human rights, as the hemisphere coped with dictatorships in South America and civil wars in Central America. Through its special human rights organs, the OAS has made a significant contribution over time in ensuring more access to rights for the peoples of the Americas.


The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has visited and conducted academic activities in Jamaica; it has also closely monitored the human rights situation through hearings, precautionary measures and petitions. Its 2005 report in case of Michael Gayle, who died from an assault allegedly perpetrated on him by the security forces in 1999, and the Commission’s follow up to its report, played a role in the establishment of the Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM) to investigate actions of security personnel that result in death of the abuse of the rights of persons. This report has been cited by Jamaican judges in reviewing the INDECOM Act and it has provided a blueprint for undertaking impartial and independent investigations by INDECOM. In a 2016 Seminar for CARICOM Ombudspersons on Citizen Security and the Inter-American Human Rights System hosted by the Faculty of Law, The UWI Mona and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and funded by the European Union, the Gayle case featured prominently in the discussions amongst the 20 Ombuds from Jamaica, Costa Rica, Barbados, Belize, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. We often think of ‘human rights’ as simply norms. The Gayle case is an example of how those norms helped to shape the strengthening of Jamaican institutions and the rule of law.

TRACY ROBINSON
Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, The University of the West Indies.
Defending Human Rights

The inter-American human rights system came into being, in April 1948, with the adoption of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the first international human rights instrument of a general nature. The Inter American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) was created in 1959 and the Inter American Court of Human Rights was installed in 1979. The role of the OAS in the area of human rights evolved from a primary focus on the promotion of human rights as expressed in the Charter, to a stronger focus on defending...
The work of the Organization of American States (OAS), through its many programs and initiatives, has a direct impact on the lives of millions of peoples in the Americas, and delivers tangible benefits to the citizens of all of its Member States.

The efforts of the OAS, grounded in democracy, human rights, security and development, have contributed to the socio-economic development of the Americas, and in particular, have opened opportunities for scholarship, internship, skills acquisition, and lifelong learning through pathways for personal and professional growth and social mobility. Within the context of the broad ambit of the work of the OAS, including the facilitation of technical support across all sectors, the paramount objective of all of the Organization’s initiatives remains the improvement of the lives of the citizens of the Americas, ensuring the enjoyment of improved security, respect for their human rights, development across all spheres of human and social endeavor, and the promotion and preservation of democracy in the hemisphere.

The testimonials in this booklet, written by beneficiaries of the OAS programs in Jamaica, speak not only to the personal development afforded by such opportunities and the prospect for the realization of their fullest potential, but just as importantly to the cumulative impact which human development spurs in the socio-economic reality of Jamaica, and in all of our Member States.

I invite you to enquire with the National Office in Kingston about the programs of the OAS and to visit us online at www.OAS.org.

As the OAS celebrates its 70th Anniversary in April of this year, the Organization remains resolutely committed to sustained implementation of its programs and initiatives which are geared to the holistic development of our human capital and the strengthening of growth sectors, acting on its core mandate to respond to the needs of the peoples of the Americas.
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica is pleased to join in the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Organization of American States (OAS). In that regard, we extend heartiest congratulations to the team of the General Secretariat at the Headquarters in Washington D. C., as well as the support Staff at the OAS Office in Jamaica.

For Jamaica, the OAS remains an institution critical to the pursuit of a range of shared political, social and economic interests among the countries of this Hemisphere. Our partnership with the OAS over almost 50 years has been a most valuable one. The establishment of the Office of the General Secretariat in Jamaica in March 1971, just 2 years after Jamaica became a member of the Organization has been helpful in establishing a concrete framework for our implementation of the four main pillars of the OAS namely: democracy, human rights, integral development and multidimensional security.

A review of OAS activities in Jamaica over the years demonstrates multiple benefits to our country and its people. By way of example, I wish to highlight some of the achievements of the past year, in support of Jamaica’s development goals. The Peckham Bamboo Pre-Processing Project, an agro-processing activity has provided employment for many Jamaicans. In addition, the Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN), the Partnerships Program for Education and Training, (PAEC) and the Rowe Fund Program, which provided financing for under-graduate studies, were all significant contributors to the development of Jamaica’s education sector.

Other laudable OAS projects include institutional capacity building in the security and tourism sectors. Notably, there have been various training collective reflection. Through this approach a number of lessons were learned and a deeper understanding of the issues involved and potential solutions developed. One such area of learning is that the implementation of a bilingual approach required changes at a number of levels: in teacher competencies, educational environment and educational system. Through the project, a foundation had been established that has enabled us to continue development to achieve the reform desired in Deaf Education. Successes achieved by students transitioning to mainstream secondary education programs has served as a motivation for continued program implementation. These students were among the first cohort benefiting from a bilingual approach and attained performance levels on the GSAT Examinations that enabled placement in mainstream schools of their choice. Annual average performance on the GSAT examinations have also reflected a significant and steady increase as we have grown in our capacity and use of the bilingual approach to Deaf Education”.

OAS Development Cooperation Fund’s (DCF) Craft Enhancement Project (2014-2016)
The project beneficiaries from Vineyard, St. Elizabeth worked in Basketry. Dyeing techniques of fiber was introduced to them. They were all very enthusiastic and remarked how much more marketable their products are. The group leader Ms. Valerie Smith says their market has expanded immensely; thanks to the OAS Craft Enhancement Program.

Beneficiaries from Brae’s River benefited from the OAS Program in a very special way. There are many coconut plants in Brae’s River and persons use coconut for various dishes. The shell is often discarded, so with the opportunity presented by the OAS Program the shells were made into many decorative as well as utility items.

Group of participants trained in coconut shell from Beeston Spring, Westmoreland.
and innovation projects as well as workshops on security and corruption prevention. Additionally, our juvenile offenders have benefitted from meaningful rehabilitation programs. These, along with many other social and development projects, have provided the framework for many more years of fruitful partnerships between Jamaica and the OAS, and its regional partners, in the years ahead. We remain committed to working with the OAS in the achievement of our common goals and look forward to strengthening the partnership in the coming years.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to wish the OAS team a very happy and successful 70th Anniversary celebration and wish for the Organization and the staff of the General Secretariat continued success in the work that you do in support of the development of the countries of the Americas.

RYAN DWYER, OAS Loan Recipient 2017
“The Rowe Fund has been vital in assisting me to achieve my goal to complete my graduate studies. Because my passion lies in Public Health, I am able to effect change among populations that require preventative care. Had it not been for the Rowe Fund and its highly dedicated staff, my goal for completion would have been delayed, and I’m so appreciative of their impact on my life personally and professionally. It’s definitely my intention to give back to the Rowe Fund to assist other students who have a vision to excel in their careers. I’m grateful beyond measure”.

The OAS Development Cooperation Fund
Formerly known as FEMCIDI, the recently restructured OAS Development Cooperation Fund (DCF) is a voluntary fund. Only OAS member states who contribute to the Fund are eligible to submit proposals to request funding for development projects to be implemented in their respective countries. Every 3-year project cycle, contributing members determine the development areas that will be considered for project financing. Over the past 2 decades, the Fund has provided over US$63 million to support OAS member states in their efforts to reduce poverty and inequality; this was done by providing grants for nearly 800 projects in areas ranging from education, entrepreneurship, community development, small and medium enterprises, renewable energy resources, and science and technology, among others.

Jamaica Association for the Deaf (JAD)
“The OAS FEMCIDI Project: Language and Literacy Development for Deaf Children and Youth (2008 - 2011) enabled a context specific application of the bilingual philosophy in Deaf Education. It was a learning experience and the use of an Action Research approach in many of the activities enabled the construction of meaning and understanding through a specialization in International Social and Economic Development. Without this opportunity, it would have been impossible to develop the intellectual, academic and professional skills necessary for working in my field. Because of the loan, I have been able to dedicate more time to studying and building my professional network through attending workshops and seminars locally and internationally. As a matter of fact, I wouldn't be able to continue my studies without the loan. As such, I would like to thank the OAS for facilitating my personal and professional growth through the provision of the Leo Rowe Fund loan.”

RYAN DWYER, OAS Loan Recipient 2017
“The Rowe Fund has been vital in assisting me to achieve my goal to complete my graduate studies. Because my passion lies in Public Health, I am able to effect change among populations that require preventative care. Had it not been for the Rowe Fund and its highly dedicated staff, my goal for completion would have been delayed, and I’m so appreciative of their impact on my life personally and professionally. It’s definitely my intention to give back to the Rowe Fund to assist other students who have a vision to excel in their careers. I’m grateful beyond measure”.

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Ensuring a Multidimensional Approach to Security

The Organization of American States was established to achieve, among its member states, “an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence.”

Security has thus been a crucial pillar of the OAS from the time it was established. Over the past 70 years, the Organization changed its focus, however, from collective security towards external threats to a multidimensional approach to security, prioritizing hemispheric cooperation to address more imminent threats from within the hemisphere. With the shift in focus, came the creation of the OAS' various Departments and programs in the area of security under the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security.

In recent years, the majority of OAS activities in Jamaica have been in the areas of security and development.

A New Path: Promoting a Healthy Environment and Productive Alternatives for Juvenile Remandees and Offenders in Jamaica

SENATOR, THE HON. PEARNEL CHARLES JR.,
Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security

“A New Path is the most significant and impactful program for our youth currently being implemented in our correctional institutions.”

so. It was an important enabling factor in my subsequent career path as a Caribbean climate scientist. I am very grateful for the opportunity the scholarship afforded me.

Dr. Michael Taylor is a Caribbean Climate Scientist and a Lecturer in the Department of Physics at The University of the West Indies, Mona campus.

DESMOND AUGUSTUS CAMPBELL,
OAS Scholarship Recipient 2004

“Since graduating in 2006 with a Master of Arts in Education in the field of Natural Science and Environmental Education from Hamline University in Minnesota, I have been fully engaged in Environmental Education and that from a Sustainable perspective. I ply my ware at Moneague College where I now serve as Assistant Dean (Head of Department) for the School of Natural and Applied Sciences and Coordinator of Projects (whole campus). I have since conceptualized, garnered national and international funding and implemented over 12 projects successfully and spearhead a professional program called Environmental Studies; offering degrees to the Associate of Science and Bachelor of Science level.”

Desmond Campbell is the Assistant Dean of the School of Natural and Applied Sciences and Coordinator of Projects at Moneague College.

MARTHA LUISA CORBETT-BAUGH,
OAS Scholarship Recipient 2008

“A Jamaican National striving to pursue my Doctorate. Thanks to the 2008 OAS partial scholarship, the quality of my work has been enhanced beyond any expected boundaries. Giving thanks alone will never be enough. Networking, travelling abroad, researching and above all, growing to become a better professional, mother and woman and above all: a better human being.”

Martha Luisa Corbett-Baugh, retired Education Officer for Foreign Languages, Spanish at the Core Curriculum Unit (CCU) of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Jamaica.

THE LEO S. ROWE PAN AMERICAN FUND

The Leo Rowe Fund has for decades offered interest free student loans to citizens of Latin America and the Caribbean pursuing academic degrees at universities in the United States of America.

ROXANN TANEISHA LAWRENCE,
OAS Loan Recipient 2017

“In 2017, I received a OAS Leo Rowe Fund loan to pursue a Master of Social Work, with
A New Path: Promoting a Healthy Environment and Productive Alternatives for Juvenile Remandees and Offenders in Jamaica is the OAS’ largest project being implemented in Jamaica at this time.

New Path is implemented by the Department of Public Security of the Secretariat of Multidimensional Security of the General Secretariat of the OAS (OAS/DPS), with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the collaboration of the Trust for The Americas, a non-profit organization affiliated to the OAS, since the end of 2014.

Following the mandates and priorities established by the Member States of the Organization of American States, the OAS/DPS has been providing technical assistance to Member States for the continuous improvement of prison management and the development of policies to reintegrate detainees. Considering the challenges to the successful reintegration of juvenile offenders, such as the stigma among potential employers and the lack of family support upon reintegration into society, in Jamaica, the OAS/DPS has designed A New Path to improve the quality of, and access to reintegartion services, technical training, and individualized psychosocial/emotional services for juvenile detainees, with the goal of contributing to the reduction of juvenile recidivism and, ultimately, crime and violence in Jamaica.
A New Path operates in all juvenile facilities of Jamaica, and provides comprehensive support to youth in conflict with the law, having assisted more than 1,460 youngsters up to December 2017.

Implementation of activities to the youth placed at correctional centers:
- Life Skills Program
- Remedial training
- Vocational activities (home economics, tourist target skills, animation, aquaponics)
- Behavior change through creative and alternative classes (e.g. music, yoga, sports, arts & craft)
- Psychological support

Building and enhancing local capacity to deal with youth in conflict with the law:
- Capacity building for local partner organizations
- Training of Trainers in Department of Correctional Services of Jamaica (DCS) staff to implement vocational, educational and recreational activities
- Development and implementation of a comprehensive electronic case management and follow-up system in juvenile facilities
- Assignment of a post-release case manager
- Participating youth are engaged in economic or education opportunities, including apprenticeships, internships, mentorship, role modelling, and subsequent education courses
- Pitch It!: Learning and Investing in Your Future: Training of releasees in entrepreneurship and provision of micro-grants to serve as capital seed to the best entrepreneurial ideas

Promoting Democracy

Through its Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy the OAS reinforces its role as the primary political forum in the inter-American system and actively helps to sustain democracy in the member states. The Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation of this Secretariat (DECO / OAS) focuses on developing and maintaining a permanent and professional service of observation and technical electoral cooperation for member countries, grounded on efforts for continuous improvement and the consolidation of related procedures and practices. Since 1962, the OAS has observed more than 250 elections in more than 27 countries of the 34 member states of the OAS, deploying more than 10,000 international observers.

HONORABLE MRS. DOROTHY PINE-McLARTY, OJ, Chairman, Electoral Commission of Jamaica

The OAS has provided invaluable support to the Electoral Commission of Jamaica (ECJ) through the mounting of missions to observe Jamaica’s parliamentary elections and the insightful reports, inclusive of valuable recommendations, that have been generated from these missions. The support of the OAS in establishing the Association of Caribbean Electoral Organisations is also noteworthy. Importantly, the recent launch of Jamaica’s political party and campaign financing legislation was assisted by the OAS sharing with Jamaica, and other countries in the region, its model legislation for the registration and financing of political parties. The ECJ is very grateful to the OAS for its support in electoral management capacity building.
A New Path also strengthens the capacity of the Department of Correctional Services in providing better care to the youth. It has already trained more than 160 officers and staff to implement the components of the reintegration curriculum.

In addition, it has also developed a new case management process for the facilities, including policy and standardized forms, which will allow staff of all the facilities to work in a coordinated manner and follow-up with an individual development plan for each young person arriving in the centers.

Once the youth are released, the project provides immediate support to them, focusing on social reintegration and economic inclusion. Each releasee is assigned a case manager, who provides him/her individualized psychosocial support and guidance for 6 to 12 months. The case managers use standardized forms to classify the risk level of each young person and adapt their action plans accordingly. For those under 16 years old, the priority is to assist them to return to mainstream education and to attend extracurricular courses. Those 16 years old and older, are placed on apprenticeships and job opportunities, as well as skills training, through partnerships with the private sector and civil society.

SKEETER DIANA McKENZIE, Security Manager/ PFSO, Port Authority of Jamaica

Sponsored Programs:
2013 Sept 9-20: Specialized National Course on Container Control and Security… OAS
2016 Feb 22-March 23: Online Course in Container Terminals… OAS

“It would truly be an impossible effort to measure the impact of OAS sponsored courses on any geographic space, given the potential far reaching influences, when implemented. The OAS has been able to pull together a rich reservoir of knowledge in its course facilitators. Without this pivotal role there would be significant gaps in our collective learning and ultimately our abilities to remain viable as a port or a destination would be impacted negatively. Thank you on behalf of all those who see the benefits and are oblivious of your efforts and support”.

MARK A. HYLTON, Port Manager, Falmouth Cruise Ship Terminal, Port Authority of Jamaica

“I attended the International Maritime Organization 31st Advanced Course on Port Operations and Management in Le Havre, France, from 11th September to 13th October 2017, through the support of the Organization of American States. This was a great opportunity for personal and professional development. I had the pleasure of meeting, interacting and sharing best practices with maritime professionals from different continents. The course enhanced my understanding of global maritime security and the various threats to the maritime industry. Personally, my confidence in public speaking was enhanced and I expanded my appreciation for the catalytic role of the maritime industry, in advancing global socio-economic development. I am sincerely appreciative of the Organization of American States for this opportunity and consider the course a seminal undertaking for providing the peoples of the Americas, with wider global experience and understanding”.

Staff of the juvenile facilities participating in the yoga training of trainers

Craft Products made by project beneficiaries during classes offered through a New Path project
The project, as the other initiatives of the OAS, incorporates a gender perspective to address the specific needs of each gender group of the target population. As such, all activities of A New Path are planned and implemented in a gender-sensitive manner. Particularly, considering the singular needs of women, who become involved in criminal behavior for different reasons than men, the program has developed a differential approach for the intervention in the juvenile facility.

In order to implement this comprehensive initiative, the OAS/DPS has partnered with the Ministry of National Security and the Department of Correctional Services of Jamaica; the Government of Chile, through the National Services of Minors, and of Canada, through Correctional Services Canada, and NGOs in Jamaica to enhance the reintegration services delivered to youth in conflict with the law.

The project beneficiary turned micro entrepreneur after receiving training and seed fund through a New Path

Youth assisting in the video production of the institutional video of A New Path as part of their apprenticeship

building programs to assist OAS Member States to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism. Today, there are 10 programs divided into six broad program areas: border controls, financial controls, critical infrastructure protection, legislative assistance and consultations, crisis management exercises, and policy development and coordination.

The OAS Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) is the only permanent Inter-American government forum that brings together the National Port Authorities of all OAS Member States for the promotion of the development of competitive, safe, sustainable, and inclusive ports in the Americas with the active participation of the private sector. Member States have selected the following six priority areas in port management where several challenges have been identified:

1. Port Protection and Security
2. Logistics, Innovation and Competitiveness
3. Sustainable Port Management and Environmental Protection
4. Public Policy, Legislation and Regulation
5. Corporate Social Responsibility, Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
6. Tourism, Inland Ports and Waterways, Ship Services and Navigation Safety

AUDREY McNEIL, ISPS Compliance Coordinator, Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ)

“In 2008 the Organization of American States (OAS) offered technical assistance to the Government of Jamaica through its Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) port security assessment program for OAS Member States. The program provided individualized assessments, focused technical assistance and training to enable ports and the Designated Authority to maintain the security requirements of the ISPS Code. As a result of this assistance, the PAJ introduced the following which have been identified as best practices by our partner the US Coast Guard:

- Port Facility Security Plan Template
- Port Facility Security Instructions (PFSI)
- The Multi-Agency Threat and Risk Assessment Group

The PAJ continues to benefit from the partnership with the OAS through the continuous Capacity Building initiatives offered in Jamaica and overseas.”
MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS (up to December 2017):

- More than 1460 youth have received assistance through the project.
- 789 girls and boys successfully completed and received certification in a range of educational and vocational training.
- 195 releasees and at-risk youth participated in the two editions of the Pitch It!: Learning and Investing in Your Future: 91 received extensive training in entrepreneurship during a one-week residence program, 39 of which were awarded micro-grants to start their own business.
- More than 70 releasees received job opportunities and apprenticeships through the project.
- Training-of-Trainers of DCS staff: More than 160 officers and staff trained on strategies and tools to deal with challenging behavior and to implement reintegration courses.
- Case management framework, including standardized forms, for juvenile facilities developed and approved by the Department of Correctional Services.
- Implementation of the paper-based version of the case management system in the juvenile facilities.
- Construction of an outdoor sports court in South Camp.

As a result, during its first three years of implementation, the project has contributed to a transformation in the juvenile criminal justice system: staff has reported a reduced number of conflicts inside the facilities and a more conducive environment to the growing and learning of the youth placed there. More importantly, preliminary data shows that only 33 of the 713 young people released from Metcalfe and South Camp during 2015 and 2016 have returned to a juvenile correctional center, which would represent a reentry rate of 4.62%.

For further information, please email publicsecurity@oas.org and watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dv8mE8Y5aEk

1 Statistics of recidivism rates were not available before the project beginning to allow for comparison and there are methodology challenges to collect data on recidivism in a two-year period.
its 70th Anniversary and looks forward to the continuation of its reach in the lives of our young people, especially those disenfranchised”.

DELORES ‘KERRY’ SPENCER, CEO of Abker Academy of Cosmetology, assists “A New Path” in the implementation of vocational training in South Camp Juvenile Remand and Correctional Centre, 2017-2018

“Through the Wig Making program that we conducted at South Camp, we have seen the young ladies develop their skills in the beauty industry and increase their appetite for further learning. The OAS staff have all been co-operative and eager to assist us in achieving our mandate. Abker has benefited from the exposure, the association, the remuneration and the satisfaction of knowing that the participants have benefited. We look forward to our continued collaboration”.

SANDRA GRIFFITHS, Executive Director of Yoga Angels International, assists “A New Path” in the implementation of yoga in the juvenile centers. 2015-2018

“A New Path has brought to life Yoga Angels’ vision of positive life altering behavioural changes to the mind and heart of the Jamaican correctional facilities’ staff and wards. Being able to witness the transformation of both wards and staff as they apply the ‘A New Path’ Programme is rich and empowering, and in turn a positive change throughout society. Yoga Angels is beyond proud of implementing the A New Path”.

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

The OAS’ Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) was created over 30 years ago to address the many challenges caused by the dramatic increase in trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs since the late 1970s, which had not only become a major threat to the health and wellbeing of individual citizens, but represented a security problem for the hemisphere as a whole. Supply reduction was CICAD’s focus at the time it was established. With the adoption of the multidimensional approach to security by the OAS in 2002, there has been an increased balance between CICAD’s supply reduction and demand reduction programs.
S.G. 2017-2018 Beneficiary of “A New Path” that participates in the initiatives of the project in the South Camp Juvenile Remand and Correctional Centre, where she is currently placed in a correctional order.

“Playing the instrument makes me feel light, stress free and that I can do anything I put my mind to. The program is a good one and I believe I can use it as a profession. It has taught me a lot, especially about the different wind instruments”.

D.R. 2016 Beneficiary of “A New Path” that received assistance while she was placed in the South Camp Juvenile Remand and Correctional Centre and has participated in the orchestra component of the project.

“Music, in orchestra class, makes me feel alive. All of us get together and make a bond. It’s just a great melody. Like you’re singing a song. But with just all of us in it, it is a perfect song”.

MARTIN DRYDEN, Superintendent of Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre, one of the centers where “A New Path” is being implemented

At the Rio Cobre I have seen, through the OAS’ involvement in the implementation of programs and other initiatives, how the lives of the young men at the center have improved. The impact of these programs has resulted in inspiring hope beyond the walls of the Rio Cobre J.C.C. There is no question that they have been empowered to chart “A New Path.”

The impact is not limited to the young men at the center, as even members of staff benefited, as they were given the opportunity to participate and train as facilitators to ensure the continuity of these programs. I look forward to the continued partnership with the OAS, as together we impact the lives of young Jamaicans with whom we have been charged to Rehabilitate and Reintegrate.

MARIA CARLA GULLOTTA, Representative of the organization Stand Up for Jamaica, has assisted “A New Path” in the implementation of arts therapy in South Camp Juvenile Remand and Correctional Centre in 2016

“The juvenile program aims to offer, to the minors, psychological support through creative activities in order to teach them to like themselves, to develop their talents and to learn to manage their emotional personality. It has been useful and the girls were enjoying such activity showing motivation and good participation”.

SHARLENE SPENCE, Acting Assistant Superintendent of Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre, one of the centers where “A New Path” is being implemented

“A New Path” Program has empowered the staff and wards of the Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre with critical skills to manage behavior and provided healthy avenues to cope with the stresses of life. Undoubtedly, this program will change the face of rehabilitation in Jamaica with its focus on holistic transformation of individuals from within”.

IRIS "TERRI" SALMON, Founder/President of the organization YARD Empire, assists “A New Path” in the implementation of a drama program in Rio Cobre Correctional Center, 2017-2018

“YARD (Youth for Arts & Recreational Development) Empire is fortunate to have the support of the OAS, under its “A New Path” initiative, in using Theatre Arts as a means of rehabilitation for youth in juvenile correctional centers. Theatre Arts has been a powerful tool in changing lives of the juveniles, as the youth expressed their emotions through dub poetry, creative writing, dancing and singing. YARD is pleased to congratulate the OAS on

DONAHUGH ASHMAN, Correctional Officer of Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Remand Centre that has received training to be a Barbering Instructor through “A New Path”

“The Barbering Program has certified me as a Professional Barber to teach the skill to wards and improve myself as an individual. Through this program, the young boys at the Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Centre are now able to learn the skill from a professional and provide for themselves and their families once released. The program gives the boys hope; they now have an opportunity to reintegrate into society with a profession”.
BRENTON ST. PATRICK PINGUE, Acting Overseer of Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Remand Centre that has received training to be an Aquaponics Instructor through “A New Path”

“As a strong believer in rehabilitation and reintegration, I see the Aquaponics Program as one of the keys to helping the boys rebuild their life as productive citizens. Aquaponics is about feeding your family and feeding the nation. This new method of agriculture exposes boys to a new face of farming. Farming can be for youth, it’s a viable option for making a living. I have to say Kudos to OAS for changing lives”.

NIGEL BRYAN, 2017 New Path Project Beneficiary

“I was placed on an apprenticeship at the Ministry of National Security through “A New Path” Program. During this time I gained invaluable skills in being a professional and working on the computer. I was mentored about managing my time properly within the workplace and being punctual, which was a problem I tackled over the years. I am grateful for the experience and I believe that it can change a lot of youth growing up in the society, so they can have the experience and knowledge that I gained”.

SCOTTMORE RICHARDS, 2017 New Path Project Beneficiary

“A New Path” has greatly impacted my life in so many areas. Through this program I have learnt to be disciplined, focused and to have great confidence in all that I am doing. It has helped me to develop myself in a positive way to excel to higher heights and achieve the impossible, making Jamaica a better place for everyone. I am grateful and deeply appreciative of all the great wonders these organizations have done for me and other young individuals and I commend all the members for their great work. Without a shadow of a doubt, I am sure “A New Path” will make Jamaica a better place for everyone. Thank you.

KRISSROY SIMPSON, 2017 New Path Project Beneficiary

“My name is Krissroy Simpson. Before starting “A New Path”, I was a young man with no economic independence. Because of this, I faced continued threats of homelessness. The program supported me through on-the-job training via the apprenticeship component. After my extended 3 months on the job, I was offered a contract by the same company where I am now gainfully employed. I am most grateful for this opportunity and experience”.

QUAN HIGGINS, 2016 –2017 New Path Project Beneficiary

“I want to give thanks to the OAS program, as A New Path has assisted me in pursuing my career in the field of Electrical Installation. I did not have the money to attend classes, my Case Manager of A New Path made the recommendation and the financial assistance was granted. Now, I am at the end of completing my Level 2 HEART certification and I am grateful”.

DERISHA RICHARDS, 2016 –2017, New Path Project Beneficiary

“The Yoga Program inside the facility has taught me how to be patient. Since leaving, I have worked on the apprenticeship programme where I gained experience operating in a professional environment. I was later recommended for the Pitch It! and I am now on my way to becoming an entrepreneur. I am very grateful for this opportunity.”

J.W. 2017-2018 Beneficiary of “A New Path”, participates in the initiatives of the project in the Rio Cobre Correctional Center, where he is currently placed in a correctional order.

“Through the classes of yoga offered by “A New Path”, I learnt to release anger and gain self-control.”

D.C. 2017-2018 Beneficiary of “A New Path” participates in the initiatives of the project in the Rio Cobre Correctional Center, where he is currently placed in a correctional order.

“The classes of theatre in the center, offered through “A New Path”, program enabled me to express myself through drama and also discover hidden talents”.

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