

## Social Development Update –June 2012

Arrears Management; Music for Social Transformation; Parish Schemes Associations (PSAs); Community Safety & Security as well as Environment Management are just some of the ways in which the NHT supports communities through its Social Development Department (SDD).

### MUSIC FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

The Music for Social Transformation programme continues in Kingston at the Caribbean Palms and Denham Town, Providence Heights in St. James and Llandillo, Westmoreland. All tutors in the project participated in a workshop with expert musician, Grub Cooper at the NHT's St. Ann Branch office. At the workshop, Wendy-Jo Williams, Manager of the NHT's Social Development Department, presented models used in Brazil for programmes of this nature to the workshop's participants. The Brazil model was chosen because of its cultural similarities to Jamaica.

#### Providence Heights

Members of the Providence Heights Marching Band participated in a music workshop hosted by musicians from the Smoky Mountain Quintet, a North Carolina based group. This workshop was held at Sam Sharpe Teachers College. Additionally, band rehearsals continue on a weekly basis.



Members of the Providence Heights MST programme with their instruments alongside members of the Smokey Mountain Quintet

The band has made further progress through acquiring a drum set which will assist the group to perform at concerts. This was purchased with proceeds from the grant funding received from the Royal Schools of Music. The behavior change sessions resumed in April.

#### Denham Town

Over in Denham Town, forty (40) children attended classes in music theory and practice, as well as Maths and English Language.

In the meantime, sixty (60) young persons are now involved in the programme at Caribbean Palms. The introduction of the dance component has increased the total number of children participating in the programme by 75%. The Marching Band members have completed their basic theory classes and have begun to learn to play instruments.

### **Llandillo**

Another cultural group from the Llandillo community are being trained to perform at events. These fifteen students are being trained in the areas of Revival ; John Canoe, Gerreh and Tambo. The cultural group will be participating in the JCDC Annual Competition.

### **SKILLS TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Training continues for students in CXC subjects and skills training across the island. Two (2) phases of the Hospitality Skills for Life programme are currently being conducted. The next segment begins July 2012. Also, during the month of June, fourteen (14) persons were referred for employment by the Social Development Department.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CLUBS**

Seventy percent of the environment clubs across the island participated in a Labour Day projects in collaboration with Citizens Associations. Other initiatives included:

- **The expansion of the recycling programme to all clubs in Clarendon.** Currently a recycling project is taking place in Bushy Park. The JAMALCO Bauxite Company wishes to collaborate with this project and this would allow the clubs to earn from the sale of recycled plastic bottles.
- **Solar Cooker Development workshops.** Clubs in Kingston participated in a Solar Cooker Development workshop at Source Farms Eco Village in St. Thomas recently.

### **Parish Schemes Associations**

With the SDD's support, PSAs continue to hold meetings in most parishes, except for Manchester and St. Elizabeth, where no structure has yet been established.