



A MESSAGE FOR OUR READERS

Hello!

We hope you enjoy this book of stories written by young authors of the Caribbean Islands.

This book has been produced by Rotarians of the Rotary E-Club of the Caribbean, 7020.

Rotarians believe in four important ideas, and we remind ourselves about them every week when we meet.

TRUTH - You should always speak the truth.

FAIRNESS - Always be fair when playing and working with others.

FRIENDSHIP - When you want to help your community by collecting food for those who don't have it, or picking up trash around your school, bring your friends along and you'll have twice as much fun!

HELPING OTHERS - It is important to help those around you who are not as lucky as you are. Ask around your school to find out what you can do to help out!

Rotarians meet every week to learn more about what is going on in the world and what we can do to help. We hope you will help to make your community better by studying hard, and doing all you can to help your school and community become a better place!

From Your friends at

The Rotary E- Club of the Caribbean, 7020

Title	Author	Page
The Greatest Award is Kindness	Kadreanna Campbell	4
Looking Back at Hurricane Irma	Amoya Grant	7
Kindness Matters	Brandaen Illis	9
Lost and Found	Shannequa Jackson	14
Small Actions Can Have A Huge Impact	Trinity Lettsome	17



Title	Author	Page
Jacob & Jamie to the Rescue	Srinivas Nidval	21
Khalid and the Street Chickens	Xhian Venz D. Refil	24
Trouble in Paradise	Stephanie Richards	27
Homelessness Creates A Positive Impact	Jeremy Richolle	30
Rover's Gift of Kindness	Adam White	34



THE GREATEST AWARD IS KINDNESS

By Kadreanna Campbell

Manor Park, Jamaica

Aged 11

Shortwood Practicing Primary & Junior High School

Raven is just like any other normal girl. She lives with her parents in New Kingston. She had a lot of friends, but she wasn't popular. Raven just wanted to be known to a few persons but not by many. She had always dreamt of helping as many persons as she could. She had always loved helping others when they are in need. Raven knew that students who do good deeds will receive a special award, and that was her aim. She and her best friend Alexia always desired being given this special award. They have been doing a lot of good deeds for the past few months and they were surely acknowledged for what they did.

Throughout each day the two girls would help elderly persons to cross the streets, help out in their school kitchen to cook meals and wash the dishes among many other things. They would basically lend a hand to anyone who needed their help, and to persons who didn't even know that they needed help from the girls. But something wasn't feeling right to the girls. They still felt like they needed to do just a little bit more.

One evening Raven and Alexia came together and made a master plan. Their plan was to go to a home for elderly persons to do as much work as they could. This was sure to put them in a prime position to win the special award they thought. They continued to talk more and more about their plan to the point where their conversation was overheard by one of their friends, whose name was Sidney. Sidney was immediately impressed with their plan, wanted to help out and she knew exactly how she could do so. Her mom works as a caretaker at a home for elderly persons not too far from their school. She was just going to ask her

Mom if Raven and Alexia could help out for a day and if she got the go-ahead she would surprise the girls with the news.

Sidney got on her phone and called her mom right away and told her mom about her friends and her mom did indeed say yes they could help out if they wanted to. They could even come the following day. And considering the fact that tomorrow was Saturday it would have been perfect for the girls. Sidney then went to Raven and Alexia and told them that she overheard them talking and what she did. The girls were so happy that they hugged and kissed Sidney on her cheeks and thanked her a thousand times for all she had done.



The next morning Raven and Alexia went to Sidney's Mom's workplace very early in anticipation of doing all that they could,

and boy did they do a lot of work. They did everything that they could imagine. They washed, they cooked, they cleaned, they told jokes to the elderly persons when they were asked to. The girls thought they did all that they could and they were very exhausted, but they were also happy at the same time. They were happy with themselves that they were able to help out as



much as they did and they wanted to do it again and for as much as they could.

They were no longer interested in winning the special prize because to them helping those elderly persons and being able to make them smile was more rewarding than any prize that they could ever receive. The girls were just happy doing what they were doing. In the end, they were acknowledged for the good deeds that they had done and even though they did win the prize the greatest award they received was being able to help those elderly persons.



LOOKING BACK AT HURRICANE IRMA

By Amoya Grant

Aged 9

Illustrated by Author

Ruby Labega School

Sint Maarten

Dutch West Indies



Hurricane Irma hit St. Maarten on September 6, 2017. I was excited at first but when the meteorologist announced that Irma will make landfall as a category 5, I became fearful. A day before the hurricane hit us, my mother and I went to Le Grande Marche Supermarket and bought some non-perishable food items. I suggested to Mom that she should buy some extra tins of food to share with my friend, Isabella, who lives in our community and did not have much. Isabella lives with her mother who works three days of the week as a babysitter.

On our way home, we dropped off Isabella's food. When we reached home, I helped my mother to fill up some containers with water. Shortly after that, the water went off. I remember that Isabella's roof had a leak and all the doors were badly damaged, so I asked my Mom if Isabella and her mother

could stay with us during the storm. My mother agreed. Isabella's mother was grateful for the offer. They came with a few pieces of clothing. I was happy to see my friend.



Our eyes were glued to the Weather Channel. We talked about the damage a category 5 hurricane can cause. We learnt in Science class that buildings can be completely destroyed by a category 5 hurricane. We

became fearful and we huddled together in one room.

From midnight onwards, I remember hearing heavy rain like bullets on the roof and howling, frightening winds. I felt terrified. I had no idea when I fell asleep.

When we woke up, we bolted outside and saw uprooted, leafless trees, crumbled sheets of zinc, badly dented vehicles and damaged roofs. Most of the roads were blocked preventing vehicles from passing freely. The roof of Isabella's house flew off and all the things inside were destroyed. Isabella and her mother stayed with us for six months and we lived as a family. We shared our food and clothing with them. I was sad that Isabella's house was destroyed but I was happy that we were together. I will always cherish our friendship.

Although I was able to be there for my friend throughout the terrible moment of the storm, I would never like to experience such a disaster again.



KINDNESS MATTERS

By Brandaen Illis

Aged 8

Illustrated by Author

Ruby Labega School

Saint Martin

French West Indies

This story is dedicated to my great grandmother Dorothee Cyrille Laurence-Halley affectionately known by all as Ms. Tee Tee. She gave of herself and never expected anything in return.



Long ago in the tiny fishing village of Grand Case, St. Martin, there lived a very special lady who everyone knew as Ms. Tee Tee. She and her husband Nello were from humble beginnings and knew how hard life could be. Ms. Tee Tee was a shop owner selling groceries and her husband Nello was a farmer who raised goats, sheep, chickens and milk cows.



Every morning at 4:00am Ms. Tee Tee and Nello would begin their day with baking fresh bread and milking the cows. The scent of Ms. Tee Tee's fresh bread would wake up the village as everyone loved her delicious bread. But many villagers did not always have money to

buy her bread to eat and Ms. Tee Tee knew this all too well.

One day, a little boy named Johnny, kept walking up and down in front of Ms. Tee Tee's shop. "Johnny boy," said Ms. Tee Tee, "come here!" Johnny slowly walked into the shop towards Ms. Tee Tee with his head hanging low. As she watched him come in, Ms. Tee Tee could not help but to notice that Johnny was wearing dirty clothes and had no shoes on his feet.

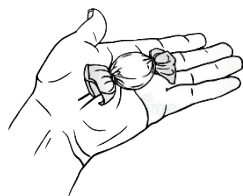
Ms. Tee Tee asked: "Johnny boy, where is your mother?"

But Johnny did not answer. Wiping Johnny's face, Ms. Tee Tee asked him about his mother again and this time, Johnny began to cry. "What's the matter Johnny boy, why are you crying?"

Johnny replied: "I am hungry and we have nothing to eat at home." Ms. Tee Tee immediately took



some fresh baked bread and some whipped butter and gave it to Johnny to eat. Johnny ate the bread quickly and by the time he was finished, Ms. Tee Tee handed him a cup of bush tea.

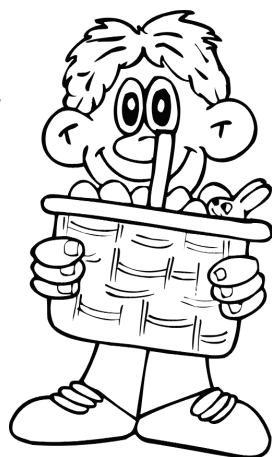


After the meal, Johnny was feeling better and Ms. Tee Tee handed him a handful of pear drops which made Johnny smile from ear to ear. Then Johnny told Ms. Tee Tee that his mother had no money and they had no food at home. This

made Ms. Tee Tee and Nello sad.

They packed a basket with fresh bread, fresh milk, sugar, butter, corned beef, salt beef, salt fish and cornmeal and told Johnny to take the basket straight to his mother.

Johnny quickly jumped to his feet and took the basket from Ms. Tee Tee and ran out the door with the basket on his head. Nello shouted: "Don't run, you will spill the milk!" But Johnny was long gone up the sandy road.



A few days later, Johnny's mother passed by Ms. Tee Tee's shop to thank her for her kindness and generosity. Ms. Tee Tee shook her head and said: "no need for thanks, I did it out of the kindness of my heart." Ms. Tee Tee and Johnny's mother had a long chat.

Ms. Tee Tee explained to her that they were not always fortunate to have in abundance as Nello came from a very poor single mother with five children. He knew all too well what it felt like to have nothing to eat. But he too received an act of kindness when his family was in need and knew the difference it made. And with that, Nello promised himself to always help those in need.



As Johnny's mother was leaving, she promised to repay Ms. Tee Tee for her groceries that she had sent with Johnny. Ms. Tee Tee said: "the only repayment I ask of you is that you pass on the kindness to someone else in need." Johnny's Mother shook her head and promised as she left with tears in her eyes.

Over the years, Ms. Tee Tee and Nello touched many lives with kindness as they did for Johnny and his mother that till today, the old people of Grand Case, especially Johnny, still talk about their kindness.

In 1974, Ms. Tee Tee passed away suddenly. It was one of the saddest days in Grand Case. Many villagers came to the shop to see if it was true. There was no fresh bread baking and Nello was sad. The entire village of Grand Case and beyond came to mourn and bid farewell to the kindest lady of the village. Her kindness still flows in the village of Grand Case.





LOST AND FOUND

By Shanniqua Jackson
Aged 10

New Providence Primary School
Liguanea Plains, Jamaica

It was Saturday, so there was no school for ten-year-old Destiny and her dad, Mr. Jackson, would not be going to work. He decided that they both needed a break and so, during breakfast, he told her that they would be going to the beach for the day. Destiny was so excited, because she enjoyed splashing around in the cool water and building sandcastles. Little did she know that the day would also offer her some new experiences.

When they got to the beach, Destiny was already wearing her bathing suit, so she ran into the warm Caribbean Sea under the watchful eyes of her dad. She splashed around for almost an hour, pretending she was a dolphin, until she decided it was time to make a sandcastle.

Destiny's beach pail had a little shovel that she used to lift the sand into plastic cups so they could form the castle, but while she was doing so she heard the sound of a child sobbing. She looked up from where she was sitting on the sand, and saw a little boy, about four years old, crying and saying "I want my mommy!"

She got up and put her arms around him and asked him what was the matter. He said: "I can't find my parents. Can you help me find my mommy?" Destiny told him that she would help him to find his parents. She took the little boy to her father and told him what happened.

Destiny's dad led them both to the lifeguard, seated high on his lookout, and asked him to announce that there was a little boy looking for his parents. The lifeguard asked the little boy what was his name and he answered: "My name is Ricky". The

lifeguard then took up his megaphone and announced: "There is a little boy here by the name of Ricky who is looking for his parents".

Just as the lifeguard was about to make the announcement for the third time, a couple rushed from across the beach and started hugging little Ricky - they were his parents. They explained that the mother thought Ricky was with the father who went to buy ice cream, while the father thought Ricky was with his mother who was sunbathing. They thanked Destiny for her kindness and offered to reward her for her help.

Ricky's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, told Destiny that they owned a toy store and invited her to come at any time to choose a toy as their special gift to her. They thanked her and her dad and said that they looked forward to seeing them very soon.

After Ricky and his parents left, Destiny turned to her dad and said "it pays to be kind, Daddy." Mr. Jackson held her hand and said to her: "But even without getting a gift, wouldn't you still be happy just helping Ricky find his parents?"

"Yes, Daddy" Destiny answered.

"Well, that means that kindness is its own reward. Do you know what I mean by that?" Her dad asked.

Destiny thought a while and said: "Yes, Daddy. It means that I am happy to be kind, even if I get nothing else in return."

Mr. Jackson smiled at her and said: "Yes, my precious. I see that you understand".

SMALL ACTIONS CAN HAVE A HUGE IMPACT

By Trinity Lettsome
Aged 11

St. George's Primary School
Tortola, British Virgin Islands

"Grrrrrrr," I growled as I clutched my belly tightly. I lamented as I could not stand such immense agony. I woke up late that morning, had a quick shower and dressed. But, before I could eat breakfast Mom shouted. "Come on Amy the bus has just turned in the alley." I threw on my coat, grabbed my school bag and bolted down the wooden staircase before snatching a brown lunch bag out of mother's hand. "Bye Mom, I love you," I shouted as I raced through the door and vanished up the street to where the bus was parked.

Time seemed to be travelling on a turtle's back that morning. Student assembly and prayer took forever. Math class began at 9:00am promptly but time was trudging and 10:30am seemed days away. I felt as though I would faint from starvation. I did everything I could to distract myself so that I would not feel the agony of hunger. Suddenly, a zephyr blew in and with it the smell of tamarind stew with a slight hint of pepper created such an aroma in the air. Oh, the thought of pholouries* was torturous as it fuelled my hunger. My tongue tinged at the thought of the heat of the pholouries draped with sweet and slightly peppered tamarind sauce. I was carried off in a day dream.

Recess time finally decided to arrive and I sped to the school's cafeteria.

"Tantie, can I have \$5.00 pholourie please?" I asked.

"Amy, gyul wha you goin and do wid so much pholourie chile?" asked Ms. Bhagwandene.

"I'm hungry." I retorted.



"So much fry food nah good, yah sure yah want all dat?" asked Ms. Bhagwandene.

"Yes, tantie." I responded.

I took the bag of pholouries and ran behind the school building that way I would ensure that I got to eat all by myself. But, as I was walking further behind the building I could hear crying. It was Jim. He was in grade 3, and he was usually shabbily dressed.

"What's the matter, Jim?" I asked as he jumped at the sound of my voice.

"Nothing!" he said.

"Who cries for nothing?" I asked.

"Is nothing, is jus that mama didn't give me no food," he said in a low voice.

My heart sank at his saying. "Here, have some of my pholouries," I said.

"Thanks Amy," he said as he snatched the bag out of my hand.

There goes my meal, I thought to myself as I witnessed Jim ravenously consuming every one of my hot and delectable pholouries, one by one as he shared his plight with me. I was astonished to find out that Jim's father would leave his family and go into the other villages in search of work. Sometimes, he would not find any work and could not provide food for his wife and eight children. Jim was behind the school crying that morning because he had not eaten anything for the entire weekend and his belly was paining him. Jim also told me that he only comes to school to get the free lunches that are given. I became quite disturbed by this news.

The next day I went to Mrs. Parker and shared Jim's story with her. "so what are you doing to do to help?" asked Mrs. Parker.

"I am only a child, what can I do?" I asked.

"So much," said Mrs. Parker.

Immediately a thought entered my head which I shared with Mrs. Parker. I decided to use my allowances and I also asked my friends and school mates if they could assist in giving some money or food for some children in need. They were all only too happy to help. By the end of the first week, I had amassed \$157.24 which I gave to Mrs. Parker who then give to Jim's mom. I continued collecting money and food items which Mrs. Parker dropped off at Jim's house on Fridays. After about two months Jim's mom told Mrs. Parker that her husband had found work. She thanked me for being so kind and caring. The principal of my school learnt about what I had done and he was so elated by my actions that I was given our school's leadership award for demonstrating great leadership qualities and compassion to my school mate and his family. But I was blessed by the birth of a new friendship between me and Jim's family.

**Pholourie is an indian delicacy that is a fried dough ball and is eaten with tamarind stew, chutney, or pepper sauce.*

JACOB AND JAMIE TO THE RESCUE!

By Srinivas Nidval
Aged 9

Cayman Prep and High School
Georgetown, Cayman Islands

Jacob was a twelve-year-old kid who lived in a beautiful, tropical island in the Caribbean known as *Grand Cayman*. He lived a relatively normal life and lived with his mum and dad. He was not a very popular kid at school, but he had a few good friends. He loved to swim in the lovely Cayman beaches, and he swam a lot (and I mean A LOT!), played video games (like other kids at his school), and loved to play baseball. He lived in his two-storey, brick house. From the outside his house looked like an average British house you would see, if you were to go take a lovely stroll through the British countryside.

One normal Saturday morning, Jacob was munching on his favorite, grilled cheese sandwich and sipping on a citrusy glass of orange juice when he heard something interesting on the news. The news reporter was talking about some illegal smuggling and trafficking of blue iguanas and Cayman parrots from the national reserves of the Islands. He then realized that it was 7:40 AM and that he was late for school. Jacob sprinted outside and said "Bye Mom! Got to go! ". He hopped on to his green bicycle and rode all the way to school. Jacob explained his plan to break the smuggling ring to his friends during break time. The friends formed fifteen teams to hide out in the national reserves to catch the smugglers. Each team had one phone so that they could communicate and call for help.

Bob and Jeff were in team one and went in hiding out at The Blue Iguana National Reserve (BINR) later that evening. At exactly ten o'clock in the night, Jacob spotted a slender man in a black hat, black trousers and black sweatshirt. Jacob signaled to the other kids to be alert. There were only five smugglers so



Jacob was confident that he and his large team could handle the smugglers.

Jacob had already devised a way to defeat those wretched thieves. They painted Jamie (Jacob's pet iguana) in a shade of blue that was the same shade of colour as a blue iguana. Then they let Jamie out to entice the smugglers. Suddenly, all the big men dressed in black, hurried towards Jamie the iguana. While the men were busy, Jacob's crew went around the back of the smugglers truck and transferred all the captured blue iguanas & parrots and loaded them into Jacob's Dad's truck. (Earlier that day Jacob had confided his plan to his dad. His dad was happy to help and had brought the kids to the reserve in his big truck.) The reptiles & parrots were terrified, Jacob and his friends stroked each one of them in a comforting way.

One of the men, saw Jamie and signaled to others to come closer to the iguana. The burly smugglers ran towards Jamie and trapped him. Just at this moment officers from Cayman Police, who were alerted by the kid's team, rushed in and nabbed the evil smugglers.

The following day the Cayman Islands Government issued a statement that the smugglers had been arrested and that they were planning to sell the animals for high prices. The smugglers had a high bounty worldwide for smuggling exotic animals from Sri Lanka, India, South Africa and Australia.

The kids were rewarded by the Government with a lifetime supply of cassava cake and snow cones. They also got rewarded with a huge sum of money for their bravery. Jacob and the other kids donated a part of the money to the Cayman National Trust to continue their good work on conservation projects. Jamie, the pet iguana, was also rewarded with lifetime supply of iguana food and as a mark of appreciation, a statue of Jamie was installed in George Town.



KHALID AND THE STREET CHICKENS

By XhianVenz D. Refil
Aged 7

Lockhart Elementary School
St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands

Once upon a time, on the island of St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, in a place called Savan, a boy named Khalid was known to everyone as a bully. One day, his mother cooked a yummy boiled rice and fried fish. "This food was very delicious mommy," Khalid said. Though the food was very good, Khalid had some leftover rice. His mom took it and went out to the backyard where she scraped the food off the plate. He asked her, "Mommy what are you doing that for?" She told him that it was not good to waste food so she was giving it to the street chickens.

As soon as his mother threw the rice in a clearing on the ground, a flock of chickens gathered, and started to peck the food. Khalid stayed in the backyard while his mom entered the house. As soon as he could no longer see his mom, Khalid took some tiny rocks and threw it after the chickens. Immediately, the chickens scattered in every direction. Henny, the leader of the chickens said to her band of chickens, "You have to save and protect yourself." Rusty chicken answered, "Yes we have to run, that boy is mean." The chickens went to hide in the ghut behind Khalid's house. Henny chicken said, "We have to find another place and stay away from that house." Everybody agreed.

The next day, Khalid's mom put their leftover food in the backyard again, but no chickens showed up to eat the food. The following day, Khalid went to the backyard to play and noticed there were lots of flies and the place smelt awful. Then he saw that was the food was still there and had soured and too, the ants and flies were gathering around it. At the same time his mom came out, smelled the spoilt food and told Khalid she could not figure out why the chickens did not come to eat the food.

She then said to Khalid, "Please clean this up before you go to play!" Khalid was angry he had to do an extra chore instead of going to play, but knew it was his fault that the chickens did not come by.

Still very upset after cleaning up, Khalid wanted to climb the "genip" tree. As he was walking, and not looking where he was going, he tripped on the roots of the tree and his left foot got stuck. Khalid could not get out. He started to cry." Help! Help! Somebody please help me!

"Waah! Waaah!" Khalid's crying got louder and louder. Henny chicken stopped pecking in the gut, she lifted her head, there was that cry again. She knew that voice she heard crying.

Speaking to herself she said, "That sounded like Khalid crying. He must be in trouble." She turned to the other chickens saying. "Looks like something happened to Khalid, we must help him!"

"Oh no!" Exclaimed Rusty, "Not that bully!" But Henny explained that even though Khalid was not kind to them, there was always food in his yard, and they needed to help anyone who was in danger. All the chickens then went to where Khalid was trapped and started scratching at the roots until his foot got loose. Khalid stopped crying and was surprised that chickens helped him though he was nasty towards them. "Thank you for freeing me, I promise I will be kind to all of you from now on. You have helped me understand what my Granma tells me when I am terrible to others, she says, "Do unto others as you would like them do to you." "You were very nice to me although I did horrible things to you." Khalid told to them.

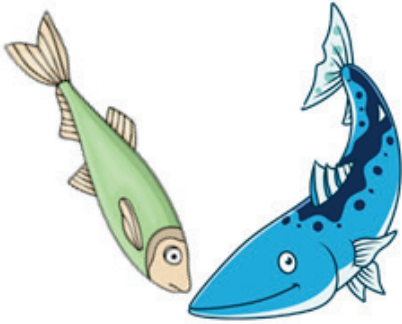
"It is alright, forget it. You are safe now." Henny said. They then helped Khalid into the house.

The next day, Khalid brought some leftover food to the backyard and called out to his new friends. "Here chicky, chicky, here chicky, chicky!" The chickens came running happily towards Khalid. They would be best friends forever.

TROUBLE IN PARADISE

By Stephanie Richards
Aged 9

Cayman Prep and High School
Georgetown, Cayman Islands



Bubbles and Finn were the best of fish friends. Both were born in a small cove that all the sea creatures called Paradise Cove. However, the people living on the land, called it something different... Hogs Sty Bay.

Bubbles and Finn grew together, it was soon obvious that Finn was growing like crazy, and Bubbles hardly grew at all. That didn't change anything though; they were great friends! Bubbles, being a Sprat, was always going to be a little guy, while Finn, born a Barracuda, got SO big, that he couldn't fit into their maze of small cracks and caves in the coral heads they played in as kids any longer.

One windy day, (which they loved) they were playing in the waves breaking on the ironshore when they spotted something white rolling around down on the sea floor. It looked like a really big, bloated, jellyfish; it was so weird! It must have been dead because it didn't really move. In fact, it was their first encounter with a shopping bag.

Being curious, Finn nudged it with his nose, and his teeth caught it because the white bag busted open! Strange things came out of this white jellyfish. It was good that both Bubbles and Finn had started school, as they were able to read some words. A red and white thing rolled out and when it stopped there was a weird word on it that said "Coke" in wiggly writing. There was another item that didn't roll away as it was a lot bigger and

flat. It was mostly white and had the words Cayman Herald on it. They both swam closer, and a picture caught their eyes.

It was a photo of their home! It was so cool because they had never seen a view of it from the sky! They were really excited to take it back to their parents to show them their discovery. They showed it to their parents who were horrified when they read the words "NEW PORT APPROVED". Their parents were really mad and sad. Bubbles and Finn were also sad when they realised their home was going to be destroyed.

A couple of days later when they were messing about, they looked at the big white object again, the words were much harder to read for some reason, as the letters had become very blurry, but they could see a pirate's face. Lots of them in fact. Bubbles knew what a pirate was because they would see them every year acting very silly! Finn suddenly shouted through his big teeth "it's going to be fireworks night soon!" They loved this night, as it made the water sparkle and shimmer. All the sea creatures would get together on the seafloor to gaze in wonder at the surface.

That was when Bubbles got an idea! "Let's do a protest!"

They got all of the sea creatures together and made a plan. Many of them thought Bubbles' idea was crazy, but word had spread about the funny creatures on land and their plans, so they all agreed to protest, even those lazy lobsters!

On the night of the fireworks all the fish, star fish, jelly fish, sharks, stingrays and everyone and anyone who could swim got into position. They all stared in wonderment as the fireworks glistened up above the surface. When the fireworks were going really crazy, they knew the end was coming and they got into their spots. The plan was about to begin 3, 2, 1!

They all held fins; and tentacles wrapped around shells; and then together they all began to swim to the surface. They were so many, thousands and thousands.

On queue the glow worms and the jellyfish - those big dinner plate ones, lit up! The people on land thought it was part of the show and were flabbergasted! The animals had formed a note saying HELP!

The next day Bubbles and Finn were swimming by the ironshore when they saw a big poster saying NO PORT! They were so pleased! Bubbles and Finn went to tell the others and all of the sea creatures shouted YAAAAAAY!!! Everyone, even little creatures can do something to help the environment.



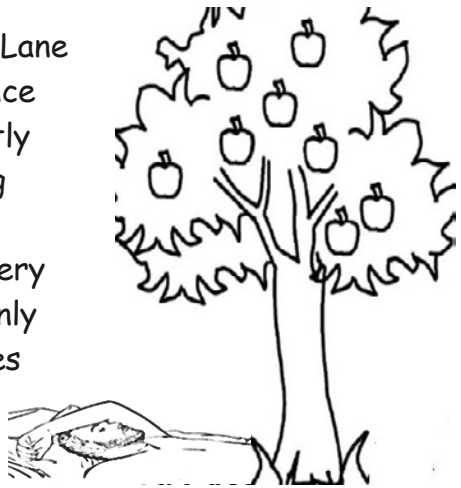
HOMELESSNESS CREATES A POSITIVE IMPACT

By Jeremy Richolle
Aged 7
Illustrations by Author

St. Joseph's School
Sint Maarten
Dutch West Indies

This story highlights steps taken by the homeless in a Caribbean community to care for their environment and shows the impact it created.

Every day John could be seen sleeping on cardboard boxes under the big mango tree at the corner of Jump Street & Guinep Lane in Browns Town, St. Maarten. Since being homeless, John's days mostly consisted of sleeping and begging passersby for money and food. He had plenty of pride and was very ashamed to beg, but it was the only way for him to survive. Sometimes passersby would stop and hand him something to eat or some money.



John, being the kindhearted person he is, would always share the food & money he received from strangers with his fellow homeless friends.

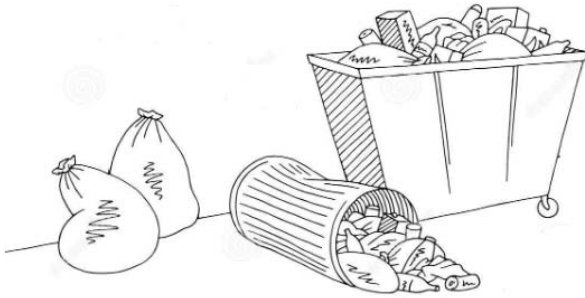
Now, can you imagine living on the streets with no shelter, no clothes, and nothing to occupy your mind? The reality of being homeless was sickening. The living conditions were horrible.

The streets John saw daily were nothing like the well-kept ones plastered on billboards and TV screens. St. Maarten is advertised as an island paradise; however, Browns Town is a neglected community far away from areas frequented by tourists.

Didn't John and his friends deserve a clean home too? Were they not people just like anyone else?

On one bright sunny morning, the warm rays of the Caribbean sun dancing on his face woke John from his sleep. As he looked around and saw piles of garbage yet again thrown on the street, he decided to himself that enough was enough. "I have to rid the street of all the garbage people dump here", he said.

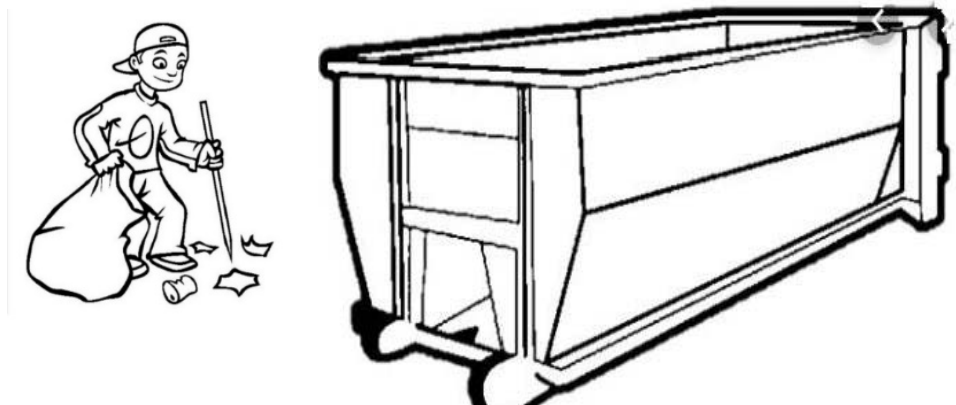
John decided to meet with his homeless friends and solicit



their help to clean up the streets. They all hated how dirty and smelly the streets were, so they agreed to help John.

Every morning they would be up at the crack of dawn picking up garbage. Plastic bottles, food boxes, soda cans, and gum wrappers were some of the items littering the streets.

John and his friends would pack the garbage in black plastic bags they found on the street, then walk about a quarter of a mile to put the garbage in the big, green dumpster on Camille Drive.



A few weeks had passed and people started noticing how clean the streets were. At first, folks thought the Meadowlands Cleaning Company was responsible for cleaning up the area until they realized that it was John and his friends doing all the work.

People of the community were amazed that the homeless men took it upon themselves to clean up the community and did so without even asking for anything in return.

Slowly but surely people's attitudes began to change once they saw the homeless men setting such a good example. People became more thoughtful in the way they disposed of their garbage and began to care more about the environment.

Community members rewarded the homeless with acts of gratitude by giving them free haircuts, clean clothes & hot meals each day.

Folks even started greeting them in a warm, friendly manner and began treating them as valued members of society.



The Government eventually got word about the homeless men cleaning up the streets of Browns Town and decided to set up a program where they would get paid for their work.

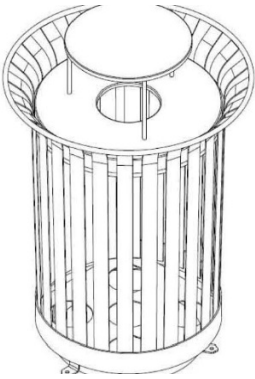
Because the government saw the impact John and his friends made in the community, they decided it was time to set up programs in schools and communities to educate people on keeping the environment clean. "If the homeless men could care enough about the



environment & take it upon themselves to keep it clean, why not us?!" said Governor Eugene Holiday.

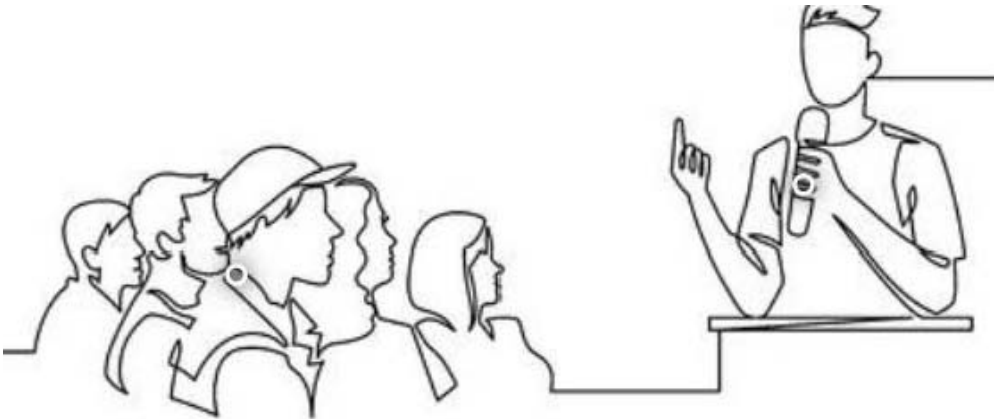
Over time, numerous signs and trash cans were displayed in different areas in the community which served as a reminder to everyone to properly dispose of garbage.

John and his friends were extremely moved by the implementation of these programs. They were thrilled to know that by taking the first step to clean their community others were motivated to do the same.



They were proud to tell their story at the monthly school & community programs, letting the young and old know the importance of sustaining the beauty of the island.

They would go on to be known as The Caring Homeless.



ROVER'S GIFT OF KINDNESS

By Adam White
Aged 10

Hillel Academy
Manor Park, Jamaica

One hot summer day in St. Ann, Jeff and his siblings Jimmy, Jack and Jessie decided to go down to the river to fish. They walked by the riverbank and searched for a spot to fish. They sat by a shady tree and started to put the bait on their fishing lines when Jeff noticed a stray dog who looked in need of care. Jeff said, "Look over there at that dog, doesn't he look hungry and hot?"

"He does look hungry and hot," said Jessie, "can't we give him some bait from our bait bucket?" Jimmy agreed and took some of the bread out his bucket and threw it over to the dirty, skinny dog. The dog walked poorly to bread and ate it then slowly approached Jimmy and sat at his feet. "He isn't as mean as I thought he'd be" said Jimmy. Jack gave him a pat on the head. Jack decided to give the dog the rest of his bread. The dog gobbled it up.

On their walk back the children decided they would each save a little of the dinner for their new friend they named Rover. Every evening for a few weeks they would take some of their supper in a napkin and ask if they could go outside. On Sundays Jack would save some of his rice and peas and his chicken bones, Jeff saved him a chunk of his yam and a spoon of saltfish. Each day they visited Rover he became stronger and fleshier. Soon, he was running and barking happily to meet them by the side of the road which led to the river.

One fateful day, Jessie decided to feed Rover some of her stewed chicken and boiled bananas from lunch by herself. She didn't want to wait for her brothers because she was too eager to spend some time with the dog and she wanted to go for a

swim before her brothers got there. She put the food down and called for Rover, "Come boy, it's your favourite, chicken!"



She hopped from stone to stone to get to the other side of the river where she saw Rover chasing a bird. She didn't notice that the river was swelling and became rougher because of the morning rain. She slipped on a rock covered in algae. She struggled to get out, but she couldn't fight the current. Rover noticed Jessie straining to get out of the water. He could hear a huge gush of water coming towards them. He barked so loudly that all the birds in the nearby trees flew away. Jimmy noticed the large flock of birds flying away from the river. "Wait, did you boys notice that? By the way, where is Jessie? Isn't it time to go feed Rover?" They left a message with their mother to tell Jessie that they were heading to the river and she should hurry along."

As they walked along the road, they could hear the faint sound of Rover's bark. Jack started running towards the sound of Rover's bark. "Jessie! Jessie! Try to swim towards the bank!", he yelled. His brothers saw the water rushing and took off behind Jack. Jessie started sinking as the water approached. Rover jumped into the raging water and swam to Jessie. He gripped the back of her shirt with his teeth and forcefully pulled her out of the water. The brother came to help as Rover got to the shore. Jessie was cold and her teeth chattered. Her lips were blue, and she cried. "What were you thinking? You could have really been hurt" Jeff said to his sister. "I just wanted to feed Rover by myself," she replied. Jeff went to fetch his mom and told her all about Rover, the dog they had been taking care of, and how he pulled Jessie out of the river.

Their parents were so happy and grateful for the dog's bravery and loyalty that they decided to make Rover their new pet dog. Soon Rover didn't have to wait for the children to bring him food, as he had his own bowl right by the dinner table. The children still play happily with their dog Rover.



WHAT IS ROTARY?



Rotarians are 1.2 million neighbors, friends, and community leaders who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world.

Our differing occupations, cultures, and countries give us a unique perspective. Our shared passion for service helps us accomplish the remarkable.



WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

Our distinct point of view and approach gives us unique advantages:

We see differently: Our multidisciplinary perspective helps us see challenges in unique ways.

We think differently: We apply leadership and expertise to social issues—and find unique solutions.

We act responsibly: Our passion and perseverance create lasting change.

We make a difference at home and around the world: Our members can be found in your community and across the globe.

HOW DO WE WORK?

Our impact starts with our members—people who work tirelessly with their clubs to solve some of our communities' toughest challenges. Their efforts are supported by Rotary International, our member association, and The Rotary Foundation, which turns generous donations into grants that fund the work of our members and partners around the world. Rotary is led by our members—responsible leaders who help to carry forward our organization's mission and values in their elected roles.



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

We've been making history and bringing our world closer together for over 100 years. Since forming in 1905, we've taken on some of the world's toughest challenges and helped a wide range of international and service organizations—from the UN to Easter Seals—get started.

Learn more about us at <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/9515/>

OUR THANKS TO PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Anguilla

Adrian T. Hazell Primary School
Alwyn Allison Richardson Primary School
Orealia Kelly Primary School
Morris Vanterpool Primary School
Omololu International School

British Virgin Islands

Enis Adams Primary School
Joyce Samuel Primary School
Pelican Gate School
St. George's Primary School

Cayman Islands

Cayman Prep & High School
Prospect Primary School
Theoline L. McCoy Primary School

Haiti

Institution Sainte Elizabeth

Jamaica

Hillel Academy
New Providence Primary School
Shortwood Practising School
The Queens Preparatory School

Sint Maarten

Helmich Snijders
Hillside Christian School
Methodist Agogic Center
St. Joseph School
Ruby Labega School

United States Virgin Islands

Gifft Hill School
Lockhart Elementary School

OUR THANKS TO PARTICIPATING ROTARY CLUBS

ANGUILLA

Anguilla

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Road Town

Tortola

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Grand Cayman Sunrise

HAITI

Delmas Centre

JAMAICA

Liguanea Plains

Manor Park

New Kingston

SINT MAARTEN

St. Martin Sunrise

St. Martin Sunset

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

St. John

St. Thomas II