

Rotary Club of St Andrew
Supporting Early Childhood Development

Our Children, Our Jamaica

The Rotary Club of Saint Andrew is seeking to raise \$2M to support the implementation of its major project 2018/2019.

Over 100 children ages 3 to 6 will benefit from the Rotary Club of St Andrew's Early Childhood Development Project set for the 2018/19 administrative year. According to the Early Childhood Commission, which has responsibility for standards in the early childhood sector, less than 5% of the over 2,700 early childhood institutions meet the operating standards. The standards cover 12 categories, which include: (1) Staffing, (2) Development and Educational Programmes, (3) Interactions and Relationships with Children, (4) Physical Environment, (5) Indoor and Outdoor Equipment, (6) Health, (7) Nutrition, (8) Safety, (9) Child Rights, Child Protection and Equality, (10) Parent and Stakeholder Participation, (11) Administration, and (12) Finance.

We have selected the Curlin Johnson Basic School to be the beneficiary of this project. The club has a long-standing relationship with the school, having spearheaded other projects there in the past. This school is situated at 1 Saunders Avenue, Kingston 3 (off Mountain View Avenue) in Saint Andrew. Based on the most recent Early Childhood Commission Report, the school was only able to achieve 39% of the minimum operating standards. Operating Standard 3 which deals with Interactions and Relationships with Children was at 0%; Standard 6, dealing with Health was at 14%; and Standard 7 which deals with Nutrition was at 40%.

The School Lacks the Necessary Resources

The school is located in the Mountain View area which is classified as an inner city community. The school lacks the necessary resources to adequately provide for the children. Most of the children are from single parent families, with over 70% of the parents being unemployed and most of the others earn approximately minimum wage. The parents in this constituency are not able to buy the necessary learning materials, provide food or make other provisions for the children. The children also have to deal with frequent acts of violence in the community.

Based on this data, there is a clear need that the Rotary Club of Saint Andrew and its partners can respond immediately. The club will raise \$2M in cash and kind and will contribute time and other resources towards the development of the school.

Contact the Rotary Club of St Andrew to play your part.

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