



Fall 2015 VOLUME 24, NO. 2

Caystone

The Newsletter of the Lyford Cay Foundations

Hurricane Joaquin Relief Efforts: In October, Hurricane Joaquin affected six southern Bahama Islands causing devastating damage. As with similar disasters in the past, the Foundations have pledged \$100,000 to the relief efforts. We appreciate your thoughts and support.

FOCUS ON FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

How our priorities have adapted

In 2011, we embarked upon a project new to The Bahamas and to the Foundations – FOCUS. This tuition-free college access programme was developed and modelled on similar programmes in the United States, serving the same demographic.

The shift to prioritize serving first generation students began when analysing our own scholarship programming.

We found that the majority of our scholarships were being awarded to students who graduated from private schools. Although there is a need amongst these students – as tuition for most Bahamian private schools is less than \$5,000 per year – we were not reaching as many students for whom a college degree would be transformational, students who do not have college educated parents.

Further research suggests that although public school students may have the desire to go to college, they are not as academically and socially prepared to do so. Studies have shown that students whose parents have a college education, are up to three times more likely to attend college. And according to the Pell Institute, only 11% of low-income first generation students attain a Bachelor's degree.¹

In the Bahamian context, additional factors affected our programme parameters.

In 2009, testing results showed that the majority of students in grade 3 were reading at or above grade level. However, by the end of grade 5, the majority of students were reading below grade level. With this in mind, recruitment for new

FOCUS students takes place in grade 4. Moreover, only 1 in 2 public school students graduate from high school.

With this reality, FOCUS was created to serve public school students who will be first in their family to go to college. The long-term goal of FOCUS is that students will graduate high school and attain post-secondary education. Our first cohort graduates high school in 2019.

FOCUS has given us new perspectives on the challenges that first generation students face.

And we wanted to do more!

This past year, we added an additional criterion to our scholarship selection process that recognises first generation applicants.

A small change with major results!

Compared to last year, we more than doubled the number of new scholarship recipients who are first generation college students.

Now, we are planning to launch the Cutillas Scholars Programme, an initiative where we mentor and fund public school students who will be first generation students attending The Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute or The College of The Bahamas.

Our mission is to serve those who will benefit the most from our donors' support. We look forward to working toward that goal with your help!

¹Pell Institute. (2011). 6-year Degree Attainment Rates for Students Enrolled in a Post-Secondary Institution. Retrieved from: www.pellinstitute.org/downloads/fact_sheets-6-Year_DAR_for_Students_Post-Secondary_Institution_121411.pdf

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Update

FOCUS

SUMMER 2015: FOCUS students were immersed in Project Based Learning initiatives designed to promote learning through teamwork, problem-solving and hands on exploration.

Students in grades 5 and 6 were charged with constructing a model eco-friendly house and explaining how it works; grades 7 and 8 created and launched their own businesses; and students in grade 9 formed their own media enterprise that allowed them to investigate and report the news.

All of the students presented their work to an audience of donors, parents and supporters at the end of Summer SLAM.



FOCUS Class of 2019 with Minister of Education, Science and Technology Jerome Fitzgerald during project showcase this past summer.

FROM THE DESK OF FOCUS CLASS OF 2019

An Excerpt from The Newspaper Created by Grade 9

FOCUS means everything to us! It is one of the best programs that we have ever been a part of. We know that FOCUS will help us reach our goal of one day going to College.

More than just preparing us for College, FOCUS helps us to succeed academically as well as socially.

On our journey through FOCUS we have made siblings outside of our biological families. We got to meet wonderful persons and formed friendships for life!

Each year we set out on a different educational adventure. Each summer we learn new things and grow as FOCUS students. Our projects provide us with experiences that teach us teamwork, leadership and unity.

The sports at FOCUS are fun and are great energizers. Soccer and swimming help to keep us healthy, fit and energetic. We are happy for the sports that we do, because we get time to run (or swim) around and have fun.

The groups help us to learn the importance of teamwork. We are able to interact with each other and work collaboratively together. Though it can be grueling to work in a group, we are relieved to know that we will always have each other's back.

Full of creativity and excitement, the staff encourages us to be the best possible versions of ourselves. They are there for us when we need them the most. They set examples for us and they accept us for who we are!

Our Donors Are A Caring Community

You give students the opportunity to build lasting relationships for life!

5 YEARS IN - THANK YOU

A Special Look at Our Donors

RBC Royal Bank of Canada

RBC Royal Bank has supported FOCUS since the programme's inception and was our first corporate donor. To date, the bank has given \$50,000 toward FOCUS. "The FOCUS programme complements RBC Royal Bank sponsored programmes aimed at helping young Bahamians develop adequate capacity for leading successful lives," said Deborah Zonicle, RBC Market Manager, Products, Marketing, & Channels, Bahamas, Cayman and Turks & Caicos Islands. "RBC Royal Bank is proud to partner with Lyford Cay Foundations to expand access to higher education. We anticipate a bright future for students participating in FOCUS and know that our investment in youth and education will yield good returns for The Bahamas."

The College of The Bahamas

Since FOCUS' inception, The College of The Bahamas has been our facilities partner, allowing us use of the Oakes Field campus for both Saturday sessions and during the summer as a gift in kind. Dr. Rodney Smith, President of the College had this to say, "I want to encourage you to continue your good works and to know that you are making an impact in the lives of these students. The College is grateful for the role that FOCUS is playing in preparing future College of The Bahamas Alumni."



Dr. Rodney Smith, visits FOCUS Summer Slam project Showcase this past summer. The College of The Bahamas has generously opened up the campus for us.



Surrounded by FOCUS Class of 2019 students, RBC Royal Bank Senior Team Representatives, Patrice Ritchie and Wenrick Clarke present a donation to LCF team members.

Thanks to You: FOCUS Donors

- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- William Birchall Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Norman J. Boersma
- Carmel Charitable Trust
- Cornèr Bank (Overseas) Limited
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- TK Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Peter B. Vlasov
- Ms. Vernice J. Walkine
- Mr. Roy Williams

Spotlight On

Our Scholars

CELEBRATING NEW SCHOLARS

2015 New Recipient Highlights



Scholar:
Cleopatra Armbrister
Award:
TK Foundation
Technical Scholarship
Recipient
College:
Keiser University, FL
Class of 2016
Major:
Histotechnology

As an experienced professional, Cleopatra has worked her way up to the position of Mortuary Superintendent at Princess Margaret Hospital.

It was in this position that she observed the backlog of unread specimens of deceased tissue samples due to the lack of trained technologists. Seeing this need, she became interested in the field of histotechnology.

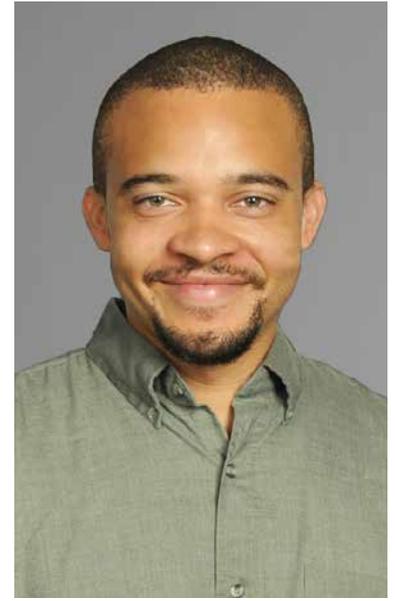
Cleopatra, the first in her family to pursue post-secondary education, is eager to complete her programme and return home to do her part to advance healthcare in The Bahamas.

When asked what drives her passion for public health care, she said, "Could you imagine accurate, timely, efficient, quality service?"

This is what the Public Hospitals Authority is striving to achieve. I am excited about the opportunity to position myself to be a part of such a team of professionals that are not in the limelight in any form but are so essential to the overall care that patients require."

Cleopatra's colleagues are anticipating her return so that she can assist in making diagnoses and improving overall service.

2015



Scholar:
Travers Jones
Award:
Rogers Family
Scholarship
College:
Dalhousie University
Halifax, NS
Class of 2019
Major:
Aquaculture &
Fisheries Management

Travers is a native of Grand Bahama and has always been aware of the importance of the fishing industry in sustaining The Bahamas' economy.

Upon graduation from high school, Travers immediately began working at local factories. When not working, Travers gained part-time experience in his true interests – fishing and boating.

In 2012, Travers saved enough money to enrol in a 10 month Aquaculture Technician course at New Brunswick Community College in Canada. He excelled in the programme!

Now with two practicums in his field and a year of professional experience at Cooke Aquaculture, he is looking forward to pursuing his Bachelor of Science and becoming the first in his family to complete undergraduate studies.

When asked about his goals, Travers said, "My career aspiration for the future is to set up an aquaculture facility for the purpose of producing fish for domestic and international export.

I would like to locate this facility on Grand Bahama where it will also be responsible for research and restocking endangered fish species in The Bahamas."

Our Donors Are A Caring Community
You expand the horizons of college students who want to make The Bahamas better.

MEET AND GREET IN NEW YORK

Scholars and Donors Mingle

This past September, Foundation Chairman Basil P. Goulandris hosted scholars, donors and friends at an intimate cocktail reception at The Metropolitan Club in New York.

Connecting our remarkable donors to our talented and hard-working alumni who reside in the New York area and our current scholars studying in the city made for a wonderful evening.

A special thanks to all those who attended.



L-R: Lyford Cay Scholars and Alumni: Fred Morris, Felicity Humblestone, D'Andre Hepburn, Cory Nixon, Jasmine Ferguson, Carla Gibson, Chairman Basil P. Goulandris, Tishka Francis, Anita Jones, Antonio Rolle, Greg Curry, Sebastien Hutchinson and Sasha Dixon. Photo by Natural Expressions NY

Q&A: SHANINO DUNCANSON



The Community College of Baltimore County, Associate of Applied Science, Civil Engineering Technology

Employment: Co-founder, Lines and Levels Surveying Company

Lyford Cay Alumnus Shanino Duncanson has forged a path in a little known industry in The Bahamas, construction surveying.

For sixteen years, through Lines and Levels Surveying Company - the company

he co-founded with business partner David Major - he has provided construction surveying for well-known developments in the country including Baha Mar, Lynden Pindling International Airport, Balmoral, Old Fort Bay and Atlantis.

Q: *What is construction surveying and why is it important?*

A: Construction surveying is a branch of general land surveying. We take what an architect draws and make it physically come to life on the ground so that a contractor or developer can build.

Q: *What is a typical day like for you?*

A: There's no such thing as a typical day! My daily activities depend on what the contractor, subcontractor or architect needs. For example, if it's found that an area isn't level, I may be called in to gather information. Once I give that information to the contractor, I await further instructions. You're always on call and have to be ready. Organisation and time management are critical skills for this field.

Q: *What does the future of construction surveying and construction look like in The Bahamas?*

A: The industry is hopeful but we need more of an emphasis on construction as a career, and not just temporary employment.

We have to train individuals so we can

have skilled employees. The construction field can be as lucrative as medicine, law or any other field.

A developing nation will only be developed if you build. We should make an overall plan for what we want the country to look like and the focus on building that.

Q: *What advice would you give to students interested in studying construction surveying?*

A: To work in this field, you just need to be curious. There are few surveyors in The Bahamas and we are the only construction surveying company, so anyone interested can come and talk with us.

Q: *You've volunteered with our FOCUS programme, what was that experience like?*

A: I enjoyed sharing with the students about careers in surveying. I explained that being able to draw simple shapes is the key to this field and we set up the instruments outside and did a demonstration.

I'm reminded of the story of the Indian chief who told a tale of a good wolf and a bad wolf who are eternally fighting. The question is which wolf will win? The answer is the one you feed. We have to feed what is positive in society.

To find out more about Lines and Levels Surveying, contact Shanino at 242-445-8089.

Roundup

Grants

ENGAGING BUDDING SCIENTISTS AT BETA CAMP

Students Get Emerged in Science, Engineering and Technology Activities

A nation brimming with qualified engineers and innovative scientists ready to meet the demanding technological needs of a growing country – that’s what the founders of BETA Camp envision for The Bahamas.

A \$10,000 grant from the Foundations this summer allowed the camp to come one step closer to realising this vision.

Having completed its second year, BETA (Bahamas Engineering and Technology Advancement) Camp was founded by Bahamian engineers Trenicka Rolle and Lyford Cay Scholar D’Andre Wilson-Ihejirika.

“Our research shows that many young Bahamians struggle with math and science. Our camp helps them apply what they’ve learned before going on to take national exams.”

BETA is the collaboration of a consortium of highly-skilled Bahamian engineers, scientists and technologists who reside locally and abroad and all volunteer their time.

The Foundations’ grant enabled more public school students, girls and family island students to attend the camp, which focused on creating an awareness of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) opportunities among students in grades 7 to 9.

“Our number one goal is to expose young people to engineering. Neither of us knew what engineering was before starting university,” said D’Andre.

“We didn’t know that engineering was a viable career path and we want Bahamian students to explore different opportunities.”

“Young people need to know that engineering is fun and allows you to use a whole range of skills such as innovation, creativity and problem solving,” expressed Trenicka.

“Our research shows that many young Bahamians struggle with math and science. Our camp helps them apply what they’ve learned before going on to take national exams.”

BETA Camp co-founders felt strongly about encouraging family island sustainability and recruiting girls to learn about this traditionally male-dominated



Participants proudly present their work during the final day of camp. Photos by BETA Camp

sector. This past summer, 85 students participated in the camp, with 20% coming from the family islands and 50% being girls.

Thankful for the Foundations’ support, D’Andre said, “This grant has helped tremendously with the expansion of the programme.

“It allowed us to reach our goal of serving more public school students, provide living accommodations for family island students, and enabled us to recruit more girls.”



BETA Camp Co-Founders with team members and volunteers, which include Lyford Cay Scholars, at the camp’s closing ceremony.

Our Donors Are A Caring Community
You expose our children to new and colourful adventures in learning.

AN ADVENTURE IN THE ARTS

NAGB Summer Camp Receives \$5,000 Grant

Summer learning loss and lack of access to affordable childcare are just two of the many reasons that summer break has been identified as one of the most challenging times of year for young people and their families.

Amongst the many initiatives addressing this challenge is The National Art Gallery of The Bahamas (NAGB) Mixed Media Art Summer Camp.

This camp was designed for children ages 5-15 with the goals of exposing each camper to at least three different art forms and highlighting art as a viable career option.

Out of 100 students that participated in the two summer sessions, 30 of these students were able to attend at no charge because of The Foundations' funding.

The Foundations' \$5,000 grant covered the cost of registration, art supplies, field trips and healthy lunches for children participating from communities most in need.

"Exposing children to the creative process helps them develop skills that are relevant in many other areas including math and logic," noted Abby Smith, NAGB's Education and Curatorial Support Associate.

"Creative work can help them find a constructive way to express themselves, and that is a skill that all children need regardless of their future career aspirations."

Throughout the sessions, participants had first-hand experiences with many art forms including making ceramics, painting still life's, creating murals, working with digital media and crafting Junkanoo masks.

Caleb Fynes, a 15 year old from a local public high school enjoyed the camp and all it had to offer.

"I've always liked art. This camp was fun and taught me different things I didn't know about art. Now I know how to sketch better and how to blend colours," he said.



NAGB participants Caleb Fynes and Tamiko Glass take a break from learning about video production. *Photos by CayFocus (Disha Fraser)*



Young campers Cyrah Louis and Sia Wright became fast friends during their time at camp.

Summer 2015:

\$81,750 invested in 13 non-profits that impacted 3,000 kids!

- All Eleuthera Tennis Camp (**Eleuthera**)
- Andros Conservancy and Trust (**Andros**)
- BETA Camp (**Nationwide**)
- Bahamas Youth Network (**New Providence**)
- Bahamas National Trust Eco Camp (**Nationwide**)
- Basketball Smiles (**New Providence**)
- D-Squad Summer Basketball Camp (**New Providence**)
- Grand Bahama Sailing Club (**Grand Bahama**)
- Jude's Bridge of Hope (**Grand Bahama**)
- REACH Summer Camp (**New Providence**)
- Royal Bahamas Police Force Summer Camps (**New Providence**)
- Southern Recreation Youth Organisation (**New Providence**)

Our Donors

Are A Caring Community

THE BIRCHALL FAMILY

Inspired Philanthropy for the Next Generation

William and Catharina Birchall have been committed to the Foundations for nearly 30 years. Among their many family contributions, is an endowed scholarship for a Bahamian to pursue an undergraduate degree in Canada. The Birchall family also generously supports FOCUS.

Catharina shared what motivates her family to support the Foundations:

“Bill and I were introduced to the Foundations by Harry Moore and Loretta Rogers in 1987 when they invited us to join members of the Lyford Cay community to develop educational programmes for The Bahamas.

Loretta Rogers put it best when she said that Bahamians are wonderful parents – they love their children and want them to do well.

Our goal was to see how we could help. My husband encouraged us to make scholarships a priority.

We want to support young people who want to make the sacrifices required to get an education, then come back and make a contribution to their communities.

Being involved with the Foundations was our way of being a part of the future of the Bahamas.



The Birchall Family at LCF's recent Holiday Reception at Lyford Cay Club. L-R: Charles, William, Catharina, Lillian and Alexander. Photos by Bahamas Visual Services

Bill and I believe that best hope for the future lies in our children. Today, a good education is essential to live in this complex world.

Young people need the tools to fully participate in their community; obtain meaningful employment, advocate for themselves, care for their loved ones and help the disadvantaged.

In a challenging world, it's gratifying to know we are part of the solution.

We are lucky to have been able to help. It's been a real privilege to be able to share in the students' journey toward success.

When a graduate gets a great job, our whole family feels a sense of accomplishment and pride. It is really exciting to be a part of it.”

“In a challenging world, it's gratifying to know we are part of the solution.”

In my early years at the Foundations, I worked with Bahamian teachers and counselors who were devoted to helping young people get an education. I was inspired by Joan Vanderpool and Cheryl Carey at The College of the Bahamas, and Thelma Grimes at Government High School.

They showed me how the community collaborated to ensure that a child went to school. I was touched by the sense of solidarity and community and the work of the church and social organizations.

ABOUT US

Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. and The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation are philanthropic organisations that believe that increasing educational attainment across the country is key to the development of a prosperous, healthy and peaceful Bahamas.

Our FOCUS, scholarships and grants programmes aim to provide learning opportunities for Bahamian children, young adults, families, and communities who are most in need.

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

DONATE TODAY

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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