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○ SPRING ○ 2008 NEWSLETTER

Friends Of Jamaica



FOJ Grant Projects: Weh De Money A Go?

Mystic Rhoads Productions (MRP)

The 5th Annual Burwood Beach Volleyball Tournament is slated for September 13.

The goal for 2008 is to make more improvements to Burwood Beach. The Beach, which suffered some damage from Hurricane Dean in 2007, is one of the few quality public recreation areas in Trelawny and is patronized by many local residents and overseas visitors.

Friends of Jamaica is supporting MRP to repaint the main building, changing rooms, garbage containers and benches at the Beach. The project will also assist in erecting signs at the beach to inform visitors of proper garbage disposal practices.

More information about the Tournament and its community development goals can be found at www.mysticrhoads.com.



Tivoli High School Team Celebrates 2007 GAD Contest Win

GAD Creative Thinking Contest 2008

The PC Jamaica Gender and Development (GAD) Committee has announced its 2008 Creative Thinking Contest. Led by PCV A'Nova Ettien, this year's scholarship contest is a poster competition to promote nonviolent relationships. Through the support of Friends of Jamaica, the winning posters will be printed and distributed to schools across the island.

Hurricane Dean Micro Grant Fund

With the generous assistance of an anonymous donor and the fall membership drive, FOJ created a micro project fund for Hurricane Dean Relief. This fund facilitated rapid community access to launch small recovery projects. FOJ immediately sent \$500 to start this fund and will release further funds if requested by current volunteers.

Betty Karplus Micro Grant Fund

Established by RPCV Betty Karplus, FOJ continues to support the Betty Karplus micro project fund.

This fund is locally administered in Jamaica by the Volunteer Advisory Council (VAC) and Peace Corps Jamaica. It awards small grants, allowing volunteers to complete local community projects. Examples of recent projects include.

- Supplies for an underwater diorama at the Negril Marine Park to educate Jamaicans about the health of coral reefs
- Materials to make bookshelves for a library in an infant school. The Peace Corps Volunteer who constructed the library had nothing to make the shelves with. The fund bought wood, and other materials for the shelves.
- Open an adolescent friendly lounge on the Jamaica's Family Planning compound in St. Ann's Bay. Funds provided desks for the lounge so donated computers and DVDs could be used and also provided a

- boom box to operate a low impact aerobics class. A Peace Corps volunteer will lead a 3 times weekly exercise class for older Jamaicans at risk for diabetes as part of a large public health campaign
- Paint to complete the visitor center at an environmental Non-Government Organization (NGO). The mural will complete a visitors center that will be used for training, community meetings and providing information on the local environment.



Web Yuh Deh? *Returned Peace Corps Volunteers*



Brian Rippy - brian_rippy@hotmail.com

I'm working on designing composting systems for the EPA here in American Samoa

Angela Kilduff - angela.kilduff@gmail.com



I do fundraising and event planning for a small art college in Cincinnati. Volunteer with Creative writing group for women in a drug & alcohol rehab center; working on Pilot programs for composting, so if anyone has any links or resources, I would love to see them. This fall I will begin working on a Masters of Journalism at UC Berkeley.



Joy (Nellie) Untalan - joyd13@gmail.com

I am volunteering with Peace Corps Response in Jamaica until September 2008. My project is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of shelter operations before, during, and after natural disasters in the St. James Parish. I will be working as a Crisis Corps volunteer in the Parish Council office located in Montego Bay.



Mark and Sara (Dowd) Ferree

Mark and Sara (Dowd) Ferree Group 74 were married in July of 2006 in Providence, RI where Sara is a grant writer for a non-profit which helps low-income kids succeed in school and go on to college. Mark is a web developer for GLAD WORKS, an ad agency, in Pawtucket, RI. Sara and Mark had a baby girl, Davia, in 2007. They will be relocating to Monterey, CA in May of 2008 where Sara will attend the Monterey Institute for International Studies.

Goodbye Alicia Smalls-Hines

The Assistant Peace Corps Director for the Youth as a Promise sector is leaving Peace Corps Jamaica this spring. Alicia has served Peace Corps Jamaica in many different capacities during almost a decade of service. She began her career with Peace Corps as a volunteer serving in Kingston. She became a Peace Corps Leader after finishing her time as volunteer. She has served as APCD for over 5 years. Alicia's commitment to Peace Corps, Jamaica, and the Volunteer community will make her dearly missed. She is a tireless advocate for the volunteers. Alicia is a great friend and mentor to volunteers, peace corps staff, and returned volunteers. Goodbye Alicia and welcome home.

FOJ Member Project Ideas Needed

FOJ Members we want you to recommend projects and charities in Jamaica that FOJ should consider funding. Email Ideas to:

president@servejamaica.org



Update from Amy and Tanuj "TJ" Deora Group 73

Newest addition: Sage Khushali
Sister: Zinnia

Jonathan and Rogean Group 75

New Addition: son- René Cadieux Smith

Update from Treasurer

During the 2007 calendar year, Friends of Jamaica raised more than \$3,000 from membership dues and donations, and we currently enjoy the support of 119 dues paying members. Our ability to fund the projects detailed in this newsletter are entirely dependent on the generosity of our members and friends. Thank you!

Friends of Jamaica Partners with First Book

Thanks to the hard work of RPCV Andrea Tehan (G 74), Friends of Jamaica is in the process of creating a partnership to give books to young people in Jamaica. Andrea is a former staff member of First Book and currently a Peace Corps fellow in the School of Education at the George Washington University. Andrea has worked with FOJ and First Book to create an exciting project to get books into the hands of Jamaican youth. This partnership will be between First Book, Food For the Poor, the Enhanced Educational Horizons Project, and Friends of Jamaica.

First Book is a nonprofit organization with a single mission: to give children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books. First Book provides an ongoing supply of new books to children participating in community-based mentoring, tutoring, and family literacy programs. The First Book model was developed to leverage the work of local heroes who reach children through existing literacy programs. The money you donate to Friends of Jamaica will help us to become one of those "local heroes" (or in our case not so local). This money will be used to pay for books and shipping of books from First Book to FOJ at a steeply discounted rate.

The books will be delivered to Jamaica through a partnership with Food For the Poor. Food For The Poor raises funds and provides direct relief assistance to the poor, usually by distributing them through the churches and charity organizations already operating in areas of need. The schools and students that have been selected to have books distributed to them are part of the Enhanced Educational Horizons project (this project was formerly called New Horizons Project). This project is a joint effort of USAID and Jamaican Ministry of Education to provide assistance to under performing schools. The project has developed a distribution network for goods and services through out the island. The project will pick up the books from FFP and distribute them to their schools and communities.

Rebecca Tortello an Advisor for the EEH Project says she "Looks forward to hearing from FOJ on finalizing this exciting project. This is a GREAT idea and will help our emergent readers and appeal to boys to read by providing them books."

To make this project work we will need your help. For as little as \$50 you can create a library of 200 books for a school in Jamaica. You could transform a school community for less then the cost of one week's breakfast pastries and coffees from Starbucks or Duncan Doughnuts.

For Membership Information go to www.servejamaica.org/join.html

Download application and send \$15.00 US to:

Friends of Jamaica
c/o Adam Donaldson
620 E 35th ST
Baltimore, MD 21218