the school. Our Breakfast Nutrition Feeding Program, in conjunction with the school's Guidance Counseling Department, is entering its fourth year and continues to be successful. However, the program is on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and students are not currently on campus. Before the program was placed on hold we were feeding breakfast to approximately 100 students twice per week, thanks to Sampars Cash & Carry Distributors who are partnering with us.

At the onset of the pandemic, we were in the process of starting an Agricultural Program at the school which we have every intention of moving forward with as soon as we are able to do so. We provided two pressure washers for the sanitation of the school and a refrigerator and microwave to the Guidance Counsel Welfare Dept. We partnered with our local chapter, JMPSA to provide COVID Care Packages to 200 students.

Through our Mentorship/Big-Brother/Big-Sister program, many students made significant improvements in their academic performances. A vast number of students in the mentorship program received top student awards for CSEC and CAPE examination results. They also benefited from monetary assistance as mentors paid for their school fees along with CSEC and CAPE examinations fees.

Our annual events - Thanksgiving Service (March), Fish-Fry-Fest (June), Reunion Banquet (August), and Christmas Party (December) were all cancelled this year. However, our executive team came together to put on a few Virtual Online events this year. Our first event was on August 29th, 2020. It was a celebration of pride and love for our country, Jamaica and our alma mater, Jose Marti Technical High School. The event raised funds towards JMAANY Programs.

We closed out the year's events with our first Virtual Gospel Christmas Concert on December 19, 2020. Past and current students, past and current teachers, friends, and families of Jose Marti came together to perform and raised well needed funds to purchase laptops and tablets for students at the school. Both events were extremely successful.

JMAANY closed the year by using the funds raised from the virtual events to purchase and secure so far 10 tablets, 10 keyboards, 10 laptops for students. JMAANY plans to purchase 5 additional tablets and 5 additional laptops to present to the students in January 2021. Mentors also purchased laptops separately for their Mentees.

A big thank you to the supporters, contributors, stakeholders, members, and the hardworking executive team. Your passion and trust in the association have renewed and strengthened our commitment to meeting the objectives of JMAANY and its charities.

# KNOX ASSOCIATION OF PAST STUDENTS NY Chapter Inc.

All of the Negue

Michael Salmon, President

Knox College embraces the active involvement of parents, teachers and the wider community in its operation and mission to nurture a culture of excellence. As an Alumni organization, Knox Association of Past Students, NY Chapter (KAPSNY) represents the New York area Knox alumni community and serves Knox students by giving back and supporting our beloved Alma Mater; living true to the school's motto – "Niti Severe, Neque Cedere" (To Strive, To Serve, and not to Yield).

The year 2020 was a year unlike any other and will go down in history for so many reasons. The pandemic forced us to pivot personally as well as organizationally. With so many loved ones lost and our inability to be physically present we had to get creative in maintaining a strong sense of community. Despite the year's challenges, we made significant accomplishments while supporting our mission with the following efforts:

- Participated in the UJAA Mega Raffle to raise funds for the Knox benevolent fund and other financial assistance programs to assist students in need.
- Hosted our first successful Virtual Summer Boat Ride.
- Donated LASCO care packages to over 100 needy students and families at Knox.
- Participated in the Knox College Donate a Device (DaD) Program and provided tablets and laptops to students.
- Partnered with the Knox Past Students South Florida Chapter for a virtual, Annual Christmas Party to raise funds for school bathroom renovations.
- Nurtured alumni relations and increased organizational engagement with our email "check ins' with our membership.

We look forward to our continued partnership with UJAA and our fellow Alumni organizations as we continue to promote academic excellence of schools in Jamaica. High on our agenda this year is to work closely with Knox, as they get ready to celebrate 75 years of existence, in 2022.

Contact us at <a href="mailto:kapsny.net">kapsny.net</a> and <a href="mailto:kapsny.net">kapsny@gmail.com</a>
Follow us on Instagram: @knoxcollege\_kapsny

# MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NY Chapter Inc.



#### Barbara Lewis, President

2020, a year that started with so many plans and aspirations, then came COVID. Our lives were instantly changed and for our students, the structure and stability they once knew in the classrooms, quickly changed. We have been faced with the task of figuring out how to navigate remote learning for almost 1900 students. Through it all, we managed to pivot and continued with our efforts to support our Alma Mater. We provided:

- A total of 68 care packages, facilitated by Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (UJAA), were sent to MHS families as a result of donations.
- Approximately US\$550 was collected and donated to MHS students to purchase credit for data to assist with remote learning. A MHS group started by 6<sup>th</sup> formers also has an ongoing credit drive to continue to gather funds to help MHS students which we continue to fund.
- ➤ Our Zoom Boom was the talk of the town with an amazing production. We raked in approximately US\$3800 from the fundraiser, which was earmarked for purchasing Tablets.
- A total of 30 tablets were secured and shipped through partnership with Union of Jamaican Alumni Association (UJAA).
- A concerned parent also donated 5 additional tablets.

Even with the challenges of 2020, our supporters and sponsors remained committed in their efforts to assist in our Mission. To those affected by COVID directly or indirectly or lost loved ones, we pray you continued strength, together we will get through and be better once this has passed.

As we look to the coming year, we are committed to these initiatives and doing more. The Manchester High School Alumni Association New York, thanks you for helping us make lemonade out of lemons.

## MANNING'S PAST STUDENTS NY ASSOCIATION

Noel Gunning, President



Manning's School has its beginnings in the generous bequeathing of a gift by Thomas Manning in his will; his estate donated to the building of a school for planters' children in 1710 when "Sugar was King." Today, Manning's is funded by a grant from the Government of Jamaica via the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information. As is true of most schools, the grant covers only a portion of the costs to manage the school and pay salaries. The shortfall is picked up by stakeholders who have an interest in the school.

"'Sugar is King' is no more, so funds are raised through various ventures which go toward ancillary projects. The pandemic has leveled fund raising activities leaving only a few such as the raffle run under the auspices of UJAA.

We make an appeal that you support generously for the good of our children who benefit.

"God loves a cheerful giver and it is more joyous to give than receive."

# MERL GROVE HS PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION NY Chapter Inc.

Sharon Wilson, President



The year 2020 was one of transformation for the New York Chapter of the Merle Grove High School Past Students' Association as we celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of service to our beloved alma mater, Merle Grove High School (MGHS), and the community. We faced a confluence of global crises in the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, economic upheaval, and the renewed fight for racial equality. The way we live, work, learn, and connect were profoundly changed. This was especially evident as we pivoted to meet the needs of a now entirely virtual past student membership base. Throughout this period of uncertainty, we have been heartened by the courage and compassion of our past student community. By continuing to support one another, we will emerge from this period resilient and stronger than before.

#### **OUR 2020 HIGHLIGHTS**

- Hosted our first Virtual Town Hall Meeting to discuss the impact COVID-19 had on MGHS
- Transition our Executive Committee and General meeting to a Zoom platform
- Participated in UJAA's "Past the Hat" Student Assistance Initiative
- Donated a monetary award to UJAA's High School Graduate Awards program
- Donated 48 COVID Care Packets via UJAA's collaboration with the Lasco Chin Foundation and the Jamaica Alumni Association of High Schools (JAAHS)
- Donated funds for the purchase of MGHS designer mask for students
- Successfully ran our 4th Women's History Month Raffle Fundraiser
- Hosted a Virtual 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary church service.

We look forward to 2021, the start of our new decade as we continue to serve and engage. We hope you will continue to join us on this our journey! Without your ongoing support and participation, we cannot make any of it happen!

Labor Omni Vincit - Hard Work Overcome All Difficulties

## MICO OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION New York Chapter

#### Claudette Morris, President



The Mico University College, established in 1836, is the oldest teacher training institution in the Western Hemisphere. The alumni association was formed in Jamaica in 1922 with the goal of aligning with the Mico to support the continued growth of the institution. The New York Chapter was established in 1975 to promote the growth of the social, cultural, and educational aspirations. Part of the focus of the alumni association is to ensure support for the college in making it the institution of choice for teacher education, research and development, and technology advancement.

Each year the association embarks on an action-packed agenda. In 2020, after the first two months of successfully executing our plans, we were stopped in our tracks by the COVID-19 pandemic. None of us had experienced anything like this before. It ravaged the world and put fear and a feeling of hopelessness in most people. The pandemic robbed us of relatives, associates and friends. But like the resourceful people we are, and as true Miconians, we rose like phoenix from the ashes, pivoted to an online presence and became very creative and did it "with our might". Below is a synopsis of our accomplishments for 2020 despite the pandemic:

- January:
  - Contribution of \$4,100 towards Telemental health and counselling certification benefitting students/teachers at the Mico
  - o Proctored at the MLK Math competition and provided prizes for the top students.
- February: MOSA week celebration internationally. Celebration church service in New York. The President of the Association made a visit to Jamaica:
  - o for the opening of the SmartClassroom for which MOSA NY had contributed \$10,000.
  - o to present scholarship awards valued at \$4,000 to two students.
  - o to participate in student development activities which included presentations from the Ministry of Education and other agencies; a week of engagement for the Mico community
- March: Impact of COVID-19 caused postponement of the mentorship program. Mega raffle drawing was rescheduled. Illnesses and social distancing regulations brought most activities to a halt.
- May to July Support:
  - o Relief to alleviate needs of international students through UJAA \$550
  - o Jamaican Government Jamaica-Together-We-Stand Telethon for PPE \$500
  - UJAA Virtual High School Graduates Award \$250
  - o COVID-19 Relief to the Mico for devices and supplies: \$6,000
  - Very successful Mega raffle performance despite COVID.
- November: Virtual presentations -Managing your Mortgage; and Insight in Selecting Insurance.
  - o Contributed to "Feeding the Hungry" Program through UIAA
- December:
  - o Donated \$10,000 to the "Well Water" project at the Mico University College
  - o Virtual Scholarship awards ceremony a total of \$3,000 to three college-bound students
  - Virtual presentation "Journey from the Mico to position of Laboratory Manager at the CDC.
     Discussion around disease studies, vaccine development, vaccination skepticism
  - o Donated laptops & tablets to the Mico and to students in Jamaica and the US
  - o Distributed Lasco Chin Care packages to 20 families of the Mico community

During the year 2020, the membership kept in touch through Zoom meetings and welfare calls and provided necessary support. We thank UJAA and our family of alumni organizations for the camaraderie, strength, and optimism through the challenging periods. We are a resilient people. We are hopeful for a 'different' but productive 2021. Visit us at <a href="https://www.micoalumni-ny.org">www.micoalumni-ny.org</a> and donate to our programs and leave your suggestions.

"With Your Might"

# MORANT BAY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Maureen Thomas, President



Morant Bay High School Alumni Association NY managed to accomplish the following during 2020:

- Supported the Lasco Chin Foundation's collaboration with UJAA to participate in the COVID-19
  Care Packages Project providing help to the families of students of our alma mater to receive
  well needed supplies of food and toiletries during the pandemic.
- In collaboration with the MBHSAA Atlanta Chapter, presented 1500 masks to the school.
- Participated in a project to send video equipment to the school.
- Sent 5 laptops to the school as a part of UJAA's LAPTOPnTABLET Program.

The association hosted its annual fundraising Dinner Dance on November 7, 2020 as a virtual event. The proceeds from this event were used to purchase 30 tablets. The first 15 were delivered to us on December 30. We are looking forward to fundraising to supply another 90 tablets to the school. To date 192 students need tablets to participate in remote learning.

Despite 2020 being a year of deep pain and bitterness, the association was able to accomplish much through collaboration with other chapters and the school. We are looking forward to doing more in support and collaboration in 2021.



# MONTEGO BAY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF NY, INC.

Merlene Mullings, President



Registered as a 501(c)(3) since 2014, the Montego Bay High School Alumnae Association of New York (MBHSAANY) has been very active over the past six years. The Association has hosted six successful fundraising balls as well as presented 114 Education Awards valued at over US\$30,000 to be used for supplies, tuition fees, school uniforms, personal devices and payment of CSEC exam fees; and this year, for the first time, participated in the school's mentorship program.

In 2020, the year of the Covid-19 Global pandemic, MBHSAA of NY was unable to host any traditional fund-raising events. In terms of major fund raising, we were only able to participate in the UJAA Mega Raffle. This was a very successful fundraiser for the organization. Not only did we meet our expectations, but we also sold the winning ticket! We awarded 26 Educational awards valued at over \$7,000 to deserving students at the school who were able to use these awards to purchase uniforms, textbooks, general school supplies and even CSEC exam fees.

Our fundraising efforts during 2020 were primarily focused on supporting MBHS with their COVID-19 efforts by providing PPE's, devices, etc. We realized very early on that there would be a struggle in Jamaica with online learning and of course a deficiency of devices. Students are also struggling with paying for access to the internet. The organization was given the opportunity through UJAA to purchase 25 laptops to support MBHS and the students with virtual learning.

Early in 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic put the world in lockdown, we did not despair. Instead, we got on board with the rest of the world and got on Zoom. We created a space for the MBHS and MBHSAANY sisterhood to support each other. We also invited other sisters to join us every week at our Friday Night Gatherings. This exercise, happening virtually since early March has been such a wonderful experience for everyone and is still going strong. We also, had our own fundraising Zoom Ball through the Friday Night Gatherings which we considered to be successful under the circumstances.

As a group, we work very hard to support our young sisters back home in Jamaica. However, we understand the importance of giving back to the community we currently live in. In November, while adhering to social distance policies, members of the organization donated, prepared and served approximately 150 meals to the needy and homeless community in partnership with Plainfield Community Outreach which is a 501c3 organization under Grace Episcopal Church in Plainfield, NJ. During the Christmas season as part of our community service, the ladies of MBHSAA of NY, Inc., families and friends graciously gave from their hearts. Thanks to the support we received, we were able to again partner with Dorson Foundation in NJ in their Toy Drive.

In addition, MBHSAANY, for the 5th year donated toys to No Battle Should Be Fought Alone. Since 2018 we have collaborated with NBSBFA in hosting a holiday party for the families at the Praxis Family Shelter in the Bronx, NY. Members of both organizations were on hand to distribute toys and treats to over 100 homeless children.

MBHSAANY took the lead and with 5 MBHS PSA'S worked with the school to provide funds to ensure that the school could safely reopen for students to complete their lessons and to prepare for their exams. In addition, the 5 PSA's celebrated a weekend of activities for MBHS's 85th anniversary via Zoom. Through these events the MBHSAANY has championed a sisterhood that brings together like-minded women who support Montego Bay High School while encouraging involvement in their immediate communities through charitable investment of time, money and talents. Together, we will continue to endure and thrive where two or more are gathered in His name.

# NORHTEAST ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF GSHS, Inc.

# NAF "

#### Aneita Campbell, President

Despite the restrictions and protocols that faced Northeast Alumni and Friends of GSHS Inc. (NAF of GSHS), the 25 ladies and gentlemen who represent our high school in Savanna-La-Mar in Westmoreland continued their support of several initiatives at our school. This included:-

- Paid the entrance fee for 16 new students whose parents were having difficulty finding the fees.
- Completed the website <u>www.nafgshs.com</u>.
- **♣** Completed the association's 2020 tax filing on time.
- Donated to UJAA's "stranded students" program and COVID Care packages during the summer.
- Participated in MEGA Raffle 2020.
- Contributed to fundraiser events for Team Jamaica Bickle and JAHJAH Foundation.
- Refurbished the school library with new windows, store front style doors, and air conditioning.

We are looking forward to seeing our UJAA family 2021. All the best to our UJAA Family for 2021!

Zachaeus Smith - Vice President Kaye Scott - Secretary Robert Smith - Treasurer Robert Porter - PRO

## NEW DAY SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEW YORK CHAPTER



#### Evelyn Godden, President

In 2020 our alumni made many strides in spite of the setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We were resilient and managed to press forward, working collectively to continue supporting our alma mater. With the dedication of our team, we maintained an atmosphere of hopefulness and inspiration, engaged our creativity, and remained strong and unified in achieving our goals. We were even able to garner some unexpected financial rewards during these troubled times that resulted in us accomplishing some key initiatives for our students.

#### **2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Participated with UJAA and Lasco Chin Foundation and donated 30 COVID-19 CARE Packages.
- Secured a donation of 3 Laptops from Victoria Mutual Building Society.
- Successfully ran our 1st Holiday Raffle Fundraiser; drawing streamed Live on Facebook.
- Donated 3 laptops and 2 tablets via UJAA's Laptop/Tablet initiative.
- Sustained funding for 3 High School Scholarships, totaling US\$1,100.00.
- Donated a monetary Award of \$150.00 to UJAA High School Graduates Award Program.
- Participated in UJAA's initiative by donating funds to Industry Cove and Operation Restoration Christian Schools.
- Participated in several of UJAA's "Pass the Hat" initiatives.

We look forward to 2021 with great hope, and renewed commitment to enhancing the school life of the New Day students. We hope that as we steadfastly promote academic excellence, our sound partnership with our supporters, UJAA Board of Directors and the Board Member Liaisons the relationship will steadily evolve into an even more powerful partnership and we hope to celebrate this union for many more years to come.

# OLE FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA



#### Norma Jarrett, President

OFANA represents graduates of The Jamaica School of Agriculture, and its successor colleges, COA and CASE. Founded in 2007, OFANA is organized exclusively for educational purposes, to foster the advancement of Agricultural Education at the tertiary level. We are a proud member of UJAA and AJAA.

Since its inception, OFANA has continued to invest in our Alma Mater – students, and infrastructure. Our first scholarship disbursement was January 2012. To date, we have disbursed 57 Scholarships to CASE students, for a cumulative value of **US** \$53,400.00-Jamaican \$6,527,000.00. In addition to the scholarships, OFANA in 2019, presented the final disbursement check to CASE to build and equip a Plant Tissue Culture Lab for US \$120,000. 00 – Jamaican \$15 M. The goal of this facility is to generate disease-free planting materials in support of the Jamaican Government's Agricultural policy on food security. It will also provide practical competency research - based training to students, as well as generate future income stream.

<u>January 25, 2020</u> OFANA celebrated the 110th anniversary of CASE with faculty and students in Jamaica. <u>March 1, 2020:</u> Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual OFANA Toronto Brunch was a huge success. Keynote speaker was Mrs. Nicole Johnson, Jamaican Consul to Toronto. This was our only in-person event for the year. With the COVID -19 pandemic, all meetings this year were via Zoom. We responded to a request from the College for 30 automatic paper towel and 30 hand sanitizer dispensers, including batteries to promote proper hand hygiene on the campus during this COVID-19 pandemic. We overalled our Website and FB Page, and participated in the UJAA Raffle.

<u>September 28, 2020</u>: We delivered 50 brand new Dell Laptops to deserving CASE students thanks to two of our members who partnered with OFANA to help underwrite these scholarships.

<u>December 17, 2020</u>: OFANA hosted a Zoom celebration of our donors and launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of our fundraiser. The goal is to donate another 50 Laptops to deserving students.

<u>December 26, 2020</u>: OFANA member's Box It Up Celebration was a huge success; our members concluded the year with an evening of games, trivia, comradery prizes and surprises. We also participated in other alumni associations and Diaspora Zoom events.

## PIKE PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Donovan John, President



In 2020 Pike Past Students' Association (PPSA):

- Participated in the UJAA Mega Raffle
- Contributed to the UJAA Annual High School Graduate Awards Program
- Donated \$3,000 towards the 'Tablet Drive' and with other donations we were able to purchase a total of 40 tablets for virtual learning. One past student, Mr. P Demetrius also raised funds and bought 17 additional tablets for the school.

As we look to 2021, we will support the school in as many projects as we can, including:

- Providing the annual scholarship to assist 6 students to attend high school
- Financing a Robotics after-school program
- Assisting with the maintenance of the playfield
- Assisting in creating a play area for the Infant department
- Helping the Infant department with other projects so they can achieve their needed certification.

PPSA takes this opportunity to thank all our members, families and supporters for your continued support as together we "JOIN HANDS AND HELP"

#### ROSEMOUNT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

#### Thomas Gordon, President



Rosemount Alumni Association started the year with a lot of plans. We, however, did not plan for COVID-19. Some of the fundraisers we had planned for were karaoke and bingo events. Due to the pandemic the Rosemount school had some cancellations, however, the registration drive which we sponsored went ahead and was a success. For the first time in many years, the school registered over 100 students and every student registered received material for a school uniform.

Besides assisting with several school projects, the association provided care packages for the families in need through UJAA and the Lasco Chin Foundation. Two students received scholarships through our organization. We built elevated platforms for the water tank at one of our Basic schools.

This year we became a not-for-profit organization. In addition, we had a very successful fundraiser in the form of a virtual concert. The proceeds from this event were used to install the security surveillance cameras around the school's compound and purchase laptops for the Rosemount school. We also launched our website: <a href="https://www.rosealumninyc.org">www.rosealumninyc.org</a>.

What a year! We look forward to a new year full of possibilities! Contact us at <a href="mailto:rosemountalumni@gmail.com">rosemountalumni@gmail.com</a>

### RUSEA'S OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION





#### Mission:

To further the interests of Rusea's High School in Lucea, Hanover; the students, faculty and alumni in the pursuit of the following goals:

- Support and promote educational excellence and athletic interests
- Engage in fundraising and other charitable activities for the sole benefit of needy students, alumni and Rusea's High School.

#### In 2020, we provided:

- a bursary to a winner of The Math Club's M.L. King Jr. Mathematics Competition
- a bursary to a participant in UJAA's High School Graduate Awards Program
- funds to assist 28 students with uniforms and other school supplies.
- COVID Care Packages to 20 students and their families.
- funds for UJAA's Emergency Assistance Fund.

Our focus for 2021 will be to grow our membership so that we can continue to support our alma mater and to brainstorm, plan and implement innovative ways to raise funds during these unprecedented times.

"LABOR OMNIA VINCIT"

# ST. ANDREW TECHNICAL H.S. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NORTHEAST

Melanie Forrest George, President



By the second week of March 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic had shuttered businesses and closed schools on a world-wide basis, including our Alma Mater, St. Andrew Technical High School (STATHS). With school being closed, STATHS NE members could empathize with most of the students who would be missing out on the hot meal that the school provided. STATHS NE Public Relations Officer launched a Care Package Drive among the membership, and this was a resounding success as members contributed to this initiative or donated directly to the Principal, Dr. Worrel Hibbert.

Over a period of five (5) months, approximately US\$1,400 was collected and sent to Dr. Hibbert, who worked with his staff to purchase food staples in bulk and assembled care packages for up to 40 families once per month for these 5 months. Other STATHS NE members family and friends donated care packages through the Lasco Chin Foundation/UJAA COVID Care Package Drive.

STATHS NE members also purchased two 20ft x 20ft tents, which were to be used as classrooms to aid in social distancing measures at the school. Wireless equipment was purchased, which once installed, would make the school internet ready so that students could go online from any area at the school and they would have the capability of accessing the school's remote learning initiatives from home.

STATHS NE also launched a Mask Initiative where we obtained donations from various members and other individuals to purchase and deliver over 1,400 masks for the students. Other personal donations to the school included medical supplies for the Sick Bay, hand sanitizers, gloves, tablets and other items which helped to get **STATHS voted as the most COVID-19 Ready School in Kingston and St. Andrew.** Another member financed the building and equipping of a male and female restroom at the school in the vicinity of the football and cricket fields so that the students had the option to utilize these facilities when they were in the vicinity.

This year, the Scholarship Program at STATHS grew from ten (10) to forty-two (42) scholarships as individual members pitched in and donated funds for scholarship ranging from US\$200 to US\$500. Due to the changes caused by the COVID-19 and the requirement of the continuation of distance learning, STATHS NE US\$500 (cash) annual scholarship was changed to providing a laptop and cash of US\$165. Several other members donated their scholarship in a similar form. Some members, however, chose to donate their scholarship as an all-cash donation.

The member support was always remarkable, and this year during a crisis, our members looked beyond their situation and donated in record numbers to support our Alma Mater, STATHS. I want to use this opportunity to say a big thank you to our members for this outpouring of kindness and generosity. The sole purpose of this Alumni Association is for us, the past students of STATHS, to work together to improve the lives of the students who are currently attending our school, and because of you, we are doing just that.

STATHS NE members COVID-19 response to STATHS was both generous and heartwarming!



# ST. CATHERINE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Christopher Edwards, President



Our association started the year 2020 with high expectations. We planned to host three fundraising events.

- The first was to assist our athletes to attend Penn Relays.
- The second was to participate in a collaborative summer boat ride, and
- The third was our annual October banquet.

We were well in advance on the planning for our boat ride, with another UJAA member association. A boat was secured, and the necessary deposit was in place. As it turned out, the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, and all our fundraising plans were dashed. The COVID-19 pandemic and the health restriction on the gathering of persons resulted in our school being closed. Remote learning was involuntarily launched. Remote learning posed another problem to our students as most of them did not have adequate devices that enabled them to be connected and participate online learning.

Not being able to hold our planned fundraising events was very disheartening to us and we realized we need to find other creative ways to raise funds to assist our students. We put our minds together and launched a GoFundMe campaign online to raise fund to purchase computers and tablets for our school.

We also collaborated with our Jamaican and southeast chapter to host an online "Solo Reading" by Debra Ehrhardt of "Look what fell out of di mango tree". This online event was held on August 16, 2020. The funds raised from this event along with funds raised from the GoFundMe campaign (which is still going on) was used to purchase 40 tablet computers. Our main focus now is to improve the access to online learning by our students and as such our GoFundMe campaign is still in effect and we will continue to source and distributed computers to our students in Jamaica.

COVID-19 has changed the way we live our lives and it has prevented us from having face to face meetings as an association. It has also prevented us from conducting events that would cause persons to gather in one place.

The optimal focus as an organization is to do all we can to virtually keep our organization together. These are very challenging times and it has become more difficult to recruit new members in this environment. However, we look forward with hope as we come to the end of 2020 and venture into 2021, remembering that where there is life, there is hope. We continue to hold fast to our motto "prayer and work conquer all".



# ST. ELIZABETH TECHNICAL H.S. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (USA) Inc.

Donovan Wilson, President



2020 started off like any other year. We laid out our plans for the year and alumni members started to plan for the various events, such as the 2020 Penn Relays and the Annual Summer Picnic in July. We had held our Annual General Meeting the previous November 2<sup>nd</sup> and we were really excited about this new year. In early January word started to filter out in the media about a little know disease called the Corona Virus. We were not worried. We had our Annual Church Service with our own alumnus, pastor Sheldon Evans, presiding. The members of the Executive Body were all set to work hard to achieve our goals this year.

In mid-March the world as we knew it came to a standstill. COVID-19 invaded our consciousness and indeed the world. The Annual Penn Relays at the end of April was cancelled. Our proposed Uniform Party was cancelled. The UJAA raffle was postponed to July. The Summer boat Ride was cancelled. The Annual Dinner Dance, an October tradition, was scrapped. The Summer Picnic in Glen Island Park in New Rochelle was also cancelled. Of course, let us not forget our own Ronald Rainford and Eugent Bernard, affectionately called Bernie, who fell victim to COVID19 and left us. Many of us lost family members and grieved in private.

So, what did we do? In April, at short notice, we raised \$3,000 to donate to STETHS. In July we raised another \$2,320. We contributed money to the Mr. and Ms. STETHS pageant, and we assisted needy students stranded at their US colleges due to COVID-19. We had a Memorial Service for several alumni of STETHS who passed away. May their souls rest in peace.

The UJAA raffle was once again our primary fundraising source. Our net profit was over \$5,700, and we sold 2,191 tickets of 3,000 tickets total – our highest number ever, surpassing last year's number 0f 2098. How amazing that in this year of COVID19 we did better than ever before! It is becoming harder to sell tickets, but more sellers have helped us to increase total sales. We look forward to an even better year overall in 2021.

Our relationship with UJAA continues to be a beneficial one. We have contributed to the High School Graduate Awards (HSGA) for many years and we increased the amount of our contribution this year. Additionally, we funded our own John Pottinger Grant to the tune of \$1600 and a donation of 25 tablets to the school. I am pleased to report that I was re-elected to the post of Vice President of UJAA for a two-year term and I thank Carlene Simpson and Zonia Watkins for their contributions to UJAA on our behalf over the years.

Our membership increased this year from 37 to 92 members. In November we had our Annual General Meeting, by Zoom, and a new executive body was elected to guide the association for the next two years. One of the first acts of the new team was a virtual church service held on December 20th. Alumnus Reverend Dr. Hugh Nelson delivered a rousing sermon that provided inspiration to all who attended.

Despite the challenges presented by COVID19 we continue to do well. This association is an association for all STETHS alumni. No matter who leads we must strive to be bigger, bolder, better, and a positive force for STETHSANS as we uphold the traditions of our beloved alma mater.

Work and Integrity indeed!

## ST. GEORGE'S OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION **NORTH EAST**



Warren Grant, President

#### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

2020 has been a year of surprises, with the COVID-19 pandemic, Black Lives Matter global protests, Zoom meetings, US Presidential election challenge and an unprecedented warp speed development of a vaccine to fight the COVID-19 coronavirus. The year certainly has its fair share of world-shifting events. The pandemic however made the most impact on our plans for the year.

Schools were forced to implement remote learning and our beloved alma mater, St. George's College (STGC) put the call out for needed laptops and tablets for both students and teachers. We were able to donate tablets and cash totaling over US\$5,000 through collaboration with the UK Chapter and the class of 1976 (aka 76ers). I am indeed thankful for the valuable contributions that other chapters, graduating classes and individual Knights made to help the school achieve its overall goal.

As a charitable organization, we initiated plans to have our first solo Dinner Dance fundraiser. Plans were disrupted with the escalation of the pandemic. Social distancing, community spread, viral transmission, etc. became the focus of our attention. The event had to be put on hold.

To facilitate the emergence of new leadership, our founding President, Christopher Chaplin, decided not to seek re-election. Christopher, however, will use more of his time to impact the Jamaican diaspora with his leadership skills. As the new president of the STGCOBANE I want to thank Chris for his service, drive and leadership. Also, I personally want to thank him for his patience and guidance during the leadership transition period.

Thanks to the STGC Old Boys chapters who saw the need for us to collaborate with each other going forward.

As we end 2020, I know we are more prepared for the future. I know that there will be challenges but I also know that we will prevail!

#stgcstrong #knightsalways

AD MAIOREM DEI GLORIAM



# TIVOLI GARDENS H.S. ALUMNI TRACK CORPORATION

Michael Weir, President

Tivoli Gardens High School, a brainchild of the late Hon Edward Seaga was opened in 1969.

Sugardi Tengua Mercata

In its 51 years existence, the school had its fair share of triumphs. Winning numerous high school competitions - including basketball, Sunlight cup cricket, Manning Cup (twice) and various athletic medals at Boys and Girls Championships. Furthermore, Tivoli Gardens High School has dominated dance competitions over the years and has produced National Champions in just about every sport or game.

Given the vast talents at Tivoli Gardens High School, the Tivoli Gardens High School Alumni Track Corporation (**TGHSATC**) was created by track and field athletes' alumni to facilitate support and assist in providing opportunities in the development of academic, vocational and student athletes at Tivoli Gardens High School.

With this holistic approach, it is our hope that we can provide a "shoulder" on which future generations can stand in their pursuit of greatness, thereby, ensuring that Tivoli Gardens High School continues to serve as a beacon of hope in an impoverished community.

# ST. HUGH'S HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION USA Inc.

Althea Mckayle, President



Despite the COVID-19 pandemic that left so much uncertainty in our community, and particularly among school communities, our alumnae association was able to continue our support during this extra-ordinary time of need.

As the protocols became stricter our fundraising was limited but we were able to provide:

- \* School supplies to 45 students in our mentoring program.
- \* Office and desk supplies to the administration staff.
- \* Provided several COVID-19 Care packages through UJAA's collaboration with the Lasco Chin Foundation in Jamaica when schools closed.
- \* Purchased 10 tablets through UJAA's LAPTOPnTABLET PROGRAM for the school.
- \* Participated in the Annual Mega Raffle.

A coalition of several chapters around the world met to determine and meet the priority needs; this is still ongoing.

We will continue to provide support as best that we can and pray for better times for all of us.

**Fidelitas** 

# ST. JAGO PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION USA, NY CHAPTER

# 6.6

Opal Dunstan, President

SJPSA's customary fundraising activities were limited in 2020, mainly due to the coronavirus pandemic that lasted throughout 2020. As a result, SJPSA's main fundraising activity was our participation in the Annual Mega Raffle administered by the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (UJAA). Other sources of funding for our programs to assist the students of St. Jago were contributions by alumni and friends.

Despite the challenges, SJPSA provided the following in 2020:

- ✓ In the summer, we provided 22 COVID-19 care packages to students and their families, by collaborating with UJAA and the Lasco Chin Foundation (LCF)
- ✓ We provided funding of \$1500 for the first of a 5 year commitment to sponsor 3 students who started to attend St. Jago in 2020.
- ✓ During the Christmas holidays, we provided 30 COVID-19 care packages to assist students and their families, by collaborating with UJAA and LCF.
- ✓ At the end of the year, we provided 5 laptops and 5 tablets to help students attend classes and learn virtually, through a program coordinated by UJAA.

As always, these and other achievements and assistance to the current students are not possible without the sacrifice, dedication, and creativity of the Board of Directors, members, and friends. Sincere thanks to the families, the sponsors and the UJAA family for their continued support. Please stay tuned.

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"Serving Others as we Have Been Served."



#### A Tribute to Principal Jeanette Rose Grant Woodham

It was not such a wonderful life we were living as teenagers in the center of uncertainty. We all came to a crossroad and wished for God to send us an angel to point us to the best direction. We found ourselves at Tivoli Gardens High School that had a woman of strength, vigor, grace, poise, a nononsense disciplinarian and cared passionately about her students. After a few years attending Tivoli Gardens High School we realized that not all angels had wings. Mrs. Jeanette Woodham is the angel we prayed for at that rugged crossroad.

Mrs. Woodham was a prolific principal. She deposited so much in our lives that she was able to live and reap the rewards of her gratitude. Ms. Grant was the best principal any student could ever ask for. Now we understand that strength, vigor, grace, poise, honest and no-nonsense personality are the main ingredients for success. Her mark will be forever treasured in the lives of those who came under her tutelage. She was truly loved by all who encountered her kind and gentle demeanor and will certainly be missed.

Thank you for your guidance and contributions during your tenure at Tivoli Gardens High School. You planted a seed of success for all, regardless of economic status. We will continue your journey by watering the tree to success and continue to blaze new trails in your name. Today we honor you for the tremendous job you have done for thousands of students, now scattered all over the world claiming you, Mrs. Jeanette Rose Grant Woodham, the epitome of high school Principals. No one can replace you, Jeanette Rose Grant Woodham, no one. The legacy you left behind will live forever.

May your soul rest in eternal peace. September 7, 2020.

From: Tivoli Gardens High School Alumni Track Corporation (TGHSATC)

## SHORTWOOD PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

#### Walbert Clark, President



2020 has certainly been a year of "resilience" for all, and especially for Shortwood Past Students Association. Our resilience has been tested from the global pandemic, racial injustice and a very divisive election that will impact the country for years to come. We experienced the social awakening of individuals and large corporations taking action to support "Black Lives Matter", with rallies in large cities and communities; and we witnessed the largest turnout of voters in the history of US Presidential Elections. These events defined 2020 which will last a lifetime. We all became "global citizens".

Through it all, our Association was able to adapt by finding innovative and extraordinary ways to stay in touch and keep the pulse running. Our alums came together, thanks to the "Zoom technology", which saw us tackle the struggles of working and learning from home.

We were able to accomplish the following:

- Scheduled monthly meetings
  - Our meetings include representation from the school
  - > Each meeting has a theme; sometimes special guests
  - Meetings increased our membership
- Participated in UJAA Mega Raffle
- Donated 44 care packages to the school
- Donated \$600 to assist with feeding students
- Shipped 2 barrels with school supplies
- Donated 450 customized & 300 disposable masks
- Bi-weekly Prayer Call (Tuesdays & Fridays)
- Game night on Fridays
- Donated 25 tablets (ETA 2021)
- Holiday Zoom Party (Dec 20)

We must thank and commend *Lesleyann Samuel* for her leadership, encouragement and support, *along with* the UJAA team for their unparalleled work and dedication to ensure that we were included and kept abreast of the happenings around us, which we would not have been necessarily aware of.

Our Association will celebrate 30-yrs in October 2021 and we're in the planning stages of hosting a special event. It goes without saying that 2020 has been a year like no other. As unrelenting as the headwinds were, we saw citizens and communities across the world exhibiting courage, humility and sacrifice, which make us optimistic. Resilience is what defined 2020, but more importantly, it will be what takes us forward.

Shortwood Past Students Association P.O. Box 1495 New Rochelle, NY 10802 shortwood@vahoo.com

## UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI **ASSOCIATION of NEW YORK**

Clive Drummond, President



The University of Technology Alumni Association of New York (UTechAANY) was formed in April 2002 with the collective effort and desire to integrate the goals and aspirations of our members for the University. This would be achieved by fostering camaraderie, professional workshops, networking, and commanding human, physical, and financial resources for the advancement of the University.

After several years of challenging administration, the Association called a snap election in October, 2019 and a temporary executive body was elected to address and steer the association back to a functioning group. The new President, Clive Drummond; Treasurer, Derrick Shippy; and Secretary, Patrick Maitland along with senior advisors, collaborated to develop strategies to resolve many long-standing obstacles. Since it was determined that Membership was the number one issue to be addressed in building back the association, a Christmas gathering/Party was held to market and advertise the resurgence of the group. The event was seen as a means of creating visibility and to spur interest.

The incoming year was viewed with much anticipation and a slogan of:"2020 Vision" was seen as the flagship for the new year. However, the coronavirus pandemic hit and dimmed our lights especially on many of the fundraising plans we had for barbecue, boat ride, raffles, and a formal dinner dance. We did not lose hope and we were able to finance a second-year returning student with all his registration fees to commence the new 2020/2021 semester at the University.

With a stronger financial position, the association is now poised to seek Grants, foster and create workshops within as well as with other professional entities. Our Membership drive is still our torch that keeps burning to light the way for our alumni. We implore all friends and UTECH Alumni to reach out today and join us at utechaany@gmail.com.

## **WOLMER'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NY Chapter**

Hubert Guscott, President



The Wolmer's Alumni Association, NY Chapter, is a Jamaican association dedicated to financially assisting the Wolmer's Schools in Kingston, Jamaica.

In light of COVID-19, we had to adjust most of our plans to support the Wolmer's schools. Some highlights are below:

- Started a Coronavirus Prayer Call in April
- Participated in the UJAA Mega Raffle
- Had a virtual Founder's Day Service in May
- Contributed to the virtual UJAA High School Graduates Award Program
- Held a virtual Telethon to raise funds for online learning.
- Had a virtual stage reading of Mystical Speed: The Revenge of the Yellow Yams.
- We will be having "A walk down Wolmer's memory lane" in early 2021.

# WESTWOOD OLD GIRLS ASSOCIATION NEW YORK Inc.

#### Jenniffer Brown, President



2020 started off like any other year. We were full of hope, the Board of Directors was excited to face yet another year and if nothing else, we were going to hold our tea party that had become our signature Spring/Summer event and the UJAA Mega Raffle. Alas! This was not meant to be. Before realizing the far-reaching impact of COVID-19, we were frantically sheltering in place, not knowing what the outcome would be.

During discussions around the affects and effects of COVID-19 at our March meeting, we realized that our membership included a wide cross-section of essential workers who were scared and hurting. They were hurting for themselves, their families, friends, colleagues and for society in general. While some felt that focusing on contagion was important, others felt mental health was paramount or the financial impact due to job loss should take precedent. After a very lengthy discussion that was facilitated by two frontline workers, the WOGA Think Tank was born. Out of that, the virtual education came to being, since in-person fundraisers would be a thing of the past. The group felt that educating our members might help provide some necessary distraction during the pandemic while addressing important voids that COVID would undoubtedly create. Together with the South Florida Chapter and through gracious co-branding with the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations USA Inc. (UJAA), our virtual education series was launched in May 2020. We immediately decided to invite subject matter experts from within the UJAA community to lead our presentations, therefore opening up attendance to the wider Westwood and WOGA ecosystem as well as the UJAA community.

- \* We supported and contributed to over ten (10) alumni virtual fundraisers throughout the year.
- \* We volunteered at the Annual MLK Jr. Math Competition in support of UJAA and sponsored a scholarship for the top performing 8th grade student.
- \* We participated in the Mega Raffle, with ticket sales of over 50% and snagged a sectional prize.
- \* WOGA chapters collaborated to provide 99 COVID Care packages to our students in need.
- \* Our 4-part **Health Education Series** began with a resiliency topic and offered a combination of lectures and a Zumba class from May 18- June 24.
- \* Another challenge arose when longstanding racial discrimination came to a boil, giving rise to uprisings of epic proportions. We paused virtual education, collaborated with the NY Chapters of Holy Childhood Alumnae Association and York Castle Alumni Association and on July 2, hosted A Healing Space: A Conversation Around Racial Tensions in America.
- \* Resuming the virtual education series and focused on personal and generational wealth building. Our 4-part **Roadmap to Financial Health Series -** August 13 to September 22 was a soup to nuts education on financial planning, wealth accumulation, retirement planning and estate planning.
- \* Developing ourselves was a 4-part **Leadership Masterclass** from October 29 to December 3 that covered public speaking, strategic leadership, diversity and inclusion, and conflict management.
- \* On December 17 we kicked off the final series on **Professional Development** and were treated to an informative workshop on resumé writing and interview skills training. Attendees learned the importance of reinventing oneself and the art of virtual interviewing along with the necessity for virtual onboarding as a preface to being hired in this new normal.
- \* We held two fundraisers a Virtual Fashion Show and a Giving Tuesday Campaign, to raise funds toward our goal of building and equipping Westwood with an AutoCad lab.

We look forward to celebrating our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021 and to strengthening the relationships we have developed over the past years. HATS off to the supportive UJAA family, to all Westwood High School alumnae at home and abroad and especially, to our chapter members. *Ora et labore!* 

# YORK CASTLE H.S. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEW YORK Chapter

**Dwight Clarke, President** 



#### In Memory of the Life of OJ Hancle.

We approached the dawn of 2020 with excitement and anticipation for a personal and professional productive New Year. Within two months we learned of the impact of the Novel Coronavirus in China and Italy. One month later, the US, and the rest of the world was besieged by the COVID-19 Pandemic, and our lives changed immediately. Students were required to participate in distance learning; we were asked to work from home; decreased travel, and social gatherings. There has been an astronomical amount of COVID-19 infections in the US – topping tens of millions. Deaths are in the hundreds of thousands. 2020 was not the year we anticipated. We were daunted, but not defeated. We pursued and persevered to make it one of the most impactful years on record. Some of the support given to YCHs are below:

#### First Quarter - January - March

- Established SmartTerm to enhance e-Learning; provided the school with a Zoom platform.
- Participated in Annual UJAA Raffle Ticket Sales.

#### Second Quarter March-June

- Pivoted to Remote Meetings- Adherence to Public Health Guidelines Social Distancing
- Partnered with UJAA and Lasco Chin Foundation to distribute 100 care packages to YCHS students most impacted by the pandemic. Packages included groceries and hygiene products.
- Cancelled Inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award banquet due to COVID 19 Restrictions.
- Sold 87% of Raffle Tickets for Annual UJAA Raffle.
- Continued monthly Alumni Assoc. meetings via Zoom.

#### **Third Quarter** July – September

- "Bring your Own Beverage- BYOB" Alumni Meetings
- BYOB- Dance Party- Designed to keep members engaged in a social setting- Theme: Physically Distanced, but Socially Connected

#### Fourth Quarter October - December

- Donated 10.000 USD to launch the YCHS Foundation.
- Virtual "Jam for a Cause Fundraiser." Raised approximately \$17,000 from Yielded proceeds to purchase over 100 digital learning devices for YCHS and surrounding feeder schools.
- Created Virtual Healing Space to share memory of Alumni Member- OJ Hancle.
- Established new and non-traditional corporate sponsors for educational partnerships.
- Expanded Zoom Platform.

#### Looking Ahead to 2021

- Establish Scholarship in Honor of Fitzroy Wickham: Jamaica's 2021 Rhodes Scholar.
- Establish Scholarship in honor of OJ Hancle- Alumni member Technical Department.
- > Purchase batteries to store solar energy from the schools already implemented solar system.
- > Standardized testing center on YCHS campus to facilitate SAT and ACT testing for the region.
- Improve Alumni partnership with the PTA.
- > Explore grant funded opportunities to assist with educational enhancements at YCHS.
- ➤ Implement Robotics Lab @ YCHS
- > Implement Bio Medical Engineering Curriculum at YCHS
- Explore investment opportunities on the Jamaica Stock Market.

Through our partnership with UJAA we are looking forward to a successful 2021. We are thankful that we are afforded the opportunity to make a difference in the educational lives of students in Jamaica. We are encouraged to know that we can overcome challenges through unity. We are hopeful that through Bio Medical intervention we will one day be able to meet, and fellowship in person; and we remain dedicated to the upliftment of school, community, and country. Be safe and be well.

# YORK STREET PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Elaine M. Chen, President



As we reflect on 2020, we recognize not only our beloved alma mater York Street school, but also our sponsors and supporters, who have aided us in pursuing possibilities, and overcoming challenges, due to the pandemic.

#### 2020 Contributions:

- Secured ten (10) tablets to assist students with online learning
- Donated 5 laptops via UJAA's LaptopNTablet initiative
- Donated a monetary award of \$100 to UJAA High School Graduates Award Program
- Donated 90 backpacks filled with school supplies and office stationery
- Funded 5 high school scholarships to the Top 5 students at a value of JMD\$50,000
- Funded the computer teacher salary and maintained monthly payment for internet services
- Participated in several UJAA "Pass the Hat" initiatives supporting Jamaican students in the US affected by the pandemic and organizations in the US and at home in Jamaica.
- Shipped 300 customized masks for students; and donated books to the library
- Partnered with the community and distributed clothing for needy students and families

Despite the challenges due to the pandemic, we look forward to 2021 with great hope, and renewed commitment to enhancing the school life of York Street students and envision many years of continued successful affiliation with the Union of Jamaica Alumni Association (UJAA), and community-based organizations.

THE CHANGE CONTINUES.....



## **ADDITIONAL UJAA MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

Charlemont High School Foundation - Onenetta LaBeach, President

Denham Town High School Alumni Association - Clement Chambers, President

Grantham College Alumni Association - Horace McLean, President

Kingston Technical High School Alumni Association - Keith Bryce, President

Meadowbrook High School Alumni Association - Nadine Moulton, President

Munro Hampton Alumni US Northeast Corp - Carl Davidson, President

Titchfield Past Students Sports Association Inc. - Stephen Aiken, President

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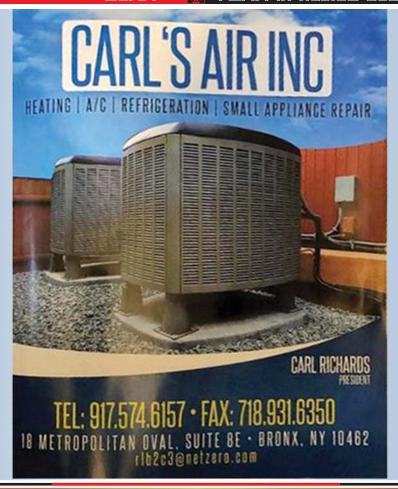
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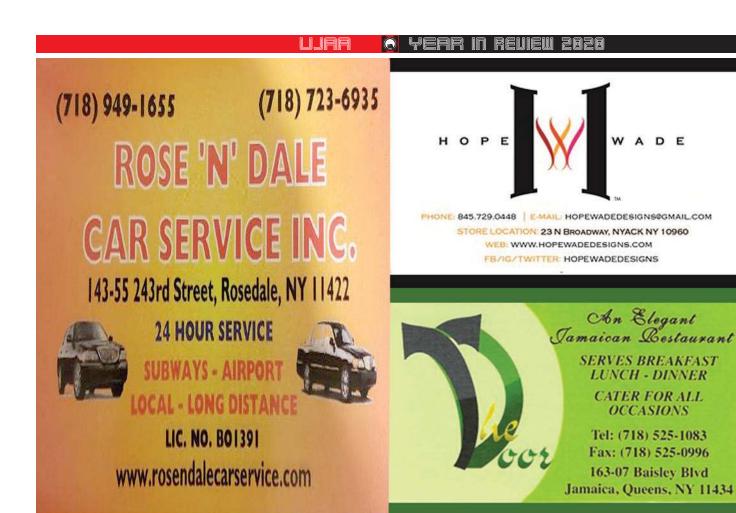
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