



BEGINNING THE CHANGE

BTC

April

2013

IN THIS ISSUE

Boys' Training Centre

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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 St. 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.



BTC Health Clinic



14th Annual RHAC Invitational Swim Meet



Sulphur Springs Field Trip

Pediatrics Club of Atlantic University School of Medicine Health Clinic

The rehabilitation and transformation of delinquent young men at the Boys Training Centre (BTC) into capable and law abiding citizens is of paramount importance to the management and staff. The Chinese proverb 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime' is a social responsibility that is carved into the hearts and minds of the numerous volunteers of the Boys Training Centre.

On Tuesday 9th April 2013 the Pediatrics Club of the Atlantic University School of Medicine (AUSOM) in collaboration with the management and staff of the BTC hosted a 'Health Clinic' for the staff and wards. The health clinic showcased interactive lectures on topics such as nutrition, proper hygiene, sex education and a basic physical examination for staff and wards present at the BTC. All the sessions were facilitated by the medical students of the Pediatrics Club and supervised by the MDs of the school and local General Practitioner -Dr. Andre Matthew.



The Pediatrics Club of AUSOM has been in existence for few years and has coordinated similar activities at various schools, Ciceron Children's Home and most recently in the community of Sarrot in February 2013. Through this initial partnership the Pediatrics Club of (AUSOM) and management and staff of BTC wish to cultivate an awareness of healthy lifestyle and habits in BTC wards. In addition, the health clinic satisfied the dichotomy of community service project and commemoration of World Health Day 2013 officially celebrated on the 7th April. This year the concentration is on high blood pressure clinically known as hypertension. According to the President of the Pediatrics Club – Mrs. Earlina Rambally- Agard, 'This activity came at the perfect time, as many Saint Lucians suffer from hypertension and other life changing illnesses such as heart disease, strokes and diabetes. The health clinic developed an awareness of the diseases that affect many Saint Lucians and global population.



Furthermore, we are here at BTC to influence the minds of the youth / wards on the importance of healthy, active and positive lifestyle. Hopefully, the knowledge will follow them beyond their adolescent years and into adulthood, improve the chances for longer life and aid in a decline in chronic diseases that affect West Indian people and the world.'

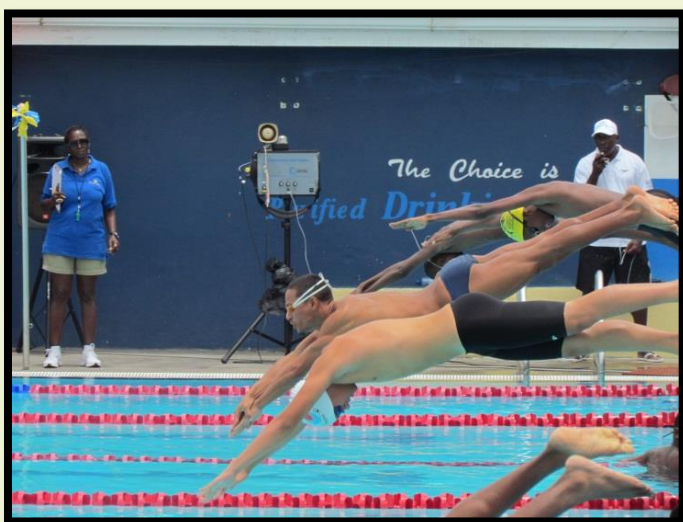
The medical students did an awesome job and it was an atmosphere of learning and interaction for staff, wards and visitors. The medical students received a glimpse of operations at the lone juvenile detention centre and they touched the hearts and minds of youth at risk. In the spirit of community service the management, RJ Clarke supported the initiative and donated a gift voucher on behalf of the Pediatrics Club of the Atlantic University School of Medicine (AUSOM) to the BTC. The management and staff of the BTC hope this increased involvement of volunteer/community based groups through meaningful activities foster the cultivation of positive values and attitudes, which aim at the re integration of wards into the wider society upon their release.



14th Annual RHAC International Invitation Swim Meet



The Saint Lucia Amateur Swimming Association (SLASA) in collaboration with the management and staff of the Rodney Heights Aquatics Centre hosted the 14th annual RHAC Invitational on the 11th to 14th April 2013. The participating swim clubs originated from Trinidad & Tobago, Saint Vincent, Grenada, Antigua and Saint Lucia. The wards of BTC through the Cobra Adventures Swim Club were registered to compete in the events such as the butterfly, breaststroke, backstroke and the freestyle respectively.



Throughout the intense four (4) days of competition the BTC wards experienced early morning warm up sessions, numerous qualifying races, muscle cramps and laughter. Although no medals were attained by the BTC wards, the times registered were satisfactory and improved. In addition, the new swimmers got vital experience and a taste of competitive swimming at a regional level. Furthermore, through the efforts of the BTC wards and other Cobra swimmers, the club obtained a position of fifteen (15th) in overall standings. It should be noted that Cobra Adventures possessed the smallest contingent of swimmers and was able to amass 67 points. Although most Cobra Swimmers were absent, the club performed satisfactory at the RHAC International Invitational.



Educational Field Trip to Sulphur Springs



To commemorate the celebration of Earth Day on 22nd April 2013, the Educational Department of the Boys' Training Centre (BTC) coordinated a field trip to Sulphur Springs on Wednesday 25th April 2013. This activity was a dichotomy of educational and leisure objectives, as the instructors concluded lessons on the forces of the natural world. Also, this activity provided the wards the opportunity escape the daily routine of Boys Training Centre.



There were eight (8) staff members and thirteen (13) wards in attendance. The staff and wards received a detailed, audio visual presentation on the La Soufriere Volcano and the creation of the Sulphur Springs in the exhibit hall. In addition, the group observed a radio presenter at 88.5 FM (Soufriere radio station) and received praise and inspirational words from the radio personality. The field trip continued with a guided tour of the Sulphur Springs site which climaxed in a sulphur scrub and refreshing bath in mineral water.



The Educational Department of BTC would like to extend special thank you to the staff of the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports, Mr. Patrick Philomen (driver), the Soufriere Foundation, the staff of Sulphur Springs, the management and staff of the Sandals Grande Resort and our parent ministry (Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment) for all their efforts in making this field trip a success.

Other Activities

Coco Resorts Donation

The Coco Resorts management and staff donated eight (8) board games to the Boys Training Centre. The educational and recreational board games will engage the wards of the BTC when idle time arises and when the weather is allowing the outdoor recreation. The games donated are Life, Chess, Scrabble, Connect 4, Battleship, Monopoly, Jenga and Twister.



Library Week: BTC Library

The community services unit of the Central Library embarked on a community project at the Boys Training Centre (BTC) on Friday 19th April 2013. The librarians will undergo the mammoth task of cataloguing and dividing all the books into specific categories such as fiction, non – fiction, etc. The librarians will continue their project on Fridays at the Boys Training Centre.

Earth Day (22nd April): Soleil Kouche

The Saint Lucia National Trust celebrated Earth Day (22nd April) with the Soleil Kouche activity at the Pigeon Island National Landmark. The BTC was invited to attend and participate in the ceremony (9 wards and 4 staff members). The activity highlighted the growing threats of climate change and the economic, sociocultural consequences on lives of Saint Lucians and the world-wide.



Art & Craft Program



On Tuesday 24th April 2013, Mr. Marvin Anthony (local visual artist and British Military recruit) began an Arts and Craft program with the BTC staff and wards. The program will continue for the next 3 months, every Wednesday for two (2) hours. The wards will be exposed to different components of visual arts such as drawing, colour theory, designing and craft. The overall program will be coordinated by the BTC Activities Coordinator (Mr. Elvin Ryan Germain) and facilitated by young local artists. At the end of the 3 month program the wards will exhibit their artwork with facilitators at a one day art exhibition.