

## Board of Directors

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# Friends Of Jamaica

○ SUMMER ○ 2008 ○ NEWSLETTER

The fastest person in the world is Jamaican Usain Bolt & the second fastest is Jamaican Asafa Powell, as measured by 100M dash. Can they come in gold and silver during this summer's Olympics? We'll be watching Cheers to the entire Jamaican Olympic Team!

## A Message from the Board Members: FOJ Funding Needed

Friends of Jamaica is proud to showcase recently funded projects in the Summer 2008 newsletter.

**THANK YOU** Your membership dues and additional contributions go directly to these efforts – new books for schools, computers, sports equipment, coral reef education, health and exercise lessons. The current FOJ Board believes that small, locally administered grants have an important role to play in improving the lives of Jamaican citizens and assisting current volunteers.

This Spring FOJ worked with the Jamaican Ministry of Education to review proposals and offer critical feedback to more than a dozen school principals who participated in a grant-writing workshop. As a result, we are in the process of assisting two schools to create a sustainable school breakfast program that ensures every child in the school has two meals a day. These breakfast programs were begun by a USAID & Jamaican Ministry of Grants. Breakfast programs dramatically improved attendance and achievement in these schools. Now schools are working on creating sustainable breakfast programs through grants, business,

and alumni groups. FOJ assistance will allow two schools to continue and expand these programs. Many other grants were worthy of funding, but beyond our current scope:

- ❖ **Windsor Castle** wants to transform their kitchen into a skills lab to expand feeding programs for schoolers and train parents & community members in cooking, nutrition, and business skills.
- ❖ **Jacks Hill Primary** wants assistance in building a computer lab for schoolers and parents to learn ICT skill.
- ❖ **Chester Castle** applied to put up partitions between classrooms in their school which is currently one large (very loud) room.

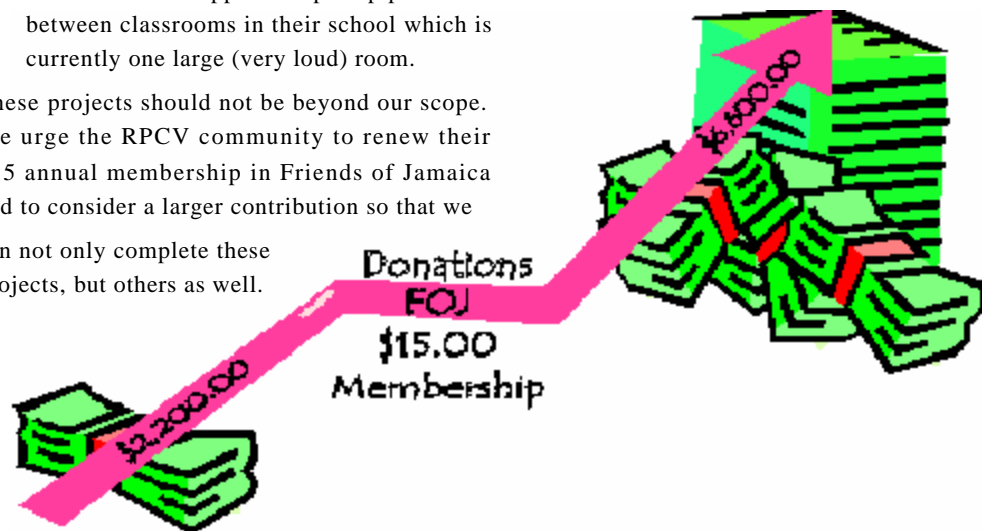
These projects should not be beyond our scope. We urge the RPCV community to renew their \$15 annual membership in Friends of Jamaica and to consider a larger contribution so that we can not only complete these projects, but others as well.

Our Treasury is currently at \$2,200 so we are setting a short-term goal to triple our fundraising to \$6,600. Thank you for all you do to help volunteers and Jamaicans.

*If you are interested in helping to fundraise for a particular project, contact us at FOJ (president@servejamaica.org) and we will help coordinate a giving campaign.*

To renew membership or make a donation:

[www.servejamaica.org/donate.html](http://www.servejamaica.org/donate.html)



## FOJ Funded: FirstBook! Books Shipped by Food For The Poor

Through a partnership with First Book and Food for the Poor, Friends of Jamaica delivered 6,016 new books to be distributed to youth in Jamaica through primary schools. The shipment were books with a Caribbean theme like Jack Sparrow #3: The Pirate Chase for ages 9-12.

FOJ would like to especially thank **Andrea Tehan G74** for introducing FOJ to First Book, **Cris Greene at Food for the Poor**, and **Rebecca Tortello at the Jamaican Ministry of Education** for coordinating delivery to the schools. As more funding becomes available, FOJ hopes to send a shipment of books directly to current volunteers for use in the communities where they serve. For less than \$0.25 a book we were able to get these books into Jamaican schoolers hands. For \$1,000 we could send dozens of books to every community the PCVs are in.



Jack Sparrow  
The Pirate Chase

## FOJ Funded: Printer

The **Belfield All Age School** received funding from the FOJ to purchase a commercial printer/scanner/copier.

A printer/scanner/copier will allow the teachers to enhance the students' learning, as well as their own.

-Tyler Gage, PCV St. Mary

## Betty Karplus Grant:

### Coral Reef Mural at The Negril Marine Park

The mural at the Negril Marine Park's Headquarters is a work in progress.

PCV Brooke Anderson and PCV Iris Ying are working on a mural that will encompass the Educational Visitor Center and Gift Shop at the Marine Park's Headquarters.



PCV Brooke Anderson and PCV Iris Ying work on a mural for the Educational Visitor Center & Gift Shop.

High school art students from three of the local high schools have expressed interest in working on the project and the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society looks forward to their involvement.

The project includes a life-sized coral reef diorama, approximately 15 feet long by 7 feet high. The diorama is also underway.

Paints for the project were purchased from Nova Color of California and were funded by a Betty Karplus grant.

## Betty Karplus Grant: New Sports Equipment for Students

New footballs, basketballs and a pump were purchased with funds from the Betty Karplus Grant. The students at the Leicesterfield Infant, Primary and Junior High School, located in North Clarendon, are now able to use the screw-in needle and guard which

helps stabilize the air-pump and gives the students the freedom to pump up the footballs without assistance.

The students are learning how to dribble the basketballs using a dribbling drill called "keep away", where they learn to dribble the basketball between their right and left hand, avoiding a third person stealing it away.

The school is in the process of putting up hoops and PCV Tiffanie Tsui is anticipating many exciting games.



## Yoga Mats for daily classes:



Newly purchased mats are used for Karate, Yoga, Pilates, and Aerobics at the Force One Health Club, located in Caledonia Courts Plaza. PCV Sienna said "Providing professional level classes gets them excited and interested in fitness. I have taught all over the world and nothing has compared to the vibes teaching in Jamaica!" The mats are also used at the Iris Scarlet Senior Center to conduct Exercise and Diabetes presentations, making it possible for seniors to conduct modified exercises on the floor. -Sienna Creasy, PCV Mandeville, Manchester



100 HOUSES. 50 STATES. ONE NIGHT.

## One Hundred House Parties

Want to help build a broad, grassroots movement to call for a bigger, better, bolder Peace Corps? If so, support the MorePeaceCorps campaign by participating in one of the **100 House Parties** taking place nationwide.

On September 6, 2008, the MorePeaceCorps campaign will be throwing 100 house parties across the United States. The main purpose is to generate thousands of postcards to lawmakers from all fifty states, urging doubled funding for Peace Corps. With 20 parties claimed within several days of the campaign's launch, we still have 80 parties



GAD 2008 Big Up Yuh Love, Doan Box it Dung Poster Competition Entry  
PCV Tyler—St. Mary

left to host. There are numerous ways you can help out, whether by hosting a party, arranging for donations, coordinating publicity, writing letters and/or op-ed pieces, or simply attending your local house party.

Email [maywilkinson@morepeacecorps.org](mailto:maywilkinson@morepeacecorps.org) for more information.

## Web Yuh Deh?

*Returned Peace Corps Volunteers*

Betty Karplus '91 — '93

Reports that she continues to help her service site, contributing directly to the Copse Place of Safety, a residential center for boys out of school.

Ed Harris '94 — '96

Let us know that the Holburn Manor Guest House in "Town" is still operating. For the last 10 consecutive years, Ed has returned to Jamaica to visit his volunteer site and the Peace Corps Jamaica office.

Rebekah Konn Dawson '02 — '04

A future PCV was born July 18, Abigail Patricia Dawson, to Rebekah and Orville who are currently living in New Jersey. We are told that Abby is "absolutely perfect and adorable".

Barbara Hunt '02 — '04

Barb is working at Stanford University and her daughter Rebecca is carrying out the Peace Corps legacy as a PCV now in Togo, Africa. Barb hopes to visit her in December.

Update us. Email [secretary@servejamaica.org](mailto:secretary@servejamaica.org)

For Membership Information go to [www.servejamaica.org/join.html](http://www.servejamaica.org/join.html)  
Download application and send \$15.00 US to:

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FOJ General Meeting September 2008  
Email [president@servejamaica.org](mailto:president@servejamaica.org) to  
RSVP and receive call details.  
All members welcome