



Spring 2017 VOLUME 26, NO. 1

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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www.surveymonkey.com/r/LCFSurvey1

Inside

FOCUS

Your Impact	2
SLAM Saturdays	3

Cutillas Scholars

Meet the Six	4
--------------	---

Scholars

Technical Graduates	5
---------------------	---

Grants

Judo	6
YEP	7

Our Donors

Scholar	
Damien Forsythe	8



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



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.”



Tiffany Saunders

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 charted 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 or connect with him at 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 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

DR. NICOLA VIRGILL-ROLLE: LEADING THE CHARGE FOR VISION 2040

Scholar Spearheads Solutions for the Future of The Bahamas

How can we use our legacy of social and economic prosperity as a springboard for the future? How can citizens, residents and the government unite to create a roadmap for the future of the country that we all love?

These questions are at the core of Vision 2040, the National Development Plan for The Bahamas.

Dr. Nicola Virgill-Rolle, Lead for the Government on the National Development Plan Vision 2040 Secretariat and a proud Lyford Cay Scholar, was elated to share the goals of the plan and reflect on her experiences as a Scholar.



Dr. Nicola Virgill-Rolle

What is the National Development Plan and why is it important?

We're a country that's done well over the years. But collectively we knew that we could do more to live up to our full potential. In 2015, we started bringing stakeholders together to look toward where we want to be in a generation.

The National Development Plan gives The Bahamas a reform agenda for 4 key areas:

The Economy - Identifying strategies to make the economy resilient, create jobs and promote entrepreneurship.

Governance - Applying best practices for an efficient, transparent and modern nation, ensuring that our democracy works to best serve the interests of all Bahamians.

Social Policy - Creating policies to improve the things our citizens value, like public safety, healthcare, education and social services.

The Environment - Protecting our natural resources from environmental change, while investing in strategic infrastructure projects to build our nation.

What stage is the Plan in currently?

We now have a final product for implementation that includes input from a broad spectrum of residents and citizens, including those living in the Family Islands. Each recommendation is linked to a target of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

What impact will the Plan have on education?

We aim to provide the best educational possibilities starting with prenatal care so that children will be born healthy and ready to learn. Our next recommendation is for universal preschool education. Then we'll strive to make sure that everyone has basic literacy and numeracy skills. Finally, we move on to goals for vocational skills and university access.

How did your own experiences prepare you to lead this initiative?

After I achieved my Associate's Degree at the College of The Bahamas, the College connected me with the Foundations and that broadened my vision of what was possible. As a Scholar, I was able to study Economics at Vassar University. This was a game changer and on my own, it wouldn't have been possible!

I later obtained a graduate degree in Political Economy of Development and a Ph.D. in Public Policy. I interned on Wall Street with my heart focused on how I could use my experiences in The Bahamas. Positions at The Central Bank and the Embassy of the Bahamas in Washington, D.C. further prepared me for this unique role.

What additional thoughts would you like to share with Foundation supporters?

Philanthropy is an important part of life. It creates solutions. The Foundations are making a real impact in this country, and I would like to thank them for the opportunity they provided for me.

Learn more about Vision 2040 at www.vision2040bahamas.org

Inside

FOCUS

- Summer of Solutions 2
- On Course To College 3

Scholars

- New Recipients 4
- Dream Realized 5

Grants

- Rhythm N' Youth 6
- Bahamas Plastic Movement 7

Our Donors

- Katherine Elza 8



Update
FOCUS

SUMMER SLAM TACKLES REAL-LIFE CHALLENGES

Project-Based Learning Helps Students Think Critically

Drop by Summer SLAM and you'll be overwhelmed with gleeful laughter; you'll witness energetic, engaging discussions; and you'll see hands on learning in the form of challenges and creative solutions.

What you won't see is rote memorization.

Project-Based Learning (PBL) is the hallmark of FOCUS summer learning, and it's grounded in developing solutions to real life problems.

Student experiences have proven that learning through doing fosters the greatest depth of knowledge. FOCUS students want to be challenged and presenting them with a real-life problem to be solved connects them to the learning process more meaningfully.

Each year, the FOCUS leadership team brainstorms project ideas that are developed into project scenarios with driving questions. The intern teams then develop project plans to facilitate student learning based on these driving questions.

For the past two years, students have been a part of the brainstorming process for project ideas. A component of each Summer 2017 project came from student input.

Gradually, FOCUS is moving towards Grade 9 students completely designing their projects to maximize the learning experience.

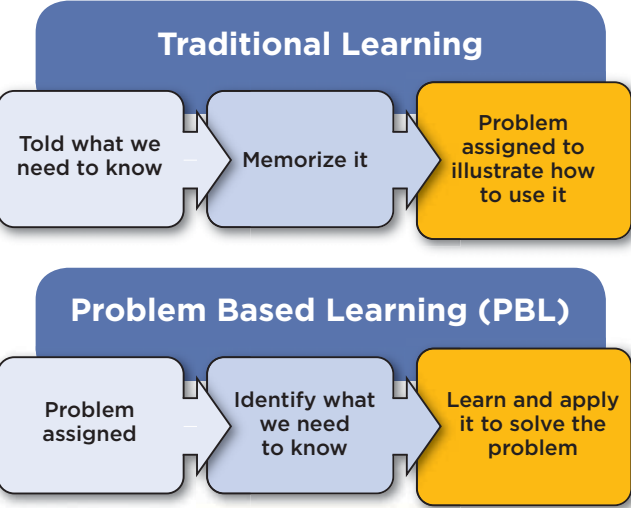


Image from presentlygifted.weebly.com

2017 Summer Project Driving Questions:



Grades 5 and 6

Lego Robotics Challenge: How do we program an autonomous robot to complete an obstacle course related to the theme of a real-life challenges such as waste management or natural disaster management?

Grades 7 and 8

Designing A Game: What makes Math fun and effective for junior high school students?

Grade 9

Designing A School: What are the features we most want to see in a school to learn most effectively?

Summer 2017 Anonymous Student Survey Results

The Most Important Thing I Learned at FOCUS:

- "When building a school, you need a whole lot more things than you think."
- "Waste is not a problem, it's how we dispose of it."
- "...Is That Math Takes You Around The World!"

ON COURSE TO COLLEGE

Summer Programming Prepares Class of 2019 and 2020

For students in the Class of 2019 and 2020, high school graduation is just over the horizon. FOCUS summer programming is helping these students crystallize their dreams of high school graduation and plans for college enrollment.



Members of On Course To College, Classes of 2019 and 2020



This summer, their experiences were tailored to prepare these Grade 10 and 11 students in the second phase of FOCUS, known as On Course To College (OCTC), for the challenges of senior high school and beyond.

"A challenge for many students is that as they enter senior high school, their needs begin to differ significantly from those of younger FOCUS students," noted Karen McCartney, OCTC Coordinator. "OCTC students have to be prepared for the rigors of senior high school and national exams, while also exploring college options and their future careers."

"OCTC's summer programming is an answer to this challenge that allows students to grow independently while being supported and nurtured by the FOCUS team."

Students participated in a variety of personalized activities during the summer designed to be flexible enough to allow them to explore their interests and personal goals.

OCTC activities ranged from summer employment; traveling; academic intervention sessions; volunteering; learning about University of The Bahamas through the UB Mingoos Club; and attending camps that explored areas such as science, technology, art, engineering, math and the maritime industry.

The summer culminated with an intensive four-day Summer Seminar for all Grade 10 and 11 students. Workshop topics included:

- Transitioning from Junior to Senior High School
- Peer Pressure and Relationships
- Character Development
- Determining The Cost of College
- Choosing Your College
- Setting Smart Goals

In September, OCTC students started their first day of school more confident and prepared for their school year.

On Course To College Summer Reflections:



Chriseven Strachan
Grade 11
C.C. Sweeting Senior High School

"On Course To College is challenging but good. When I don't understand certain things, I ask for help."



Sincere Braynen
Grade 10
C.R. Walker Senior High School

"On Course To College is like family. We talk about college experiences. They tell us to make a bucket list about what we want to do when we get to college."

Our Donors Inspire Solutions

You help students gain the confidence to take on new challenges.

Spotlight On

Our Scholars

BUILDING STRONG FUTURES AND COMMUNITIES

2017 New Recipient Stories



Scholar:
Rollajia Cooper
Award:
CLCF Undergraduate
College:
Dalhousie University
Major:
Community Design

As one of her high school’s top academic performers, Rollajia had her choice of career paths. However, it was her desire to develop her

community and her country that led her to study architecture.

“I intend to add value to my country,” Rollajia shared. “I am overjoyed to know that as an architect, I will be instrumental in building my community.”

When Rollajia was accepted into an accredited architecture program, she felt like a world of opportunity was within reach. After Dalhousie, she aspires to pursue a Master’s degree in the field.

While Rollajia hopes to contribute to The Bahamas by creating architectural plans for buildings that will help with the challenges that island nations face such as environmental changes, it is the idea of designing community resource buildings that sparks her interest the most.

“As an architect, I will be capable of designing a homeless shelter for Bahamians in need. I would also be able to build recreational centers that will serve as safe spaces for young people to express themselves artistically and athletically.”

2017 Because of You - 31 new scholarship recipients

- \$988,750 invested
- 94% First generation students
- 39% public school students
- 26% from Family Islands.

Scholar:
Nathaniel Rolle
Award:
TK Foundation Technical
College:
Southern Arkansas University Tech
Major:
Aviation Maintenance Technician

“Fast forward five years. . .I’m standing on the tarmac watching a Bahamian-owned twin engine turboprop with a repaired wing take flight. I stand proudly and smile knowing that those passengers can fly assured of their vessel’s safety.”

Nathaniel has a crystal-clear vision of his future. That’s because he spent countless hours in high school researching the aviation maintenance field and planning his career.

His interest goes deeper than just repairing planes. His passion comes from seeing what is possible for The Bahamas by expanding an underdeveloped industry.

“Instead of depending on other countries to always provide qualified professionals in technical areas, I can help cultivate this field,” notes Nathaniel.

After college, Nathaniel sees himself returning home as an aviation mechanic, eventually operating his own company and ultimately commandeering an aviation maintenance school in the country.

Today, Nathaniel’s feet are firmly planted on the ground as he diligently prepares to meet the requirements for an aviation Inspector Authorization. But he knows that soon, his visions for both his future and The Bahamas will take flight.



DELAYED GRADUATE DREAMS BECOME REALITY

Scholar Finds That It’s Never Too Late for College

Sadly, it was just too late.
Or was it?

Shawn Minnis reluctantly left his public high school before he had an opportunity to graduate and receive his diploma. Shawn was a go getter with good grades and big dreams . . . but he was also a realist.

With the death of his father leaving Shawn’s mother as a single parent and the sole provider, he had to make a tough decision.

So Shawn put his dreams aside, left school and went to work to assist his family.

But leaving school didn’t kill Shawn’s dreams. The desire to have a meaningful career kept calling him.

He wondered if it he missed his opportunity to answer the call.

“Each year that I got older, I thought it was too late to go back to school,” shared Shawn. “I had to realise that it’s never too late and learning is a never-ending process.”

After weighing his options, Shawn eventually decided that making the sacrifices necessary to pursue a college degree would be the key to unlocking all of the goals he had for himself and his family.

After four years in the work force, Shawn mustered the strength to return to school. With steadfast resolve, he achieved his high school diploma and then went on to complete numerous certifications and licenses in maritime studies.

But it wasn’t enough and Shawn had the desire for more, despite needing help to pay for college. So, he turned to the Foundations and applied for a Scholarship.

Shawn was awarded a Scholarship, and this past May he graduated from Holland College with a certificate in Power Engineering.

Now Shawn is looking forward to a bright future in a field with endless possibilities. With his education, he is able to operate and maintain boilers, turbines, and complex refrigeration and air conditioning units in commercial and industrial buildings. It is an



Shawn Minnis at his graduation from Holland College in May 2017.

untapped field here in The Bahamas, which further positions Shawn for success.

When asked what advice he had for others who dreamed of making college a reality, Shawn said, “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.”

Between Fall 2016 and Spring 2017, 36 new graduates joined the ranks of the more than 2,500 Scholars!

100% of these graduates studied fields that have equipped them to create innovative solutions for a rapidly evolving Bahamas.

For updates on these Scholars and the most up-to-date news, join our monthly e-newsletter at www.lyfordcayfoundation.org

Our Donors Inspire Solutions

You empower students to create opportunities for themselves and their communitiess.

Roundup

Grants

REVIVING BAHAMIAN HERITAGE

Summer Camp Offers All Things Bahamian

A rich heritage brimming with a vibrant culture . . . it's at the heart of the Bahamian identity. Rhythm N' Youth's annual camp has the goal of ensuring that the next generation develops Bahamian pride and preserves that heritage.

This year, 12 of the 33 children who participated in the weeklong Camp RNY were able to take part due to a grant from the Foundations. The grant covered the cost of registration, programming, t-shirts, field trips and meals.

"Camp RNY is helping to empower our children to sustain themselves and our culture for generations to come."

"Today's Bahamian children have the benefit

of seeing a wide array of cultures through the media," noted Nathaniel Adams, a former public school teacher who founded the New Providence-based organisation. "But this means that children become more well-versed in pop culture, and less in the unique legacy of our beautiful islands."

Adams felt compelled to create the camp, which later blossomed into the organisation Rhythm N' Youth, through years of interacting with primary school students.

"I realised that regardless of their ages, many of them could not identify our first prime minister, Sir Lynden Pindling, on the one dollar bill. Just this summer, many of these students didn't even know about how our track and field athletes brought home Olympic medals," shared Adams.

Through Camp RNY, students learned these important facts and much more. This summer, campers trekked through historical sites, giggled as they danced the quadrille, became immersed in Junkanoo and tried their hands at steel pan drums.

However, learning to play traditional Rake N' Scrape music, which Rhythm N' Youth is known throughout the community for promoting, was the most exhilarating



highlight of the camp. Discovering the lost science of island agriculture was a close second!

"It was exciting to see our students eat fresh Bahamian fruits for the first time, plant the seeds from these fruits and just a few days later discover little shoots growing," marveled Adams. This gardening initiative was so successful, that he plans to incorporate it in Rhythm N' Youth's year-round programming.

"Camp RNY is helping to empower our children to sustain themselves and our culture for generations to come."

CULTIVATING INNOVATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

Students Learn and Advocate for Change

Back in 2012, after twenty days crossing the Pacific Ocean with an environmental group to study the Western Garbage Patch in Japan, Kristal Ambrose found herself staring at a tangled, wet mess full of deadly potential.

As the budding scientist looked at the thick plastic debris and the fish trapped within it struggling to survive, her passion to rid The Bahamas of marine pollution was born.

Today, Kristal, a Scholar who recently graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, is the catalyst and founder behind Bahamas Plastic Movement. The vibrant non-profit organisation is based in Eleuthera and works with citizens to research, educate and shape policy around plastic pollution in Bahamian waters.

As a Scholar, Kristal knew first-hand how partnering with the Foundations can impact lives and communities. So as Kristal prepared for Bahamas Plastic Movement's camp this summer, she sought out a Foundation grant for support.



Kristal Ambrose



Bahamas Plastic Movement's summer camp provided environmental education for 100 Family Island students.

Through the grant, and with the support of many other community organisations, the tuition-free summer camp provided environmental education for nearly 100 students in South Eleuthera, Harbour Island, Exuma, and Abaco.

Science came alive for the students this summer as they learned to be environmental stewards through activities, classroom lectures, community activism and artistic expression. Students who had never previously given much thought to their environment found themselves on an ocean trawl for surface plastics, heating plastic for biofuel and doing beach plastic surveys.

Campers were able to find their voice by developing a call to action video for the Prime Minister to ban the use of plastic bags in The Bahamas. The culmination of the action-packed camp was a student-led Community Show where students used songs, poems and skits to raise awareness.



"Our programme is grounded in a very real problem we are facing in our environment, but it's rooted deeper in the hopefulness that comes from engaging young people in developing innovative solutions," reflects Kristal.

"The summer camp provided a platform for family island students to tackle issues in an impactful way. We are grateful. Thank you."

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KATHERINE A. ELZA

Supporting Young Bahamians And Their Dreams

Katherine A. Elza loves The Bahamas. She loves the picture-perfect weather and the tranquil beauty of the islands. Most of all, Katherine loves the unlimited potential that lies within the Bahamian people.

Her love for The Bahamas, her firm belief in the possibilities that a good education provides and a strong family legacy of philanthropy are a few reasons why Katherine proudly supports the Foundations each year.

Katherine shared her thoughts on investing in Bahamian dreams:

"The importance of education has been ingrained in me since I was a child. Between my grandfather, Godfrey Kelly, who was the first Minister of Education, and my aunt, Nancy Kelly, who has been a Director of the Lyford Cay Foundation since 1996, I was raised to believe that education is the pillar of success.

I am very lucky to have been afforded an education which has given me the opportunity to accomplish everything I set out to do. As a seventh generation Bahamian, I'm grateful that I can live, work and make a difference in the country I love.

If I had my way, every young Bahamian would have the opportunities that I had so they too could follow their dreams and pursue their career choice.

In my opinion, there is a direct correlation between inadequate learning opportunities and the social problems that we face as a nation. There is so much potential for our archipelago and organisations like the Foundations provide hope for our people and their future.

Empowering young people and allowing them to pursue their dreams --this is what the Foundations stand for.

As a young professional, my message to my fellow Bahamians is that goals are achievable and you should not be afraid to strive for success.

Support for the Foundations is synonymous with support for young Bahamians. That is why I donate to the Lyford Cay Foundations."



Katherine A. Elza

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/ways-to-give/ or call us at 242-362-4910.

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