



BTC July & August 2013 Newsletter

BEGINNING THE CHANGE

IN THIS ISSUE

Boys Training Centre

by Elvin Ryan Germain

A BRIEF HISTORY

Her Royal Highness, Princess Margaret officially opened the Boys Industrial School, on February 20th 1960 at Massade, Gros Islet. At the time it housed 17 male juveniles and was staffed by three persons.

The school was the brainchild of Sir Stanislaus James, the first trained Social Worker and first Probation Officer in St. Lucia who brought about the establishment of this institution through his perseverance and determination.

In 1974, on the recommendation of a Government appointed advisor it was renamed Saint Lucia Boys' Training Centre and its mandate was changed to include boys in need of care and protection.

ADMISSIONS

All wards are committed to the Centre by an order of the Family Court in two categories.

- Children in conflict with the law: boys under the age of 16 who have committed crimes.
- Care & Protection: Boys who have not committed any crime but who have been truant at their schools are

disruptive in the home or school environment, or children who do not have parents/guardians with the ability to meet their needs. BTC Wards ages range from 10 to 18 years. However, they are not admitted once they've attained the age of 16 years.

THE STRUCTURE

The Centre currently operates on the mainstream school timetable and every ward is expected to attend vocational training and/or remedial education classes. At regular breaks in the school year, wards are allowed home leave. Home leave is a privilege earned for good behaviour.

As each ward's abilities are identified he is given extra support with these specific abilities and the centre is now looking to the wider community to develop apprenticeship programmes in the areas of auto mechanics, welding, agriculture and woodwork.



CLASSROOM RENOVATION PROJECT

The Education Department coordinated a renovation project of the Classroom

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BTC SUMMER PROGRAM

The BTC coordinated series of activities to engage the wards throughout the Summer.

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Boys' Training Centre Summer Program

With the closing of the 2012/ 2013 academic year in Saint Lucia, the youth of the tropical island nation are on Summer Leave. The wards at the lone Juvenile Detention centre on island are no different. During the months of July and August , the wards were engaged in an internal Summer Program which, comprised of community based activities, educational activities, health related activities and sports/ recreational activities. In addition, to planning, scheduling and coordinating the summer activities, there were internal projects that required the participation of the wards as well. Majority of the activities are focused on engaging the wards through educational tasks, therapeutic tasks or fun/ leisure. In addition, the summer program provided the young adults/ volunteers with opportunity to satisfy a form volunteerism and community service.



Dance Workshop/Therapy

(faciliator Benny Auguste)



The Offenders Unit of the BTC was happily engaged in a two day quadrille dancing workshop under the supervision of Mr. Benny Auguste. Mr. Auguste is a member of Helen Folk Dancers and presently a Technical Drawing Teacher at Saint Marys' College. Mr. Auguste was accompanied by six young ladies who assisted him in faciliating the workshop.



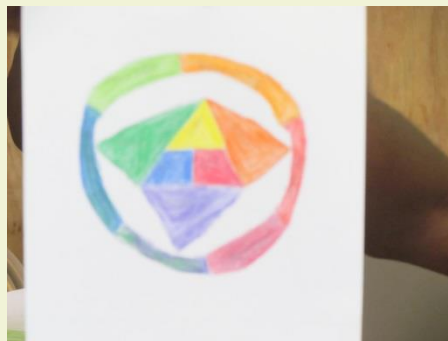
According to the American Dance Therapy Association, dance/movement therapy is the psychotherapeutic use of movement to promote emotional, cognitive, physical and social integration of individuals.

In dance/movement therapy, movement is the therapeutic tool used to process feelings and emotions. The dance/movement therapist uses cues from her own body as well as from the client's to create interventions in the therapeutic relationship.

This holistic alternative to talk therapy is a wonderful way to express oneself, especially when cognition is compromised. Dance/movement therapy transends verbal communication and connects the persons mind, body, and soul. For the boys this was the best attended and most exciting activity for the summer program, maybe due to the presence of girls. However, the wards enjoyed the dance session.

Art & Craft Workshop/Therapy

(faciliator Solange Alfred)



Ms. Solange Alfred held a Art and Craft workshop for the wards of BTC. Ms. Alfred is a student at Gambling State University in Louisana who majors in Visual and Performing Arts with concentration in Digital Art. The workshop covered art concepts such as colour theory, drawing and making masks. The Offender Unit and Care & Protection Unit were timetabled to have small group sessions in the mornings.

"Numerous case studies have reported that art therapy benefits patients with both emotional and physical illnesses. Case studies have involved many areas, including burn recovery in adolescents and young children, eating disorders, emotional impairment in young children, reading performance, childhood grief, and sexual abuse in adolescents. Studies of adults using art therapy have included adults or families in bereavement, patients and family members dealing with addictions, and patients who have undergone bone marrow transplants, among others. Some of the potential uses of art therapy to be researched include reducing anxiety levels, improving recovery times, decreasing hospital stays, improving communication and social function, and pain control." (American Cancer Society, 2012, Online).



Furthermore, this was an awesome opportunity for the wards to express feelings and according to Pablo Picasso 'Art washes from the soul the dust of everyday life'. Care & Protection unit expressed the greatest interest in the Art Workshop/ Therapy. Their prior knowledge of colours aided them make relationships between colours and the experiences in the lives.

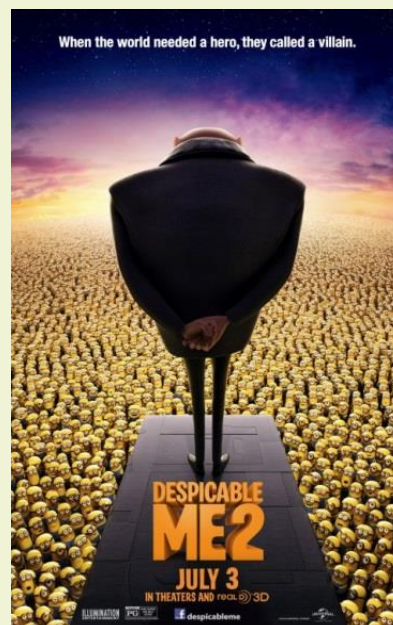
SOURCE

www.northshoredancetherapy.com

<http://www.ccpa-accp.ca>

BTC Movie Nights

Summer Block Busters were viewed in the conference room twice per week. The movies were selected using viewer criteria and entertainment criteria. Summer releases and some recent movies made the list. The list comprised movies such as Fast 6, After Earth, Smurfs 2, Descipable Me 2 and more. The conference room is redesigned to look like a movie theatre with popcorn, soda, pizza and candy. Some youth volunteers of assisted in the snacks and movies for the wards.





Preseason Football Preparation

Mr. Alvin Xavier, BTC full time Football coach began BTC preseason preparation for the under 16 and under 19 Inter Secondary School Championship. With the arrival of new wards, the coach saw it necessary to welcome the new players and commence physical conditioning of the teams for this season. The wards were taken for a morning run workout near Pigeon Island. In addition, few friendly matches were organized with other community youth teams. Mr. Xavier believes that the performance of the BTC teams will be improved with the arrival of new players and the growth of existing players in the 2013/2014 season.



Swimming Practice

Throughout the summer Vanessa Eugene, Cobra Adventures Swim Coach facilitated swimming lessons for the BTC wards. Wards were separated into 3 groups. The advanced wards will replenish the BTC membership in the club. Furthermore, swimming was a awesome way to cool off during the hot summer.

Coco Resorts Boat Ride Activity

The Management and Staff of Coco Resorts continued their patronage of the

Boys' Training Centre by organizing a Boat Ride for the staff and wards of BTC on 'Carnival 3' Catamaran. According to Mr. Patrick Fearon, the Head Mental Health Counsellor, 'over 50 wards and staff had a memorable excursion. The scenery, sun, and sea, including the fun-filled swim most of the group participated in on one of the beaches down the Coast, were simultaneously relaxing and invigorating. The food was great, as was the combined service and professionalism of the Crew of Carnival 3. As anticipated, the experience was truly an end-of-the-school-year stress-buster for boys and staff alike.'



Dental workshop/ Health related workshop

facilitator Felicia Montoute



On the 31 st July 2013 Ms. Felicia Montoute, Dental Hygienist and one third of Wellness Innovators held a dental workshop for the wards at BTC. The workshop focused on the good dental habits, consequences of bad dental habits and proper brushing techniques. Ms. Montoute ended her interactive presentation with a demonstration of proper brushing technique which was mirrored by the

wards. The activity was a brainchild of Mrs. Michelle Auguste, the Housemother. As a mother herself, she sees the importance of teaching the boys good habits in oral care and good hygiene. It is hope that these habits will forge a positive awareness and approach to dental care and personal hygiene.



Wellness Innovators is a health team which recognizes that there is a never ending need for health education in Saint Lucia. They believe that apart from building health centres, polyclinics and hospitals, we need to build a culture of awareness. Their team consists of a Dr. Andre Matthew- medical doctor, Ms. Felicia Montoute- a dental hygienist and Ms. Naomie Grandison- a registered nurse specially trained in emotional health and presents to audiences of all ages with an artistic or creative element which keeps everyone captivated. The Wellness Innovators hope to continue their work at BTC with other mini workshops on a range of health/ medical topics.





Saint Lucia, August 15, 2013— Ten (10) lucky boys from the Saint Lucia Boys' Training Centre got the chance of a

lifetime when Limacol Caribbean Premier League partner Scotiabank hosted an exclusive meet and greet for them with the St. Lucia Zouks.

Accompanied by Scotiabank's popular Kiddy Cricket mascot Chirpy, the youngsters got autographs and even bowling and batting tips from the hometown team right on the grounds of the Beausejour Cricket Ground.

Captain Darren Sammy and players such as Andre Fletcher and Shoaib Malik mingled and spoke with the boys who also got the opportunity to watch the team up close as they went through their practice drills.

Scotiabank representative Donna Augustin, a personal banking associate at the Rodney Bay Branch, said the meet and greet was Scotiabank's way of bringing together both its community outreach and its long-standing support for cricket.

"Scotiabank has a deep connection with cricket, through our sponsorship of Kiddy Cricket and now the Caribbean Premier League. And we also have a deep connection with young people as we do a lot of outreach activities involving youth,



including working with the boys at BTC. We wanted them to be able to experience some of the CPL fun and we thought this would be a great way to include them."

Elvin Ryan Germain, Activities Coordinator of the Boys' Training Centre, said the wards "enjoyed every minute of the interaction with Zouks team" he further added:

"We are hopeful that the memories created will be embedded in [their] minds and hearts."

About Scotiabank

Scotiabank has been part of the Caribbean since 1889. It is now the leading bank in the region, with operations in 24 countries, including affiliates. The bank has more than 10,500 employees, 972 ABMs and 357 branches, kiosks and other offices in the region, including affiliates. In December 2012, Scotiabank became the first Canadian bank to be named Global Bank of the Year and Bank of the Year in the Americas by The Banker magazine, a Financial Times publication. With assets of \$754 billion (as at April 30, 2013), Scotiabank trades on the Toronto (BNS) and New York Exchanges (BNS). For more information please visit www.scotiabank.com

Scotiabank Hosts Exclusive Meet and Greet with St Lucia Zouks



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Classroom Renovation Project



The Education Department undertook a mammoth project of renovating the classroom for the new academic year 2013/ 2014. The project comprised painting and tiling of the floor. Financing of the materials came from the Flamingoes group and the teachers. It was difficult to believe that within a week the staff and wards transformed the classroom. The activity was an awesome experience that galvanizes the core values of BTC. The wards learnt painting techniques, interior decorating techniques; laying ceramic tiles all of which promoted team work. It was like watching DIY Network or HGTV Network. In addition, one major contributor was the expertise of Mr. Augustin Octave, Wood Instructor (Project Supervisor). Research paper entitled, 'The future of the physical learning environment: school facilities that support the user' by Marko Kuuskorpi, Kaarina, Finland and Nuria

Cabellos González, Spain 2011 supports that enhancement in physical learning environments affects the learner and the teacher or facilitator.

In addition, the introduction of the Second Chance Program (CXC) and Auto Skills Program (Ministry of Education), the BTC instructors acknowledged their roles have changed due to the type of wards received and cared for at the Centre. Thus, offering an enhanced physical environment will aid in better instruction and facilitation of the skills and attitudes that BTC wish to cultivate in the wards.

At end of the project there was small ceremony held in the newly renovated classroom to appreciate the financial contributors and labour of the staff and wards. Ms. Debra Charlery, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment (MOST); Ms. Cheryl Philip, Human Resource Manager (MOST); Mrs. Sandra Ayres, Flamingoes group representative; Librarians of Central Library and the Management, Staff and wards of the BTC were in attendance.

SOURCE

<http://www.oecd.org/edu/country-studies/centreforeffectivelearningenvironmentscele/49167890.pdf>



Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Saint Lucia Mentoring Training

The Big Brothers & Big Sisters of the Saint Lucia have been engaged in mentoring the wards of the Boys' Training Centre for the past 3 years. The group had renewed spirit under a new presidency and in collaboration with Counselling Department of the BTC facilitated a mentoring training workshop for their members. The workshop covered area such as History and Evolution of BTC, Becoming a Mentor, Selection of the Mentee, etc. The Big Brothers Big Sisters have been a very supportive group to the activities and programs at the BTC.

The Brothers Big Big Sisters started in 1904, when a young New York City court clerk named Ernest Coulter was seeing more and more boys come through his courtroom. He recognized that caring adults could help many of these kids stay out of trouble, and he set out to find volunteers. That marked the beginning of the Big Brothers movement. At around the same time, the members of a group called Ladies of Charity were befriending girls who had come through the New York Children's Court. That group would later become Catholic Big Sisters. Both groups continued to work independently until 1977, when Big Brothers Association and Big Sisters International joined forces and became Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. More than 100 years later, Big Brothers Big Sisters remains true to its founders' vision of bringing caring role models into the lives of children. And, today, Big Brothers Big Sisters currently operates in all 50 states—and in 12 countries around the world.



SOURCE

<http://www.bigbrothersbigsisters.org.au/>

Harding University Visit



A group from the Harding University, Arkansas, collaborated with a local church to host a series of community service projects in Saint Lucia. The Boys' Training Centre was one of the institutions the group visited. The group of university students coordinated a two (2) day community service activity, which is a dichotomy of mentoring and leisure activities.



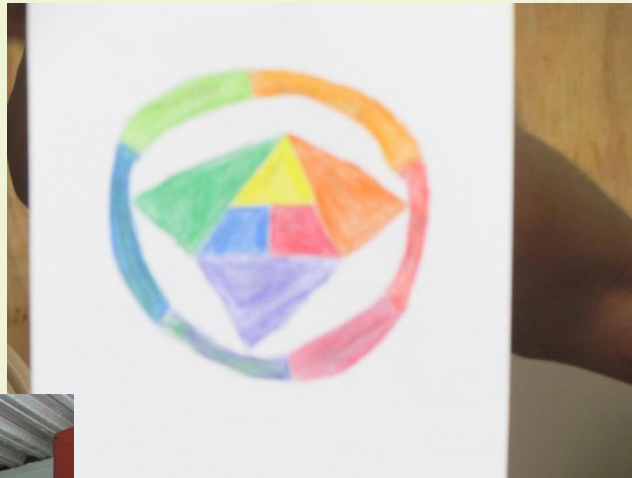
On Tuesday 23rd July, the group visited BTC, where they were given a brief tour of the facility and the programs that engage the wards. It was followed by meeting the staff and wards and throughout the day interacted with wards in football game and family style board games. On day two (2) Tuesday 30th July, the BTC wards and Harding University group had a beach lime at the Pigeon Island. The scent of barbequing chicken, warm bakes (dough) and refreshing sea water with the beautiful backdrop of the Pigeon Island National Landmark was perfect way to enjoy a warm summer day. The group hopes to make this a annual activity in the future.

Care & Protection Lifetime Chairs Donation



The wards of the Care & Protection were the proud recipients of Lifetime Folding Chairs on 7th August 2013. A total of twenty five (25) Lifetime Folding Chairs were donated by the following individuals and private sector companies: A.I.G. Construction Limited Saint Lucia, Licensed Land Surveyor Saint Lucia, Phoenix Construction Company Limited, Irwin Gajadhar Construction & Equipment Saint Lucia, Saint Lucia Employers' Federation, Hybert Construction Company Limited, St. Juste Construction Incorporated Saint Lucia and Theresa Louis from ECMC Limited. Mrs. Theresa Louis coordinated the project and is also a member of the Big Brother Big Sister of Saint Lucia. She has continued to assist and support BTC programs especially in the Care & Protection Unit. The Management and Staff of the BTC would like to extend appreciation to Mrs. Theresa Louis and the private sector individuals and businesses for the donation of the Lifetime Folding Chairs.

Moments in July & August



SUMMER PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES



SUMMER PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES





Caribbean Wesleyan Holiness
Church Group



Tobago Musicians



QUADRILLE DANCING
GROUP

HARDING UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS





Zouks Cricket team
meeting BTC wards





CLASSROOM
RENOVATION PROJECT





**LOCKER ROOM RENOVATION
PROJECT**



**COCO RESORTS SPONSORED
BOATRIDE ON THE CARNIVAL 3**





**AUDITING PERSONNEL
AT BTC**



**MRS. PRISCILLA NELSON BAKING WITH
CARE & PROTECTION WARDS**





Harding
University
Community
Service





ECUMENICALSERVICE AT BTC



DONATION OF LIFETIME CHAIRS



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