

Social Development Update at August 2012

As Jamaica is celebrating 50 years as a nation, a number of NHT communities across the island are participating in the “Community Audio- Visual History Competition”. This is being organised through the NHT’s Social Development Department (SDD). The SDD is also helping to develop communities through a number of other activities across the island, which include: income generation projects; a compliance fair; Music for Social Transformation; and Parish Schemes Associations (PSA) initiatives. Pre-occupancy training for new scheme residents also took place for the period.

NHT announces the Community History Competition for Jamaica 50

As Jamaica is celebrating 50 years as a nation, a number of NHT communities across the island are participating in the “Community Audio- Visual History Competition”. This is a Jamaica 50 Legacy Project and is being organised by the SDD.

A way to develop communities

The SDD wishes to further build a sense of community by having residents identify, document and communicate things of historical value in their community. In this regard, the SDD is using community history as a means of identifying challenges and their solutions. This competition should help to highlight how our communities have overcome challenges in the past, and in so doing use heritage as a tool for community development.

Entry guidelines

The competition is open to all NHT communities in St. Ann; St. Mary; Portland; St. Thomas; St. Catherine; The Municipality of Portmore; Clarendon; Westmoreland, and Trelawny. For more information about this, visit this page: [NHT announces the Community History Competition for Jamaica 50](#) or visit the NHT website at: www.nht.gov.jm

In order to prepare communities for this competition, four (4) community history workshops were held during the month of July. The workshops were held to sensitize and educate the participating communities about producing a short film or documentary. The workshops covered areas such as audio/visual film production, copy right laws, history research techniques and a presentation on the history of the Maroons in Jamaica. More than 250 persons participated in the workshops.

The partners for the workshops included African Caribbean Institute of Jamaica, the Public Broadcasting



Dr. Afroz of UWI History Dept. makes her presentation at the NHT’s St. Ann Branch Office.

Corporation of Jamaica, the National Library, Jamaica intellectual Property Office, and Dr. Sultana Afroz.

Compliance Fair at Coronation Market

Over three hundred and ninety (390) potential contributors visited the NHT's 'one stop shop' at the popular Coronation Market, in Downtown Kingston on June 30, 2012. The one stop shop featured information about registering for a Tax Registration Number (TRN), registering for the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) and getting documents from the Registrar's General Department (RGD). This collaboration between the NHT's Social Development Department (SDD) and the NHT's Kingston and St. Andrew Branch (KSAB) results from an effort to attract new contributors. The SDD officers will be doing follow up activities after the fair.

Music for Social Transformation (Summer Camps)

The Music for Social Transformation programme continues in Kingston at the Caribbean Palms, Denham Town in Kingston; Providence Heights in St. James and Llandillo, Westmoreland. In July, the NHT sponsored three (3) summer camps which focused on music. A total of one hundred and forty-four (144) youth between the ages 9 – 24 attended the Camps. The Camps were held over a two week period. Through the camps, the following were achieved:

- Band members were able to hone their skills on their preferred instruments through "one on one" and daily engagement by facilitators.
- Students from Providence Heights had the opportunity to visit a recording studio to learn about music production. They were also treated to a performance of a live band. Participants were also taken through various social development sessions including social grooming, career development in areas of military/police, nursing, among others. The grooming sessions were practical as participants carried out the techniques they had learnt during their lunchtime session with the band.
- Students from Caribbean Palms amazed the internationally renowned band conductor Leslie DaCosta, by quickly mastering the use of the axillaries such as flags. Two (2) students from the group were asked to join the St. Jude Band due to the level of proficiency which they achieved.
- Denham Town students did a production which mapped the evolution of dance in Jamaica. They have since performed at the Independence celebrations in Emancipation Park.
- All camps had closing ceremonies where the participants were awarded certificates of participation as well as for special achievements during camp.



Members of the Providence Heights Summer Camp perform their piece as they read from notes.



Members of the Denham Town perform their drum piece at their closing ceremony which was held on July 20, 2012.



Members of the Caribbean Palms summer camp perform during their closing ceremony held on July 27, 2012

Llandillo Music for Social Transformation

Orientation for the Music programme has begun in Llandillo, Westmoreland. In order to assist the learning process, the Llandillo Committee has decided to implement some special behavior change techniques to help the children.

Income generation initiatives

- Thirty-three (33) persons participated in a number of Income Generation Initiatives organised by the NHT's Social Development Department (SDD). These courses include: (i) the second phase of Hospitality Skills for Life in Denham Town and (ii) Food Preparation at Beechamville (iii) Clothing and Textile at the St. Peter Claver Skills Training Centre.

- On Wednesday June 27, 2012, 10 ladies from Palm Grove Court graduated from the 9 month long Clothing & Textile programme at the St. Peter Claver Skills Training Centre. In order to demonstrate their new skills, some of these ladies made their own graduation gowns and post graduation dresses.
- In addition, the SDD assisted employment opportunities, by providing referrals for fifty –three (53) persons during the month of June.
- The SDD provided references for Fourteen (14) persons to three entities for employment,
- As a result of initiatives on behalf of the residents of Angels Grove on July 15, 22, and 29, 2012, seven (7) food processors and four (5) craft producers are being guided following the completion of initial business development sessions and product assessment.
- Thirteen (13) beneficiaries were sponsored to participate in training in Nail Techniques, and Drapery Making at the St. Pius Catholic Church.

Parish Schemes Associations

With the SDD's support, PSAs continue to hold meetings in St. Ann/St. Mary, St. Catherine, Kingston & St. Andrew and at the Western Joint Schemes. Also, the Western Joint Scheme hosted their annual outreach project at the St. Monica's Girl Home in St. James. Members of the PSA treated the residents to a meal, carried out a general grooming services and entertained the residents.

Pre-occupancy Workshop – St. Thomas

Two hundred NHT beneficiaries benefitted from preoccupancy training. Social Development, in collaboration with representatives of St. Thomas Branch, Loan Management, and Projects Department hosted Two Pre-occupancy Workshops in St. Thomas on July 14 and 21, 2012. The Workshops were held to introduce beneficiaries to the joys and challenges of home ownership. The sessions covered: Community Visioning, Mortgage details, Community Safety and Security and Covenants. Beneficiaries also were taken by the Branch and Project Staff to identify their lots.