

Caystone

The Newsletter of the Lyford Cay Foundations



Investing In A Lifetime

What You Made Possible In 2014

Last year, you invested in more than 350 students pursuing their educational goals and countless more Bahamians in need.

You provided opportunities that will transform their lives forever.

Thank you!

We applaud you and we are honoured to work on your behalf to make 2015 even better.

Because of you, Lyford Cay Scholars attended colleges around the world without the worry of finances. A number of them are first generation college students who rely on our encouragement and support just as much as their scholarship award.

These students remain committed to their goals thanks to your support.

At The College of The Bahamas, Lyford Cay Scholars are one step closer to achieving a college degree. All on need based awards, our students are mostly from public schools in the Family Islands.

Take for example, Alphonso Goodman, a Banking and Finance major originally from Eleuthera Island. Alphonso works full-time and has a full college course load. He hopes to become a CFA when he graduates in 2016.

"My resolve to persevere is bolstered by my eagerness to learn and passion to succeed," he said. "Thank you. Your superb generosity is helping make my dream a reality."



Scholar, Alphonso Goodman
Photos by Bahamas Visual Services

Making dreams a reality is exactly what you do for our FOCUS students.

We believe that changing the cycle of poverty can only



Scholar and Donor Damian Forbes and wife Tiffany, Lindsay Levert and Canadian Board Member April Unwin.

be done through education and it must start early. From the age of 8, our FOCUS students are taught that a college education will transform their lives.

Their lessons take place on a college campus and are facilitated by college students.

College is not some passing thought for them, instead, it has become an attainable goal, all thanks to you.

Our desire to create a better Bahamas is shared by many hard-working charitable groups.

From caring for our children, the elderly and physically disabled to protecting the environment and championing our Bahamian culture, your generosity supports thousands of Bahamians in need who are helped by these non-profits.

So we say thank you, thank you, thank you!

Your investment can never be measured.

2014: Who You Helped

- 99 students abroad
- 109 students at The College of The Bahamas
- 144 FOCUS students in grades 5-8
- 21 non-profits supported

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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.

TEACHING 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

Through 'Project-Based Learning' Curriculum

One key feature of FOCUS is that learning is fun! Our students tell us that each year in their feedback.

The variety of field trips, dynamic guest speakers and energetic activities all stem from our curriculum, **Project-Based Learning (PBL)**. This is the framework for our 30 day Summer SLAM session.

FOCUS uses PBL because it accommodates our short time-frame and meets the needs of a spectrum of learners with the greatest impact.

Students gain a variety of real world skills while working together to solve a driving question.

While students complete many "projects" in school, this is different from implementing PBL as a curriculum. In addition to collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving skills, students receive ongoing feedback and present their findings to a public audience.

So what is PBL really?

"PBL is the act of learning through identifying a real-world problem and developing its solution. Kids show what they learn as they journey through the unit, not just at the end."ⁱ

At FOCUS, students do just that!

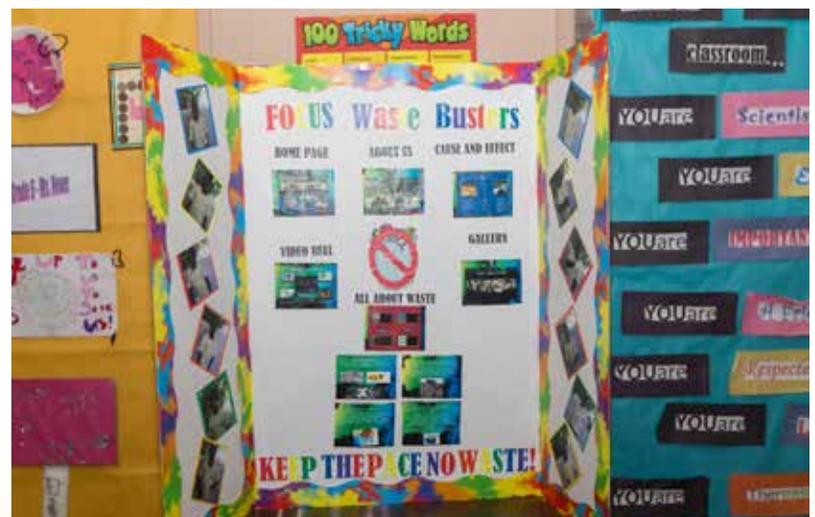
From building musical instruments to creating documentaries and 3-D cities to mapping out bus



FOCUS students' projects over the past three summers. Photos by Bahamas Visual Services

routes and designing websites about waste management, PBL has been a remarkable learning experience for our students and teachers alike!

ⁱ (Edutopia, What the Heck Is Project-Based Learning?)



Our Donors Invest in Lives

You prepare students to be successful in college and the real world.

COACHING THE NEXT GENERATION OF TEACHERS

An Experienced Educator's Memoir



BeLinda Wheeler, FOCUS Teacher Coach since 2013. Photo by Dante Carrer

After more than twenty years of teaching, FOCUS Teacher Coach BeLinda Wheeler is still learning new things each day.

BeLinda, a Teacher Coach at FOCUS since 2013 says, "Coming into FOCUS, I discovered that learning and imparting knowledge occurs in more than the traditional manner."

FOCUS students are taught primarily by interns who are mostly College of The Bahamas School of Education majors. These interns are managed by Teacher Coaches, experienced educators such as BeLinda, who supervise, and offer advice, support and feedback to interns.

Project Based Learning is a significant part of the curriculum.

In her review of her second summer, BeLinda says, "I discovered that through Project Based Learning, students were now responsible for learning and teachers were just guides.

Interns were now forced to teach outside of the box and had to do in-depth research of all concepts and skills being taught. The students were no longer limited to the expected objectives but expectations were limitless."

During her first FOCUS Summer, BeLinda noticed that a major challenge for the interns was overcoming a more traditional form of teaching, where the teacher gave the information to the students and they regurgitated.

Project Based Learning meant that there was more teamwork, and student collaboration. Something she says could be thought of as "cheating" in the traditional classroom and had to be removed from the minds of the interns.

"I discovered that through Project Based Learning, students were now responsible for learning...no longer limited to the expected objectives but expectations were limitless."

The progress in her team was phenomenal. For example, the "perfectionist" intern learnt to relinquish control and let the students complete the project in their unique way, while the "traditional stand at the front of the classroom" teacher learnt to walk around and be more involved.

These interns brought their confidence and team spirit to our 2014 Summer SLAM, taking the new interns under their wings by lending advice and exchanging ideas.



Teacher coaches and the interns lead the students at daily morning assembly, known as 'All School Rally'. Photo by Bahamas Visual Services

The seasoned interns took the initiative to organise meetings, workshops and field trips not required by FOCUS to help themselves and the new interns. They grew into leaders.

Moreover, they developed the family atmosphere for the new interns that FOCUS is well known for.

BeLinda says, "Although some of the interns are still a little rough around the edges, the brilliance of the diamond beneath is continuously peeking through."

FOCUS' fifth Summer SLAM will begin in July with 180 students in grades five through nine.

Spotlight On Our Scholars

READY FOR THE REAL WORLD

2015 Graduates

2015



Scholar:
Carisma Tucker
Award:
2014 Sir John
Templeton Memorial
Scholarship
College:
Paris Institute
of Political Science,
Paris, France
Major:
Financial Regulations
and Risk Management

Some people are content to rest on their past achievements, but Carisma Tucker is not one of them. If she had a motto, she says it would be “Keep Moving Forward!”

Although Carisma has already obtained her Bachelor of Science in Financial Economics and was a Senior Research Assistant with The Central Bank of The Bahamas, she wanted more.

Carisma set her eyes on a one year intensive financial regulations and risk management graduate programme created to develop risk managers and regulators who are well versed in economics and corporate finance.

“I have a knack for problem solving,” said Carisma who graduates this July. “I enjoy working in the financial field, so eventually I want to be able to work for myself.”

Ultimately, Carisma hopes to impact the development of the country through social entrepreneurship.

“I want to find some way to further the education of more children at home. We need to invest more in our human capital for the overall development of the country.”



Scholar:
Christopher Fernander
Award:
2014 Canadian
Technical Scholarship
College:
Holland College,
Prince Edward Island,
Canada
Major:
Commercial Diving

After being introduced to scuba diving in 10th grade, Christopher Fernander was hooked.

He quickly advanced to higher and higher levels of certification locally and began researching how he could transform his passion into a viable career.

His research paid off, and he decided to become an entrepreneur offering a commercial dive company in Nassau.

Due to graduate with a certificate in commercial diving this year, a Technical Scholarship from The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation has put him one step closer to making his dream come true.

Upon graduation, Christopher will attend Seneca College for a weeklong Dive Medical Technician course to further enhance his training. Then he will return home to finish his tenure in the Royal Bahamas Defence Force while saving to start his own commercial dive company.

“This certification has prepared me to become an entrepreneur who will ultimately create jobs in my community,” said Christopher.

“I am forever grateful to the Foundation for believing in me, my dreams and the future of The Bahamas.”

Our Donors Invest in Lives

You create a stable future through the gift of higher education.

THANKING YOU IN PERSON

Holiday Reception Highlights

Each December, Scholars, donors, partners and friends celebrate the holidays and the close of another year at the Foundation's annual reception at Lyford Cay Club.

All of you who attended the most recent reception may agree that the students shined!

We hope that by them sharing their stories of college life, expressing their career goals and thanking you for making their dreams come true that you better understand the magnitude of their appreciation and your impact.

Thank you to all who attended! We look forward to even more fun at this year's reception.



Donor Marina D'Aguilar, Scholars Jace McKinney and Lynn Parotti and friend, John Groves.
Photo by Bahamas Visual Services

Q&A: SHIRLENE PIERRE



Photo courtesy of Shirlene Pierre

Miami Dade College, 2009, Associate in Science in Dental Hygiene

Employment: *Dental Hygienist, Impressions Dental Harbour Bay*

After spending three years as a Dental Assistant, Alumna Shirlene Pierre's aptitude to learn and positive, helpful attitude didn't go unnoticed.

Encouraged to pursue her studies further by her employer, Dr. Annette

Warren, Shirlene went back to school and obtained her degree in Dental Hygiene.

Now in her current role for five years, Shirlene is happy she made the sacrifice and grateful to Dr. Warren who she says, "inspired me to be my best!"

Shirlene is in love with her career and passionate about helping Bahamians understand the importance of dental health.

Q: *What made you choose this field of study?*

A: I choose the field because after speaking to a few dental hygienists I realised that there were not enough Bahamians in the field. I love to help people and had grown to be very good at dental assisting, but I was ready to try something new.

Q: *What do you love most about your career?*

A: I love the children who visit our office, and love being able to assist people in knowing that the dental office is not a scary place. My goal is make patients want to keep their dental appointments because of their excellent experience.

Q: *What would you say to students who are interested in this field?*

A: It's a wonderful field to enter if you are self-motivated. In this career, you are

technically your own boss. Like all careers, it has its ups and down and is different from what you were taught in school.

Q: *How important is this line of work to The Bahamas?*

A: Statistics have shown that 3 out of 5 Bahamians have periodontal disease. I think that many people have this "silent killer" because there is not enough education about it in our communities.

Most people believe that if there is no pain then there is no need to visit the dentist. Often by the time patients come in, it's already too late. Additionally, many people living on the family islands don't have access to the services hygienists perform at all.

Q: *What would you like to say to the donors of Lyford Cay Foundations who support the dreams of Bahamians like you?*

A: I would like to tell the donors "THANK YOU!" because they not only helped me accomplish my goals, but helped provide another qualified health care provider to this community.

For more information contact:

Impressions Dental, Harbour Bay
242-394-8600

Roundup

Grants

BOOSTING LITERACY WITH BRIGHTER BAHAMAS

Scholar Sheds Light on Early Childhood Literacy

For more than a decade, Jehan Unwala's life has been linked to the Foundations - first as a Scholar, then during his finance career, and now as the Executive Director of Brighter Bahamas Foundation (BBF), a promising nonprofit that was recently awarded a \$19,000 Foundation grant.

BBF's mission is to improve the lives of all Bahamians by encouraging reading from a young age and ensuring universal access to children's literature.

Jehan, who had his own struggles with learning to read, grew to love it, thanks to steady encouragement from his parents and a large supply of fun, quality children's books at home.

This passion has taken on a new life since the birth of his child with wife, Kristen.



Jehan Unwala, Brighter Bahamas Foundation. *Photos by Dante Carrer*

“To create a nation of readers, we have to start right now with our youngest generation of Bahamians.”

When their child was born in Massachusetts, the hospital gave them a free children's book. And when they took their child for the first pediatrician's visit, they received another book with the doctor emphasizing the importance of reading to a child in their first six months of life.

“We knew that this was an important message that we needed to share with The Bahamas,” said Jehan.

Now back in The Bahamas, Jehan has taken a sabbatical from his financial analyst role to bring this message home.

BBF implements its mission by partnering with hospitals and pediatricians in Nassau to make sure

that new parents receive a free book to read to their child when the child is born, and another free book at the child's first doctor's visit.

Through these partnerships, BBF will provide literature to children and their families, and will educate the public about the connection between literacy and educational success.

“Reading aloud daily to infants and toddlers increases both early language ability and socio-emotional skills,” emphasised Jehan. “It ensures that children begin school ready to learn, and ready to excel both academically and socially.”

Jehan is grateful for the grant to purchase new books for BBF's initiative with hospitals, clinics and doctors' offices. He believes that this grant has the potential to impact Bahamian society as a whole.

“Society benefits when more people read more often. Readers are generally more likely to get a good paying job



Jehan and Dr. Jan Dorsett, at Southern Community General Clinic. Dr. Dorsett is an early partner of BBF's mission.

and less likely to turn to a life of crime. Readers are generally more charitable and contribute more culturally.

“To create a nation of readers, we have to start right now with our youngest generation of Bahamians. Thanks to the Foundation's donors, we're in a position to make this change happen.”

Our Donors Invest in Lives

You enhance the quality of life today so our children will have a better tomorrow.

BRIDGING THE SCIENCE GAP

New BREEF Booklets Help Teachers

Over the years, The Bahamas Reef Environmental Educational Foundation (BREEF) has worked steadily to promote conservation of the Bahamian marine environment.

Having pioneered innovative ways of informing and educating the public about threats to Bahamian oceans and coral reefs, the group also motivates people to get involved with protecting critical natural resources.

Now, thanks to a \$14,750 grant made possible by you, BREEF has been able to reach two of its most important audiences – teachers and students.

“The grant enabled BREEF to produce educational booklets for teachers and students on the conch, grouper and crawfish. Despite the importance of these species, Bahamian-specific educational resources were sorely lacking,” said Casuarina McKinney-Lambert, BREEF’s Executive Director.

“Teachers are key multipliers who enable us to reach students and their families in communities across The Bahamas...We’re grateful to the Foundation’s donors for helping us bridge that gap.”

“By working with the Foundation and partnering with the Ministry of Education, we’ve been able to produce booklets that help teach children about managing these marine resources.”

The publication of these materials mark the end of a long journey to ensure that students receive the most important information about these species.

Before creating the booklets, BREEF collaborated with the Ministry of Education to revise the Bahamian science curriculum to reflect more marine conservation content.



BEESS (Bahamas Environmental Steward Scholars) students, Denee Rankine and Kewin Mullings proudly display the booklets. *Photos courtesy of BREEF*



Teachers from across The Bahamas take part in Marine Conservation Teacher Training Workshops.

Once the curriculum was updated, meetings with teachers were set to receive content input and fine tune drafts of the booklets.

Finally, there were teacher training workshops on how to use the booklets in classrooms.

More than 2,500 copies of the booklets have been printed and are being distributed across the archipelago in both public and private schools.

The booklets will also be distributed to libraries, Marine Conservation Teacher training workshops and Eco School Programmes.

The materials were so well received locally, that educational professionals in The Cayman Islands have also started to collaborate with BREEF for the creation of similar materials.

“Teachers are key multipliers who enable us to reach students and their families in communities across The Bahamas.

“Teachers repeatedly identify the need for Bahamas-specific environmental educational materials as one of the important challenges they face in sharing science concepts with their students.

“We’re grateful to the Foundation’s donors for helping us bridge that gap,” said McKinney-Lambert.

Our Donors

Invest in Lives

THE KELLY'S: THREE GENERATIONS OF PHILANTHROPY

For more than twenty years, Mrs. Nancy Kelly and the Kelly Family have believed in our mission and been ambassadors for our work throughout the country.

Through personal and corporate gifts including donations from Kelly's Home Centre, the family has generously given more than \$500,000 to the Foundation.

In addition, Mrs. Kelly was the fundraising Co-Chair for the Foundation's scholarship programme at The College of The Bahamas.

In 2010, the family established the David A. C. Kelly Memorial Scholarship for study at The College of The Bahamas to honour the legendary retailer and businessman and Mrs. Kelly's late husband.

Even more amazing is the commitment to philanthropy that has been modelled for the younger generation.

For example, Mrs. Kelly's niece, Katherine has been a donor to the Foundation since 2011.

And, for the past two summers, Avery, daughter of Greg and Shelle Kelly and granddaughter of Mrs. Kelly, has volunteered with our FOCUS programme.



Mrs. Nancy Kelly at the recent FOCUS Christmas party and Avery Kelly volunteering at FOCUS in Summer 2013. Photos by Dante Carrer and Bahamas Visual Services

The future is bright, not only for our beneficiaries, but for the next generation of philanthropists who are encouraged by the opportunities afforded to them to create change in the world.

We express our heartfelt thanks to the entire Kelly Family and all those who partner with us.

It is your vision and beliefs that we strive to achieve each day.

It is your vision and beliefs that we strive to achieve each day.

Avery, who attends Asheville School in North Carolina, recently gave her senior year speech sharing how the FOCUS students' determination to learn has inspired her.

"The students and teachers at FOCUS taught me so much about life and how appreciative we should be," she said.

"Not once did I ever hear a student complain about school. We should strive to have the same passion to learn as them."

ABOUT US

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

We focus our efforts on providing learning opportunities for Bahamian children, young adults, families, and communities who are most in need through a variety of programmes.

To date, more than: 2,500 Bahamians have benefitted from scholarships to study abroad and locally, 200 non-profit organisations have been provided with financial support to assist thousands of people in need and 150 public school students are on the path 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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