



# Caystone

The Newsletter of the Lyford Cay Foundations



## TRUTH EARNS TRUST

### A History of Transparency and Trust

**Truth Earns Trust:** *We act with integrity and transparency. We are accountable and respectful.*

This core value permeates throughout all Lyford Cay Foundations' operations - programming, investments and fiscal responsibility.

We are committed to ensuring that your generosity is prioritised in a way that benefits those most in need.

The Foundations have always been fair and thoughtful with selection, criteria, and decision making.

Particularly with its largest and most well known programme, Scholarships, communication of criteria, the application process and how final decisions are made are of the utmost importance.

Over the years, the Scholarships programme has evolved in scope and criteria, adapting to serve national need.

Initially, scholarships were largely merit-based, and awarded primarily to students who completed an Associate's degree at the then College of The Bahamas (COB).

Being merit-based, it meant the best and brightest in the country enrolled at some of the world's top tier universities received awards.

Over time, and with the development of Bachelor's degree offerings at COB, the criteria changed to give greater consideration to financial need in addition to academic merit. The Foundations wanted to impact more students who could not afford college abroad without scholarship support.

Today, the criteria is weighted across key areas of: family education history with preference given to first generation college students; academic merit; financial need; financial capacity; career goal and field of study; reputation of institution; availability of the programme at a national tertiary institution; personal qualities and intention to return to The Bahamas.



From inception to today, an independent committee makes the recommendations on applicants after they have been screened by a member of the professional team.

Since 2009, Lyford Cay Scholars - all of whom are volunteering their time and expertise - have comprised the majority of seats on the committee, including Chairmanships.

Neither board directors nor professional team members participate in the process of determining the recommended scholarship awardees.

For FOCUS, Cutillas Scholars and Grants, similar processes are in place, with specific criteria and third party participation in beneficiary selection.

For our investments, the Foundations follow strict investment policies and have third party managers.

We believe that truth earns trust, not only with you, our benefactors, but with the broader Bahamian public.

As we prepare to celebrate 50 years in 2019, we are proud of our longevity. Throughout the changing landscape of The Bahamas, our impact and success has remained evident, thanks to your generosity and our adherence to these values.

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# Update

## FOCUS

### YOUR IMPACT

Beneficiaries Sharing Their Stories

One of the highlights of the annual holiday reception is the speeches made by beneficiaries! This past year, we heard from Scholars Cory Nixon, Tareco Johnson and Luxzonica Young, grant recipient The Cancer Society Freedom Kids Programme represented by Melissa Major, and FOCUS Speech Challenge winner, Seannaya Scantlebury, Class of 2024.

Hearing the remarkable impact of our donors first-hand is an inspiring testament of how important this mission is.

Here's an excerpt from 10 year old Seannaya's speech.



**Topic: "How will my today affect my tomorrow?"**

My today will affect my tomorrow through my choices.

Every day you're faced with choices. Some are small everyday choices, while others can be life-changing.

I think you'll enjoy more success in your future if you choose to be more honest with yourself, choose better friends and become more responsible today.

Be honest with yourself today! Take a look at your life at this very moment.

Do your actions move you forward or backward?

Are you aware of how your actions are affecting you today?

Are you aware of how they will affect you?

Are you really prepared for where your good and bad actions will take you?

By seeing the big picture and being completely open with yourself about your present condition, you'll notice more of your faults.

When choosing your friends ask yourself a few questions.

Would you be better off with or without this person?

What can they possibly bring to your life that will help you be happier or healthier?

There are good and bad points to every situation. If you can list more bad than good, you may need to find better friends.

Be responsible.

Being responsible means having control over your life.

You may need to stretch your imagination a bit, but try looking far off into the future.

If you make the decision to be more responsible, I believe it will change your life in the long run.

We make thousands of decisions every day. Many are easy, but others are hard, stressful, or both.

Because there are so many decisions, there are so many opportunities to make the right and wrong decisions.

Choose to be more honest with yourself. Choose better friends. Choose to be more responsible.

Last but not least, choose to paint a happier future for yourself and others.



Cory Nixon



Luxzonica Young



Melissa Major



Tareco Johnson

### GROWING THROUGH SATURDAY SESSIONS

A Closer Look At School Year Programming

Saturday.

Most kids and teens think of it as a sacred day reserved for sleeping late, participating in extracurricular activities, spending time with friends or just zoning out in front of the TV.

Not for FOCUS students.

On 15 Saturdays during the school year, you'll find them up bright and early, ready to learn and eagerly looking forward to new experiences.

Although learning is at the heart of Saturday sessions, time at FOCUS doesn't resemble a typical school day.

Instead of a traditional classroom instruction, facilitation of learning in core subjects of math and language arts is structured to be interactive.

Saturday classrooms are full of noise and laughter, thoughtful discussions, teamwork and peer teaching.

FOCUS Saturdays also have quiet moments when students concentrate on building their individual strengths, identifying their own academic deficits and growing in areas that they personally find challenging.

"FOCUS Saturdays are not only about filling in academic gaps for students, but also about helping students learn to use data critically," notes Tiffany Saunders, the programme's Team Leader of Curriculum Development.

"We find that our students have tons of information that they've memorized at school, but they are stumped when they see the information in a new way and have to apply it."

Tiffany cites fractions as an example.

"A student may be challenged by fractions, but understand concepts of money very well. One strategy we may use is to have them equate a quarter to a fraction of a dollar.

"It's these real life applications that help students master concepts."

On Saturdays, the FOCUS team also helps students who may not feel confident in their own capabilities.

"We Can Do Hard Things!" has become the spirited



Tiffany Saunders

mantra that students chant to help them develop healthy attitudes toward problem solving.

If you ask a student what is the best part of FOCUS Saturday, they will quickly tell you that it's the experiential learning activities.

For them "experiential" means fun! But for the FOCUS team, it's much more.

**"FOCUS Saturdays are not only about filling in academic gaps for students, but also about helping students learn to use data critically."**

Experiential activities help develop a balanced whole child and provide real life experiences that add to a student's complement of skills and information that are needed for college.

This year's experiential activities have been wide

and varied including visiting The Bahamas National Trust, taking a financial literacy class, exploring the Pirate Museum, marveling at Emanji - the Bahamian circus, and trying archery.

Students also hear from professionals in careers that they are not familiar with, further widening their knowledge base.

Without FOCUS, many of the students would never have these experiences.

"I'm passionate about FOCUS because I believe in equity and access in education," reflects Tiffany.

"FOCUS helps students truly experience the world around them and grow through nontraditional learning."

## Our Donors Spark Dreams

**You teach students to make good decisions now for a better future.**

# Spotlight On Our Scholars

## DREAM AGAIN

Meet The First Six Cutillas Scholars

*The Cutillas Scholars pilot programme ignites aspirations for success in students who did not consider education beyond high-school as an obtainable goal.*

*We recruited grade 11 public school students throughout the entire Bahamas. Hundreds signed up and six public school students, who will be first in their families to go to college, were chosen to receive scholarships to attend either University of The Bahamas or The Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute.*

*We asked them to share what being a Cutillas Scholar means to them.*

*Here is why this opportunity is a dream come true.*



**Clifford Dean**

**High School:**  
C.V. Bethel Senior High

**Will Attend:**  
University of The Bahamas

**Major:**  
Criminal Justice and Law

**Career Goal:**  
Police Officer

"I have more opportunities to further my education and to better the conditions that I am in."



**Chanica Joseph**

**High School:**  
C.C. Sweeting Senior High

**Will Attend:**  
University of The Bahamas

**Major:**  
Early Childhood Education

**Career Goal:**  
Pre-school Teacher

"I am capable of doing anything if I just believe. I can be anything in life once I never give up."



**Rubenique Gilbert**

**High School:**  
C.V. Bethel Senior High

**Will Attend:**  
Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute

**Major:**  
Cosmetology

**Career Goal:**  
Cosmetologist

"Being a Cutillas Scholar means that I can do all things even if they may be hard. It means to never give up and that I can accomplish whatever I want with strength and knowledge."



**Javano Swann**

**High School:**  
Jack Hayward Senior High, Grand Bahama

**Will Attend:**  
Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute

**Major:**  
Electrical Installation

**Career Goal:**  
Electrician

"It makes me feel proud of myself to know that I was chosen out of all those people. Being a Cutillas Scholar gives me confidence in myself and makes me want to strive for more."



**Telisha Bain**

**High School:**  
R.M. Bailey Senior High

**Will Attend:**  
Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute

**Major:**  
Cosmetology

**Career Goal:**  
Secondary School Teacher, Cosmetology

"I found the light at the end of the tunnel. I can now be an example to others who are going through what I have been through and show them that there is a way out. Dream, plan, succeed and that's the way to live."



**Deborah Estimable**

**High School:**  
Jack Hayward Senior High, Grand Bahama

**Will Attend:**  
University of The Bahamas

**Major:**  
Bio-chemistry

**Career Goal:**  
Forensic Anthropologist

"It means that more is achievable and expected from us. Being a senior in high school, there can be some difficult days when meeting requirements is often a challenge. As a Cutillas Scholar, I have the privilege of some amazing people to keep me on track to my goals."

## TECHNICAL CAREERS TAKE FLIGHT

2017 Graduates Share Their Experiences



**Scholar:**  
Rashad Storr  
**Award:**  
Technical Scholarship  
**College:**  
George T. Butler Aviation School  
**Major:**  
Aviation Technology

While his classmates had their feet firmly planted on the ground in their high school auto mechanics class, Rashad Storr was letting his mind soar high above the clouds.

Inspired by an uncle who was an airline captain for Bahamasair, Rashad became fascinated with wanting to know how to make planes fly.

It wasn't long before he began volunteering with a small chartered plane company that allowed him to shadow their airline mechanic and learn about the field.

The experience had Rashad hooked and he knew aviation mechanics was the right career for him.

Now as he is close to completing his license in Aviation Technology, Rashad can't help but think of how much he's learned and the opportunities that lie ahead.

"This programme has been more challenging than I could have ever imagined - but it's also been more rewarding than I thought it would be," said Rashad.

"I'm now equipped to work on all parts of planes from small chartered planes to the large commercial planes that are operated by Bahamasair.

I can literally do anything now in aviation technology."

Rashad is also looking forward to using his newly developed skills to benefit the country.

"In The Bahamas, airline mechanics are rare.

"My skills are going to be a great asset and open doors that I could have only dreamed of just a few years ago before receiving this scholarship."

**Scholar:**  
Stephanie Stubbs  
**Award:**  
T.K. Foundation Technical Scholarship  
**College:**  
Keiser University  
**Major:**  
Medical Laboratory Technician



"I can still remember the moment that I found out I was awarded a Lyford Cay Foundations' scholarship," reflects Stephanie Stubbs in a voice still full of disbelief.

"I was stunned!

"Just moments before I was contemplating calling the college to tell them that I wouldn't be coming because I just couldn't afford it."

Stephanie believes her scholarship has unlocked a whole new world for her.

She has used every moment of her programme to explore all segments of the little known field of medical technology.

"It's an exciting field that allows you to make sure that doctors are giving their patients the right diagnosis through testing," shares Stephanie.

"The wonderful thing about my degree is that I can now explore so many specialties such as hematology, microbiology and pathology."

After graduation, Stephanie plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in a related health field.

Ultimately, she'd like to return to The Bahamas, partner with an established laboratory company and expand its business to include medical technology services.

Her hope is that The Bahamas will be able to provide more medical laboratory services locally without having to send labs abroad for testing.

"I wish that I could give every donor to the Foundations the biggest, sloppiest kiss," Stephanie gushes.

"This scholarship has allowed me to dream big!"

# Our Donors Spark Dreams

You inspire students to pursue what they thought was impossible.

# Roundup Grants

## PROVIDING HEALTHY OUTLETS AND INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bahamas Judo Federation Opens Doors For Teens

For nearly a decade, the sport of Judo has been gaining steady momentum in The Bahamas.

The country has quickly gone from taking small steps to introduce the budding sport to young people, to becoming a recognised leader in the region.

**"BJF is not only helping The Bahamas become internationally competitive in a growing sport, but locally it is providing a healthy outlet for teens in communities who can benefit the most."**

This is due in large part to the passionate work of the Bahamas Judo Federation (BJF), which serves hundreds of students in New Providence, Abaco, Bimini, Freeport and Eleuthera.

BJF's training center based in the Marathon area of

New Providence, has attracted teens to join their team from the schools in the surrounding areas.

Team members receive training, practice sessions and uniforms for free.

The nutritious meals provided to students at no cost during practice have also been a big draw in the community.

Without cost being a determining factor in participation, talented students have been able to simply focus on developing their skills and learning the lessons inherent in the sport.

BJF teaches students the core values of Judo including: perseverance, teamwork, friendship, excellence, respect, courage and honour.

All of these are values that have been noted in a variety of studies as compatible with good citizenship and a productive lifestyle.

The Bahamas government has also recognized the health and social benefits that Judo presents to young people, and has recently endorsed BJF's afterschool programmes.



Because of their success in international competitions, BJF has earned a right to participate in the upcoming Commonwealth Youth Games where it will compete among 71 nations.

Notably, BJF has also been asked to hold the inaugural CARIFTA Judo games in 2017 with over 20 nations expected to participate.

The Foundations have proudly awarded BJF a \$10,000 grant to assist in purchasing equipment for its training center, including practice dummies, crash pads and computer equipment for its video and scouting lab.

"Supporting Bahamas Judo Federation is a strong investment," noted Maureen French, Managing Director of Lyford Cay Foundation.

"BJF is not only helping The Bahamas become internationally competitive in a growing sport, but locally it is providing a healthy outlet for teens in communities who can benefit the most."



## EMPOWERING YOUNG LIVES

Transformative Programme Provides Hope for Teens

Mark was on the wrong path and everyone knew it.

With a negative attitude toward school, defiant behavior and poor academic performance, Mark's parents were worried as the threat of expulsion from high school in his 10th grade year, loomed as an impending reality.

After enrolling in Youth Empower Program (YEP) at the suggestion of his school's guidance counselor, his life's story has vastly changed.

Today, Mark is a high school graduate who is currently enrolled in the Bahamas Technical Vocational Institute with financial assistance from YEP.

Mark is one of hundreds of high school students in grades 9-12 who have experienced the power of YEP's programme.

With a vision to "prepare and empower young people to compete on the world stage," YEP's 30 week programme has received the endorsement of guidance counselors, parents and teens throughout New Providence.

"Since 2011, we have served around 1,000 students annually from public and private schools," shared Mr. Delano Munroe, President and Chief Executive Officer of YEP.

**YEP's 30 week programme has received the endorsement of guidance counselors, parents and teens throughout New Providence.**



"There is no minimum grade point average for participation. Students must simply be willing to participate in any of the weekly two hour sessions we provide in ten district centers across New Providence."

Nearly all of the participants reside in homes with minimal household incomes in marginalised communities.

One of YEP's keys to success has been to provide students with resources and exposure to a wide range of topics that they will need to master for life after high school.

The programme's sessions include training in business skills, college preparation, job readiness, conflict resolution, financial literacy and much more.

All participants receive adult mentorship and have opportunities to participate in local and international trips.

For most students, the results of their involvement are extremely positive.

Improvements in behavior, renewed enthusiasm for academics and an optimistic outlook on life after graduation are the changes that parents and school administrators frequently cite.

To provide further resources for YEP students, the Foundations have granted the organisation \$7,500 to produce their student handbook.

"On the front end of our programming, the handbook will do the important work of helping students internalize YEP's culture, mission and values," noted Mr. Munroe.

"Once students leave the programme, the handbook will be an important reference for them that includes samples of everything from resumes to budgets."

"The Foundations' grant is helping to transform the lives of teens. We are grateful and the students are grateful."

Our Donors Spark Dreams

You support strong programmes that tangibly transform lives.

# Our Donors

## Spark Dreams

### GIVING BACK

Scholars Support the New Generation

Scholars like Damien Forsythe embody the impact and mission of the Foundations.

As one of more than 1,500 Bahamians who have completed their studies thanks to scholarship support, Damien was proud to give back to help the Scholars of today.

After completing his undergraduate degree at University of New Brunswick in Canada, in E-Commerce and Business in 2002, Damien has made full use of his degree.

“My career has been a seamless extension of my education,” he shared.

Immersed in e-commerce careers for the past 10 years, Damien has been in the Internet Marketing and Online Consulting space, working with companies primarily in Canada on their business and online marketing.

Damien, like many of his fellow Lyford Cay Scholars, is a trailblazer. He launched ‘The Bahamas Internet Association’ in an attempt to bring together Bahamian professionals in the E-Commerce space and to promote the industry as a whole.

Working in this evolving sector, he sees the potential for its growth and hopes that in growing the industry locally, it will help move The Bahamas away from its reliance on a two industry economy.

“For me, having the opportunity to work with large international companies while living in Nassau, has been the perfect combination



Damien enjoying the Alumni Reception in December 2016.

of staying at home and investing in The Bahamas, while being connected to the greater world,” he shared.

“This is true of what the Foundations do as well – giving

Bahamians international skills and exposure that put them in a position to take advantage of local and international career opportunities, in an effort to improve The Bahamas.”

With his gift this year, Damien’s personal goal of giving all of the funds contributed to him back to the Foundations to support another deserving student is well on the way to being accomplished.

“The Foundations bring together people from all over the world who have chosen to make The Bahamas their home, and people like me. We all want to make a difference in The Bahamas.”

To learn more about Damien, visit his website at [www.damienforsythe.com](http://www.damienforsythe.com) or connect with him at [damienfor@gmail.com](mailto:damienfor@gmail.com).

### 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. More than \$45 million has been invested in The Bahamas over four decades.

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](http://www.lyfordcayfoundation.org/help) or call us at 242-362-4910.

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