



BEGINNING THE CHANGE

# BTC

## June 2013

### Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

## Boys Training Centre

by Elvin Ryan Germain

### A BRIEF HISTORY

Her Royal Highness, Princess Margaret officially opened the Boys Industrial School, on February 20th 1960 at Massade, Gros Islet. At the time it housed 17 male juveniles and was staffed by three persons.

The school was the brainchild of Sir Stanislaus James, the first trained Social Worker and first Probation Officer in Saint Lucia who brought about the establishment of this institution through his perseverance and determination.

In 1974, on the recommendation of a Government appointed advisor it was renamed Saint Lucia Boys' Training Centre and its mandate was changed to include boys in need of care and protection.

### ADMISSIONS

All wards are committed to the Centre by an order of the Family Court in two categories.

- Children in conflict with the law: boys under the age of 16 who have committed crimes.
- Care & Protection: Boys who have not committed any crime but who have been truant at their schools are disruptive in the home or school

environment, or children who do not have parents/guardians with the ability to meet their needs. BTC Wards ages range from 10 to 18 years. However, they are not admitted once they've attained the age of 16 years.

### THE STRUCTURE

The Centre currently operates on the mainstream school timetable and every ward is expected to attend vocational training and/or remedial education classes. At regular breaks in the school year, wards are allowed home leave. Home leave is a privilege earned for good behaviour.

As each ward's abilities are identified he is given extra support with these specific abilities and the centre is now looking to the wider community to develop apprenticeship programmes in the areas of auto mechanics, welding, agriculture and woodwork.



### SURE FOUNDATION: MOVIE DAY

The Volunteers from SURE Foundation had a movie day with BTC wards.

Page 4



### World Environmental Day

The Management and Staff initiated Clean -Up Activity every Friday and beautification project to plant flowers throughout the centre.

Page 3

## Grace SDA Church Visit

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 the Grace SDA Church from the area of Vieux Fort visited the Boys' Training Centre. The group was given a tour of the BTC property before meeting the wards and staff on duty. The group engaged all the wards in prayer, singing, interactive games, motivational talks and served refreshments. The wards seemed to enjoy the afternoon activity and the interaction with young persons in the group. The group was led by Mr Damien Robinson, former ward of the BTC.



## WED Facts



World Environment Day is an annual event that is aimed at being the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. World Environment Day activities take place all year round and climax on 5 June every year, involving everyone from everywhere.

The World Environment Day celebration began in 1972 and has grown to become one of the main vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and encourages political attention and action.

Through World Environment Day, the United Nations Environment Programme is able to personalize environmental issues and enable everyone to realize not only their responsibility, but also their power to become agents for change in support of sustainable and equitable development.

World Environment Day is also a day for people from all walks of life to come together to ensure a cleaner, greener and brighter outlook for themselves and future generations.

# World Environmental Day (WED)

In observance of the World Environment Day (WED) on June 5th 2013, Mr. Donald Anthony, retired Forestry Officer was invited to the BTC to present an interactive lecture on the theme for WED 2013 'Think. Eat. Save. Reduce Your Footprint'. The presentation highlighted the key concepts in the WED theme: forest, food and the importance of animals and plants. Also, this was a great opportunity to educate the wards on the environment and the impact human activity has on Mother Nature.



The Management and Staff of the Boys' Training Centre extend a special appreciation to Mr. Donald Anthony for sharing his knowledge and passion with the wards.

Furthermore, the WED lecture complimented a new activity that Management and Staff initiated which, is called Clean Up Friday. The WED activities continued with the wards enhancing the surroundings of BTC by planting outside plants and flowers in discarded vehicle tires with assistance from Mr. Anthony. The reminder of the project and maintenance of the plants and flowers would be undertaken by the wards. The environmental project provided the wards with the knowledge of basic gardening and landscaping techniques. Additionally, the skills and attitudes cultivated will reinforce the Clean Up Friday activity.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.unep.org/wed>

[www.shortfacts.com](http://www.shortfacts.com)

# S.U.R.E Foundation

## Movie: Courageous



Every Saturday afternoon the SURE Foundation Volunteers arrive at the BTC to engage the wards in friendly but very competitive small goal football game. However, the director: Mr. Kirt Hosam decided to forgo the physical activity that Saturday afternoon (maybe he got tired of losing to the wards). However, his alternative activity for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June was an awesome idea.

The group created a theatre style environment in the BTC conference room to host a Movie activity. All amenities were provided, included juice, pizza, snacks and more snacks. The wards were in candy heaven. The movie was 'Courageous'. After the movie the wards and volunteers discussed some aspects in the movie that stood out to for them and how it relates to their lives.



### The Movie 'Courageous'

Four men, one calling: To serve and protect. As law enforcement officers, Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes, David Thomson, and Shane Fuller are confident and focused. Yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood. While they consistently give their best on the job, good enough seems to be all they can muster as dads. But they're quickly discovering that their standard is missing the mark. When tragedy hits home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith, and their fathering.

Can a newfound urgency help these dads draw closer to God ... and to their children?

Filled with action-packed police drama, COURAGEOUS is the fourth film from Sherwood Pictures, the movie-making ministry of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia. Riveted moviegoers will once again find themselves laughing, crying, and cheering as they are challenged and inspired by everyday heroes who long to be the kinds of dads that make a lifelong impact on their children.

Protecting the streets is second nature to these men. Raising their children in a God-honoring way? That's courageous.



### About SURE Foundation

The S.U.R.E Foundation is a non-profit faith-based organisation made up of highly committed individual professionals who volunteer significant portions of their time towards human development initiatives. The Sure Foundation has a history of working with the Boys Training Centre (BTC) for the past 7 years and has recently initiated this special programme to assist the institution in rehabilitating the juvenile "at-risk" boys of our nation.

The S.U.R.E Team is committed to delivering its services. It capitalises on holidays, weekends and free time during the work week as all of its members are fully employed. The delivery of the programme is backed up by the reformation of a past ward of the centre, Kayal Gilbert, who has emerged victoriously in his personal transformation and has committed voluntarily to returning to the centre through the auspices of the S.U.R.E Foundation.

The programme is focused on direct interaction and mentoring of the boys through class based sessions, socials and sporting activities. Another key component of the programme is the availability of training for management and staff in human development skills. The programme is expected to succeed with the quality input and partnership of the management and staff of the institution.

SOURCE: [www.courageousthemovie.com](http://www.courageousthemovie.com)



## FINA Coaches Course

From Friday 31st May to Sunday 2nd June the SLASA (Saint Lucia Amateur Swimming Association) hosted a swimming course for coaches and swimmers at the Bay Gardens Inn conference room. A total of twenty (20) participants including two wards from the BTC attended the two (2) and half day course with Mr. Guy Edson, instructor/ facilitator from USA. The instructor was highly recommended by the SLASA and the FINA (International Swimming Federation). The Course provided the coaches with the opportunity to enhance their skills and improve the tools at their disposal to teach new and existing swimmers.



## Clean- Up Fridays



The Management and Staff of the BTC initiated every Friday as Clean- Up Day. Wards from Care and Protection and Offenders Unit are supervised by staff members in cleaning of the facility. The weekly activity is spear headed by the Mrs. Michelle Auguste, Housemother.

One of the main goals of this weekly activity is to reinforce the positive habits of cleanliness and general appreciation of the environment. In addition, it helps cultivate a strong sense of team work with the staff and wards. According to social learning theory, people learn within a social context. It is facilitated through concepts such as modeling and observational learning, and this is what the Management and Staff wish to demonstrate to the wards. It is the belief that this activity will improve individual cleanliness of wards and general presence of the facility.



# International Men's Health Week (10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June)



International Men's Health week was celebrated from the 10th to 16th June 2013. In celebration of the week, the staff and wards participated in exercise session facilitated by Rodriguez 'Rodja' Constantine, REPTS owner and Managing Director. The REPTS Fitness Consultant led the staff and wards through a series of light to moderate workouts that are designed for his clients and his TV show every morning on DBS. Afterwards, the staff and wards walked to the Beausejour Cricket Stadium and back to BTC. The reminder of the day was spent doing leisure activities such as football and family style board games. The Management and Staff of the Boys' Training Centre would like to extend appreciation to Mr. Rodriguez Constantine for his involvement and community service to the BTC.

Rodriguez 'Rodja' Constantine

[reptsfitness@gmail.com](mailto:reptsfitness@gmail.com)

[www.reptsfitness.com](http://www.reptsfitness.com)

mobile: 758 722 3763



## Public Service Walk

On Sunday 23rd June 2013 the staff and wards of the BTC and Mrs. Joanna Raynold Arthurton, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment participated in the Public Service Walk. The Public Service Walk is an annual event under the series of activities under Public Service Week. The BTC wards got an opportunity to walk with Permanent Secretary and experience friendly competition and exercise. Notably, the third place medalist is a staff member of the BTC- Mr. Khalid Pompey, usual medalist at walks and marathons.



(On the left) Mr Khalid Pompey 3<sup>rd</sup> Place medalist at the Public Service Walk 2013

# MOMENTS IN JUNE

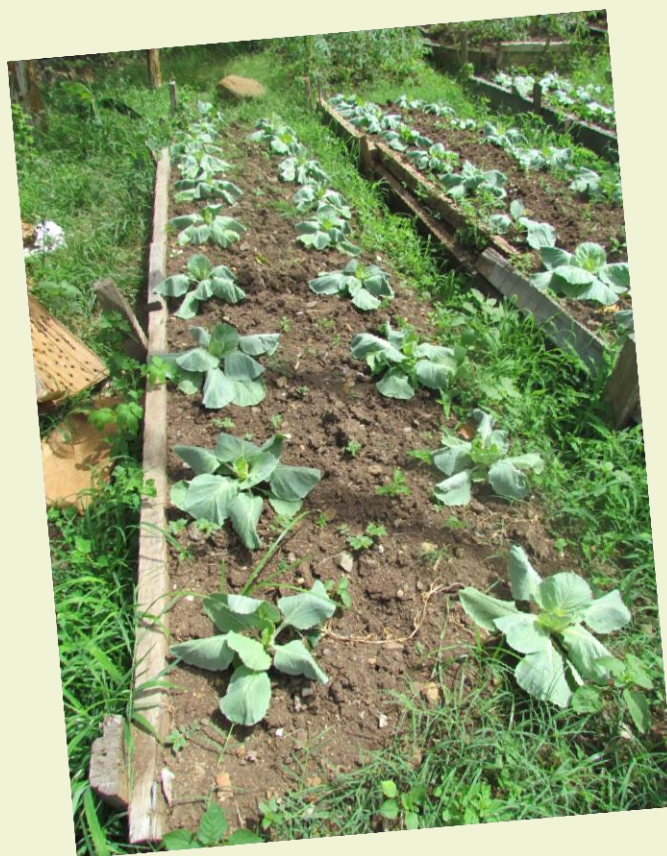


BTC wards at FINA Level 2 Coaching Course at Bay Gardens Hotel



BTC wards playing at opening of carnival, Samans Park





Vocational Skills Program in action







BTC Clean Up Fridays

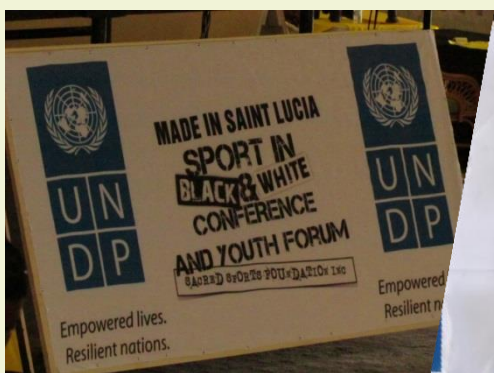


**SURE FOUNDATION FOOTBALL SATURDAYS & MOVIE NIGHT**





ANN AUGUSTIN, VOLUNTEER SPEAKING TO THE WARDS AT GROUP COUNSELLING SESSION



Jackie Joyner Kersee, (Guest Speaker) speaking at the Made in Saint Lucia Sport in Black & White Conference and Youth Forum, Beausejour Indoor Facility



SACRED COWS:

MADE IN SAINT LUCIA SPORT IN BLACK & WHITE CONFERENCE AND YOUH FORUM



**PUBLIC SERVICE  
WALK 2013**



WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY PROJECT



**ROGER CONSTANTINE, REPTS MANAGING DIRECTOR FACILIATING AN EXERCISE SESSION FOR INTERNATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK**



**DONATION FROM THE EYE TO EYE COUPLES GROUP OF THE GROS ISLET SDA CHURCH**





# BTC

## June 2013

### Newsletter

Ministry of Social Transformation,  
Local Government and  
Community Empowerment

758 450 8336 (direct)

758 450 9611 (fax)

[elvin.germain@govt.lc](mailto:elvin.germain@govt.lc)  
[elvinryangermain@gmail.com](mailto:elvinryangermain@gmail.com)  
(Editor)

