

Social Development Quarterly Report for January-March 2011

Micro Enterprise and Pre-Occupancy Training, the NHT's Best Scheme Competition judging, Sugar Workers Housing meetings and a Social Development awards ceremony, marked the activities for this quarter. Also, the art of two young members of NHT sponsored environmental clubs has been featured on the United Nation's Environment Programme's (UNEP) 2011 calendar.

MICRO ENTERPRISE TRAINING



Over 250 persons were trained in Entrepreneurial Development skills during workshops conducted by the NHT's Social Development Unit along with the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC). Those trained come from NHT schemes in St. Thomas, Kingston, St. Catherine, Clarendon and St. James. Among these were beneficiaries from the Inner City Housing Project (IHP), the Sugar Workers Housing Project (SWHP) and Relocation 2000 Housing Schemes.

Of this number 132 persons were considered for further JBDC workshops, based on their products presented. More JBDC workshops are to take place in Clarendon, Kingston and St. James.

Some of the products referred to the JBDC for further development



PRE-OCCUPANCY TRAINING AND OTHER MEETINGS

Pre-Occupancy Training at Unions Estate

Over in St. Catherine, eighty-six (86) new homeowners were participants in pre-occupancy training sessions for the Unions Estate Housing Scheme in Twickenham Park. Among the speakers at the

sessions were representatives from the St. Catherine South, Community Safety Division in addition to trainers from the NHT's Social Development Unit.

Arrears counseling meetings

The Social Development team also held a number of meetings with persons who have become delinquent in paying their mortgages under the Sugar Workers' Housing Programme. At the meetings issues about arrears management, infrastructural matters, entrepreneurship and the NHT's Best Schemes Competition were discussed. The schemes visited were Albany in Westmoreland; Monymusk in Clarendon; and Chedwin Gardens in St. Catherine.

BEST SCHEME COMPETITION JUDGING

Also in St. Catherine, judges from the Social Development Unit visited and assessed 17 of the 23 schemes entered in this year's competition.

NHT YOUTH CLUB MEMBERS SHINE IN UNEP PAINTING COMPETITION

Another competition put the spotlight on two young Jamaicans who are members of NHT sponsored environmental clubs . The young students, Troy-Dane Lightbody of Cherry Gardens Youth and Environment Club and Kurt Brivett of Royal Place Environment Club, both in St. Catherine, were among fourteen (14) young Jamaicans, whose artwork was selected for inclusion on the calendar, from entries in the UNEP 2010 Jamaica Children's Painting Competition on the Environment. The art was featured on the United Nation's Environment Programme's (UNEP) 2011 calendar. One hundred and four (104) young artists entered the competition. On January 31, the two youths and Tess Cieux Programme Officer of the UNEP, presented the 2011 calendar of winning paintings to the NHT.



From left: Troy- Dane Lightbody of Cherry Gardens Youth and Environment Club, and Kurt Brivett of Royal Place Environment Club share their vision of environmental responsibility with National Housing

Trust Managing Director, Mrs. A. Cecile Watson, and Tess Cieux, Programme Officer, United Nations Environment Programme.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HOSTS AWARDS CEREMONY IN PORTMORE

The Social Development Department hosted an awards ceremony at the Lions Civic Centre, Lot 230A, Debbie Avenue; Edgewater in Portmore, for NHT Scheme Communities on Friday February 25th 2011. This ceremony highlighted the NHT and its activities in the Portmore Municipality in general.

Awards and certification included:

1. First Aid and CPR
2. Crime Prevention and Community Safety
3. Capacity Building
4. Environmental Clubs' Debate competition and
5. Environmental Clubs' Trash to Cash competition