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Caystone

The Newsletter of the Lyford Cay Foundations

DREAM. PLAN. SUCCEED.

Cutillas Scholars Programme Launched

Each year in The Bahamas, it is estimated that only 50% of public school students graduate high school. With our shared vision to change this statistic, and your generosity, the Foundations' programming has evolved to best serve this group of students.

Research shows that public high school, first generation students are not directly enrolling in post-secondary education at the same rate as their peers. Risk factors that play a role in this include, poverty, ethnicity, no parent fluent in English, older siblings who dropped out of high school and inadequate academic preparation.¹

Adding to our FOCUS, Scholarships, and Grants programmes, the Cutillas Scholars programme - named in honour of late Chairman, Manuel Cutillas - seeks to serve public high school students who will be first in their families to go to college.

More so, the programme has an ambitious goal to increase enrollment in college and trade school in The Bahamas.

To achieve this, the Foundations launched a national public awareness campaign encouraging students to consider education past high school.

Aptly named, **Dream. Plan. Succeed.**, the campaign challenges students to dream beyond their current circumstances and receive resources and guidance on how to plan and make decisions that will bring those dreams to life.

Students who register will participate in various activities that showcase their determination, resilience and drive to go to college.

Six students will be chosen as Cutillas Scholars, receiving full scholarships to attend The College of The Bahamas or The Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute.

All students chosen will be first in their family to go to college.



Dr. Giavana Jones with Grade 11 students at Anatol Rodgers High School. *Photos by CayFocus/Disha Fraser*

Dr. Giavana Jones, Programme Director of Scholarships and College Success has begun presentations to guidance counsellors and grade 11 students throughout Bahamian public schools. Approximately 1,000 students have been reached.

"We want students all over the country to be hopeful and to see education after high school as valuable," said Dr. Jones, "not just for the financial returns but for their overall personal development, their future, and the future of The Bahamas."

Because of you, programmes like these are giving hope, promoting a college-minded culture and empowering the next generation.

Follow the students' excitement at iwantmore242.com or [facebook.com/CutillasScholars](https://www.facebook.com/CutillasScholars).

¹RootCause.org. Social Issue Report - College Access and Success. September 2010. www.rootcause.org/docs/Resources/Research/College-Access-and-Success/College%20Access%20and%20Success-%20Social%20Issue%20Report.pdf

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FOCUS

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Reading, Math and Speech Made Fun

Thanks to our amazing FOCUS donor family, students truly love Summer SLAM. For reasons like fun field trips and enrichment activities, sports, summer projects and the annual showcase, which highlights what they've learned, and for one more...*Challenges!*

Challenges are a series of academic competitions in Reading, Math, AutoSkills (an online learning intervention tool) or Speech - make learning even more exciting.

Through challenges, students gain knowledge outside of class time while improving in key subjects, and winners are rewarded with a "V.I.P. Saturday", a bonus Saturday of fun.

For the Speech Challenge, students are given a topic to develop, research and orally present to their peers and to judges.

Here's an excerpt from the grade 5 speech winner, **Naila Gayle**, FOCUS Class of 2023.

Topic: "Why I matter"

When was the last time you were saddened by the thought of being unimportant?

Don't worry, it happens all of us, myself included.

The reality is humans need to feel valuable to the world. This desire runs deeper than just about anything.

Well, I'll let you in on a little secret.

You do matter to me, to FOCUS, your family and the world.

If you're not sure as to why I say you and me matter, I'll tell you why.

In this world of over 7 billion people, there is no one exactly like you. That makes you precious, a rare jewel.

You owe it to the world to share your uniqueness with those around you.

The make-up of the world is like a jigsaw puzzle. Each of us holds a piece to a huge jigsaw puzzle. All of these pieces come together to create the beauty of the world.

Don't allow the world to miss out on you.

Everyone should be able to go to school and get an education, but sadly that's not so.

We FOCUS students were given the opportunity. That's how we got into FOCUS by being thinkers in our schools.

This shows us that someone thinks we matter.

The teachers, experientials and donors of FOCUS think we're smart enough to go to college.

Let's show them that they made the right choice. Continue to do your homework. Continue to study for test. Continue aiming for "Student of the Week."

You can achieve these things because you do matter.

When you are able to have your own sense of identity, you build a base for yourself. No matter what happens in your life, you will always know who you are.

Once you have a clear idea of who you are, you'll understand why you matter.

You matter because you're special.

You matter because you are smart.

You matter because you are unique.

Throughout your day continue to remind yourself why Naila Gayle told you, you matter.



Naila speaking at the Annual Holiday Reception to donors and beneficiaries this past December.

Our Donors Give Hope

You remind students that they matter and can achieve their dreams.

FROM INTERN TO PROFESSIONAL TEACHER

Providing a Training Ground for Future Teachers

FOCUS donors also provide aspiring teachers the opportunity to learn skills such as classroom management, lesson planning and project-based learning, under the guidance of expert educators. Most of the interns are students at the School of Education at The College of The Bahamas. They are talented, committed and passionate about their vocation. Through their enthusiasm, they demonstrate to the kids that 'learning is fun'.

Here we highlight, **Krista Newbold**, a stellar teacher who began her career two years ago in the public school system and got her start with FOCUS.

Everyone remembers that teacher that sparked their passion for learning and transformed their educational journey.

For many students at C.I. Gibson Senior High School in New Providence, Krista Newbold is that teacher.

Krista proudly spent four summers with FOCUS as an Intern.

"I started my first FOCUS summer thinking that I was going to touch the lives of ten kids. At the end of the summer, I was the one whose heart was touched."

She credits the passion she has developed for education to the mentorship received from her FOCUS coaches.

Today, Krista's busy young career reflects that passion.

She teaches mathematics full time and facilitates extra afternoon classes in preparation for national exams. She runs a study hall for the basketball team. She serves as the grade 12 year head, working closely with school administration to plan graduation and senior year activities. As if that wasn't enough, Krista is also the school's House Coordinator, helping student athletes with their goal of winning the inter-school championships.

"As a direct result of being a part of the FOCUS family, I have made significant growth as a teacher and as a person."

Krista attributes some of her ability to be successful on multiple levels to her training at FOCUS. "Project Based Learning expanded my mind and my way of thinking when it comes to education," shared Krista.

Before she'd even begun her teaching practice - a degree requirement for education majors that gives a semester placement in a real life classroom - she'd already developed a wealth of experience teaching students at FOCUS.

"So many things have transferred into my career after being a part of FOCUS," reflects Krista. "I have learned how to facilitate a lesson and how to give up some control so that the students can drive their own learning."

Through FOCUS, Krista was introduced to a variety of online resources and education technology tools that she still uses as a teacher today.

"FOCUS forced me to abandon boring lessons, and taught me the art of developing engaging and exciting lessons," summarized Krista.

"As a direct result of being a part of the FOCUS family, I have made significant growth as a teacher and as a person.

I think that is by far my biggest achievement."



Spotlight On Our Scholars

THE FUTURE OF MARINE SCIENCES

PhD Scholars and Their Research



Scholar:
Nicola Smith
College:
Simon Fraser University
Class of 2017

For Nicola, creativity and intellectual curiosity were the driving forces that initially led her to study the sciences.

But her love of nature and an appreciation for The Bahamas' cultural and economic connections to the sea

drew her to pursue a PhD in the field of marine biology with a focus on Lionfish.

Currently, Nicola is evaluating the ecological effectiveness of culling Lionfish at varying frequencies on coral reefs in The Bahamas.

Nicola looks forward to returning to The Bahamas upon graduation and contributing to nation-building by helping to foster a culture of science where citizens make informed, evidence-based decisions about the environment.

She believes that she will be able to use the knowledge and skills that she has acquired to teach at the tertiary level or act as an environmental consultant in the private or public sector.

Nicola expresses the feeling of many Canadian Lyford Cay Scholars, "I can sum up what the scholarship means to me in one word: opportunity.

"Many people have dreams, perseverance, discipline and a strong work ethic. Unfortunately, without access to the right opportunities, many fail to accomplish their dreams."



Scholar:
Krista Sherman
College:
University of Exeter
Class of 2018

Exposure to the sea world through snorkeling at a young age helped Krista develop a love for the ocean.

This love grew into curiosity about marine life and Krista decided to pursue marine science as a career.

Krista's doctoral studies are driven by her desire to improve conservation management for fisheries and marine habitats in The Bahamas.

Currently, Krista is working on a collaborative initiative to address national research priorities for Nassau Grouper.

Her PhD research is the first comprehensive assessment of the genetic population structure of Nassau Grouper stocks throughout The Bahamas and will be used to help create sustainable management policies for fishery.

This spring, Krista will present her research on active spawning sites around Long Island, Bahamas at the Bahamas Natural History Conference.

Reflecting on the opportunity to pursue her dreams because of your support, Krista stated, "Through scholarships, Bahamians have opportunities to acquire skills that can further advance the country.

"Without this scholarship, I would not be in England working towards my PhD. I am immensely grateful for the Foundations' financial support."

2015
Because of You -
34 new scholarship recipients

- 79% first generation college students
- 35% from Family Islands
- 32% graduated from public schools
- Average Household Income = \$38,400
- Average Cost of Attendance = \$39,300

Our Donors Give Hope

You influence the future of this country by investing in students today.

ALUMNI: NEW YEAR NETWORKING

More than 100 Lyford Cay Alumni kicked off the year with a meet and greet at Sapodilla Restaurant.

Scholars reconnected with each other, and were updated on the Foundations' programmes and how they can get involved.



A few of the Lyford Cay Alumni in attendance. L-R: Nikita Shiel-Rolle, Anaya Dean, John Alao, Christina Carter. Photo by Bahamas Visual Services/Tim Aylen

SCHOLARS PARTICIPATE IN GLOBAL COMMONWEALTH FORUM



Scholars Marcia Musgrove and Felicity Humblestone in Malta. Photo by Peter Ramsay

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was held in Malta last November. Leading up to CHOGM, were four conferences, one of which was the People's Forum - the largest gathering of civil society organisations within Commonwealth countries.

The People's Forum is an opportunity for civil society to engage with government leaders on a wide range of issues.

The Bahamas was represented by two Lyford Cay Alumni Scholars: Marcia D. Musgrove, Programme Manager with BREEF, and the Foundations' own Felicity Humblestone, Programme Director: FOCUS.

Q: *How did you become a part of the team that was invited to The People's Forum?*

FH: Last summer, I represented the Foundations at the consultation meeting of Bahamian Civil Society Organisations. Based on my participation, I was invited by the Commonwealth Foundation as a sponsored delegate to attend the People's Forum.

MM: Similarly, I was invited after presenting at the 19th Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers held in The Bahamas last June.

Q: *What were the outcomes of your session and how might these impact The Bahamas?*

FH: I presented within the policy recommendation working group session on "Resilient communities for a transformed future: building skills, harnessing knowledge, empowering action."

I presented a case study on the Foundation's work and impact, alongside the best practices that have informed what we do at the Foundations and at FOCUS.

Our group developed policy recommendations for consideration and implementation by governments.

We were invited to present at the Foreign Ministers' meeting at CHOGM, and our recommendations were included in the overall outcomes paper of the People's Forum titled, "The Malta Declaration on Governance for Resilience".

MM: BREEF presented on curricular approaches to developing resilience. Ultimately, I hope the policy recommendations shared will contribute to positive educational reforms in The Bahamas that will empower our citizens to move our country toward national goals of sustainability in the environment, society, the economy and governance.

Q: *What was the overall experience like?*

FH: Attending The Forum was an incredible experience. It was helpful to put many of our national challenges in perspective, to see where we are already successful and to learn from others on how we can improve and develop.

MM: The experience was both eye-opening and encouraging. I realised that there are other countries with similar concerns and solutions that we can adapt, and there are people on the ground everywhere who are committed to working toward those solutions.

Q: *Why do you think it's important for The Bahamas to participate in events like these?*

FH: The Bahamas benefits from being a member of this large network and from events that enable ordinary citizens to participate in a dialogue that may eventually effect decisions that can improve life for us all.

MM: We are an intelligent and striving people with solutions to share and to gain. It helps us as civil society leaders in various fields to appreciate the good things that our countries have to offer.

Roundup

Grants

SHAPING FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS

Junior Achievement Reaches Younger Students

Imagine yourself teaching elementary aged students about money – with a grant to Junior Achievement Bahamas, that’s exactly what you’re helping to do!

For 36 years, Junior Achievement Bahamas (JA) has promoted economic literacy, understanding of business and of competitive free-enterprise to future business leaders.

Annually, more than 2,000 public and private high-school students are impacted by this initiative.

With a plan to extend this knowledge to elementary and middle school students, JA was awarded a \$10,000 grant.

Junior Achievement teaches students that people assume roles as individuals, consumers and workers in their families, the community and the world around them.

By incorporating concepts learned during school time and working with local corporate entities, JA is able to help students connect what they learn in class with the real world.

The programme has a proven impact on students and several Junior Achievement Bahamas graduates have gone on to become successful Lyford Cay Scholars.

To introduce critical business concepts to students at earlier ages, this grant will cover programme kits and the associated costs for implementing JA Elementary for Grades 1-6 and JA 4 Juniors for Grades 7-9.

These programmes are being implemented in 30 primary and middle schools on 7 islands –

80% of participants are in public schools.

“With this grant, we are able to channel financial support to our newer initiatives – JA Elementary and JA 4 Juniors—throughout the Family Islands,” explained Philip Simon, a Lyford Cay Scholar Alumnus and Junior Achievement’s

“...we endeavour to expand the reach and impact of economic, entrepreneurship and financial literacy training to as many of our youth as possible from kindergarten to college.”



Fifth and sixth grade students at St. Anne's School participate in after-school JA Elementary classes.

Vice Chairman and Acting Executive Director.

“Junior Achievement Bahamas is appreciative of the support of benefactors like the Lyford Cay Foundations,” continued Simon.

“As we move closer to forty years of programme implementation, we endeavour to expand the reach and impact of economic, entrepreneurship and financial literacy training to as many of our youth as possible from kindergarten to college.

This is another step in the right direction!”



Palmdale Primary School students receive their JA Elementary certificates. Photos by Junior Achievement Bahamas

Our Donors Give Hope

You inspire young people to work toward a future beyond what they see.

FORGING BRIGHT FUTURES FOR TEEN MOTHERS

Computers Enable Access to Math and Language Arts Support

Your reach extends to communities throughout The Bahamas, impacting various causes.

Last fall, because of your support, PACE Foundation (Providing Access to Continuing Education) was awarded a \$20,000 grant to purchase technology so that teen mothers could have access to online academic support.

Founded in 2004, PACE has a mission to mobilize communities, government and the private sector for increased opportunities for at-risk teen mothers.

Through PACE, pregnant teens who are unable to continue in the traditional school system can receive a strong education while being empowered to make healthy decisions about relationships and parenting.

For these teens, PACE fills a needed gap and decreases the likelihood of them dropping out of school.

The Bahamas' Ministry of Education provides basic supplies, teachers, guidance counselors and supplementary staff to support the programme.

However, these resources are not enough as a significant number of teen mothers come to PACE with academic challenges, performing below grade level in Language Arts and Math.

"This donation will help us achieve our goals."

Additionally, students enter PACE at varying grades and proficiencies – often requiring individualised instruction delivery, testing and assessment.

The grant allows PACE to implement AutoSkills Academy of Reading and Math, an online intervention programme facilitated by the Rotary Club of East Nassau that has consistently shown to improve academic growth.

PACE was also able to purchase much needed laptops, and a storage and



charging cart. All students will also have access to the Microsoft Office line of products that will help them prepare for job readiness.

"This grant enables us to address a disturbing trend among students at PACE—and that is subpar performance in numeracy and literacy," said PACE Foundation Board President Sonia Brown.

"This is concerning as these students will soon be parents with adult responsibilities.

"Many students return to mainstream school and some will need to seek employment directly upon completion of PACE. Our job is to ensure that they are well prepared for either alternative.

"This donation will help us achieve our goals."



PACE Students test out the new laptops made possible by the Foundations' donors. *Photos by CayFocus/Disha Fraser*

Our Donors

Give Hope

INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION

Fidelity Bank Supports FOCUS

Under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer, Anwer Sunderji, Fidelity Bank & Trust International (Fidelity) has sought meaningful ways to give back to the Bahamian community. Operating in The Bahamas since 1978, the Fidelity group incorporates two other subsidiaries and has consolidated assets of \$600 million.

Fidelity's corporate philanthropic belief is to develop the community through education, especially education of young people. To that end, Fidelity made a significant investment in the FOCUS programme, generously giving \$50,000.

FOCUS removes the barriers to participation for its students. Fidelity's gift supports them directly by helping to provide transportation to and from home, food, supplies, t-shirts and caring and dedicated teachers who make learning fun.

It was important to the Fidelity team to adhere to the company's vision by supporting causes where the majority of funds are directly impacting the beneficiaries.

Another attractive aspect of the programme was its commitment to the students. FOCUS is an eight-year long programme beginning the summer after grade four and following each cohort through to high-school graduation.

"FOCUS encourages students who may not have otherwise considered college to look beyond their immediate surroundings and it provides them with an opportunity to achieve those goals," said Ms. Tangela Albury, Chair of Fidelity's donations' committee and Chief of Compliance and Internal Audit.

"For Fidelity, FOCUS offered a new avenue for us to have an impact on our young people through education."

Notably, Fidelity also invests in its own community, promoting education at every level through a robust internal education advancement programme for children of the company's employees. Students are rewarded for academic success and encouraged to save for college and manage their finances.

The Foundations are grateful for Fidelity's vision and philanthropy, not only to FOCUS but to the wider community as we partner together to pursue a better Bahamas.



Members of Fidelity's Donations Committee: Tangela Albury, Odia Gaskin and Karen Major with FOCUS students. *Photo by CayFocus/Jason Cooper*

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, Cutillas Scholars and Grants programmes aim to provide learning opportunities for Bahamian children, young adults, families, and communities who will benefit the most.

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.

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