

2022

Annual Report



PARTNERSHIPS



**LYFORD
CAY
FOUNDATIONS**
DREAM. PLAN. SUCCEED.



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01 • About Us

With over 50 years of service, Lyford Cay Foundations has invested more than \$50 million in communities throughout The Bahamas through our FOCUS, Scholarships, Cutillas Scholars and Grants programmes. Each programme is aimed at providing learning opportunities for Bahamian children, young adults, families, and communities who will benefit the most.

Lyford Cay Foundations, comprised of the Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. and The Canadian

Lyford Cay Foundation, believe that increasing educational attainment across the country is key to the development of a prosperous, healthy and peaceful Bahamas.

Our work is made possible only by our generous donors. Every gift made goes toward transforming the lives of Bahamians.

We cannot thank you enough for your belief in our vision and mission, and for trusting us with your donations. •

OUR VISION

Every Bahamian is empowered to reach his or her full potential.

OUR MISSION

Investing in learning opportunities for Bahamian children, families, young adults and communities who will benefit from them the most.



Message

FROM THE CHAIRMEN



BASIL P. GOULANDRIS
Chairman, Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc.



TIM UNWIN
Chairman, The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation

Every day, we are reminded of the great things that can be achieved when people from all spheres of society come together to make a difference. In fact, the solutions to some of our most pressing issues require collaboration.

We are pleased to present our 2022 Annual Report, under the theme **'Partnerships'**. Indeed, it is in that spirit of partnership, that Lyford Cay Foundations has continued to cherish the opportunity to assist Bahamians through a variety of initiatives, built on the underlying belief that education is the key to national development and prosperity.

To date, the Foundations has helped more than 3,000 students earn university degrees through our scholarships programme. In this report, we highlight former scholar **Leslie Lopez**, whose journey from The Lyford Cay Club to Disney Bahamas serves as an inspiration to all striving students. You will read about **Branishka Bullard**, a recipient of the Ranfurly

“ We stand by our belief that education will be a driver of change and progress in The Bahamas... ”

BASIL GOULANDRIS & TIM UNWIN
Lyford Cay Foundations Chairmen

Home for Children scholarship to the University of The Bahamas. Today, Branishka mentors other children who find themselves in need of temporary or permanent care at the children's home. Through a new partnership in 2022, a graduate award was created to honour the life and commitment to education of a leading statesman, sportsman and businessman, **Sir Godfrey Kenneth Kelly**.

Because of enduring partnerships, Lyford Cay Foundations has served over 500 primary and high school students through our FOCUS and Cutillas programmes. Our report highlights a new partner to the FOCUS programme, the Sean Connery Foundation. We also showcase our grants programme which has supported dozens of local nonprofits and community organisations to expand our reach and impact in The Bahamian community.

The Foundations' most recent effort, the

LEAP (Learning Enrichment to Accelerate Progress) programme, which began in 2022, was only possible because of a strong donor partner. The programme assists primary school students from grades one to four by providing learning support in numeracy, literacy and social-emotional skills to enhance academic success.

The work that we do at Lyford Cay Foundations is helping to drive The Bahamas forward. We firmly believe that its importance and value cannot be overstated. We know that it would not be possible without the generosity of our donors and partners. We stand by our belief that education will be a driver of change and progress in The Bahamas, and we will continue to do all we can thanks to your continued support and belief in our mission.

We hope that you enjoy reading about our work and continue to be as inspired as we are.

Thank you for your partnership. •



Message

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“ We could not achieve our goals without your generosity and encouragement. Thank you for your partnership with Lyford Cay Foundations. ”

NICOLA VIRGILL-ROLLE
Executive Director
Lyford Cay Foundations

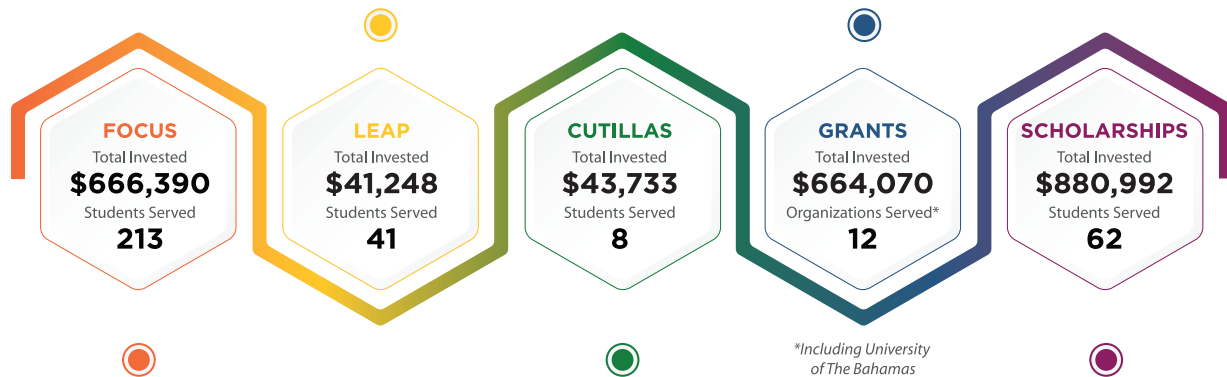
The theme of this year’s report, ‘**PARTNERSHIPS**’, speaks to the successes of the past and the goals, plans, and strategy for the future of your Lyford Cay Foundations.

At the very roots of the Foundations, the concept of partnership was strong. American and Canadian friends of The Bahamas recognised that they could be unique partners in the development of The Bahamas. They worked together, seamlessly contributing to their shared goals towards success.

Lyford Cay Foundations is focused on helping to bridge the education gap that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, expanding our successful FOCUS programme, strengthening communities through funding and supporting initiatives and helping students to achieve their dream of post-

2022 TOTAL IMPACT

Total Investment: \$2,296,433 • Direct Beneficiaries: 336



secondary education whether abroad or in The Bahamas.

You will read more about the success stories in the pages ahead. We are especially proud of the many partnerships that allowed the FOCUS programme to help change lives by steering young people through eight years of after-school and summer academic and skills lessons, preparing them for college. We have built a strong partnership with the University of The Bahamas, the schools we serve and with the help of our FOCUS parents and teachers.

We are proud of our newest partnership to assist striving public officers who shows

leadership capacity to achieve a graduate degree at the Munk School of Public Policy and Global Affairs. We are pleased that the individual donors as well as corporate and philanthropic organisations choose Lyford Cay Foundations as partners they trust to invest their funds in secondary and tertiary education for Bahamians.

Above all, on behalf of our dedicated team, I thank you, our partners who make all the work we do to create a better Bahamas through education and uplifting possible. Your partnership gives us the tools to shape futures and create success stories like those that lie ahead in the pages of this report. •



Tribute

HUMILITY IN ACTION: Francis Arthur Coady



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: *Susan Karlshoej* - Managing Director, TK Foundation; *Bruce Chan* - Director, TK Foundation; *Francis Arthur Coady* - Chairman, TK Foundation; *Aiko Karlshoej*; *Jakub Szymanski* - Director, TK Foundation; *Esther Blair* - Board Secretary, TK Foundation; (Photo Credit: *Jeffery Schaffer* - Director, TK Foundation).

Born in Nova Scotia, **Francis Arthur Coady** probably never imagined he would end up becoming a beloved figure in The Bahamas who would change the lives of hundreds of Bahamians with his generosity. But after a rewarding thirty-year career of practicing law in Calgary, Mr. Coady had the opportunity in 1989 to do something different when he was invited by his close and trusted friend J. Torben Karlshoej (founder of Teekay), to join TK Bahamas as the managing director and also to head up a small bank, Oceanic Bank and Trust Company. A specific part of his job description was to establish a sound sustaining ownership structure for the company and its affiliates, which until then had operated rather independently.

“From day one, when Mr. Coady strolled into our office, we knew we were meeting someone special,” said Esther Blair, who worked as a Trust Officer alongside Mr. Coady for many years as he managed a team of four, oversaw day-to-day operations, and expanded Teekay’s fleet of shipping vessels. He eventually became Managing Director and Vice President of TK Shipping Corporation.

“He was an accomplished negotiator, an exceptional listener and unassuming. He was meticulous to a fault in all our planning sessions. Many months of intense one-on-one work with Mr. Coady took long hours, but they were extremely rewarding and his teaching skills were on point.

“By the final months of the negotiations, our relationship was sealed and Mr. Coady became my mentor and my friend with a wicked sense of humour,” said Mrs. Blair.

“Mr. Coady was a very thoughtful and loving human being who took the time to get to know all four members of our staff and their families, and understand in detail the jobs assigned to each one; we became one family. There were also many down-times to enjoy our beautiful waters via boating, sailing, fishing and ocean swimming. When the Kisuka docked in Nassau Harbour, the dinner parties began. During special occasions, we spent time at his home and enjoyed the company of his lovely wife Gloria.”

“Whether being on the water, fishing and swimming, or being in the air as a pilot flying over the beautiful islands, Mr. Coady immediately developed a love for The Bahamas — and especially for its people”, said Mrs. Blair.

In 2002, the T.K. Foundation was incorporated and Mr. Coady became its Chairman and Director. Coady was the perfect person to ensure that the organisation fulfilled its mission to honor the legacy of J. Torben Karlshoej by cultivating and supporting projects that advanced educational and skill-building initiatives and empower disadvantaged individuals to succeed in life.

Under Mr. Coady’s leadership and Mrs. Blair’s assistance as Administrator, the TK Foundation made a difference in the lives of many Bahamians as it supported various non-profit organisations in The Bahamas via large grants, including Lyford Cay Foundations via their Technical and Vocational Scholarships. But one grantee in particular held a special place in their hearts: the FOCUS programme.

“We were invited to join the FOCUS coordinator at the welcoming of the first cohort of primary

school students to their classes at UB and also to take the opportunity to have a look at the programme’s impact on the students,” recalled Mrs. Blair”. Mr. Coady was especially excited for the first cohort as we both understood that the students were to be provided a first-class education.”

This love for the students, whose lives were changed by this tuition-free academic enrichment programme, made the TK Foundation their most generous donor, contributing some US\$3.8 million to the Foundation over the years. Such support laid the foundation for FOCUS and has allowed it to see four cohorts graduate from the groundbreaking programme.

Such public acts of generosity overshadowed the little-known fact that Mr. Coady also quietly supported grassroots efforts and individuals in need via a discretionary fund provided to him by the TK Foundation. Various camps supported by Mr. Coady’s desire to help Bahamians succeed would expose youth to enriching experiences in scuba diving, sailing, basketball, music, marching band, and more. Some individuals would know his generosity for years as he supported their educational studies.

“He was humility in action, a very special man,” said Mrs. Blair. “Supporting young Bahamian men was particularly important to Mr. Coady, and he would have been proud to learn that the majority of students who graduated in the last FOCUS cohort were young men—proud young men,” she adds. “He would have been overjoyed to see them walk forward to happily receive their medals, knowing The TK Foundation made a difference.” •



FOCUS



Since 2011, Lyford Cay Foundations has executed the FOCUS Programme, providing out-of-school-time, tuition-free enrichment for youth in 5th through 12th grades. Foundationally, FOCUS provides college readiness and access support to public school students of demonstrated need and potential.

Students begin the programme the summer after 4th grade, with the goal of becoming the first in their family to achieve post-secondary education.

FOCUS provides a unique professional development opportunity for teachers in training. Students are taught by intern teachers, the majority of whom are current education majors at the University of The Bahamas.

TOTAL INVESTED

\$666,390

TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED

213

FOCUS CLASS OF 2022

Commitment to Success



The Class of 2022 had to endure their fair share of uncertainties to become the fourth cohort to graduate from the FOCUS programme. Throughout the course of their eight-year journey, students were pushed to take their education to new heights, but it was in their final years that they would face their biggest test – a new way of learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the help of family and friends, the students embraced online learning and learned to appreciate a new normal. It was not always easy, but in the end, through hard work, perseverance and commitment, the FOCUS Class of 2022 had a lot to be proud of and celebrate. Now they are ready to pursue their dreams: Forward, Onward to College, Upward to Success! ●

2022 Overview

Back Together Again

After a two-year period of virtual learning, in March 2022, the FOCUS programme returned to in-person learning on the campus of the University of The Bahamas, a long-standing partner of Lyford Cay Foundations. On day one, Board Members, University and Ministry of Education Officials were present to receive and welcome 250 eager students. It was indeed a reunion as students jubilantly embraced each other and reflected on their time of seclusion during the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. Likewise, the staff of the programme were grateful to be reunited, and warmly celebrated the contributions of the sole Intern Teacher whom transitioned as a result of COVID-19.

“We are extremely excited to be welcoming our FOCUS students back to the UB campus after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. Chairman Basil Goulandris.

“Thank you to the Ministry of Education and the University of The Bahamas for partnering with Lyford Cay Foundations for so many years. We look forward to all the years to come.”

Fast-forwarding to the start of a new programme year; under the theme “**Climate Change: Human Impacts and Responsibility**”, FOCUS students participated in a thirty-day summer learning and enrichment programme that explored issues around the survival of endangered species, reducing one’s carbon footprint, the impact of rising sea levels and

the impact of harmful chemicals and substances in water, air and soil. Students were asked to consider solutions to these challenges affecting the world.

FOCUS SLAM Saturdays also ran virtually, starting in October, for 15 Saturdays and included enrichment activities, such as virtual field trips, mathematics, English language, and alternation of science and social studies learning interventions, following curriculum guidelines set by the Ministry of Education.

Students in grades 10–12 took part in the final stage of **FOCUS, On Course To College (OCTC)**, through an on-campus summer seminar that helped them foster independence and develop a sense of community activism by engaging with four components: college and career; life skills; health and wellness; and civic and community awareness.

A major feature of FOCUS is that it provides holistic development. While students had opportunities for academic development in Mathematics, English Language, Science, Art, and Computer studies through **Project Based Learning (PBL)**, field trips, sports and other extracurricular activities are included to expose students to opportunities that ordinarily may not be embraced. Through this approach, FOCUS Summer SLAM supplied the opportunity for students to gain experience, explore and learn about themselves, their peers, and the world around them through a fun, interactive, and educational process. •

FOCUS SUMMER SLAM STUDENT REFLECTIONS

What did you learn about Climate Change this summer?

“Climate Change is causing sea levels to rise; humans are the main cause of Climate Change, which means we should do our part to fix it. Because humans burn fossil fuels, Climate Change won’t stop unless we do.”

– Daylan McGregor, 8th Grader

“Climate change is impacting the earth a lot. Lots of animals are going endangered because of climate change, and I learned how much my daily lifestyle helped climate change progress.”

– Maleah Miller, 7th Grader



FOCUS SUMMER SLAM STUDENT REFLECTIONS:

What did you learn about Climate Change this summer?

“Throwing plastic in the sea can kill sea mammals. We should reduce our carbon footprint by riding bikes instead of driving cars and clean up after ourselves by picking up trash off the ground.”

– Antheriah Smith, 5th Grader

Summer SLAM Overview

Climate Change: Human Impacts and Responsibility

With the issue of Climate Change as a theme for learning this summer, our Education Specialists were able to strengthen the learning experience by integrating the topic/question: *“How can we adapt to the realities of a changing climate and make adjustments in our daily lives to stop climate change from worsening?”*

Interns strategically planned PBL lessons that helped students to gain the information needed to successfully plan and execute a project of their choice that would answer the question and improve competency in core academic learning objectives.

Interns engaged students in learning methods that were creative and innovative. As a result, students were exposed to technology which enhanced their skills in the use of tools such as Office 365, Canva, iMovie and other video editing apps and web-based tools. In the execution of their chosen final project, students developed skills in research, problem-solving, collaboration and communication — very valuable 21st Century skills. The elements of recycling and repurposing discarded items were also featured in various learning activities as students used ordinary items and resources to create something of value and use.

In keeping with our commitment to support students’ successful navigation through grade school, the programme is structured to ensure that students at the 9th grade

SUMMER SLAM HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Extracurricular Clubs

1. SCIENCE, SPEECH & DANCE CLUB

In **Science Club**, students were engaged with and enjoyed fun, simple, hands-on creative experiments. Activities such as creating elephant toothpaste, Mentos™ (candy) explosions and the creation of carbon dioxide using household items.

Speech Club provided an enriching opportunity for seven students to hone research, speech writing, and presentation skills. Students participated in a riveting competition focusing on the topic: “How to keep our Bahamas Clean, Green, and Pristine”. They all presented cohesive speeches with lots of supporting details.

Dance Club: A well-rounded student must be able to dance! Our students were able to show off their dance moves as they learned the choreography to a song. They enjoyed coming up with moves for the dance.

2. SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

The Summer SLAM Summer experience also featured a reading challenge. Each class was equipped with a library providing a variety of books for students to choose from. A period was allotted each day for students to engage in silent reading. Daily, children could be seen cuddled up in a quaint reading corner enjoying a good book. Many students took joy in reading, even when it was not reading time in their class.

3. MATH READING CHALLENGE

Each morning, our interns ensured that students were presented with a math challenge. During the first week of Summer SLAM, this goal was presented and students quickly got accustomed to completing this task daily. Students were extremely eager to participate as they could be seen asking for the challenge before it could be given by the interns.



Questions Grades 5–9 Explored

- How can we protect an endangered species in our area?
- Shrinking my carbon footprint: How can we reduce our families' impact on the environment?
- The impact of rising sea levels on communities: How have communities been impacted by the rise in sea levels?
- There are many harmful chemicals and substances found in water, air, soil and food. What solutions can be pro-posed to minimise the impact of these chemicals?

level are prepared for the Bahamas Junior Certificate (BJC) national examinations. During class sessions, the national BJC Mathematics and English Language curriculum are taught. Pre-assessments are used to determine students' academic deficiencies and their particular learning needs ahead of National Examinations. Ultimately, this impacts students' ability to take advantage of local careers and college enrollment opportunities. •

91%

of the graduating cohort submitted applications for admission to a post-secondary institution.

100%

of OCTC students who sat the BTVI entrance exam received scores that would enable them to enter BTVI.

45

formalised office hours provided by each teacher to FOCUS students.

2022 OCTC: On Course to College

On Course to College (OCTC) is the secondary level of FOCUS that prioritises the development of students' academic and soft skills, self-efficacy, and resilience to foster success through tertiary education. During this summer session, students were exposed to strands that assisted them in delving deeper into researching colleges and scholarships, developing personal statements, and sharpening their knowledge within academic subjects, such as math and language. Additionally, students were taught life skills and health concepts that will assist them in being responsible and independent in their school and life choices. Outside of the subjects, our students also had the opportunity to explore multiple electives, sports, and field trips. All grade levels were exposed to the work readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship curriculum of the 'Junior Achievement' programme, developed skills in public speaking, explored the world of programming/coding, and gave back to others through community service projects such as "Free Rice" (online volunteer service programme sponsored by the United Nations) and notably, a coastal cleanup at the Coral Harbor beach.

For OCTC Summer SLAM, sports is a major feature and this year, students in 10th grade played tennis, 11th grade student learned golf. Our 12th grade students, however, participated in career-based field trips in place of sports. Field trips included a tour of a broadcasting studio where students were able to see how news is drafted/constructed, recorded, edited, and published. They were able to see where popular local talk shows are recorded and

the intricacies in ensuring the success of a broadcast. Lastly, they got to witness radio personalities live and speak to them on how they got into the profession and how their job is carried out. Additionally, students were exposed to the Maritime Industry through a visit to the LJM Maritime Academy. Here they learned about ship mastery, levels of seaman-ship certification, and the importance of each personnel onboard a ship. Students had an opportunity for a bit of practice by participating in a virtual simulation—assumed roles and in real-time, required to captain and steer a ship safely to harbour amidst in bad weather. Finally, our students visited Odyssey Aviation where they learned some information on engineering, aircraft piloting and airport operations management.

At the end of the Summer SLAM, students displayed all they learned in a series of showcase events. The College and Careers Showcase focused on students demonstrating their future academic goals, college choices and their strategy to achieve short term academic and career goals. In the Life Skills Showcase, students made an artistic presentation around the topics they were exposed to such as interviewing skills, budgeting and making smart decisions. The Health and Wellness Showcase focused on the presentation of vision boards that highlighted each aspect of health and wellness goals they wanted to achieve within the next academic year. Lastly, the Math and Language Showcase finished off their summer with a post-test to identify students' growth and improved competency in their core academic performance. ●

FOCUS 2022 Sponsor

The Sean Connery Foundation

The Sean Connery Foundation, which officially launched in 2022, honours the legacy of Sir Sean Connery through grant-making in the two countries he called home: Scotland and here in The Bahamas. The goal of the foundation is to accelerate positive change in areas of interest and importance to Sir Sean and his family, with an emphasis on education and ocean conservation.

The Lyford Cay Foundations are extremely grateful to be included in the first round of giving, which builds upon years of support that the Connery family has provided. Despite leaving school at just 13 to join the workforce, Sir Sean actively pursued self-education by reading books, visiting libraries, and seeking knowledge wherever it could be found. He went on to star in more than 40 feature films, including the wildly popular “James Bond” franchise and “The Untouchables,” for which he won an Academy Award®. His passion for learning continued throughout his glittering career, and in 1988, he was awarded an honorary degree from the University of St. Andrews.

Sir Sean, who was born in Edinburgh but spent more than 40 years living in Lyford Cay, understood the importance of perseverance and took pride in helping others overcome obstacles. “My success in life has been due to hard work, determination, and a willingness to take risks,” he said. “I never let my background hold me back.”

It is in this spirit that the Connery Foundation is supporting the Foundations’ FOCUS pro-



gramme. The 8-year-long, beyond-school enrichment programme aimed at college readiness is now poised to expand to additional schools and provide more young Bahamians with the opportunity to develop their passions and potential within their chosen areas of interest.

“Our family has a long-standing relationship with Lyford Cay Foundations and is thrilled to be working with them in this new capacity. This programme yields outstanding results for participating students and the wider community alike,” said Saskia Connery, Sean Connery’s granddaughter.

“We are humbled that the Sean Connery Foundation, which honours the legacy of Sir Sean, believed in the Foundations’ work, and we are delighted to have received this grant to support our FOCUS programme,” said Nicola Virgill-Rolle, Lyford Cay Foundations’ Executive Director. •



LEAP



TOTAL INVESTED
\$41,248

TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED
41

With the re-opening of schools and the findings that learning loss was greatest among the youngest students, Lyford Cay Foundations leapt into action, creating a concentrated and exciting programme to help even the smallest child make up for lost time with peers and classroom learning.

The new programme is called **LEAP**, short for **Learning Enrichment to Accelerate Progress**, and it offers access to support in three major areas most affected by the absence of interactive classroom activity: social emotional skills, literacy and numeracy.

The pilot programme targeted 41 children from Uriah McPhee Primary School in Nassau who are hosted on the campus of the Lyford Cay International School every Saturday for 10-week sessions to boost skills in reading, comprehension, written language and problem-solving in math and numeracy. Students have the benefit of learning from both their own teachers and those from the LCIS who are participating in the concentrated experience. With a healthy hot lunch included, students also develop enhanced social interaction skills, coming into contact with one another to bridge gaps and build better understanding.

Meet three of the lucky LEAP students in our story on the next page. •

LEAP 2022 Overview

Helping the Young to Overcome Pandemic-related Learning Loss

Long COVID usually refers to chronic and enduring COVID-19 symptoms, but for students who missed out on one to two years of in-person learning, the pandemic contributed to a similar chronic and enduring loss of learning that set them back.

Now, thanks to an innovative partnership between Lyford Cay Foundations, the Uriah McPhee Primary School and the Lyford Cay International School, a group of students in Grades 1 through 4 can not only make up for lost time, but are now learning at a rate that places them ahead of their grade.

Appropriately, the programme is called LEAP: Learning Enrichment to Accelerate Progress and targets 40 children from Uriah McPhee Primary School in one of the most socio-economic challenged districts of Nassau.

Every Saturday, students like **Alexis, Clint** and triplets, **Sammia, Serrenda and Brenden**, are picked up and driven to the Lyford Cay International School (LCIS) where teachers from Uriah McPhee and LCIS spend half a day boosting skills in reading, comprehension, written language and mathematics. They begin with breakfast, then have circle time to share social and emotional issues before moving into the classroom where they are academically tutored with interactive lessons. They finish with lunch, tablet-learning time and play.

If you were to visit these 40 students, divided into four classrooms according to their grade level, the excitement, enthusiasm and performance you'd witness would reinforce the value of special attention and wipe away fears of a lingering impact of COVID on learning.

You'd see that Brenden, who dreaded Math because of multiplication tables, now takes only a minute to solve the equations that once gave him anxiety, and his fellow classmates who couldn't solve long division equations are now confidently working their way through the process.

But maybe none would impress you more than a young girl named Alexis who, thanks to LEAP, has discovered the joy of reading.

"I love to read," she said, her eyes sparkling as she spoke. "Now I have a whole bookcase in my room. I go to the library at school. I have so many books. I am in three clubs, including a reading club."

Though the questions and lessons seem tough, the children are tougher and up to the challenge, as a flurry of eager hands raise in response to questions posed by their teachers. This programme, born of a pandemic and made possible by the generosity of donors, will surely make a difference in these early years, and ultimately, reverberate out through the future of The Bahamas. •



Cutillas Scholars



Cutillas 2017 Scholar Doneka Brennen

When students enter the University of The Bahamas' campus in August to begin Fall Semester 2023, **Doneka Brennen** will be in the number pursuing her dream of becoming an educator with a passion for nutrition.

Cutillas Scholars is a pilot programme named in honour of our late chairman, Manuel Cutillas, that supports students so they are able to move toward becoming the first in their families to complete post-secondary education.

Cutillas Scholars receive academic resources and guidance as well as scholarships to study at The Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI) or at the University of The Bahamas (UB). This year, we are pleased to maintain our support to FOCUS Programme graduates through grants for attendance at either institution.

The 21-year-old, already a graduate from UB's Culinary Arts programme, which she completed in May of 2020, has been making waves in the kitchen working in one of the country's biggest resorts. But the young chef said, "I want more", beginning the Bachelor of

TOTAL INVESTED
\$43,733

Education programme at UB with a specialty in Food and Nutrition.

“Since I’ve now been able to work in the hotel industry, I realise that it’s more than just working in the hotel industry with this culinary gift,” she said. “I realise that I can do more. I always thought that it was just work your way up and when you get your degree you become a sous chef. That’s how I thought this all worked until I went into the hotel industry and learned that with experience and team you learn more. That’s the reason I want to become a teacher. I want to be able to share my experience first-hand. With your experience, it’ll make more room for you, rather than just graduating with paper.”

Since beginning employment at a Japanese-themed restaurant in New Providence last year, Doneka has worked her way up from Cook 1, doing all of the prep work in the kitchen to now Cook 2, which affords her the opportunity to “work the line” and actually prepare the flavorful dishes guests get to enjoy.

“Now that I’m in school and working I’m going to do my best to gather as much as I can, not only in the kitchen, but working with guests,” she said. “That’s one thing I wanted to experience. I want to go in front of the house and get that experience on what it is to deal with and please our guests. So, while

TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED
8

I’m in school I want to work and I want to gain as much experience as I can. Because when I do graduate, I do plan to become a full-time teacher.”

Doneka became a Cutillas Scholar as she neared the end of her high school career at Government High School in 2017. The award has afforded her the opportunity to pursue studies at UB where she began her culinary degree in 2018. But the Cutillas scholar boasts of receiving much more than financial support from the award.

“Every time I tell people about this scholarship, they can’t believe it,” Doneka shared. “I can say since I’ve received it, I feel like it’s been just God because since I’ve started the University of The Bahamas I haven’t paid a dollar for anything. My laptop was free, even completing high school, my BGCSEs were paid for. It [Cutillas Scholarship] actually sticks to what they say about us [recipients] having mentors, people you can speak to, get guidance and advice from. We’ve had great relationships with those mentors from high school to now in our careers.”

As Doneka maneuvers through her second programme at UB, this culinary scholar takes pride in her ability to work and study, while making meaningful difference, assisting the restaurant with creative and innovated changes. •



Grants



As one of the few grant-making organisations in the country, we invest in initiatives that support community building through transformative learning opportunities for those most in need.

We provide financial support to Bahamian non-profits who offer traditional and diverse learning experiences in the arts, sports, environmental awareness, health-related issues, and economic and human resource development.

TOTAL INVESTED
\$664,070

BAHAMIAN NGOS ASSISTED
12

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS

Total Grant: \$525,000



Grant award presentation to University of The Bahamas.

On November 29, 2022, a day dedicated to giving, the Lyford Cay Foundations gave the **University of The Bahamas** a \$525,000 grant, the single largest disbursement of funds the university had ever received.

Giving Tuesday, celebrated worldwide in November, is recognised as a chance to transform communities through giving. The foundations presented UB with the grant in support of UB students seeking to study abroad and students in the College Bridging programme who need extra support the summer before college.

Such acts of generosity are not new in the partnership between the university and the

Foundations. In 1996, a \$5 million endowment was established to support the then College of The Bahamas. The Foundations have invested some \$10 million in the institution to date.

The Foundations' previous support for UB involved giving scholarships to students, with more than 40 named scholarships available to UB students annually. The \$525,000 grant extended the Foundations' support beyond traditional scholarship grants to enrich the student experience further. The agreement allows funding to apply to tuition and fees, books and supplies related to the course of study and UB meal plans.

The grant ceremony was held inside the Harry C. Moore Library, named after the former chairman of the Foundations who led fundraising efforts to build the modern library.

Chair of UB's Board of Trustees, Allyson Maynard-Gibson, K.C., said the donation showed the partnership between the university and the Foundations continues to produce meaningful results for Bahamian university students.

"This is a partnership and shared vision of immense value," she said. "This is the work and the support that builds leaders, develops a country, and transforms the world. Today, we've taken another step forward in this important work."

LCF Chairman Basil Goulandris said the Foundations' sees UB as an invaluable part-

ner in the mission to help people fulfill their potential.

"Our grants to the College of The Bahamas and now the University of The Bahamas over the years have aimed to help people achieve their dreams and fill gaps in much needed areas for our country," he said.

"Our grants have enabled needs-based scholarships with the aim of equalizing opportunities for Bahamians. Examples include our David A. C. Kelly Memorial award for Small Island Sustainability majors, or the Ranfurly Home for Children award for current or past residents of the Ranfurly Home for Children, or the Godfrey K. Kelly award for Family Island students and the many other similar awards for Family Island residents." •

WHALE CAMP

Special Grant: \$25,000

Providing Life-Changing Encounters For Young Bahamians

Every summer, dozens of Bahamian students from all across The Bahamas take part in an engaging, life-changing experience that not only expands their outlook on marine life, but has the potential to positively impact the direction of their future career plans—and the future of Bahamian marine life.



Charlotte Dunn, Co-Founder of Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organisation (BMMRO) – a nonprofit organisation based in Abaco with a mission to help protect marine mammals through scientific research and providing educational and outreach



opportunities for young Bahamians — said the organisation’s Whale Camp has shown their participants a whole new world.

During the camp, the goal is to educate students in the marine environment, particularly the marine mammals of The Bahamas. The experience she said can only be described as life-changing for the many young Bahamians who engage in the week-long camps every summer.

“Interestingly, most of our students, when they start the camp, don’t usually know that The Bahamas has whales in its surrounding waters,” Dunn said. “They’ve heard about dolphins maybe, and recently manatees, but they’re usually really surprised to learn about the whales that we have in our environment year-round. Most of our students get to see whales in the wild during the camp, which is fulfilling.”

In 2022, Whale Camp received a Lyford Cay Foundations \$25,000 Community Grant, which Dunn said went a long way in providing these critical experiences and encounters for young Bahamians.

“We once had a student, who is grown now, who said that whale camp changed his life,” she said. “He’d never thought about whales, he’d never thought about how amazing our marine environment is. We don’t just have corals, lobster, groupers and conch, but these ginormous sentient species also live here. I think it’s really powerful to be able to show Bahamians what we have in the wild.”

Indeed, Dunn describes feeling a sense of pride, seeing the transformation that some of the students go through while at camp. Some often start the camp afraid of going out in deep water in a boat, then eventually become so comfortable that they look forward to the days of deep-water swimming and exploring.

In the next five to ten years, Dunn said the vision is to have Whale Camps on different islands throughout The Bahamas. After 12 years of operation, some of the country's brightest and budding environmentalists and marine biologists have gone through Whale Camp—one of whom was an All-Bahamas Merit Scholar currently in pursuit of her Ph.D. at the University of Miami.

Indeed, Dunn believes The Bahamas needs more Bahamian scientists who care about the environment and she feels that Whale Camp helps the country to reach that goal.

"In the past we had a lot of young foreign

students come through our camp and they would pay for the experience," she said. "We felt that the Bahamians were missing out on such an amazing opportunity and that the only way to offer it to Bahamians was to really get it fully funded. Then we could open it up to kids who had a true passion for the marine environment and wanted to learn more, regardless of their background and regardless of where they live."

"Definitely without Lyford Cay Foundations, at this point hundreds of kids would not have come to our camp," she adds. "They've removed a barrier to life-changing opportunities for the children." •

CAUGHT READING A BOOK (CRAB): Special Grant: \$3,000

Fostering Literacy Development

In 2005, after her husband Roland passed, in his memory, Susan Koster and her daughter, Tanja, began a tradition of bringing a small collection of books to various communities on Long Island. What she didn't know was that, for years to come, she would facilitate the arrival of hundreds upon hundreds of books to the island, creating opportunities for reading and literacy development for its youth.

From this movement, **Caught Reading A Book (or CRAB)** was birthed in 2017 — a



literacy initiative for primary school students with the dual goal of encouraging a love for reading and involving the local community through bi-weekly book chats.

“I have a sense of fulfillment by knowing that I’m doing the best that I can do with our team of volunteers,” Koster said. “We hope that we are leaving an impact on these students’ lives. We are not their educators, we are not their parents. We are one more way for them to better their reading skills and to involve them in the community.”

Koster and volunteers meet with students twice a month, rotating weeks between dozens of lower and upper primary school students. Over the past seven years, CRAB has grown from only group chats to also funding reading assessments and to now updating primary school libraries throughout Long Island. According to Koster, the initiative has partnered with Scholastic Publishing in New York, which has allowed CRAB to receive best-selling and high demand books for Grades K4–Grade 6.

“With support from our local Ministry of Education (MOE) District Education Officer, we go to the schools, borrow the children from their classrooms, and talk to them about the books that they’ve read,” said Koster. “The support from the teachers, the principals and the MOE is much appreciated.

CRAB has received three Lyford Cay Foundations Community Grants over the past five years, totaling eleven thousand dollars which, Koster said, has gone to help keep the programme running and positively impacting the lives of elementary school children throughout Long Island. She said, “When we received the first grant, I felt honoured and deeply humbled. I was challenged with the

responsibility to make CRAB the very best I could. If it were not for those grants, I would not have had the freedom to move forward in ways I deemed necessary.”

Island-wide student reading assessments have solidified CRAB’s positive effects on the island’s primary school students, providing data that shows the programme’s positive impact on students who participate.

CRAB was recently given a children’s library, located on the former campus of Ginton’s Primary School in North Long Island. Open every Saturday from 10am to 1pm, the library provides a plethora of popular books for students of all ages.

“We’re finding that these students just want to be in the library,” according to Koster. “They talk the whole time. They read and they stay to enjoy crafts related to the stories that have been read. That’s something we didn’t expect.”

While CRAB is spearheaded by Koster, she credits her team of volunteers for bringing life, fun and innovation to the initiative—including her four daughters, who are all educators specialising in reading.

“We have volunteers working with struggling readers making a difference, because there is no programme for struggling readers on Long Island,” said Koster. “All that we do is about the love for the children.” •

2022 Holiday Reception

BACK TOGETHER AGAIN. That was the theme of the Lyford Cay Foundations' 2022 Holiday Reception—the first reception since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

On a warm December evening, scholars, board directors, benefactors, government officials, grantees and partners gathered at the Lyford Cay Club to celebrate the achievements and contributions of the organisation.

Dignitaries at the event included Prime Minister the Rt. Honourable Philip Davis; Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. I. Chester Cooper and his wife; Minister of Education, the Hon. Glenys Hanna-Martin, other government ministers, and former Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Honourable Hubert Minnis.

In separate remarks, Mr. Jeff Everett, President of Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc, Mr. Basil Goulandris, Chairman of Lyford Cay Foundation, and Mr. Tim Unwin, Chairman of The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation, each acknowledged the Foundations' role in educating Bahamians abroad and at home over the past 53 years.

Deputy Prime Minister Cooper thanked the Lyford Cay Foundations for its programmes and challenged the organisation to expand its work further.

Attendees heard from renowned Bahamian artist Antonius Roberts, who helped eight student artists participate in an exchange programme with the Ontario College of Arts through a grant from the Foundations.



First-year scholarship recipient, Jee'Von Pratt, described how his dream to be a robotics engineer is becoming a reality through his mechanical engineering studies at Howard University. He reflected on what it means to be a Lyford Cay Scholar.

Ten-year-old FOCUS student Takeia Rolle beamed with pride while presenting the winning speech at the year's FOCUS competition entitled "How to Keep our Bahamas Clean, Green, and Pristine."

FOCUS students and teachers also delighted attendees with a performance of the motivational chants that precede their Saturday sessions.

The annual reception, launched in 1990 to connect benefactors with beneficiaries, is one of the Foundations' most anticipated traditions. •





Scholarships



Since the 1980s, Lyford Cay Foundations has been providing partial scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and technical and vocational studies outside of The Bahamas in fields that will directly impact the country. Scholarships are highly competitive.

Emphasis is placed on first-generation college students and criteria weigh financial need, academic merit, field of study, reputation of institution, career goal, availability of programme in The Bahamas, financial capacity and personal qualities.

TOTAL INVESTED
\$880,992

TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED
62

2022 Overview

More Scholarship Applications than Ever Before

The Lyford Cay Foundations awarded more scholarships in 2022 for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programmes than ever before, as driven students tackle the major challenges of our time.

Hurricane Dorian and the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the scholarship recipients, with many eager to fill gaps in areas related to climate change and healthcare.

Every year, the Foundations receive hundreds of applications for scholarships. This year we received our most ever. This shows the high demand for education assistance. Twenty-seven new scholarships were awarded in 2022 and the Foundations will support the academic pursuits of 58 students during the 2022-2023 period.

Fifteen recipients hail from New Providence, 11 from Grand Bahama and one from Abaco.

Fifty-two percent of awardees are first-generation college students, including **DENISHA DEMERITTE**, the inaugural recipient of the **Sir Godfrey Kenneth Kelly Graduate Award**. Demeritte will pursue a master's degree in Public Health Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota so she can help The Bahamas face potential pandemics and address healthcare inequalities.

As the Lyford Cay Foundations continues to expand its assistance to students, Basil Goulandris, Chairman of Lyford Cay Foundations noted: "We are grateful for this new award which honours Sir Godfrey – a former Minister of Education, noted legal mind, businessman and sportsman."

Another new scholarship programme which debuted in 2022 was the **Resilience and Excellence Graduate and Technical Awards** for study in Canada. The award gives priority to students who have studied at the University of The Bahamas and now wish to pursue graduate degrees and those who have studied at BTVI and now wish to continue to the Bachelors degree level.

The Foundations continue to prioritise those with the greatest need who demonstrate strong academic potential. ●

10 • SCHOLARSHIPS / 2022 New Scholars



JASMINE BALFOUR
Associates in Dental Hygiene
PIMA Medical Institute
Harold W. Siebens Technical Scholarship



MATEO BETHELL
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering
University of Guelph
LCF Undergraduate Award



DOMINIQUE BOWLEG
Bachelor of Marine Biology and Biological Oceanography
U of Minnesota, School of Public Health
Bahamas Billfish Championship Award



TERRINIQUE BULLARD
Master of Architecture
Research & Design
Tulane University
Estelle Siebens Excellence Award



DENISHA DEMERITTE
Masters in Public Health
The University of Minnesota
Sir Godfrey K. Kelly
Graduate Scholarship



MEGAN FRANCIS
Diploma in Respiratory Therapy
Fanshawe College
LCF Technical Award



JADE GRAY
Masters in Public Health
University of Western Ontario
Thomson Leadership & Innovation Award



ANTONIQUE GREENSLADE
Associates in Aviation
Maintenance Science
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University
LCF Technical Award



RANEISHA HIGGS-BRICE
Masters in Logistics and
Supply Chain Management
University of Windsor
Bahamas Resilience & Excellence
Graduate Award



KAELEN KNOWLES
LJM Maritime Academy
Bahamas Resilience and
Excellence Maritime Award



CLEAVONA LIGHTBOURN
LJM Maritime Academy
Bahamas Resilience and
Excellence Maritime Award



MAITLAND LOWE
Associates in Diesel Mechanics
Northeastern Junior College
LCF Technical Award



LASHAN MARTIN
LLM Maritime Studies
BPP University
Solmssen Templeton Scholarship



ALTIA MCDONALD
*Bachelor of Commerce in Finance,
Minor in Analytical Economics*
Concordia University
CLCF Undergraduate Award



LEANDRA MOONSAMMY
Masters in Data Science
The Technical University of
Catalonia (Barcelona Tech)
Contigo Foundation Award



WHIT-TIA MORLEY-BARRETT
*Diploma in Health
Information Management*
St. Lawrence College
Bahamas Resilience &
Excellence Technical Award



YOSHI MOXEY
Bachelors in Actuarial Science / Math
Dalhousie University
J & J Martineau Scholarship



THERIZE PENNERMAN
*Advanced Diploma in Mechanical
Engineering - Automated Manufacturing*
Conestoga College Institute of
Technology & Advanced Learning
Bahamas Resilience &
Excellence Technical Award



GABRIELLE PINTARD-NEWRY
Masters in Global Affairs
 Munk School of Global Affairs &
 Public Policy at U of Toronto
 Bahamas Resilience &
 Excellence Graduate Award



JEE-VON PRATT
Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering
 Howard University
 LCF Technical Scholarship



OLGA ROUSSOS
Bachelors in Computer Science
 Lynn University
 LCF Undergraduate Award



CARLISA SMITH
Bachelor of Science in Animal Biology
 University of Guelph
 Rogers Family Scholarship



KAYLEE SMITH
Bachelors in Computer Science
 Acadia University
 LCF Undergraduate Award



ELIJAH STEVENS
*Advanced Diploma in Music –
 Piano Performance*
 The Royal Conservatory of Music,
 Glenn Gould School
 Thomson Leadership & Innovation Award



AMBER TURNER
*Masters in Natural Resources
 and Environmental Management
 Climate Change*
 The University of the West Indies
 Contigo Foundation Award



DONIQUE WHYLLY
Bachelors in Economics
 University of Toronto
 Rogers Family Scholarship

2022 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

26 New Awards Given in 2022

52% 1st Gen College Students in 2022

16% Public School Students in 2022

48% Family Island Students in 2022

SPECIAL SCHOLAR PROFILE

Dr. Duranda Ash

Lyford Cay Foundations' Very First Scholar

“My Whole Life is a Miracle!”



Five minutes with **DR. DURANDA ASH** is all it takes to understand how a single scholarship can change a life and impact a country.

Adopted at three weeks of age by a mother in her 40s, she lived in a shop in a rough part of Nassau, slept on the floor, and was blinded by a traumatic incident at age 10. She remembers it to this day, sitting in class one second as a sighted child, the next everything went black.

Her eyesight returned, but the experience of psychogenic blindness set her on a path. No matter what it took, she would become an eye doctor. She would help others see. And she did.

She breezed through high school at St. Augustine's College, studying fiercely, and becoming the first female head of a Junior Achievement club to win all three possible honours, including Most Distinguished Achiever. “I’m going to college,” she told herself. “I don’t know how I am going to get there, but I’m going.”

Sister Annie Thompson of St. Augustine's College contacted Harry Moore, then chairman of the Lyford Cay Foundations. It was 1983, the Foundations weren't much older than the high school graduate herself and funds were small, but Harry Moore saw something in the determined teen who wanted to become an ophthalmologist and he squeezed out a scholarship, possibly reaching into his own pocket, to go to Beloit College in Wisconsin.

“I didn't really have a dad and he became like a dad to me,” she recalls. “When I turned 18, he had a cake made for me and celebrated my birthday at Beloit and when I got married, he and Mrs. Moore stood for me at my elopement wedding.”



Ash majored in biochemistry, then went on to Case Western Reserve Medical School in Ohio, thanks to a combination of grants, scholarships and loans, including a bonded loan from the Bahamian government. She spent a year at Howard University in Washington, D. C. doing transitional medicine and went to Stanford in California for her ophthalmology residency. It was during her residency that, Dr Peter Egbert, department chair and a missionary ophthalmologist to Ghana, encouraged the desire to help bring sight to others regardless of ability to pay.

“I wanted to provide the same care for those who could not afford it that I provided for those who could,” she explained.

Thousands of patients later, Dr. Ash not only operates from two clinics, one in Nassau and the other in Grand Bahama, she is a one-woman show of compassionate care, providing glasses for those who cannot afford them, performing cataract surgery to restore eyesight, treating eye diseases and conditions without charge for those to whom the choice would be food or vision. Her outreach is national and global.

As you read this, she may be in Abaco, or Tanzania again, or Uganda. The little girl who slept on a shop floor is now taking the gift of sight around the world and back home again because she had a scholarship, a friend at the Foundation, and a dream that grew larger with each passing year. ●

Scholar Profiles

Markia Bowe ('19)

ESTELLE SIEBENS AWARD



In the Fall of 2023, Biomedical Engineer **MARKIA BOWE** will officially begin her career as a professor at the University of Florida (UF). The accomplishment will culminate five years of study in Biomedical Engineering at the institution and mark the beginning of a career she anticipates will bring about the fulfillment of positively influencing future generations of biomedical engineers.

Now finishing her fifth year in University of Florida's doctoral programme, Bowe's area of research is on osteoarthritis as a degenerative joint disease that causes pain and disability.

Because of her background in mechanics, quite a bit of her work involves understanding the links between symptoms of the disease and pathology.

"I want to be for students, the person I wish I had when I was in the classroom as an undergrad – super impressionable and with all these dreams," she explained.

"I want students to see a true reflection of themselves in me and helping with their training to ensure that the next generation of biomedical engineers are better than I am. That's my ultimate career goal."

Bowe describes receiving the Lyford Cay Foundations' Estelle Siebens Award, which provided her \$15,000 per year, as having done wonders for her academic career over the past three years, looking it as a way for deepening her passion and ensuring that the work and research she conducts matters.

"As an international student, especially in a graduate programme, it is very difficult to find funding to support you from the school, the university and abroad," according to Bowe.

"I look at it as a pyramid. The further you go up and the more you specialise, the more difficult it is to find funding. So, it was very encouraging to know that we had a foundation back in The Bahamas that would offer that support that international students simply do not get from their home institutions. It's very uplifting to know that other people believe in you and your journey."



The second to youngest of seven children, Bowe became the first to attend college in her family and credits a lot of her success to her supportive family, in particular, her parents.

Traveling the world, going to university in Germany, and taking full advantage of international opportunities, gave her a global view the impact her industry can make, she said.

The end goal for her is to one day open a STEM school in The Bahamas, where students can get better training in the sciences and specifically engineering disciplines.

“I always saw education as a reflection of how hard I could work,” she said. “I feel like as long as I work hard, I can achieve anything. So, I think that way of limitless or boundary-less thinking has pushed me very far. Even when I was in high school, I don’t think it was a matter of whether or not someone was

smart. It was just about the way they learned and not having that way of instruction or teaching that catered best towards that. So, for me my passion was always in trying to bring out the best in students around me through education and ensuring that everyone fell into the area of work that, not only they would do well in, but also made them happy.”

She added, “Starting a STEM school for me looks a lot like introducing students to fields that they may not know is possible for them.”

Bowe said growing up without seeing examples of young, black engineers around her is something that drives her to become that example for many others who will come behind. ●

Branishka Bullard ('15)

LYFORD CAY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



BRANISKA BULLARD, Brand Ambassador for the Ranfurly Home for Children in The Bahamas, knows how difficult living in a children's home can be. After all, she spent most of her youth transitioning between four separate residential institutions on Nassau due to unfortunate circumstances in her family life.

Eventually, Braniska settled permanently at the Ranfurly Home for Children, a safe haven that depends heavily on private donations and the efforts of volunteers to help the children in their care reach developmental goals and instill critical life skills. Here, despite her chaotic childhood, Braniska persevered.

When she graduated high school in 2015, she received the Lyford Cay Foundations Ranfurly Home for Children Award, a scholarship that allows current or past students of the Ranfurly Home to attend the University of The Bahamas.

"Growing up in the home, going to college was something I knew I wanted to do but I didn't have the means to do it," she said.

"I knew that just applying myself and having good grades would help."

Braniska, an Eleuthera native who now enjoys traveling, boating, and yoga, graduated from the University of The Bahamas in 2020 with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. She then went on to obtain a Master's Degree in Social Psychology from Walden University in 2022.

After studying abroad, she returned to The Bahamas and began working at the Ranfurly Home, first as a mentor to children and now as a Brand Ambassador. She said life has come full circle for her: some of her current colleagues at the Home raised her when she was a child.

She believes she can reach the children she works with at a deeper level than most because of her experiences and training in psychology.

"I've lived it," she said. "A lot of the trauma that they experience, I experienced also, so my life overlaps with a lot of them. I think I've been able to provide them with a safe place and to bring a different perspective to their world view."

Looking back, Braniska said receiving the scholarship was a major turning point in her life.

"It set up the course of my life," she said. "I didn't have the family or anyone that was able to support me, but I knew that education was my ticket out, and the scholarship from Lyford Cay Foundations provided me with that freedom." •

Leandra Moonsammy ('22)

THE CONTIGO FOUNDATION AWARD



When **LEANDRA MOONSAMMY** graduated top of the University of The Bahamas' Class of 2022, her life changed for the better as her path to becoming a data scientist became a bit clearer. She received the Lyford Cay Foundation's Contigo Foundation Award – a scholarship which enabled her to pursue her Master of Science degree in Data Science at the Technical University of Catalonia in Barcelona, Spain.

Once she's done with her Master's degree in another year, Leandra will have the decision of immediately pursuing her Ph.D. or jumping into industry and beginning her professional career as a data scientist.

"I know there are many exciting roles that you can have within data science," she said.

"Whether it's in healthcare, in education, business, there are many ways to make a difference. It's exciting as well because you get to predict consumer behavior or what's going to happen in a health system, or even the tourism industry. I'm just allowing God to lead me. I feel like every step I take, the next step becomes clearer to me as I go."

The Contigo Foundation Award provides Leandra with \$15,000 annually towards the pursuit of her Masters degree.

The 23-year-old said without it, she would not have been able to go after this goal in Spain. The oldest of three siblings and child of two educators, Leandra takes her role of being a good example seriously.

"I've been doing math tutoring since before I came to Spain," she said. "I love helping students see that mathematics doesn't have to be as difficult as the some may see it."

Living in Barcelona, Moonsammy is six hours ahead of her family and friends residing in The Bahamas, which she said can sometimes create a bit of a challenge. But the opportunity to pursue her graduate degree is one that is completely worth it, she added.

Overall, she calls her experience so far "enriching" saying, "They have a lot of operations here that are very different than what I've been learning from. Overall, it has been a great experience to know that there's a whole new world out here basically. My school has very high standards. Even the culture of the

students here, they have great work ethic. So, it's been great to work alongside them and learn."

If you were to speak with Leandra, she'd tell you she has a love for "figuring things out." It's a passion she's had from childhood.

"When I was in high school, I didn't really know what I wanted to do," she said. "Usually, by that age, people know if they want to be a nurse or an engineer. But I wasn't really sure, but I knew that I loved math. So, when I joined UB, I said I would study pure math.

"While learning more about it, I learned about the field of data science, which is a combination of math and coding and I loved it. So, I talked to some of my lecturers and data science was an interest that came up."

Though on a track to become a data scientist, Leandra enjoys the great outdoors, engaging in nature photography.

She's also a lover of dancing, having been a part of her church's dance ministry.

When asked if she had any advice for young women interested in pursuing a career in data science or STEM, her message is clear, "Step out and take a leap of faith."

She said "Even though things may be a bit unsure, trust God that when you take the first step, He makes the rest happen.

Leandra concluded, "Data science is primarily seen to be a male dominated career, especially because it's in STEM. But it doesn't have to be." •

Leslie Lopez ('10)

LYFORD CAY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



Everyone remembers exactly where they were when a life-changing event occurred.

Forever seared in **LESLIE LOPEZ's** memory is the moment he learned that out of hundreds of applicants for a Lyford Cay Foundation scholarship, he was one of 11 awardees selected. Lopez was at work at the Lyford Cay Club, in the kitchen, cleaning the walk-in freezer.

The year was 2010. Lopez had completed his studies at the University of The Bahamas in culinary arts. It was a natural direction for the young man who wanted to make his parents proud and continue to be a role model for his

younger brothers. Wanting to strengthen his skills, but unable to continue studies abroad without assistance, he applied for a Lyford Cay Foundation scholarship on his own, never letting on at the Lyford Cay Club that he had done so. He completed the form, wrote his essay, submitted his application, and hoped that writing about wanting to give back would help him stand out. As he waited, he continued to work in the kitchen.

“I was in the freezer, and I did not see the call, it went to voicemail. Then they called again, and a voice said ‘We have been trying to reach you! Do you know why we are calling? You have been awarded a Lyford Cay Foundation scholarship!’ And I froze, right there in the freezer. I went directly to my boss and said, “I must go!”, thinking to myself, “before they change their mind!”

Lopez could not believe his good fortune. He vowed from that moment he would always value his opportunities and ensure he did what he could to support those who came behind him.

His story is an exceptional one. He graduated from Florida International University (FIU) in 2012 with a degree in hospitality management, returned to Nassau, landed a job in retail marketing with Commonwealth Brewery and while he called it ‘a great opportunity,’ he wanted more. So, he decided to pursue his Master’s being both a full time employee and a full-time student.

Barry University was his next calling and this time he opted for Human Resources (HR) Management, a field Lopez said makes the

difference between success and failure of any aspect of hospitality—and is not that different from culinary arts. It is a matter of finding the right ingredients for the result you want.

“You can have people on the right bus, but in the wrong seat,” said the scholar turned manager who understands where people will accelerate and helps direct them.

Upon completion of his degree, Commonwealth Brewery offered him a position in the Human Resources Department, boosting his title to Human Resource Business Partner. He was then recruited to Atlantis as an HR Manager, then to AML Foods, and most recently recruited to Disney Cruise Lines where he works remotely as an HR Manager. He has been with Disney since June of 2022 and loves every minute of what he does.

He has kept his promise of giving back and stays involved with the Foundation, participates on panels where possible, acts as a guest speaker, helps people prepare for interviews and gets involved with career focus groups.

Lopez said he often reflects on how a single “yes” changed his life and never forgets what an honor and privilege it has been to be a part of this very special group of people who were awarded this opportunity. He is forever grateful for the moment that launched the young culinary arts student on a trajectory that led from kitchen staffer to FIU grad, from there to a Master’s degree and a succession of significant corporate positions, including his current role. ●

Avriel Cartwright ('20)

LYFORD CAY FOUNDATIONS GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP



In her fifth and final year of the Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics programme at the Florida Institute of Technology, **AVRIEL CARTWRIGHT** is on a mission to make a lasting impact within her field.

“What I originally wanted to do was to determine how cancer spreads in a community or what may contribute to cancer rates in a given community,” she said.

“In The Bahamas, for example, we have high rates of breast cancer. I want to use my research to basically model cancer rates in order to understand what may be contributing to these rates and how we can use math to decrease them ultimately.”

Cartwright’s research takes an arithmetical approach, using math and computational models to study biological locomotion of different organisms. But her motivation stems from personal loss. While in 11th grade, Cartwright’s aunt succumbed to colon cancer, a common form of cancer in The Bahamas.

Since then, learning more about the disease, how it spreads, and how her love for science and mathematics can be used in groundbreaking research has been a critical focus for her to have a positive effect on the world.

Cartwright also has a passion for education which she focused on during one of her undergraduate degrees at The University of The Bahamas. Realising the need for more young women who, like her, dream of making waves in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), Cartwright has a long-term goal of creating a STEM-based programme as a professor in academia.

But first, upon completion of her Ph.D., Cartwright is excited to enter the industry and gain priceless experience within her field.

After all, mathematics was her first love, a passion she realised while in high school at Queen’s College. Education has always been a big focus for her family, who Cartwright said motivated her to go further, helping her to become the first person in her family to pursue graduate studies abroad.

In 2020, thanks to a Lyford Cay Foundations’ Graduate Student Scholarship, which provides her with \$15,000 per year towards her doctorate degree, Cartwright was able to hone in on her passion to develop research that she hopes will be critical to the lives of all Bahamians.

“This scholarship gave me the opportunity to focus more on my research because I didn’t have to worry so much about working on campus at the time,” Cartwright said. “So, I was able to gain a better appreciation for what I was actually doing.”

“One semester, I was even able to take additional courses because of the scholarship,” she adds. “That allowed me to really focus on my research at an earlier stage. So this support from Lyford Cay Foundations has been extraordinarily helpful.” •

NEW SCHOLARSHIP

Sir Godfrey Kenneth Kelly Graduate Scholarship

Leading by Example



Sir Godfrey K. Kelly (r) with his granddaughter Katherine Elza

Few people have left behind such a well-rounded legacy as **Sir Godfrey Kenneth Kelly**, who helped shape the development of The Bahamas through his contributions to law, politics, business and sport. Having said that, it was his constant mentorship and collegiality, said his granddaughter **Katherine Elza**, that continues to demonstrate the profound impact of a life lived with integrity, generosity and leadership.

“My Grandfather is the reason I practice law,” said Katherine, who is an attorney and partner at GrahamThompson. “He guided my upbringing in a manner consistent with his values and I am grateful to him for instilling in me the importance of country above all.”

“It goes back to what he imparted to many whom he met—that education is your best tool and that we all have a duty to give back to community, to lead by example, and try to make the world a better place.”

He had a strong belief that further education was an essential component in leadership and stewardship and Katherine has seeded an endowment for the Sir Godfrey Kenneth Kelly Scholarship with the Lyford Cay Foundation to honour his legacy and his belief in the value of education. This award paves the way forward for a graduate student studying a discipline that will contribute to the national development of The Bahamas.

The fact that the award doesn't focus on a specific area of study but rather encompasses all aspects of nation building is a testament to Sir Godfrey's broad interests and the influence he had in many spheres of Bahamian life as a lawyer, a politician, a businessman and an Olympic sailor.

"He was a pioneer of his time, a real trail-blazer, and a part of the generation that significantly contributed to the development of the country," said Katherine. "That was the running theme of his life—giving and helping The Bahamas—and he incorporated that theme into all of his goals from his legal practice, to business, to politics, and even sport."

Sir Godfrey began his training in law at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge and after successfully completing his studies was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1953 at the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple alongside the late Sir Lynden Pindling and the late Paul Adderley. Upon returning to The Bahamas a few months later, he was called to The Bahamas Bar, becoming its 30th member. Sir Godfrey practiced law for 66 years at his Firm, Higgs & Kelly, and will be remembered as a lawyer of uncommon distinction and ability, especially in the spheres of draftsmanship and corporate and transactional work. He was also known by his colleagues at the Bar for his gentlemanly demeanor and unfailing courtesy to others, and for his accessibility to young persons, especially novice attorneys, in search of guidance and advice on questions of legal intricacy.

Elected to represent the Cat Island constituency in 1956 and serving until 1968, Sir Godfrey became the first Minister of Educa-



tion in 1964 and oversaw the building of the Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre in 1966 as well as four new schools on New Providence. In 1968, he was appointed as a Senator and after retiring from active politics in 1972, remaining engaged and interested in all aspects of Bahamian politics and cultural life until his death.

"I know he was very grateful for the opportunities he had to study abroad and to return home with the knowledge and experience he gained," said Katherine. "He wanted to promote others to have that opportunity and I think that's why, when he became involved in politics, he focused on education. His interest was to develop the education system throughout the country—he knew the transformative value of a good education."

Critical to educational development, he also believed, was access to sport, with its opportunities to build teamwork and leadership skills, as well as a sense of national pride.

“...the ideal candidate would value academic achievement, cultivate leadership and integrity, and be involved in community—all things Sir Godfrey emulated in his lifetime.”

KATHERINE ELZA
Sir Godfrey Kelly's Granddaughter

From seafaring ancestry, it's no surprise that Sir Godfrey was a proficient sailor, representing The Bahamas as a Dragon Class Skipper in four Olympic games around the world and was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame in 2011. Intertwining his various loves and responsibilities, he founded the Cat Island Regatta in 1956 with Sir Harold Christie, which is the second longest running national regatta in the country.

Sir Godfrey invested in many developments and businesses, including the Mall at Marathon and various family companies such as Kelly's Home Center, Kelly's Lumber Yard, Nassau Motor Company and the Betty K shipping line.

Such a full life presented on paper might border on overwhelming, but to those who knew him, Sir Godfrey expertly balanced all facets of his life by an overriding motivation to contribute to the development of The Bahamas. This extended also to his philanthropy, as a generous donor to the Lyford Cay Foundation and many other organisations throughout his lifetime.

“The Bahamian motto of ‘Forward, upwards, onwards, together’ is a rather accurate expression of what he wanted for The Bahamas,” said Katherine, and I hope that this scholarship with the Lyford Cay Foundation can contribute to this vision. That would be a wonderful legacy, one that he would no doubt be proud of.”

Indeed, the ideal candidate would value academic achievement, cultivate leadership and integrity, and be constructively involved in the community—all things that Sir Godfrey valued and emulated in his lifetime. Most importantly, they would be committed to the development of The Bahamas in all facets of their career and life.

“When my Grandfather died, I had the immediate desire to fund a scholarship endowment in his memory to encourage young Bahamians to continue their education, return home and use what they learned to progress and grow the island nation in a manner that my Grandfather contemplated 75 years ago.” •



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2022 Reflections





FINANCIALS

2022

LYFORD CAY FOUNDATION, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the year ended December 31, 2022 with comparative totals for 2021

Includes Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. & Shirley Oakes Butler Charitable Trusts

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,533,091	2,996,276
Investments, at fair value	27,896,153	29,927,346
Other receivables	209,750	67,758
Prepaid expenses	660	1,560
Total Assets	\$30,639,654	\$32,992,940
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Grants and scholarships payable	588,608	84,500
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	147,989	139,554
NET ASSETS, at end of year	29,903,057	32,768,886
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$30,639,654	\$32,992,940

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ended December 31, 2022 with comparative totals for 2021

Includes Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. & Shirley Oakes Butler Charitable Trusts

	2022	2021
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions	2,339,239	1,783,854
Investment and other income	(2,573,721)	3,002,173
Total Support and Revenue	(234,482)	4,786,027
EXPENSES		
Grants to support programmes	80,600	369,000
Academic scholarship awards	335,000	313,500
Technical training and vocational scholarship awards	214,000	143,695
University of The Bahamas scholarship grant	525,000	-
FOCUS education initiative	526,532	471,498
Other programme expenses	322,390	248,803
Total Programmes	2,003,522	1,546,496
Management and General	354,955	374,190
Fundraising	272,870	229,647
Total expenses	2,631,347	2,150,333
Change in Net Assets	(2,865,829)	2,635,694
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	32,768,886	30,133,192
NET ASSETS, at end of year	\$29,903,057	\$32,768,886

THE CANADIAN LYFORD CAY FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the year ended December 31, 2022 with comparative totals for 2021

(Expressed in Canadian dollars)

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,293,861	2,696,243
Investments, at fair value	21,895,938	23,119,261
Accounts receivable	34,786	22,324
Investment income receivable	22,794	25,269
Prepaid expense	5,766	5,550
TOTAL ASSETS	\$26,253,145	\$25,868,647
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	443,836	154,342
Deferred revenue	3,522,080	3,218,294
Total Liabilities	3,965,916	3,372,636
FUND BALANCES		
General	2,945,461	2,494,970
Scholarship	3,940,833	3,010,206
Endowment	15,400,935	16,990,835
NET ASSETS, at end of year	22,287,229	22,496,011
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$26,253,145	\$25,868,647

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

for the year ended December 31, 2022 with comparative totals for 2021

(Expressed in Canadian dollars)

	2022	2021
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
General contributions	769,710	1,163,143
Scholarship contributions	1,032,752	198,791
Endowment contributions	-	-
Investment and other income	(873,515)	3,186,053
Total Support and Revenue	928,947	4,547,987
EXPENSES		
Academic scholarship awards	411,831	266,813
Technical training and vocational scholarship awards	20,000	15,000
University of The Bahamas scholarship grant	-	-
FOCUS Education Initiative	262,446	60,823
Adelaide Primary School Initiative	76,054	41,283
Hurricane relief projects	-	2,580
COVID-19 Relief efforts	-	157,763
Other programme expenses	22,179	22,187
Total Programme expenses	792,510	566,449
Management and General	345,219	307,621
Total expenses	1,137,729	874,070
Change in Net Assets	(208,782)	3,673,917
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	22,496,011	18,822,094
NET ASSETS, End of Year	\$22,287,229	\$22,496,011



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