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Caystone

The Newsletter of the Lyford Cay Foundations

Pursuing Educational Excellence One Class Graduates and Another Begins

This year, 25 young men and women completed their studies at institutions throughout the world – an achievement made possible thanks to you, our generous donors. Now armed with a strong foundation and international experience, these Scholars are pushing ahead towards their goals.

John Alao, a University of Miami graduate, plans to pursue his dream of becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon. “My passion is to change the world, to see the potential for greatness in the world around me and to help foster that greatness,” he says. He begins medical school next fall.

Engineers and Kettering University alumni, Inga Bethel and Infané Lowe will both pursue Master’s degrees while working in their fields.

University of Oxford alumna, Ashley Knowles, wants to begin her PhD in Anthropology next year in hopes of becoming a professor at The College of The Bahamas.

As these Scholars work toward making their mark on society, a new wave of students begin their college journey thanks to you.

This year, our pool of applicants was well-rounded, making it a competitive decision-making process for our screening committee. After reviewing close to 600 submitted applications, the committee made their final recommendations, changing the lives of 39 young people forever!

Whitney Dean, a newly awarded Scholar who is studying International Baking and Pastry at Lincoln College of Technology says receiving the award is truly a blessing.

“No matter how hard the task may be or how detailed it is, anything is possible if you just put



Left: New Scholar Kristal Ambrose. Right: 2014 Graduate Ashley Knowles.



your best foot forward,” says Justin Higgs, a marine technology student at New England Institute of Technology.

For Kristal Ambrose, an environmental science major at Gannon University, this scholarship equates to environmental change within The Bahamas.

“Being able to carry on with my studies means that I can continue my social and environmental plastic movement within the country.”

Sixty-one returning students continue toward their goal of graduation.

Thank you! You provide an opportunity for these students to make their dreams come true!

2014 Recipient Profile:

- 20% first generation college students
- 25% from the Family Islands
- Average Household Income <\$35,000
- Average Cost of Attendance \$36,650

Inside

FOCUS	
Summer SLAM	2
Class of 2022	3
Scholars	
Meet the Students	4
Alumni Give Back	5
Grants	
Autism Support	6
Community Building	7
Our Donors	
Thank You!	8



Update FOCUS

FOCUS is a tuition-free, out-of-school-time enrichment programme aimed at college readiness and access. FOCUS recruits motivated public school students in grade 4 in the North-western district of New Providence (Bain & Grants Town through to Gambier Village) and follows them through to high-school graduation. The majority of our participants will be the first in their family to go to college. Lessons are conducted for 30 days during the summer and on 15 Saturdays during the school year.

SUMMER IN REVIEW

A Snapshot of Our Fourth Summer SLAM!



FOCUS Summer Stats:

- 150 Students
- 20 Interns
- 5 Experienced Teacher Coaches
- 4 Team Leaders
- 4 Volunteers



For more fun and photos visit: facebook.com/lcf.focus

Grades 5 and 6 Project

Web Developers: Waste Management In The City Of Nassau

Students created websites that inform and educate the public on the challenges of waste management in Nassau and proposed solutions to those challenges.



Grades 7 and 8 Project

Map Makers: Developing an Efficient Bus Route for FOCUS

Students presented a recommended bus route based on GIS (geographic information systems) mapping and created a computer app for bus drivers and/or passengers to use.



Our Donors Provide Opportunities

You inspire students to see college as an attainable goal.

OUR NEWEST FAMILY MEMBERS

Making College a Reality for the Class of 2022



Amiel Johnson

Amiel Johnson is a Grade 5 student who is an eager learner and music enthusiast.

According to his family, his outlook on education is a direct result of his participation in FOCUS. "As soon as he leaves FOCUS, he goes straight to his homework," says his mother, Olivia Johnson. "He use to put off his assignment for an hour or two, but not anymore."

Amiel says that FOCUS stimulates his mind in a new way. Through FOCUS, he has been introduced to fresh concepts such as his summer project on waste management solutions. He was so intrigued by what he learned, that he couldn't wait to do his own internet research on the subject.

His love for FOCUS and learning was further emphasized by winning the speech competition. His theme focused on how the

power of positive music can change the world.

"I really liked our field trip to do a beach cleanup," says

Amiel. "The best part of FOCUS was meeting my new teacher and making new friends." Amiel notes that although he was happy for school to start, he missed FOCUS and couldn't wait for Saturday sessions.

Amiel's mother knows that this laser-like attention on goal setting comes from the programme's influence.

"FOCUS can change The Bahamas in so many ways because it gets the children more active and keeps them focused on exactly what they want, what their goals are and how to attain them," says Mrs. Johnson.

Age: 9
Neighbourhood: Elizabeth Estates
Recruited from: Albury Sayle Primary
Career Goal: Musician and Teacher
FOCUS is: Fun, exciting, teaching me a lot more

"FOCUS can change The Bahamas in so many ways."

— Olivia Johnson, mom of Amiel, Class of 2022

Keziah Sargent

Keziah is a poised 10 year old who loves science and has a keen sense of justice. But just last year, you might not have known it because she was just too shy to share her thoughts.

Since Keziah joined FOCUS, all that has changed!

"I want to help the community and bring justice to all. FOCUS will help me do that."

— Keziah, Class of 2022

"She's more outspoken and more energetic," says Keziah's mother, Charade Sargent. "As the youngest, she was always in the background, never willing to push or be outspoken. Now she tells her siblings, 'Be quiet! I have something to say!'"

Her newly-found voice will come in handy since her career aspiration is to become a lawyer. When asked why she applied to FOCUS, Keziah said "I want to go to college to get a good education so that I can become a lawyer. I want to help the community and bring justice to all. FOCUS will help me do that."

Keziah finds FOCUS to be fun and exciting, and was delighted to see that FOCUS sessions are much more interactive than a traditional school setting.

This past summer, she especially enjoyed the field trip to Bahamas Waste where she learned more about waste management. The field trips are just one of the reasons why she was excited for the start of the FOCUS Saturday sessions, which resumed in October.

"I'd describe FOCUS as fun, educational and amazing!" says the outspoken Keziah.



Age: 10
Neighbourhood: Perball Tract
Recruited from: T.G. Glover Primary School
Career Goal: Lawyer
FOCUS is: Fun, educational, amazing!

Photos by Bahamas Visual Services

Spotlight On Our Scholars

INSIDE THE LIFE OF A LYFORD CAY SCHOLAR

Current Scholars Share Their Stories



Scholar:
Princeton Delvarido Boston,
Class of 2015
Award:
Technical Scholarship Recipient, 2011
Institution:
Ferris State University
Major:
Automotive Engineering Technology

Determined, passionate and industrious are perfect words to describe Princeton Delvarido Boston. Princeton views his field of study as much more than a career - it's an opportunity to bring innovation to The Bahamas through engineering.

His career goal is to become a certified automotive engineer and create an improved transmission that will be named after him. He may well be on his way!

When asked how he feels about being Lyford Cay Scholar, Princeton said, "The Foundation opened a door of opportunity to interact with other scholars who shared wisdom about how to achieve my goals."

"I would like to thank the donors who help make an opportunity for me to excel in a field that I enjoy. I thank you for making my dream a reality."

Scholar:
Cory Nixon, Class of 2018
Award:
Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient, 2014
Institution:
SUNY Maritime University
Major:
Marine Engineering with Engine License

There's no doubt that Cory has a bright future. He continues his college journey on a high note - he was recently elected as class President.

Growing up, Cory's interest in engineering came from his father, a self-taught mechanical engineer who he says, "has the ability to fix anything."

After accepting a job as a deck hand, Cory's interest grew into a passion that he pursued. He even accepted an unpaid internship to gain more experience.

About his education, Cory says, "A university gives me the intellectual space to learn more about the maritime field. I can research different subjects, test new theories, keep up with the latest technological developments, plan career possibilities, develop business ideas, build interpersonal networks and make steady progress toward my ultimate career goals."

Scholar:
Michelle Westbrook, Class of 2015
Undergraduate Degree:
The College of The Bahamas, 2012, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Award: Graduate Scholarship Recipient, 2014
Institution: University of Sussex
Major: Applied Social Psychology

Michelle has big plans for the future. After completing her Masters of Science, she'd like to complete a Ph.D. in Social Psychology, return to The Bahamas as a professor at The College of The Bahamas and conduct research on the unique social, cultural and historical characteristics of the country.

Michelle shares what motivates her interest, "There's a deficit of research on Bahamian populations and insufficient academic professionals to lead the practical application of what is observed and understood from research studies."

Grateful for her scholarship, Michelle says, "Being a recipient has renewed my faith in altruism, and reaffirmed the existence of a thriving group of community-minded individuals who support Bahamians pursuing careers in academia and in the arts alike."

PAYING IT FORWARD

Lyford Cay Alumni Host New Scholarship Recipients

This past summer, Lyford Cay Scholar Vaughn Roberts, (*SVP, Baha Mar*) rallied a group of alumni to host a congratulatory reception for our new scholarship recipients. While students mingled, Scholar Cherrylee Pinder, (*Founder, CP Training and Consulting Services*), gave helpful college survival tips.



Alumni L-R: Chauncy Adderley, Terneille Burrows, Martiniqua Moxey, Selvin Basden, Felicity Humblestone, John Benjamin, Vanessa Riley, Vaughn Roberts Charles Hamilton and Nathan Lightbourne. Special Thanks to Cherrylee Pinder, Kyle Chea and Damian Forbes, not pictured. *Photo by Dante Carrer*

Q&A: D'ANDRE WILSON-IHEJIRIKA



Photo courtesy of D'Andre Wilson-Ihejirika

McGill University, 2010, Bachelor of Engineering, Chemical Engineering

University of Toronto, 2012, Master of Applied Science, Financial Engineering

Employment: Project Development Lead, Project Portfolio Management Group at Suncor Energy Inc.

Canada isn't so far from The Bahamas if you ask D'Andre Wilson-Ihejirika. Currently residing in Alberta, The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation alumna is keen on making a mark on The Bahamas.

Passionate about supporting women and children in engineering fields, her *Ziri Bag* initiative recently awarded its first scholarship, and *BETA Camp*, a free week-long engineering camp for students in grades 7 through 9, had a successful first summer, serving more than 70 students!

Q: What opportunities did your education make possible?

A: Education opened so many doors. My degree in engineering taught me problem-solving and how to apply math and science in every industry. This led to my master's in financial engineering, which is essentially applying engineering modelling techniques to the finance industry. And it led to a career in the Alberta oil sands. These experiences helped to me to grow into the driven, goal-oriented person I am today.

Q: Do you think engineering and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) related fields are needed in The Bahamas?

A: Definitely! Engineering and STEM aren't limited to traditional technical fields. They can be applied to any industry. STEM professionals can help us revolutionize the healthcare, financial and tourism industries.

Q: Why is it important for you to give back to The Bahamas through Ziri Bags and BETA Camp?

A: No matter where I live, The Bahamas will always be home. I hope to one day bring my husband and son back home with me. The Bahamas has infinite potential as a global player in multiple industries. But to make that happen we need professionals in STEM. The initiatives that I am involved in are just one stepping stone towards that goal.

Q: What drives your passion to support women in the engineering field?

A: There is still a perception that engineering is a male profession. When organising BETA Camp, our applications were less than 15% female. Even after a marketing drive for more girls we ended up with only 28% female enrolment. However, Education Minister Fitzgerald noted Bahamian girls are outperforming boys in STEM. Bahamian girls just need role models in these fields that encourage them to pursue technical professions.

Q: What would you like to say to the donors of the Foundations who support Bahamians in pursuing post-secondary education?

A: I'd like to say "Thank You!" I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for the generous donors at the Foundations. I'd also like them to know that donating to the Foundations is one of the best investments they can make. By supporting students, the money comes back tenfold to the Bahamian economy. I haven't met a single Lyford Cay Scholar who has not given back to our country. And that is a great return on investment!

For more information on D'Andre's initiatives visit:

Ziri Bag: <http://www.myziribag.com/>

BETA Camp: <http://betac242.com/>

Our Donors Provide Opportunities
You begin a cycle of giving that continues for years to come.

Roundup Grants

SUMMER FUN WITH REACH

Camper with Autistic Spectrum Disorders Learn Life Skills

Finding engaging summer programming for children during the long summer months is usually a huge challenge for parents.

It's even more challenging when your child has autism spectrum disorder, a complex neurological disorder that impairs a person's ability to communicate and relate to others.

That's why Lyford Cay Foundation was excited to partner with REACH (Resources and Education for Autism and Related Challenges) this past summer!

With a Foundation grant of \$15,000, REACH was able to accommodate more than 90 students - the largest number that they've ever hosted - at their 14th annual summer camp.

The four week camp took place in July at T.G. Glover Primary School under the supervision of qualified special education teachers, assistants and aides.

The camp was free to all participants. Students were provided academic enrichment and taught social, behavioural and life skills. Because of

“This camp means so much to so many people and this year it was made possible thanks to the Lyford Cay Foundation’s generosity.”
— REACH President, Mario Carey

the Foundation's grant and REACH's commitment to all children, the camp is one of the few that welcomes every child regardless of ability or financial status. Even siblings of children with autism were invited to participate in an effort to foster social interaction and relationship building.



While learning social, behaviour and life skills, REACH participants have fun with music, dance and craft lessons. *Photos by Dante Carrer*



With the theme of “All Things Bright and Beautiful,” campers energetically learned about nature and wildlife through crafts, music, pet care and field trips. The daily activity schedule covered a wide range of topics and activities including swimming, speech therapy, academics, dance, music, cooking and vocational skills.

REACH camper, Rasha' Bowe, 12, wrote in a thank you card to our donors, “Thanks for being there when we needed you.”



At the end of the camp, parents were happy to see that their children had progressed in their development despite school being closed for the summer.

Mario Carey, President of REACH, summed up the feelings of the parents best, “This camp means so much to so many people and this year it was made possible thanks to the Lyford Cay Foundation’s generosity.”

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Montell Heights Community Centre Revitalises Neighbourhood

Community members of Montell Heights always knew that their neighbourhood could thrive with the right resources and support.

Now, two Lyford Cay Foundation grants are helping this inner city community soar to its full potential!

The much-anticipated Montell Heights Community Development Centre opened recently to benefit the entire neighbourhood.

A \$5,000 grant from Lyford Cay Foundation was used to purchase furniture and kitchen appliances to complete the project.

Reverend Clinton Minnis, President of the Montell Heights Community Development Association, shared the importance of the Centre.

“Our community has a high level of antisocial activity, so the Association wanted to bring our people together to change our reputation and to change our perspectives of ourselves,” said Minnis. “Using the Centre to engage the public is going to improve the quality of life in this area.”

The Centre is certainly off to a flying start! More than 50 members of the community use the headquarters for community gatherings and for free after-school homework help weekly.

“The grant gave us the funds we needed to purchase tables, chairs and kitchen appliances and every item is



Children from the Montell Heights community are treated to a special presentation by local firemen. *Photos by Ahvia Campbell*

“Thank you Lyford Cay Foundation for the best camp ever.”

— Shaniya Bowley, Camp Participant

being used regularly. We appreciate the Foundation's help so much,” said Minnis.

Over the summer, the children of the community were invited to participate in a free, four week summer camp held at the Community Centre. An additional \$5,000 grant from the Foundation was used toward supplies, materials and food - including breakfast and lunch that were provided for the 60 children daily.

Camp participant, Shaniya Bowleg, 9, said, “I had so much fun at the camp. I learned about the fire department and trucks. The police spoke to us. I also learned about our culture and what it is to be Bahamian. Thank you Lyford Cay Foundation for the best camp ever.”



Members of the community are looking forward to the Centre's continued growth. Reverend Minnis spoke for the neighbourhood as he summed up the community's aspirations for the Centre: “We want this place to be the home of Montell Heights. We want it to be a place of refuge and we want the people here to be able to come to us and get the help they need.”

Our Donors Provide Opportunities
You make it possible for communities to reach their full potential!

Our Donors

Providing Life-changing Opportunities!

THANK YOU! IN THEIR OWN WORDS



“Receiving a Lyford Cay Foundation scholarship poses several distinct meanings. It ensures that I am financially able to pursue my college education. It **affords the opportunity for social and cultural expansion** and possibly the greatest of these is that it constantly places the duty to self and to country at the forefront of my mind.”

— Salathiel Wells, 2014 Canadian Undergraduate Scholarship recipient, Simon Fraser University

“I received the Estelle Siebens award as an undergraduate and this year I was fortunate enough to be awarded a graduate scholarship. Without these awards, there is no way I would have been able to pursue higher education. **The Foundation has been life-saving**, and I am grateful for the opportunities that have been afforded to me.”

— Carla Gibson, 2014 Graduate Scholarship recipient, Columbia University



Donor and Board Member Norma Dana meets graduate Scholar, Carla Gibson. Photos by Natural Expressions New York and Dante Carrer.

“We thank you for your kindness and generous spirit in sowing into the lives of the many underprivileged in West End, Grand Bahama. **We salute and love you!**”

— Keith and Linda Cooper, Directors, West End Eco-Fishing Camp

“Thank you to all the donors for your help. You are generous, full of love, caring supportive, helpful, nice and kind. **You make a little dream big.**”

— Marquita Seymour, FOCUS Class of 2020



“I have always known that I wanted to become a marine scientist, however, education is expensive. As an international student at the postgraduate level, education is even more expensive! This scholarship is allowing me to fulfil my long-term dream and professional goals. **Without scholarship funding and financial assistance I would not be able to complete my Ph.D.** I’m extremely grateful to be a recipient.”

— Krista Sherman, 2014 Shirley Oakes Butler Trust Graduate scholarship recipient, University of Exeter

ABOUT US

Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. and The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation were created to enhance and enrich The Bahamas and the lives of its people by investing in learning opportunities for Bahamian children, families, young adults and communities who are most in need.

To date, over 2,500 Bahamians have benefitted from scholarships to study abroad and locally, and close to 200 non-profit organisations have been provided with financial support enabling them to assist thousands of people most in need.

FOCUS, a tuition-free enrichment programme serves motivated public school students from grade five through to high school graduation supporting them on their paths to college and career success.

DONATE TODAY

You can help! Generous friends like you help bright young Bahamians in their pursuit of educational excellence and assist with community building. **Without you, these life-changing opportunities would not be possible.**

To make a gift please visit:
www.lyfordcayfoundation.org/help or call us at 242-362-4910.

Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. and The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation are registered non-profit public charities in the USA and Canada.

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