



BTC
March
2013

BEGINNING THE CHANGE

IN THIS ISSUE

Boys' Training Centre

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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. One, children in conflict with the law: boys under the age of 16 who have committed crimes. Two, 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 to go home to spend time with their families (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.



2013 Inter Secondary School
Track & Field Championships



Kiwanis Club of Castries
Volunteer Service Day

2013 Inter Secondary School Track & Field Championships

The Ministry of Youth Development and Sports in collaboration with the Saint Athletes Association hosted the annual Inter-Secondary Track and Field Championships at the George Oldum National Stadium in Vieux Fort. This sporting event showcased student athletes from all secondary schools island wide on the 11th, 13th and 15th March.

The wards of the BTC participated in field events- Javelin, Discuss and Shot Put. Nine (9) wards were registered in the events. Although, the wards didn't obtain a medal, they threw satisfactory distances like ward T.R.-8.85 metres in boys under 17 Shot Put and in boys under 17 javelin 26.22 metres.



Picture of the BTC ward throwing the javelin





Kiwanis Club of Castries Volunteer Service Day

The Boys' Training Centre (BTC) is blessed with assistance from many volunteers and volunteer organizations. The involvement of volunteer groups or community based groups through meaningful activities foster the cultivation of positive values and attitudes in the wards. Furthermore, they assist in the reintegration of wards into the wider society upon their release.

On the afternoon of Saturday 23rd March 2013, student volunteers from SALCC under the guidance of the Youth Services Committee of the Kiwanis Club of Castries partnered with the management and staff of the BTC to host a Social Day/Volunteer Service Day. The SALCC student volunteers and kiwaniannes created a picnic type atmosphere with the scent of finger-licking barbeque chicken; the unique aroma of cheddar cheese melting on pizza dough and the sounds of laughter from family style board games like ludo, dominoes and checkers. In addition, the Kiwanis Club of Castries donated an indestructible football to the Boys Training Centre.



The football coach – Mr. Alvin Xavier (former national footballer) highlighted “This is great gift to the BTC Sports Program, many footballs fall prey to the bared-wired fence surrounding the property and constant use by the wards, an indestructible football will not only entertain the wards in daily small goal football games and last longer than the regular soccer ball.”

The indestructible football was created by Tim Jahnigen. Named ‘The One World Football Project’ Tim Jahnigen from Berley, California got the idea for this incredible football in 2006, after watching a documentary about children in Darfur who found refuge from their daily plight by playing with balls made of garbage of string, because regular balls donated by relief forces and sporting goods companies ripped and deflated



within 24 hours, on the rocky terrain that doubled as a football field.

The student volunteers and kiwaniannes interacted with the wards throughout the afternoon gaining an insight on the unfortunate circumstances facing many less fortunate youths in society. In summary, it was an awesome day and the smiles and joy the kiwaniannes brought on the wards faces was the best gift on a Saturday afternoon at the lone juvenile detention centre on island.



Other Activities

SALCC Student Nurses Visit



Eight (8) SALCC student nurses visited the BTC on Thursday 14th March 2013. The student nurses visited to complete mandatory research and clinical work at BTC. During their visit the student nurses received a glimpse into the daily operations at the lone juvenile detention centre on island. In addition, they received a guided tour of the property, the vocational areas (welding, agriculture and woodwork) and the classroom.



Marc Seventh Day Adventist Visit

On Sunday 17th March 2013 the Marc SDA Church visited the Boys' Training Centre. The group was given a tour of the BTC property before meeting the wards and staff on duty. The group engaged all the wards in prayer, singing, interactive games, motivational talks and serve refreshments. The wards seemed to enjoy the afternoon activity especially the refreshments.

Catholic Youth Group Visit

On Saturday 30th March 2013 (Holy Saturday), a catholic youth group which was camped at the Pastoral Centre during the Easter Weekend visited the Boys Training Centre. The group's primary purpose was to interact with the wards in small goal football and other games such as dominoes. In addition, the visitors got an insight in daily life at the Boys Training Centre.



Flamingoes Donation

The Flamingo group based in the United Kingdom (UK) under the recommendation of Ms. Sue Sanders and Mrs. Sandra Ayres donated several items to the BTC Education Department and the Sports Program. The classroom received 2 desktop computers; 3 in 1 (printer/ scanner/ copier); arts & craft materials; materials to build desks for computers; special education software and audio visual equipment to aid in teaching the wards.



Farewell Mrs. Afua Sanders-Kim

The management, staff and wards of the BTC would like to thank Mrs. Afua Sanders-Kim for her invaluable service and volunteerism. Mrs. Kim is a US Peace Corp Volunteer and has been attached with Rise, Saint Lucia. Furthermore, she has given free computer classes to the wards every Friday from 2011 to 2013. Unfortunately, Mrs. Kim is returning to the United States of America in April. She will be missed by the all at the Boys Training Centre.



BYE MRS. AFUA, WE WILL MISS YOU!