



Spring 2016 VOLUME 25, NO. 1

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.

BE IN THE KNOW:

For more news visit our website, like us on Facebook and join our e-newsletter mailing list.



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Caystone

The Newsletter of the Lyford Cay Foundations

FROM CHALLENGE TO TRIUMPH Beneficiaries Share Their Stories of Resilience

For the first time in more than a century, Nassau was significantly impacted by a major natural disaster in the form of Hurricane Matthew. Also devastated were the settlements of North Andros and West End, Grand Bahama.

Although we are in various parts of the country and the world, such tragedies affect us all in some way and tie us together.

When faced with the challenge of rebuilding, we have the choice to give up or to continue despite the odds.

Our beneficiaries always make the choice to continue because they are brave and resilient. They consistently find ways to turn obstacles into opportunities and we are proud to support their determination.

Supporting them is an investment in the resilience of The Bahamas. Your donations to Lyford Cay Foundations secure the futures of those who will build and sustain our community.

Here are their stories:



"While getting ready to take my psychopathology test at school, I found out that my mother and brother were evacuated to a shelter, my Pastor's roof partially caved in and water seeped into the home of close family friends.

Hurricane Matthew was the worst that I've heard about.

Thankfully in the end, everyone I loved was safe and I did well on my test. Surviving Hurricane Matthew made every victory much more meaningful."

Candera Gilbert, Scholar
Master's Degree, Christian Counseling, Oral Roberts University

"Being a part of FOCUS has been a great source of strength and encouragement for me.

Working in Andros away from my family in Nassau, and learning that our family home flooded with over 3 feet of water was devastating.



The anxiety, depression and sense of helplessness has been overwhelming.

We are extremely fortunate to have our lives and that has to mean there is still something left for me to do."

Raynessia Watkins, FOCUS Intern
Teacher at South Andros High School

"For me, we had no electricity, I missed two weeks of school, lost food, sleep and had to move from my home because our roof caved in and it flooded. It was a real wake up call for me, and The Bahamas.

I made a promise that I will never let anything get in the way of my success.

The hurricane won't stop me from meeting my graduation requirements."

Clifford Dean, Cutillas Scholar
C.V. Bethel High School, Class of 2017



"Due to the hurricane, we've been unable to conduct our regular programmes in schools. Additionally, our offices were without electricity and internet for two weeks making daily operations difficult.



In response to the storm we've redesigned this year's programme.

Over the next six months, YME students will engage in a comprehensive study with the University of Miami that will produce suggestions to ensure that our country is better prepared for hurricanes."

Nikita Shiel-Rolle, Scholar, and Grant Recipient
CEO and Founder, Young Marine Explorers

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Update FOCUS

SUMMER REFLECTIONS

Students Share About FOCUS Summer SLAM



Taivan Thompson

*Class of 2024,
Eva Hilton
Primary School*

First FOCUS
Summer

How was your first summer at FOCUS?

It was amazing!

Tell us about your project this summer?

We had a debate on climate change - if it's a frightening future or a non-occurring nightmare.

What was the best thing about your first summer at FOCUS?

Learning about climate change with the best teacher, Ms. Keira.

Taivan and his mom at Family Breakfast this past summer.



Sincere Braynen

*Class of 2020,
H.O. Nash
Junior School*

Fifth FOCUS
Summer



2016 Summer Project Driving Questions:

Grades 5 and 6

Climate Change:
How do we curb the harmful impact of human development on the earth and its climate?



Grades 7 and 8

Forms of Government:
Is democracy the best suited system of government for The Bahamas?



Grade 9

Summer Olympics:
Why should The Bahamas continue to participate in Olympic Games when greater economic priorities exist?



Sincere and her sister at Family Breakfast this past summer.

What was the best thing about your fifth summer at FOCUS?

The best part about this past summer was working in a group to get our presentation done. We had to debate and discuss why we thought what we thought and why our way was better.

What is the most important thing you learned at FOCUS so far?

The most important thing I learned at FOCUS is that without teamwork in a group nothing is going to get done. Everybody in the group must cooperate.

What does FOCUS mean to you?

FOCUS to me is a chance to discover yourself and delve into your own future. Discover what you want to be and learn things you never knew you could do.

ON COURSE TO COLLEGE

Class of 2019 Begins Second Phase of FOCUS

The ultimate goal of FOCUS is that 100% of participants graduate high school and enroll in and complete post-secondary education.

Now, after six summers, our first cohort is one step closer to this achievement!

The Class of 2019 entered tenth grade this past fall, beginning senior high school and the final phase of FOCUS aptly titled, "On Course To College (OCTC)."

Long-time FOCUS counsellor, Karen McCartney became the programme's third full-time team member this past September. Karen is responsible for OCTC.

OCTC moves students away from a project-based learning curriculum to individualised counseling, academic support and career guidance.

At this stage, summer programming changes to allow for students to explore career goals and other extra-curricular interests, while Saturday sessions continue.



Class of 2019 with Programme Director Felicity Humblestone, OCTC Coordinator Karen McCartney and Team Leader Helene DeJong at a recognition ceremony this past September. Photos by CayFocus/Disha Fraser

Class of 2019 reflect on their time at FOCUS so far:

Shanquell Clarke, shares what FOCUS has meant to her over the past five years:

"The best thing about FOCUS is the inspiring people I meet. "When I look at all of the interns and team members, I believe that I have a shot of being like that one day. "I've learned so much about the world here and how I can be better one step at a time."

For **Ishmael Gibson**, his fourth grade dream of being an astronaut has since shifted to being a world famous chef.

"FOCUS is a big opportunity and a life changer. It's one of the best things that has happened to me." Ishmael shared.



Shanquell and Ishmael, grade 10 students at C.R. Walker Secondary School, with OCTC Coordinator, Karen McCartney.

"I want to be proud of myself and positively affect my community."

Ishmael's dad, Demarco Gibson shared his son's view on the impact of FOCUS, "Over the last two years especially we have seen a change in him. He is more focused, and he has improved in Math."

"I appreciate FOCUS for giving him direction and encouragement."

Shanquell, Ishmael, and their classmates have reached a major milestone on their journey to college.

We are proud of their commitment, grateful to our donors and partners for making this possible and look forward to achieving our goal together.

Our Donors Inspire

You help students learn about themselves and discover their destinies.

Spotlight On Our Scholars

TECHNICAL SCHOLARS SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

2016 New Recipient Stories



Scholar:
Brea Fox
Award:
TK Foundation
Technical Scholarship
College:
Key College, Florida
Class of 2018
Major:
Court Reporting

Ask Brea Fox about her future career plans, and you'll be swept away by her excitement as she

dreams about the possibilities.

"Court reporting will not just be a job for me, it will be my passion. It's my opportunity for a rewarding career and a new lease on life," exclaims Brea.

Grit, determination and a hunger for more have always driven Brea.

After high school, Brea went to work but always fantasized about furthering her education. When offered a position in Exuma, Brea left her hometown of Nassau to seize the opportunity.

Brea soon learned that the field of court reporting could provide the foundation for success that she craved. She also discovered that this underrepresented field, could make an impact on the country she loves.

"I know that court stenography will be an extraordinary profession that will better my quality of life," noted Brea.

"There is a shortage of court reporters in The Bahamas. Once I complete my course of study, I endeavour to promote awareness of my career to other students in The Bahamas."

Our Donors Inspire

You push students to challenge themselves beyond what they thought was possible.

Scholar:
Shawn Minnis
Award:
Technical Scholarship
College:
Holland College, Canada
Class of 2017
Major:
Power Engineering



Shawn Minnis knows that it's never too late to learn.

In 2001, he left high school after 11th grade to work in order to assist his family.

Four years later, he returned to school, receiving his high school diploma before completing certifications and licenses in maritime studies.

Shawn was intrigued at the idea of becoming a Power Engineer, which would enable him to operate and maintain boilers, turbines and refrigeration or air conditioning in commercial and industrial buildings.

He noted that it's a field that is needed in The Bahamas, but not sought after.

Shawn realised that to pursue this field, he'd need to return to the classroom.

"Each year that I got older, I thought I was too old to go back to school," he said. "I had to realise that learning is a never ending process."

Now able to pursue his dream because of this scholarship, Shawn has advice for potential Scholars.

"This means more to me than anything at this point in my life. My advice is to seize the opportunity and do not let it go to waste," shared Shawn.

"I am going to be forever grateful of this opportunity given to me by Lyford Cay Foundations."

ALUM: RETURNING HOME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Most successful businesses start with a single idea. However, Alum Scholar Carla Gibson's business was born out of a desire to make a difference in The Bahamas and fueled by her love of learning.

"Working with people with special needs is my passion," shares Carla. "It's what I was put here to do."

As a high school student, Carla's love for her cousin with special needs shaped her career plans. To show her support, Carla began volunteering with Stapledon School, a public school in New Providence for students with learning challenges, and fell in love.

After realising that she'd volunteered more than 200 hours, Carla knew that she'd found her dream career.

Carla studied Special Education at The College of The Bahamas and then received a Foundations scholarship to attend University of Georgia, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education.

Spurred by her thirst to learn more, Carla went on to pursue a Master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis at Columbia University. She was thrilled to once again earn a Foundations scholarship.

"Both the university and New York are very expensive. Without a scholarship, I don't know if I would have been able to go to Columbia."

But the road to graduation took both funding and personal determination. Throughout graduate school, Carla taught full-time daily and then commuted for an hour to take classes.

"It was a wonderful experience," notes Carla. "I learned that there is so much to the world. Being at Columbia showed me that anything is possible."

CUTILLAS SCHOLARS SNAPSHOT

After robust recruitment earlier this year, close to 400 grade 11 public school students throughout The Bahamas registered for the Cutillas Scholars programme.

After completing three rounds of assignments that included interviewing a current college student, and strength and career assessments, **six students were selected as the first Cutillas Scholars.**

We look forward to sharing more details on these Scholars in the months to come.

For the most up to date news, join our monthly e-newsletter at www.lyfordcayfoundation.org



Carla Gibson at her graduation from Columbia University in May 2016.

Carla was excited to bring her expertise back to The Bahamas after graduation this past May.

Her plan was to return home and focus on studying for her certification to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. But word quickly got out about Carla's experience.

"Once I returned home, everything just took off," said Carla.

"My days are spent providing services to meet the huge need in our community. I balance my time between providing services at clients' homes, training teachers and working with organisations like REACH (Resources and Education for Autism and Related Challenges)."

In addition to running her business, Carla is studying for her certification and preparing to open a business office in February 2017.

Although she must constantly think of ways to manage her busy schedule, Carla loves what she does, and is thankful for the help of the Foundations throughout her journey.

"I realise that a Lyford Cay Foundations scholarship impacts so many," she reflected. "My return home is already impacting so many kids. I'm glad I came home to make a difference."

For more information about Carla's services, visit www.reneoneilcenter.org or email her at cgibson@reneoneilcenter.org.

Roundup Grants

PROVIDING A SAFE SPACE IN SOUTH ELEUTHERA

Community Library Gets New Roof

Wemyss Bight, located south of Rock Sound Eleuthera, is a small, close-knit community of 300 people.

In 2004, realising that many children in South Eleuthera lacked adequate educational resources and after school activities, the citizens of Wemyss Bight took action.

Together, they transformed a deteriorating old home into a vibrant library that has become the jewel of South Eleuthera.

As the only functional library in the area, it is also used by families in the neighbouring communities of Deep Creek, Waterford, Green Castle, John Miller's and Bannerman Town.

Over the years, the Charles David Thompson Community Library has become more than a place that houses books.

The library provides weekend reading programmes and tutoring sessions for children as well as story time and Spanish lessons.

Computers are available as a resource for those who don't have access to them. Workshops are provided for members of the community on issues such as the importance of continuing education and tips for preventing substance abuse.

The library touches the lives of many - both young and old.

By the beginning of this year, the library's roof, which was a part of the original structure, was so damaged that there was severe leaking every time it rained.

Now, thanks to a \$6,000 grant from the Foundations, the roof is on its way to being repaired so that it can continue being a resource for South Eleutherans.

"Words can't describe how we feel about the Lyford Cay Foundation's commitment to our library," said Clara Williams, the library's Executive Director.

"Without your donation the library wouldn't be possible. Thanks to you, our children have an incentive to read and a place to learn."



ATHLETES PUT MOORE'S ISLAND ON THE MAP

Small Community Produces Track and Field Stars

Any community would be proud to boast that they've produced and trained an Olympic medalist, the second fastest Bahamian sprinter of all time, the Bahamas World Relays Spring Medley champions, and a qualifying athlete for the Beijing World Championships.

But just imagine how proud you would feel if you've been able to accomplish all of this!

Moore's Island, a six square mile island community off the west coast of Abaco, Bahamas with limited resources and a population of just 900, has done just that.

The Moore's Island Student Athlete Program (MISAP) was started informally in 2000 by



Coach Anthony Williams

Coach and local pastor Anthony Williams in an effort to create positive alternatives for neighbourhood children. Since that time, civil engineer, track enthusiast and now MISAP Board Chairman Nick Dean has helped formalise the successful programme that has become a gem of the Bahamian track and field community.

Aware of the significant financial need that families faced, Coach Williams and his family began taking students into their own home.

When the challenge of feeding, educating and training 15 boys on an individual's salary became unmanageable, Nick and a team of volunteers sprang into action.

With their assistance, MISAP became a non-profit organisation in 2015 with the mission of "building a better Bahamas through academics and athletics." This means providing student athletes with a quality education as well as quality athletic training.

A primary goal is for the students to successfully graduate from high school and receive scholarships to college.



The Moore's Island Track and Field team, including Olympian Steven Gardiner. Photos by Nick Dean/MISAP

Critical to MISAP's mission is the creation of a dormitory. The 4,000 square foot dormitory will include bedrooms, bathrooms, a kitchen area, activities centre and study hall with laptops and internet access.



The dorm will be ideally situated across from a new sports complex being built by the Bahamian government.

Construction of the building began this past summer with the assistance of a \$200,000 grant from the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture of The Bahamas and is expected to be finished in early 2017.

Through your generous donations, the Foundations have granted MISAP \$20,000 for appliances and equipment for the dorm.

"The impact of this project will be phenomenal not just for the student athletes but for the entire community," shared Nick Dean.



Nick Dean

"The combination of a dormitory and a new sports complex will lead to better infrastructure on the island, the creation of new roads and even the expansion of the runway to

allow residents from other islands and tourists to come and support the track meets."

For members of the Moore's Island Student Athlete Program, the doors of the world have opened!

Our Donors Inspire
You revitalise small communities throughout The Bahamas.

Our Donors

Inspire

THE LITTLE BIT OF GREATNESS INSIDE EVERYONE

Butch Kerzner Summit Foundation Supports FOCUS

It has been ten years since South African hotelier Howard “Butch” Kerzner passed away.

Known for the Atlantis resort, Butch not only had a keen business sense, but was also passionate about making The Bahamas a better place. He did this through his business decisions and his philanthropy.

Butch felt strongly the young people were the future of The Bahamas, and this belief is what drove the mission of The Butch Kerzner Summit Foundation (BKSF).

Founded in 2006 to honour his memory, BKSF’s mission was to positively impact youth in The Bahamas. With that in mind, BKSF made a major donation to the FOCUS programme.

When thinking back to the catalyst for BKSF, Vanessa Kerzner shared, “It really started when Barrie Farrington persuaded Butch to donate a pool for St. Anne’s School students.

“Butch passed away before it was completed and it was the first project we finished.”

Long before this initial project, Butch and Vanessa had made The Bahamas their permanent home and spent time in the local community to understand the needs of everyday Bahamians.

These experiences helped Vanessa and the Board of BKSF to choose individual sports as an avenue of impacting students throughout the country.



Vanessa Kerzner

“Sports builds teamwork, forces you to set goals and challenges you to achieve them,” she shared.

“It was really about the sense of accomplishment and confidence they would feel from reaching their goals.

BKSF had a onetime vision to build a sports complex for young people but throughout years of planning, this was reconsidered.

Recently, the Board decided to dissolve BKSF and disburse the funds to Bahamian charitable organisations with youth development programmes.

“In considering non-profits who had similar beliefs and served Bahamian youth, Lyford Cay Foundations have a clear track record of executing programmes with positive results,” Vanessa said.

“Our motto was ‘dedicated to the little bit of greatness inside of everyone.’ This was something Butch really believed.

“We are confident that through this gift to the Foundations, Butch’s legacy and hope for a better Bahamas will continue on.”

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 or
call us at 242-362-4910.

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